

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 146
March 15, 2010**

Ms. Beth Thew called the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. at the Washington State Investment Board, 2100 Evergreen Park Drive, Olympia. The following Board members and officers were present:

Beth Thew, Vice Chair

Creigh Agnew, Business Representative

Rick Bender, Labor Representative

Lori Province, Labor Representative

Dixie Simmons, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)

Charlie Earl, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)

Mike Hudson, Business Representative

Troy Hutson for Susan Dreyfus, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

Kathleen Lopp for Randy Dorn, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Kathy DiJulio for Karen Lee, Employment Security Department (ESD)

Tony Lee, Targeted Populations

Mark Mattke, Local Government Representative

Dan McConnon for Rogers Weed, Department of Commerce

Lutz Ziob, Business Representative

Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director

Vice Chair's Report

Ms. Beth Thew welcomed the Workforce Board and guests to the State Investment Board. Introductions were made. Mr. Charlie Earl announced Ms. Dixie Simmons as a new addition to the staff at State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Ms. Simmons will also be attending the Workforce Board meetings as Mr. Earl's alternate.

Motion 10-146-01

Ms. Kathleen Lopp moved to adopt the March 15, 2010 minutes. Ms. Creigh Agnew seconded the motion. The motion passed with corrections.

Vision for K-12 Education

Mr. Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction presented the material for Tab 2. Superintendent Dorn shared his core priorities. He spoke about funding issues and replacement of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, the WASL will be replaced by two new tests for students in third through eighth grade, the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) and the new High School proficiency exam. He noted that state testing should never be the sole judge of a student's academic skills and knowledge. A student's entire performance should always be considered. He referenced the achievement gap and the re-emergence of Jobs for America's Graduates, a program offered in Washington 14 years ago. He also addressed early learning needs, dropout prevention, and Career and Technical Education. Superintendent Dorn mentioned the "Race to the Top" and the common core

standards. Mr. Dorn shared his desire that the Navigation 101 strategy be part of basic education funding. Ms. Eleni Papadakis asked about the role the public and the Workforce Board would play in shaping the core standards. Mr. Rick Bender shared his desire to see apprenticeship sites utilized by students in the off hours to promote partnerships. Mr. Lutz Ziob asked about the role of business in partnering with schools. Ms. Papadakis agreed to send the National Governors Association link to the Workforce Board members. Ms. Lopp referenced the board packet regarding the third year math program.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Papadakis shared that the Workforce Board's lease has been finalized and announced that the agency would remain in the Raad Building. She announced staff changes, welcoming Ms. Joyce Ahlering to the legislative team and Mr. Paul Stern to the research team. She also announced Ms. Mehrnaz Jamzadeh's retirement.

Ms. Papadakis provided a status report on the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) program and its situation in the state budget deliberations. She reminded the Board members about the WAVE ceremonies to honor the recipients. Whether it is a monetary award or a recognition award there will still be ceremonies to attend. Ms. Papadakis mentioned the sunset of emergency funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Mr. Mark Mattke suggested using TANF for summer youth programs.

High Skills, High Wages 2010 Update (Action)

Ms. Madeleine Thompson presented the material for Tab 3. As required in state statute, the Workforce Board creates the state comprehensive plan for workforce development, *High Skills, High Wages*, and updates the plan every four years. The last strategic plan was completed in 2008 and approved by the Legislature during the 2009 Legislative session. The statute allows the Board to do updates in a shorter time frame as needed to respond to changed conditions.

While a comprehensive update of *High Skills, High Wages* is not yet due, staff recommends an update focusing on the changed economy and new strategies that respond to the current economic climate. Mr. Bender cautioned the Board about making changes to the plan that could be dated as the economy changes. Ms. They wondered about changing the emphasis of existing strategies contained in the plan rather than changing the plan itself. Mr. Troy Hutson felt that since the Legislature will be asked to adopt the plan in 2011, that the Workforce Board should be vested in changes. Mr. Earl asked about financing strategies to address changes to the economy. Mr. Ziob shared his experiences with European countries and how they manage economic swings. Mr. Dan McConnon suggested using the recent economic crisis as an opportunity to observe what weaknesses exist in the workforce system and what we could learn from them. Mr. Bender mentioned identifying stable funding sources for training during tough economic times, so that vital training is not cut in times like these. Ms. Lopp mentioned focus groups and the cost of them.

