

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD – RI

MARCH 16, 2006 BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Attendance

Board Members (*denotes absent)

Mario Bueno

Mia Caetano

Armeather Gibbs*

Paul MacDonald*

Joseph MarcAurele

William McGowan

Michael McMahan*

Brandon Melton

Sharon Moylan

Robert Nangle

George Nee

Adelita Orefice

Robert Paniccia

Lorna Ricci*

Martin Trueb

Jack Warner

Deborah Wilson*

Staff: M. Koback, M. McGetrick, M. McDowell, Gail Theriault

Guests: B. Ricci, P. Harden, J. Uvin

DLT Staff: J. Severance, J. O'Hare, S. Powell, D. Miller, M. Demers, N. Olsen, G. Guardino, S. Petrarca

Place: RI Department of Labor and Training

Time: With a quorum present, Chairman MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:08 AM.

A motion was entered to approve the January 19, 2006 Governor's Workforce Board Meeting minutes.

VOTE: M. Caetano moved to approve, seconded by S. Moylan. All approved.

Chair MarcAurele opened the meeting by thanking the committees and staff for their hard work, stating that a lot had been accomplished in a short period of time.

Director Orefice reported that employer focus groups were being formed for the purpose of soliciting feedback on graduation standards from an employer's perspective in order to provide those results to the Department of Education. Another activity being conducted by the Office of Higher Education with funding help from the National Governor's Association is setting up a data-sharing project by Paul Harrington from Northeastern University, which will allow interested parties to learn what happens to youth as they exit higher education and enter the workforce.

In the Adult Education arena, research is being conducted into the feasibility of awarding Work Readiness Certificates to persons who did not have a high school diploma or a

GED but were ready, motivated and skilled to work. A. Orefice reported that questions remain as to whether Rhode Island needs a Work Readiness Certificate and how acceptable or valuable would it be to employers.

Concerning the Executive Director position, a job description has been written and the Department of Administration is to schedule a public hearing, as there is no current classification for this position. A. Orefice announced that the next Governor's Workforce Cabinet Meeting is on April 6, 2006. She is planning and will propose having these meetings every other month and open to the public.

Chair MarcAurele then directed the Board's attention to the WIA Consent Agenda. He indicated that this agenda addresses the requirement that state policy be implemented to conform to changes in federal policy on matters issued through the USDOL's Training and Employment Guidance Letters (TEGLs).

A motion was entered to approve the WIA Consent Agenda as presented.

VOTE: R. Paniccia moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All approved.

The next item to be discussed was new committee assignments. Chair MarcAurele stated that with the structuring of new committees, he would be making recommendations over the next two weeks. He added that he would like to fill each committee with members who have a genuine interest in the topic.

S. Moylan reported on the Governance Committee. The Bylaws now have the changes suggested at the last meeting incorporated into the final draft. She noted that the Bylaws propose an Annual Retreat for Board members suggested that a Planning Committee be formed to plan a retreat for sometime in the fall.

A motion was entered to approve the Bylaws as presented.

VOTE: W. McGowan moved to approve, seconded by R. Nangle. All approved.

J. Warner reported on the Adult Education and Literacy Committee. He directed the Board's attention to the Adult Education Problem Statement defining the problems, the current status, and the reasons it was important to address the problems. The second document listed 10 goals for the Five-Year Master Plan for Reforming and Expanding Adult Basic Education in Rhode Island. The third document listed the Sequence of Needed Reforms for Adult Education up to Fiscal Year 2010. In short, the focus is to build a strong foundation and expand it to broaden the capacity to reach more people. The committee was asked to vote on all three documents.

A motion was entered to approve the three documents from the Adult Education and Literacy Committee as presented.

VOTE: A. Orefice moved to approve, seconded by R. Paniccia. All approved.

A motion was entered to approve the changing of the Governance Committee to the Board Development Committee.

VOTE: W. McGowan moved to approve, seconded by George Nee. All approved.

The next item on the agenda dealt with the Rhode Island Job Training Tax Credit. Chair MarcAurele stated that the draft regulations were presented to clarify the GWB/HRIC's responsibilities in regard to the administration of the Job Training Tax Credit Program. He noted that there are two proposed changes. One requires applicants to file an application for election with the GWB/HRIC annually. The other change requires employers to file a follow-up report with the GWB/HRIC verifying that each of the employees trained is receiving 150% of the RI minimum wage, and have been retained at this rate for 18 months after completion of training.

A motion was entered to consent and proceed with a public notice of the proposed rules.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by W. McGowan. All approved.

B. Melton reported out for the Youth Strategies Committee. He reminded members that The Yes-2-Work Program is for the 16-19 age group with employers bearing the expense. The We-Can-2 Summer Youth Employment Program is for youth ages 14-15 and will be geared towards the preparation of youth for future employment opportunities. A Bidders Conference was held on March 15th, and proposals due on April 14, 2006. The Governor will host a kick-off breakfast for this program on March 23, 2006 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Warwick from 7:30 to 9:30 AM. The top largest employers are invited along with the local Workforce Investment Board chairs. He directed the Board's attention to the invitation contained in their packets for information.

In closing, B. Melton thanked the staff for their competence and responsiveness.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha McDowell