

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND
January 21, 2010 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS (*DENOTES ABSENCE)

Mario Bueno	Paul MacDonald	George Nee
Mia Caetano Johnson*	William McGowan	Sandra Powell
Robin Coia	Brandon Melton	Cathy Streker*
Ray DiPasquale	Sharon Moylan	Martin Trueb*
Joseph MarcAurele*	Robert Nangle	Pheamo Witcher

GWB STAFF: John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney

DLT STAFF: Laura Hart, Valentino Lombardi, David Tremblay, Donna Treglia, Jen Buck, Maureen Palumbo, Susan Chomka, Connie Parks

GUESTS: Commissioner Deborah Gist, RIDE; Janet Raymond, Providence Chamber; Malcolm Baxter, United Way; Ruth Ricciarelli, Center for Health Professions; Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Marguerite McLaughlin & Marie Stoeckler, Quality Partners; Paul Harden, RIEDC; Deborah Anthes, RI Department of Education; Robert Kalaskowski, RI Senate; Andrew Cortes, Building Futures; Cheryl DaCosta, Tech Collective; Sol Rodrigues, OpenDoors; Brian Buongiovanni, Governor's Office; Steve Maurano, RIBGHE; Jill Holloway, Professional Development Center; Todd Flaherty, College Crusade of RI; Robert Bromley, RI Senate Fiscal Office; Allan Tear, Betaspring

LOCATION: Department of Labor & Training, conference room 73-1

Vice Chair William McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes from the meeting held on November 19, 2009.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by R. Nangle. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve November 19, 2009 Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. November 19, 2009 meeting minutes approved.

Vice Chairman's Comments

Vice Chair McGowan welcomed Commissioner Deborah Gist of the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to the meeting. He indicated that a critical piece of the State Strategic Plan focuses on the alignment of education and training and noted the importance of collaboration between the GWB and RIDE to develop and support the workforce. He mentioned initiatives developed and supported by the GWB including adult education and literacy, youth and industry partnerships. Vice Chair McGowan noted that Commissioner Gist would be speaking about K-12 education topics and issues.

Vice Chair McGowan welcomed Ray Di Pasquale to the board. He noted his dual role as Commissioner of the RI Board of Governors of Higher Education and as President of the Community College of RI. He thanked Steven Maurano for his work as Interim Commissioner.

Vice Chair McGowan welcomed new board member Pheamo Witcher, Executive Director of the Genesis Center.

Commissioner Deborah A. Gist

Commissioner Gist expressed her interest in working with the Governor's Workforce Board to transform the educational system and to assist in the alignment of education and workforce development. She discussed the five priorities of RIDE's strategic plan which include ensuring educator excellence, accelerating all schools toward greatness, establishing World-Class Standards and Assessments, developing user-friendly data systems and investing resources wisely.

Discussions followed on several topics including the proficiency level of entering CCRI students (specifically those who require remedial classes), statewide graduation rates, state funding formulas, visions on multiple pathways for students, schools for economically disadvantaged students, and recruitment of teachers of color.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Vice Chair McGowan turned the meeting over to John J. O'Hare for the Executive Director's report. J. O'Hare reported that due to reduced projections of revenue for the Job Development Fund, the GWB is in the process of reviewing all awards and de-obligating contracts for unutilized funds. J. O'Hare indicated this reduction in revenue of \$1.6 million will be made up by adjusting the budget this year and next. He reported that Item 4 on the consent agenda for Contextualized Training is supported with \$600,000 of JDF money, \$1.5 million of federal funds and additional funding from RIDE and DHS. He noted that the JDF funds for this training plan will be withdrawn but indicated it will not impact the program design due to the other funding sources. J. O'Hare noted that when a vote is taken on the consent agenda, this item should be removed since we will not be allocating the \$600,000 in JDF funds. He noted that a more specific presentation on reducing the commitments to the JDF fund will be presented at February's Strategic Investments committee.

J. O'Hare reported that it is anticipated there will be additional funds for the 2010 summer program. He noted that the federal Jobs for Main Street Act passed the House and is being reviewed in the Senate. He mentioned the possibility of securing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for the summer program and that M. Palumbo and the local workforce boards are working on a draft RFP to be prepared for this. He reported that the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI (WPGRI) has \$700,000 left from last summer's funding and this will be added to the RFP.

J. O'Hare mentioned there could be additional funding available for College Work Study programs, competitive grants and sector initiatives derived from unused TARP funds. He reported that the RFP for incumbent worker training was released on December 28th and that proposals are due by February 5th. The pre-proposal meeting was held at CCRI in Lincoln and approximately 120 employers attended. J. O'Hare noted that the Planning and Evaluation Committee may need to meet in February to review the PY2009 draft local plan modifications due to recovery act and formulation allocations. The draft plans would go before the board at the April meeting.

To conclude his report, J. O'Hare reported DLT staff changes, noting that Lori Norris would be leaving at the end of January and that Sue Chomka would become the Acting Administrator of Workforce Development.

Consent Agenda (Items 1-7)

Vice Chair McGowan asked board members to review the consent agenda and noting it includes the WIA consent agenda and funding items approved by the Strategic Investments Committee.

As discussed previously, Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to remove Item 4: Co-Investment Contextualized RFP from the Consent Agenda.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by M. Bueno. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve the removal of Item 4 from the Consent Agenda. All approved. Removal of Item 4 approved.

With no further discussion, Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE on motion to approve: B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by M. Bueno. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve the Consent Agenda. All approved. Consent Agenda approved.

Committee Report Updates

Vice Chair McGowan asked board chairs for committee reports.

S. Powell provided an update on the ESAC Committee and its recent recommendations on Unemployment Insurance Modernization options. She indicated that the 2 options recommended by the council included:

-a change in the dependents allowance for those collecting partial unemployment insurance benefits by the same percentage their weekly benefit was reduced

-qualifying individuals for eligibility for UI benefits who leave work for compelling family reasons if they are able and available for work.

Chair McGowan commented that the ESAC recommendations, if approved by the General Assembly, will qualify the State of RI for \$15,640,385 to be added to the RI Employment Security fund. He noted that would save the State an estimated \$725,000 per year in interest payments.

S. Moylan reported that the Board Development Committee is working on preparations for the annual meeting.

S. Maurano reported on the Adult Education and Literacy committee noting that the set of recommendations for adult education will be presented at the PK-16 council meeting this month.

B. Melton reported that the RFP process for 2010 Statewide Youth Workforce Services is underway and that proposals requesting funding in the amount of \$12.6 million were received.

Vice Chair McGowan reported that the Planning and Evaluation Committee meeting may be rescheduled. He also noted that the Strategic Investments Committee met on January 11th.

Presentation- Providence Plan/Building Futures

Vice Chair McGowan introduced Andrew Cortes, Director of Building Futures. He noted they are one of the 9 Industry Partners, and are in the third year of the program. He mentioned that Building Futures is a recipient of the Industry Skills Development Initiative that provides training to new and incumbent workers. They are also a recent recipient of a ARRA grant. A. Cortes presented on several topics including challenges for the construction industry and results, skills gaps findings and actions, leadership from the Advisory Council, and alignment and partnerships. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was available in the meeting packets.

Other Business

With no further business, Vice Chair McGowan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve. B. Melton seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney