

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (YDC)**

June 23, 2008

Minutes

Members Present: Brandon Melton, Chair, Sharon Moylan, Robert Paniccia,
Commissioner Jack Warner

Members Absent: Lorna Ricci, Martin Trueb, Sandra Powell

Staff Present: Michael Koback, David Francis, Maureen Mooney

Others Present: Roy Seitsinger, John O'Hare, Lori Norris, Carlos Ribeiro, Nick Ucci,
Maureen Palumbo

Chair Brandon Melton called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Minutes of 3/28/08 Youth Development Committee meeting

Chair Melton asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the 3/28/08 Governor's Workforce Board Youth Development Committee (GWBRI – YDC). He then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Vote: J. Warner motioned to approve the minutes of the GWBRI-YDC meeting as presented. R. Paniccia seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

Youth Workforce Program- RIDE/DLT

Chair Melton acknowledged the important work underway in connecting the public schools with workforce development skill education and asked Lori Norris, Chief of Statewide Youth Services to introduce Dr. Roy Seitsinger from the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE). L. Norris indicated Dr. Seitsinger would be providing an overview of the Workforce Readiness for Youth committee which originated from the PK-16 council. (The membership list for the Workforce Readiness for Youth group is available in the meeting packet).

R. Seitsinger reported that this committee is charged with embedding key workforce development recommendations into the proficiency based graduation requirements by December 31, 2008. He reviewed the Building Blocks for Competency Models (also available as a handout in the meeting packet). R. Seitsinger explained that the purpose of the graduation by proficiency requirements is to ensure that the high school diploma represents a demonstrated level of skills and abilities for all students. Students must obtain proficiency in the areas of social studies, science, math, ELA, art and technology as well as demonstrated abilities in literacy and personalization. The Workforce Readiness for Youth Committee is to review these tiers of proficiency to determine if they accurately represent work readiness skills as well as determining how these skills are integrated into the educational structure.

Pilot Project Initiative- Cranston School Department

L. Norris reported on the opportunity available to the committee in exploring a pilot program at the New England Laborer's/Cranston Public Schools Construction Academy. The goal of this program is to encompass a work ready curriculum in this school by September. The committee will examine the curriculum, make recommendations and evaluate results with the intent of expanding this program into the Cranston public high schools.

L. Norris reported that a request of up to \$500,000 was presented to the Strategic Investment committee last week to fund this pilot program. This funding would cover the cost of three teachers; a coordinator and a job coach all working towards the goal of implementing the work readiness standards into the curriculum. L. Norris reported that the curriculum will be evaluated, the impact measured and that changes will be made within the school system based on the results of their review. The end goal is for students to move into the workforce more successfully and to maintain employment. L. Norris reported that this request was made to the Strategic Investment Committee contingent on the approval of the YDC due to the timeliness of the project and the GWB meeting schedules.

L. Norris mentioned that the proposed pilot program has received the support of the superintendent of the Cranston School District, as well as the head of the teacher's union. She also noted that the Cranston School Committee meets in July and that this proposal must be presented to them.

S. Moylan raised the issue of accountability and the issues relating to the pass/fail system that currently exists within the schools. She indicated she will not support a program that does not have accountability built into it. R. Seitsinger reported that the entire system of high school reform is based on the premise of accountability and achievement. Students will not pass without the required achievements which includes; good performance on the NECAP tests, achieving passing grades and the successful accomplishment of the graduation proficiency requirements.

A discussion ensued around whether the pilot program will be mapped to the Grade Span Expectations (GSE). R. Seitsinger indicated that it currently does not but could with further development. A discussion followed relating to the funding for that portion of the initiative. It was determined that the cost of mapping to the GSE's should fall to the district.

Chair Melton asked for a motion, however there was further discussion. R. Seitsinger noted his agreement that the GSE mapping portion of the pilot program should not be funded by the GWB because it is a district obligation. He indicated the activity of the mapping can be separate when approving the curriculum.

J. O'Hare mentioned that in order to go forward with this proposal, they are in need of strong endorsement from the YDC.

J. Warner noted that if the investment is made specifically for the career construction academy, in addition to any control group, then he would attach a restriction to this motion. The motion would state that the investment would not be made until RIDE successfully signs off that the curriculum has been successfully mapped to the GSE's for that school as part of the performance based graduation requirements.

Chair Melton asked for a motion to approve the funding request based on this discussion with the caveat in place regarding RIDE signing off that the curriculum has been mapped to the GSE's for that school.

Vote: J. Warner motioned to approve the motion as presented. S. Moylan seconded the motion.

Noting that the motion was made and seconded, L. Norris raised a question about how practical this restriction is with the time constraints associated with this project.

J. Warner noted the significance of looking at the release of funds rather than the approval of investment. He indicated his intent is not to delay the process, but noted that the process needs to be clear as to the sequence. He reemphasized the necessity of the Performance Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs) to be mapped to the curriculum in order for the new pilot program to be a mechanism of change and that this must occur before the money is released.

Brandon Melton asked for any additional discussion on this motion. Noting there was none, Chair Melton asked for a vote on this motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

R. Seitsinger inquired about reporting back to the YDC based on the addition of this restriction mentioned in the motion. J. Warner indicated it was important to go forward with the pilot because there is development work required, and that the curriculum needs to be developed, and mapped successfully. He also noted that there must be responsibility on the part of the school to map the curriculum to the GSE's and PBGR's. As this is accomplished, there must be a review before the school implements the pilot program. The first readiness standard would be the successful mapping that RIDE would sign off on. Following this sign off, the school would be ready for the pilot to sit on top of this new set of standards for the curriculum and the integration of it into the educational system.

Youth Workforce System- Q3 Data

L. Norris provided a brief overview of the cumulative data from 7/1/07 – 3/31/08. She indicated that new data elements will be added for the new program year. She emphasized that any new requests for data collection will be added at the beginning of this program year in order to effectively track this information. A handout entitled: JDF/WIA : Statewide is available in the meeting packets.

J. Warner offered to assist with the design of a record system to allow for the tracking of information if there is an interest in outcomes based on received services for programs. He indicated this could be tracked through the higher education system. L. Norris mentioned that data tracking has been established with RIDE's adult education system to obtain information on GEDs. M. Koback indicated this data collection effort should be tied into the strategic plan and the strategies. L. Norris noted the importance of portraying the economic and developmental impact of these programs, as well workforce impact.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was entered to adjourn the meeting of the GWBRI-YDC meeting.

Vote: R. Paniccia motioned to adjourn the meeting of GWBRI-YDC. S.Moylan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney