

Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
Minutes of Meeting No. 107
November 17, 2005

Mr. David Harrison called the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) meeting to order at 8:30 AM at the Port of Vancouver, Commission Conference Room, Vancouver, Washington. The following board members and officers were present:

David Harrison, Workforce Board Chair
Ellen O'Brien Saunders, Workforce Board Executive Director
Rod Duckworth, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
Mike Hudson, Association of Washington Business (AWB)
Asbury Lockett, Business Representative
Randy Loomans, Labor Representative
Karen DiJulio, Employment Security Department (ESD)
John McGinnis, Labor Representative
Israel Mendoza, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)
Beth Thew, Labor Representative

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. David Harrison welcomed the Board and guests, and introductions were made. He acknowledged the wonderful dinner at The Restaurant at the Historic District with local Vancouver dignitaries and business leaders. Mr. Todd Coleman, Deputy Executive Director of the Port of Vancouver, welcomed the Board to Vancouver and to the Port and gave a brief overview of the Port's operations.

Chairperson's Report

Mr. Harrison acknowledged the representatives from the Vancouver and Portland campuses of Western Business College. He summarized their concerns over the Private Career Schools legislation: What's measured should be equitable with the public sector institutions. He provided an update to the WorkFirst Re-examination and the Workforce Strategies Leadership Conference. Ms. Randy Loomans felt the armchair panel needed audience participation. Mr. Rod Duckworth felt the connection to the Washington Association of Vocational Administrators conference was valuable to secondary Career and Technical Education attendees and that the staff did an outstanding job. Ms. Ellen O'Brien Saunders will solicit feedback from members on combining a one-day conference with Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development in 2006 and a full conference in 2007. Mr. John McGinnis asked about the goal of increasing business and labor participants from the local level. Mr. Harrison asked Ms. O'Brien Saunders to provide members with the attendance representation of the local Workforce Development Councils. Mr. Harrison may attend the National Association of Workforce Boards conference to continue to promote such partnerships.

Motion 05-106-01

A motion was made by Ms. Beth Thew and seconded by Mr. McGinnis that the minutes of September 22, 2005, meeting be approved. The motion passed.

Motion 05-106-02

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Hudson and seconded by Ms. Thew that the minutes of October 13, 2005, Special Conference Call Meeting be adopted. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. O'Brien Saunders highlighted the contents of Tab 1. She touched on the Board's work for the coming year. There will be a heavy dose of the Workforce Readiness Credential in January and March. For High Skills, High Wages work, she mentioned that the members will have leadership roles for work groups during the process. There will be work once the reauthorization of WIA and Perkins occurs. Ms. O'Brien Saunders referenced discussion of the dropout initiative perhaps in conjunction with the WIA 10 percent discussion.

Ms. O'Brien Saunders reported the NGA Policy Academy effort to improve outcomes for young adults with disabilities and the adoption of a vision statement by the participating representatives. Mr. Martin McCallum is assisting with this work.

High Skills, High Wages 2006 Chapter 2: Tomorrow's Workforce

Ms. Evelyn Hawkins presented the materials in Tab 2. Ms. Loomans asked for copies of overheads not provided in the packet. Mr. Harrison identified the challenges presented by five different workforce population groups and wondered about showing strategies to address each group. Mr. Israel Mendoza indicated that we should anticipate an increased emergence of non-English-speaking entrants to the workforce and to be prepared for the challenges associated with this. Mr. Hudson noted the influx of eastern Europeans. Ms. Loomans mentioned an article on "different generations" that she will provide to members. There were comments about the relationship of this chapter to the chapter on the economy.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA): Title 1B Performance Targets

Mr. Carl Wolfhagen presented the materials in Tab 3. Mr. Asbury Lockett asked whether there was any sharing of best practices related to high performance results. Mr. Harrison reminded members of Ms. Karen Lee's interest in the intersection of these performance measures with the Government Management Accountability and Performance (GMAP) measures on which the ESD is working. There were questions on how the targets related to actual performance, especially where performance exceeded future targets. Mr. Harrison indicated that we may bring this topic up again in the spring when the Board visits the WIA 10 percent discussion that includes incentives for performance. Ms. Thew asked about local concerns and/or feedback on the targets or the target-setting process.

Motion 05-106-03

A motion was made by Mr. McGinnis and seconded by Mr. Lockett. The motion passed unanimously.

2006 Legislative Session Budget and Policy Requests: OSPI, SBCTC

Mr. Wes Pruitt presented the materials in Tab 4. Mr. Harrison encouraged members to take the message of workforce resource needs to the Governor. There was discussion about Washington Learns and their action to “require” guidance programs. Need to make sure we drop “and counseling” from future references to guidance work. Mr. Duckworth mentioned that the need was for career guidance and that Navigation 101 was a model. Mr. Lockett asked about the 100 districts and how funds would roll out. Mr. Harrison mentioned that he will be talking with Mr. Victor Moore on the Board’s legislative agenda.

Motion 05-106-04

A motion for endorsement of SBCTCs budget request was made by Mr. McGinnis and seconded by Ms. Thew. The motion passed.

Motion 05-106-05

A motion for endorsement of OSPI’s budget request was made by Mr. McGinnis and seconded by Ms. Loomans. The motion passed.

Perkins Policy Issues

Mr. Bryan Wilson and Ms. Terri Colbert presented the materials in Tab 5. Ms. O’Brien Saunders indicated that we would include the letter from United States Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education in the packet for the January Board meeting. There was discussion of the impacts of potential policy changes at the local level. Mr. Duckworth mentioned that small districts were using their Perkins small awards effectively. He also indicated that Perkins funds complement the effort to address the Washington Assessment of Student Learning requirements. Mr. Harrison mentioned that the strengthening of academics through the use of Perkins funds made sense. Ms. Thew asked whether these funds were used to balance local budgets. Mr. Harrison challenged the Board to provide direction to the staff. He also indicated his desire for a “more robust recapture-based program” that might include combining this effort with the WIA 10 percent funds and Basic Education dollars. It was suggested that we look at the history of carry forward dollars. Ms. Thew expressed the need for local input and wondered if we were telling the locals what they need. Mr. Harrison will talk to Board members about this topic between now and January.

Industry Skill Panels Showcase: Transportation

Ms. Pam Lund introduced the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SW WDC) presentation. Ms. Lisa Nisenfeld (Executive Director, SW WDC) presented information on their Transportation Skill Panel. Mr. Harrison asked for suggestions to improve skill panels. Ms. Nisenfeld suggested longer funding of four to five years and level funding for the first two years. Ms. Lisa Edwards (Clark College) described the products to date on the panel and Mr. Dale Lemmons of Interstate Wood Products explained the trucking industry's workforce challenges.

Ellen O'Brien Saunders, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ellen O'Brien Saunders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".