

**Governor's Workforce Board RI  
Strategic Investment Committee Meeting  
June 19, 2008**

**Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, Martin Trueb, Brandon Melton  
Members Absent: William McGowan, George Nee, Lorna Ricci, Armeather Gibbs  
GWB Staff Present: Michael Koback, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Maureen Mooney  
Others Present: Sandra Powell, Paul Harden, John O'Hare, Lori Norris, Nick Ucci,  
Lisa D'Agostino, Michael Hayes, Diane Gagne

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the funding requests listed on the agenda. Chair MarcAurele noted the absence of a quorum and indicated that any voting items would be brought to the full board at the next meeting for final approval.

**Minutes of 5/13/08**

Chair MarcAurele asked for a review of the meeting minutes of May 13, 2008 of the Governor's Workforce Board RI (GWBRI) Strategic Investment Committee. He then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

**VOTE:** B. Melton moved to approve. M. Trueb seconded the motion.

**Funding Requests**

**Workforce Expansion**

Chair MarcAurele asked P. Harden of the RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) to review the funding requests for the Workforce Expansion grants. P. Harden provided an overview on the funding requests for the following companies:

Albion Special Care, LLC (\$45,990)  
Duralectra-CHN (\$125,000)  
Hope Global (\$50,809)  
Infusion Resource, LLC (\$62,497 is the EDC Staff Recommendation)  
Senesco Marine, LLC (\$103,052)

The Grant Proposal Summary Sheets and GWB Workforce Expansion Grant Fund Applications for each company are available in the meeting folder.

**Youth Development: Cranston Schools Project**

L. Norris mentioned there is an innovative project proposed with the Cranston School department. This project concept was originated by Commissioner McWalters and Director Powell with the intent of embedding workforce development skills into the high school curriculum. L. Norris indicated that academic year 2007-2008 was the first year of implementation for the proficiency based graduation requirements (PBGR), and that the next academic year is an optimal time to introduce this project into the school system. She reported that the Workforce Readiness for Youth committee was established to develop and review guidelines and other matters associated with this project.

L. Norris noted that the specific charge presented to the Workforce Readiness for Youth committee is to identify a reasonable set of recommendations for workforce readiness curriculum by December 31, 2008. The meeting packet contains a handout which describes the committee, its charge and its membership in more detail. Director Powell further clarified the connection among the PK -16 council, workforce development resources, and the K-12 school system.

L. Norris noted the important opportunity with this proposed pilot project to test some of the recommendations within the Cranston School Department. The New England Laborers'/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy has been chosen as a model site for this project.

This school offers a solid academic foundation to prepare students interested in exploring career options in the construction trades and environmental sciences and serves students in grades 9-12. It is an ideal setting for the integration of the proposed workforce readiness curriculum. Discussions have taken place with the Superintendent of the Cranston Schools, who has agreed to expand this curriculum into the other Cranston high schools if successful. L. Norris reported there will be pre-test and post-test evaluation criteria established from the pilot program to better understand the value of the recommendations made. She indicated that it is possible that content standards for workforce readiness skills could be developed after evaluating the results of the pilot program.

L. Norris noted that due to the scheduling of the GWB meetings, the funding request was brought to this committee first. An approval by the GWB Youth Development Committee (YDC) will be obtained at the scheduled meeting next week. L. Norris indicated that the Workforce Readiness Committee is asking for an allocation set aside of up to \$500,000 for this project.

Chair Melton reviewed the Competency Model handout and emphasized this important opportunity to identify workforce readiness competencies and characteristics that are valued in the workplace.

Chair MarcAurele inquired about the specifics of the \$500,000 funding investment. L. Norris noted this funding request is a rough estimate and would support a fulltime staff person in each school system, a curriculum coordinator, a job coach, mileage, and materials. M. Trueb asked about the disposition of the proposed jobs at the end of the school year. L. Norris noted these are grant funded positions which would either be picked up by the school or eliminated. She noted this project was on a fast track as the preliminary work must be done over the summer.

B. Melton emphasized the importance of establishing workforce readiness standards for the state and indicated that the pilot program is a good starting point. He noted that a clearer outline of the budget expenses will be presented to the committee as this project goes forward.

### **FY 08/09 Budget**

M. Koback reviewed the FY' 08 Job Development Fund budget which is based on data ending 6/18/08. He discussed the carry in funds as well as the obligations and noted the resulting available FY '09 balance of \$9,584,380. After noting the FY '09/10 allocation commitments to date, he reported the remaining availability of funds for FY '09 is \$2,884,380. In addition to this, he noted (after accounting for obligations for FY'10) that the remaining availability of funds is \$3,670,000. M. Koback also outlined the FY'09 Initial Funding Recommendations. Handouts on all of the budget data are available in the meeting packets.

### **Other Business**

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

**VOTE:** M. Trueb moved to approve. B. Melton seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney