

**Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investment Committee Meeting
December 17, 2008**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present:	Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, William McGowan, Brandon Melton, Armeather Gibbs, George Nee
Committee Members absent:	Lorna Ricci, Martin Trueb
GWB Board members present :	S. Moylan
GWB Staff present:	John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present:	Lori Norris, Maureen Palumbo, Diane Gagne, Mavis McGetrick
Others Present:	Paul Harden

Call to Order

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda items.

Minutes of 09/09/08

Chair MarcAurele asked for a review of the meeting minutes of 9/08/08 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: A. Gibbs moved to approve. B. Melton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

Budget Presentation

N. Olson presented a budget update of expenditures and allocations through FY 09 for funding categories: adult education, incumbent worker training, youth development, workforce expansion, industry partnerships, industry skill development initiative, business retention, and other miscellaneous grants. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is in the meeting packet.

Requests for Proposals

D. Francis outlined the green RFP indicating it will provide another partnership to the industry partnerships and reported there is up to \$150,000 available in funding. He indicated the RFP would be released in early January with proposals due in March. He reported that a RFP would be released on December 22nd for Incumbent Worker Training for a funding amount of up to \$2 million. D. Francis mentioned the proposals are due to the GWB by Friday, February 6th and should be presented to the board in March for approval. A copy of the RFP proposals are on file in the meeting packet.

Updates

Coffey Consulting

J. O'Hare reported that the purchase order for Coffey Consulting for work on the review of the state's apprenticeship program has been approved and that the contract amount was \$58,000. He noted Coffey's national expertise and experience with apprenticeship programs. J. O'Hare reported that there are over 850 occupations that qualify for apprenticeship however RI offers only 20. He indicated that Coffey Consulting will work to expand the potential of the current apprenticeship system. Recommendations from Coffey Consulting will be available in early spring.

Cranston Schools Initiative

L. Norris provided an update on the Cranston School Department pilot project, which was initiated to embed a workforce development curriculum into the school system. She mentioned that \$475,000 was awarded to the Cranston School district which named the New England Laborers' Construction Career Academy as the operator of this pilot project. The goal of this project is to demonstrate that work readiness intervention makes a difference in preparing young people for the workforce. This funding was awarded by the Governor's Workforce Board and recommended by the Youth Development Committee. L. Norris noted that positive outcomes include the offer of paid employment opportunities to some students and a noticeable improvement with classroom participation and grades. She reported that Roy Seitsinger of the RI Department of Education (RIDE) would be providing the final evaluation for this pilot program.

Training Money for Youth Providers

M. Palumbo reported on the funding recommendation of the Youth Development Committee for the Statewide Youth Provider Training Plan 2008. This plan consists of three cornerstone events and professional development offerings which include the BEST Youth Worker Certificate program. This program will be offered to 40 youth workers between February and September and is a 32 hour certificate program. She reviewed the selection criteria considerations for this training which was requested by the Youth Development Committee at the last meeting. Information on the training plan overview, the budget and selection considerations are available in the meeting packet.

Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the funding as presented in the budget for the Statewide Youth Provider Training Plan 2008.

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

Workforce Expansion Grant

American Partners, Inc.

Chair MarcAurele asked P. Harden of the RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) to review the funding request for the Workforce Expansion grants. P. Harden provided an overview on the funding request for American Partners, Inc. He noted that this company is an IT staffing firm specializing in business intelligence and performance management for contract and permanent hiring needs. He reported they are requested funding in the amount of \$50,000 and plan to hire 10 employees.

Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the funding request in the amount of \$50,000 to American Partners, Inc.

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

Revision to Workforce Expansion Grant Criteria

P. Harden requested a revision to the Workforce Expansion Grant criteria asking that the minimum number of new hires be reduced from 10 to 5, based on the current economic situation.

Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the revised workforce expansion grant criteria.

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

Delegated Authority

J. O'Hare reported that approval on delegated authority was received from the Department of Administration. J. O'Hare indicated this passes the authority to award contracts directly to the GWB which will allow us to respond more quickly. He indicated that a revised method of awarding training contracts to vendors on a monthly basis would be brought to the Strategic Investments committee in March.

Other Business

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9: 25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney