

**Governor's Workforce Board RI  
Adult Education & Literacy Committee Meeting  
December 4, 2014**

**Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members present: Chair Robert Nangle, Mario Bueno, Robin Coia, Paul MacDonald, George Nee, Jim Purcell

Committee Members absent:

RIDE Staff present: Dr. Philip Less,  
GWB Staff present: Dan Brown, Sherri Carello  
Others Present: Jill Holloway, PDC; Sophie Tan, ILSR;  
Location: RIDLT Conference room 73-2

**Call to Order**

Chair Nangle called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Meeting Minutes**

Chair Nangle asked for a review of the meeting minutes of September 23, 2014 Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Adult Education & Literacy Committee meeting. Chair Nangle asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** Paul MacDonald moved to approve. George Nee seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Student Enrolled in Adult Basic Education During 2013-2014**

Chair Nangle asked Dr. Philip Less to provide an update on the handout, "Students Enrolled in Adult Education Basic Education During 2013-2014." Dr. Less noted the report is 98% ready to report to the federal office. This information is from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Dr. Less also mentioned that 40% of all students are employed, and the majority of ABE students are studying basic academic skills at the 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels. Dr. Less noted that 50% of all adult learners are studying English as a second language. Dr. Less stated that many adult students are low income and on public assistance. Dr. Less noted that the GED pass rate is 95% for students who took all sections of the test. Paul McDonald asked Dr. Less why do we have 156 students with unknown levels of previous education, how do we educate them and know where they are. Dr. Less stated they are tested at entry into the program to determine their educational functioning levels.

## **The National Training Institute**

Dr. Philip Less noted that he represented the RI Department of Education by attending the National Training Institute for two and half days in San Francisco. Johan Uvin was there representing the US Department of Education. The major topic of discussion was WIOA. The group discussed Adult Education as one of the four core programs under WIOA. Dr. Less stated he appreciate the relationships between Adult Education and the Governor's Workforce Board and the State Workforce Investment Office. The relationship is not like this in other states. He is thankful to be supported by GWB. Dr. Less noted that the 3 key principles of WIOA is Program Alignment, Increased Accountability, Enhanced service Delivery. Dr. Less referred to David Tremblay, who noted the presentation was spot on.

Dr. Less stated that until the WIOA regulations come out (expected in January), we can continue to work on putting Career Pathways systems in place. Dr. Less mentioned that WIOA is a four-year plan. He will continue to discuss WIOA and highlight other details at future meetings.

George Nee asked the question with all that is going on, is Adult Education going to have all the funding to do all they are presenting? Dr. Less stated that level funding from the federal government for RI of \$2.5 million is probably the best case scenario for July 2015. Dr. Less mentioned a new WIOA expense in the One-Stop infrastructure cost. George Nee asked the question, what is infrastructure cost? That would pay for the building and rent and other infrastructure expenses. George Nee stated he would like to focus more on the GED waiting list. He is not as concerned about infrastructure cost. Paul McDonald also agreed that he would like to see us focus on the GED cost and help people that can't afford to pay for the GED test. The RI One Stops are currently located in Woonsocket, West Warwick, Providence and Wakefield. Jim Purcell asked the question to the group, why is there not a One Stop in the Newport area. Dr. Less stated under WIOA there could be one on the East Bay / Newport Area.

Dr. Less noted that he is on the Providence/Cranston Workforce Board. Dr. Less asked the Providence/Cranston Board members to get familiar with WIOA Sections 107, Responsibilities of the Local Workforce Development Boards. The majority of the WIOA outcomes will be around getting a job, and WIOA will force all the partners to work together. One of the reasons for the infrastructure cost is to get buy-in from all partners.

## **High School Equivalency Program regulations**

Dr. Philip Less provided an update to the group. He stated revision went to Chief. The important point is that RI Department of Education will pay for GED waivers. Chair Nagle stated the request for the \$75,000 was not well received. The chair was going to talk to Strategic Investment Committee and make a recommendation. Chair Nangle referred back to Paul McDonald question, how will the provider know this is the law? Dr. Less noted that people know about this. They just don't know where the money is coming from to pay for this. George Nee asked Dr. Less did the law say this has to be done by a specific date? There was no date in the legislation.

Action Item:

- Chair Nangle would like to get an update on GED Waivers at the March 31,2015 meeting
- Chair Nangle would like an update on the WIOA Regulations that come out in January.
- Chair Nangle would like to see WIOA on each Adult Education and Literacy Committee agenda going forward.

**Adjournment:**

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

**VOTE:** George Nee moved to approve. Robin Coia seconded the motion.  
The motion was passed unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown