

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 177
JANUARY 23, 2014**

Ms. Cindy Zehnder called the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. at the Washington State Investment Board in Olympia. The following Board members and officers were present:

Cindy Zehnder, Chair

Amy Johnson for Gary Chandler, Representing Business
Lee Anne Caylor for Lutz Ziob, Representing Business
Lee Newgent, Representing Labor
Beth Thew, Representing Labor (Vice Chair)
Lori Province for Jeff Johnson, Representing Labor
Cheryl Fambles for Mark Mattke, Representing Local Government
Jim Crabbe for Marty Brown, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
Kathleen Lopp for Randy Dorn, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dale Peinecke, Employment Security Department
David Stillman for Kevin Quigley, Department of Social and Health Services
Andres Aguirre for Kevin Quigley, Department of Social and Health Services

Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director

Chair's Report

Ms. Cindy Zehnder welcomed the Board and staff, and introductions were made. Ms. Zehnder asked if Board members had reviewed the minutes and if there was a motion to approve.

Motion 14-177-01

Mr. Jim Crabbe moved to adopt the November 14, 2013 minutes. Ms. Beth Thew seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Director's Report

Ms. Eleni Papadakis provided the Board with information on the progress of the \$2.3 million *Make it in America* grant from three federal agencies: Economic Development Administration (EDA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and Department of Labor (DOL). Because of some funding issues with partners, it has given the Board an opportunity to rethink this grant. Ms. Cheryl Fambles asked about the service delivery. Ms. Papadakis said that Innovate Washington and Department of Commerce will identify what companies need and Impact Washington will provide additional technical assistance. Ms. Papadakis added that the incumbent worker money from DOL is a "real gift."
Ms. Papadakis acknowledged the "Brown Folder" supplemental materials and the Healthcare Personnel Shortage Task Force report. She highlighted her attendance at the National Governors Association conference on healthcare. Over 40 governors were represented during the two-day healthcare conference. The attendees were highly interested in workforce ideas and strategies. Ms. Papadakis suggested that the Healthcare Personnel Shortage Task Force present to the Board soon on this topic.

Start Next Quarter

The Board heard a presentation on a pilot project that started in the Seattle Community College district and extended into the Spokane Community Colleges, working with Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) to better integrate and coordinate resources. Mr. John Bowers of Seattle College district talked about finding common efficiencies and developing an online eligibility tool. He commented that this has been popular with students and the colleges, having one tool instead of 34. Mr. Rob Crow with Spokane Community Colleges said the workshop component wasn't always a solution for the rural students. They would prefer to meet one on one. Ms. Wendy Price, Seattle Community College district, stated this is a tool to streamline the system and it could accommodate other screening questions, such as Workforce Investment Act (WIA) eligibility. The other colleges are excited and want to participate. The system identifies a core services contact at each school and could crosswalk the student to other services. Other enhancements were identified for future consideration, such as creating a mobile app and making the website ESL capable. Ms. Lori Province stated the mobile application should be a priority. The panel said they are looking into creating a steering committee to provide feedback. The panel also discussed costs to run the website and how to keep it manageable and relevant. Ms. Price commented that currently only four of the 11 Seattle Community Colleges are participating but they are working on getting all on board. Mr. Dale Peinecke commented on the great potential for linkage with WorkSource. Ms. Cheryl Fambles cautioned about limiting participants' education options or leading students to believe they will receive funding when they are notified they are eligible. Ms. Cindy Zehnder added that there needs to be realistic expectations and should include other funding sources like Veteran's benefits. Mr. Jim Crabbe noted he could provide a progress report to the Board at a later date.

Eligible Training Provider Performance Policy

Mr. Dave Pavelchek presented the material for Tab 3. Each year the Board adopts the criteria used to determine which programs are eligible to provide training funded by Workforce Investment Act Title I-B Individual Training Accounts. The same criteria are used to determine eligibility to train dislocated workers receiving additional unemployment insurance benefits under the state's Training Benefits program. Mr. Pavelchek added this data looks like an average year; one in eight programs is ineligible but can apply for an appeal. Mr. Dale Peinecke expressed concern about the 50 percent employment rate level. Mr. Pavelchek noted that the Board engages in a balancing act. Mr. Lee Newgent suggested the data could be skewed based on Eastern and Western Washington, rural vs. urban data. Mr. Pavelchek stated that the staff used a regression model that deals with some of that, but not all. The Board discussed updating the criteria for programs on the state's Eligible Training Provider List (ETP) and suggested the creation of a committee to evaluate the data in the coming year. The Board is expected to take action on the current Eligible Training Provider criteria at the March 20, 2014 Board meeting, and the ad hoc committee will make recommendations on the criteria for next year.

Career and College Ready Graduation Requirements

Mr. Justin Montermini and Ms. Linda Drake presented the Career and College Graduation framework that was discussed at the January 6, 2014 Special Board Meeting. That meeting continued the discussion on what a 24-credit framework would look like. The Board expressed some lingering concerns about what it will take to operationalize but agreed on the intent of the State Board of Education's (SBE) framework. The SBE framework has some substantive changes that align more with the Board interests. Those specific changes include seven credits of flexibility; four electives as defined by the SBE, the personal pathway plan, a greater emphasis on comprehensive career guidance and counseling (one of the goals in *High Skills, High Wages*), and a more explicit reference to Career and Technical Education (CTE)

courses. This framework creates more flexibility for a multiple pathway strategy. Mr. Montermini thanked the SBE for their coordination with the Board. Mr. Lee Newgent still has a number of concerns; one being obtaining written parent permission to take a career path other than college bound. Ms. Drake stated that is no longer a requirement except for math credit. Mr. Newgent expressed concerns about the additional burden on the education system that will increase the dropout rate. Ms. Drake noted the framework does include two credits that can be waived if the student is struggling. Ms. Lori Province worried about the funding. Mr. Montermini added there are several pieces of legislation that could potentially assist with implementation of the framework, like the equivalencies credits. Ms. Cindy Zehnder asked why the SBE is acting on this right now. Ms. Drake stated that the Legislature mandated the SBE via ESHB 2261 to create a 24-credit framework to be implemented by 2018, approved and funded by the Legislature. Ms. Kathleen Lopp expressed thanks for the positive aspects of the framework, but will not support the resolution until funded. Ms. Zehnder said the Board supports the general direction of the plan but has overall questions regarding the timing, implementation, and funding. Should we create a resolution that states we support the content of the plan but we still have these larger concerns? Mr. David Stillman suggested building in career concentration credits for more flexibility. Ms. Beth Thew was still troubled about the possible overall impact on the dropout rate: will this help students complete high school and move forward? Ms. Drake said that there are studies that show increasing graduation requirements doesn't increase dropout rates. Mr. Dale Peinecke suggested the Board change the resolution. Ms. Zehnder noted that Ms. Amy Johnson pointed out that the agenda doesn't state "possible action." Although the materials were present in the packet, the proxies were not able to prepare. Ms. Zehnder asked Mr. Montermini what type of position this puts him in, because he received a different message at the last meeting. He stated it's complicated but it can be worked out. Ms. Eleni Papadakis asked the Board if the staff can still represent them on the *High Skills, High Wages* points.

Motion 14-177-02

Ms. Amy Johnson moved to table the motion. Mr. Dale Peinecke seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Legislative Update

Mr. Justin Montermini and Ms. Nova Gattman presented the material for Tab 5. Mr. Montermini told the Board about the work that he and Ms. Gattman did this past year, connecting with members in their districts to convey the interests of the Board. Just over a 1,000 bills have been introduced in the first 11 days of session including the 100+ bills the Legislative staff is tracking. The Workforce Board staff provided a brief account of the session activities to date, including movement on the *High Skills, High Wages* resolution and Private Vocational School consumer protection bill. Both Ms. Gattman and Mr. Montermini presented the bills they are tracking. Ms. Gattman talked about the positive impacts of the visits with members and how it increased momentum for agency bills. Mr. Montermini sought advice from the Board on how to proceed on the 24-credit graduation requirement framework. He testified earlier that morning in support of HB 2181. Ms. Cindy Zehnder asked the Board for some guidelines. Mr. Lee Newgent thought if you testified on one, you should testify on the other. Ms. Zehnder suggested that if the Board is not engaged in the conversation at all, that cuts us off being able to influence things we do support. She stated that this pulls the Board out of an essential conversation. Ms. Kathleen Lopp doesn't think Board staff should testify but be part of the meeting. Ms. Beth Thew thinks the Board needs to be a part of the conversation and link it to *High Skills, High Wages*. Ms. Zehnder suggested a 15 minute break to discuss some guidelines or attempt some language to support the SBE plan and state the Board's concerns.

Motion 14-177-03

Ms. Beth Thew moved that the Workforce Board endorse the intent of the State Board of Education amended 24-credit Career and College Ready Graduation framework, student development of a personalized pathway plan outlined in their High School and Beyond Plan, and a statewide list of Career and Technical Education to academic model course equivalencies. Further, the Board recognizes concern with the implementation of the 24-credit framework in terms of adequate funding necessary to implement. Ms. Amy Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Staff also presented information from the agencies on their budget requests. The Board voiced support for all Proposed Budget Enhancements that align with *High Skills, High Wages* except Learning Improvement Days (LID) Restoration.

Board meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.