

Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
Minutes of Meeting No. 125
March 27, 2008

Mr. David Harrison called the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. at the State Investment Board, Olympia, Washington. The following Board members and officers were present:

David Harrison, Board Chair

Creigh H. Agnew, Representing Business

Lori Province for Rick Bender, Representing Labor

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

Mike Hudson, Representing Business

Brian Jeffries for Terry Bergeson, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Karen Lee, Employment Security Department (ESD)

Janet Lewis, Representing Labor

Lynnae Ruttledge for Robin Arnold-Williams, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

Tim Probst, for Kris Stadelman, Representing Local Government

Beth Thew, Representing Labor

Juli Wilkerson, Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development

Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director

Welcome and Chair's Report

Mr. Harrison welcomed members of the Board and guests to the State Investment Board. Mr. Harrison also welcomed the newest participant on the Workforce Board, Ms. Juli Wilkerson, Director, Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. Ms. Wilkerson was appointed by the Governor as a result of Next Washington. Mr. Harrison announced Mr. Troy Hutson will be working at DSHS and is no longer a member of our Board and mentioned Mr. Mike Hudson from Association of Washington Business has submitted a few names to the Governor for a potential candidate for our Board.

Mr. Harrison, Ms. Karen Lee, and Mr. Charlie Earl represented the Workforce Board at a forum for Senator Maria Cantwell that Mr. Earl facilitated. Mr. Harrison mentioned that the University of Washington's president, Mr. Mark Emmert, is pleased with the work that the Workforce Board and the community colleges are doing in keeping individuals on a pathway for higher education. Mr. Harrison congratulated the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges for their work on the Opportunity Grants Bill saving \$11 million. Mr. Earl thanked Mr. Harrison and Ms. Eleni Papadakis for their hard work. Mr. Harrison mentioned that through the King County collaboration, 11 community colleges are working with the Workforce Development Council and the collaborative should be ready to make an announcement of a \$5 to \$6 million investment by summer. Finally the chair asked for Board members to volunteer to review applications for Workforce Development Council certificates. Mr. Hudson, Ms. Lee, and Ms. Janet Lewis announced their interest in sitting on the panel.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Papadakis shared with the Board the two newest employees for the Workforce Board (1) Ms. Marina Parr and (2) Mr. Bill Olfert. Ms. Parr will be working with Mr. Tim Sweeney in our communications department and Mr. Olfert will be managing the LifeLong Learning Accounts (LiLA) project for the Workforce Board. The Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) applications have come to a close for 2008. We will be announcing 141 winners on April 10, 2008. The information on the location and dates of the ceremonies will be announced shortly. Ms. Papadakis attended the State Workforce

Board Chairs meeting in Washington, D.C. Ms. Papadakis spoke about the WIA rescission. She spoke about H1B visas. Ms. Papadakis also mentioned No Child Left Behind and GMAP, and that the Workforce Board has a statutory seat on the Washington Manufacturer Service Board. Finally, Ms. Papadakis shared information about the Tacoma Pierce County annual meeting.

Motion 08-125-01

Ms. Lee moved to adopt the January 31, 2008 minutes. Ms. Beth Thew seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Higher Education Coordinating Board

Ms. Ann Daley presented a power point presentation on the Higher Education Coordinating Board's Master Plan. The theme of the plan is moving every student to a higher level of education. The plan sets ambitious targets for increasing the number of students who graduate at each level of higher education. The Board discussed how that would be a hard challenge given our current high school graduation rate and the changing demographics of the state. Board members applauded the HECB's inclusion of WTECB and its partners in the process of developing the plan, and offered support as the HECB moves into implementation phase.

High Skills, High Wages 2008

Mr. Carl Wolfhagen presented the material for Tab 3. Mr. Wolfhagen compared Washington's labor force of today to tomorrow's labor force, which will be older, more racially and ethnically diverse, and will grow at a slower rate. Mr. Wolfhagen noted that the workforce and the changing needs of a knowledge-based economy pose challenges and opportunities for Washington's workforce development system. The challenges of slower population growth and increasing skill needs make it essential that we provide new arrivals and historically underutilized populations with the knowledge and skills to enable them to participate more successfully in tomorrow's economy.