Motion 10-146-02

Mr. Mike Hudson moved that the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board approve exploring strategies to respond to the changed economy and to consider whether updates to *High Skills, High Wages* are warranted. Ms. Lopp seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Legislative Wrap-up (Action)

Ms. Madeleine Thompson, Mr. Wes Pruitt and Ms. Joyce Ahlering presented the material for Tab 4. During the 2010 legislative session, the Workforce Board staff promoted, monitored and provided input on legislative

and budget proposals that matched the priorities identified in *High Skills, High Wages*, as well as operating agency proposals endorsed by the Board. Mr. Tony Lee suggested that the Workforce Board participate in the Governor's WorkFirst subcabinet discussions and made a motion to send a letter to the Governor with this request.

Motion 10-146-03

Mr. Lee moved that the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board send a letter to the Governor asking to participate in the WorkFirst subcabinet study. Mr. Mattke seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2010 Workforce Investment Act 10 Percent Funding: Advising the Governor

Mr. Bryan Wilson presented the material for Tab 5. One of the roles of the Workforce Board is to provide recommendations to the Governor for the allocation of the 10 percent of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds that are set aside for statewide activities. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) usually informs the states in April or May of their WIA allocations for the program year that begins on July 1. For Program Year 2009, Washington's 10 Percent funds were \$5,629,000. Mr. Bender asked why so much existing WIA funding is yet unspent. Mr. Mattke asked about the 5 percent administration funds. Ms. Leslie Goldstein from the Governor's policy office joined the presentation. She solicited comments that she could take back to the Governor. The Workforce Board discussed retaining the flexibility of the 10 Percent Funds. Mr. Mattke and Ms. Thew commented about having more resources and greater flexibility of the WIA 10 Percent Funds. Mr. Bender suggested a need for resources at small community banks to help generate economic growth and deal with local infrastructure needs. Ms. Lopp suggested looking at Jobs for America's Graduates program for investment. Ms. Kathy DiJulio mentioned that allocating the remainder of the current 10 Percent Funds was in process.

Workforce Investment Act Performance Targets (Action)

Mr. Dave Pavelchek presented the material for Tab 6. The Workforce Board has the role of negotiating performance targets for WIA with DOL and local Workforce Development Councils (WDCs). In the spring of 2009, the Board agreed to performance targets for Program Year 09 with both DOL and the WDCs. Under WIA, if economic conditions or participant characteristics change, the state may request changes to the state targets, and the state is to consider local economic conditions and participant characteristics in establishing local targets. Mr. Mattke asked about the diversity of youth targets among the states. Mr. Pavelchek agreed to provide the data on youth placement and credential attainment from around the country.

Motion 10-146-04

Mr. Bender moved that the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, on behalf of the Governor, adopt the proposed adjusted Workforce Investment Act performance targets for adults and dislocated workers. Mr. Ziob seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Workforce Investment Act: Reauthorization

Mr. Scott Cheney, Staff Director, Senate Health, Labor, Education, and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety joined the meeting via conference call. Mr. Cheney provided the Workforce Board an update on WIA Reauthorization. He shared the status in the Senate, and was optimistic about the House. Mr. Cheney mentioned he was intrigued by our tri-partite composition and is sharing the models with others. Ms. DiJulio asked about continued focus on targeted populations. Ms. Papadakis inquired

about the dual customer focus and youth services. Mr. Cheney agreed to get back to Ms. Papadakis on the youth services discussion. Ms. Lori Province asked about veterans' needs. Mr. Cheney mentioned that there may be some pending legislation from Senator Murray on veterans' education. Ms. Papadakis assured the Workforce Board that the agency would continue the conversation with Mr. Cheney and others, including the multi-state group, as the agency moves forward.

Update on Recovery Act Training Grants in Energy and Healthcare

Mr. Martin McCallum and Ms. Madeleine Thompson presented the materials for Tab 8. The Workforce Board is the recipient of two American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) demonstration grants and a federal appropriation awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The ARRA grants are the Energy Sector Partnership Grant: *Energy Efficiency Training for Washington's Green Economy*, and the Health Care Sector Grant: *Health Care Career Pathways from Long-Term Care to Acute Care*. The Workforce Board also received the Workplace Based Learning federal grant. This appropriation of \$850,000 is to create demonstration projects that provide low-income adults with education and training that is at least partially delivered at the workplace and through digital methods. The aim is to help entry-level workers move up the career ladder into high wage, high demand positions. Ms. Agnew inquired about the start date of the grants. Ms. Lori Province asked about where the jobs would be.

Workforce Board News

Mr. Hudson provided the Workforce Board with an update on the Work Readiness Credential. He mentioned that a publishing company has expressed interest in the curriculum. Mr. Hudson was not optimistic about the future of this initiative.

Ms. Thew announced the resignation of Ms. Janet Lewis and reminded members to complete the evaluation forms.

Adjourn 4:45 p.m.