Mr. Wolfhagen noted the number of workers in Washington increased 1.64 million between 1970 and 2000 and is projected to increase by only 1.18 million in the 30 years between 2000 and 2030. Ms. Lori Province asked if there is an opportunity to do additional work on the statement referring to women in the workplace. Mr. Brian Jeffries asked for consistency on the definition of the high school diploma versus GED in this report. Ms. Lynnae Ruttledge suggested a collaborative effort with Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and the Workforce Board to establish language on the labor force participation and employment rates and Supplemental Security Income benefits, with regards to individuals with disabilities.

State Skill Shortages: Results of Employer Survey

Mr. Bryan Wilson presented the material for Tab 4. The Workforce Board recently completed its biennial survey of Washington state employers regarding workforce training needs and practices. The Workforce Board administered the survey during the summer and fall of 2007. The Association of Washington Business assisted with a transmittal letter encouraging employers to respond. Some 2,091 employers responded, a 21 percent response rate. Board members asked a number of questions in order to clarify the survey and discussed the meaning of the results.

Removing Barriers: Report from the Interagency Committee

Mr. Martin McCallum and Ms. Terri Colbert presented the materials for Tab 5. The Workforce Board adopted the Washington Workforce Compact in Bremerton on September 26, 2007. The partners to this *Compact* commit to a collective effort to identify and remove inter-agency barriers that stand in the way of serving our customers. Such barriers may include, but are not limited to, policies, practices, regulations, or performance measures. What appear as barriers may exist for a good reason. This must be considered. But we commit to identifying and removing those barriers that don't make sense from the perspective of the goals we are trying to achieve for our customers. Board members had a number of specific questions regarding the proposals for barrier removal and applauded the inter-agency collaborative.

WIA 10 Percent Investment Discussion

Mr. Wilson and Ms. Nancy Pringle presented the material for Tab 6. The Workforce Investment Act Title I federal funds are set aside for statewide activities to be determined by the Governor. The role of the Workforce Board is to make a recommendation to the Governor as to how this money should be spent. The Board will take action on this recommendation at the May Board meeting. Mr. Harrison suggested that the Employment Security Department and the Workforce Board figure out if we have the funds to sustain all the current allocations of the 10 percent dollars. Ms. Lee mentioned that she does not believe that is possible to sustain them all and we should consider pooling some of the dollars. Ms. Province asked for clarification on the Eligible Training Provider list and the Fiscal Management Systems. Ms. Pringle suggested the Board consider Washington Works and barrier removal for pooled dollars. Mr. Wilson indicated, based upon the Board's discussion, direction provided by the Office of the Governor, and the cost of required activities, staff will work with the Employment Security Department, the Workforce Development Councils, the Governor's staff and the Interagency Committee to prepare recommendations for the Board to act on at the May meeting.

Carl D. Perkins Five-Year Plan (Action)

Ms. Colbert presented the materials for Tab 7. The plan was presented to the Board in January for discussion and was brought back to the Board in March for final approval. The plan, once approved, will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by April 15, 2008. Submittal of the plan, and its anticipated acceptance by the U.S. Department of Education, allows federal funds to be distributed to the state. Mr. Jeffries announced the Director of Career and Technical Education of OSPI is now Betty Klattenhoff. Mr. Jeffries also suggested some language changes. Ms. Colbert addressed Ms. Lee's concerns about students of color.

Motion 08-125-02

Ms. Lee moved to adopt the Carl D. Perkins Five –Year Plan. Ms. Province seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Legislative Recap

Ms. Madeleine Thompson presented the materials for Tab 8. During the legislative session, the Workforce Board staff monitors and provides input on legislation and budget proposals that match the priorities identified in *High Skills, High Wages*, Board budget and policy requests, and operating agency proposals endorsed by the Board. The 2008 Legislature passed a number of workforce-related bills and budget appropriations related to the Board's goals for youth, adult, and industry.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.