

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 136
May 5, 2009**

Mr. David Harrison called the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following Board members and officers were present:

David Harrison, Board Chair
Creigh H. Agnew, Representing Business
Kathleen Lopp, for Randy Dorn, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
Lori Province, for Rick Bender, Representing Labor
Charlie Earl, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)
Mike Hudson, Representing Business
Karen Lee, Employment Security Department (ESD)
Janet Lewis, Representing Labor
Lynnae Ruttledge, for Susan Dreyfus, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
Mark Mattke, Representing Local Government
Beth Thew, Representing Labor
Rogers Weed, Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED)
Lutz Ziob, Representing Business

Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director

Welcome and Chair's Report

Mr. Harrison welcomed the Board, staff and guests and introductions were made. Mr. David McMichael, Director of the Southwest Washington Pipe Trades and Apprenticeship Training Center welcomed the Workforce Board to their facility. Mr. McMichael mentioned the training center is especially proud of their returning veterans program. A tour of the facility was provided during the Board members' lunch hour.

Mr. Harrison introduced Mr. Rogers Weed, Executive Director of Community, Trade and Economic Development, soon to be the Department of Commerce, to the Workforce Board. He comes to state government from the private sector; much of his career was at Microsoft. Also, Mr. Lutz Ziob was introduced as a soon-to-be new Board member representing business. He also comes from Microsoft. We are awaiting Mr. Ziob's official appointment letter.

Mr. Harrison announced he will be retiring as Chair of the Workforce Board effective immediately after the June 25, 2009 Board meeting. Board members will work with the Governor's office to recommend candidates for his replacement. Mr. Harrison also mentioned his work on the Seattle Foundation, and President Obama's reference to Washington state's I-BEST program.

Motion 09-136-01

Ms. Kathleen Lopp moved to adopt the March 4, 2009 minutes. Ms. Beth Thew seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion 09-136-02

Ms. Thew moved to adopt the March 12, 2009 minutes. Mr. Mike Hudson seconded the motion. The motion passed with corrections.

Motion 09-136-03

Ms. Thew moved to adopt the March 25, 2009 minutes. Ms. Janet Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Eleni Papadakis mentioned Mr. Harrison's position as Chair would be hard to fill and wished him well. She announced a personnel change at the Workforce Board. Mr. Dave Pavelchek has accepted the position of Research Manager. She mentioned the upcoming budget revisions and asked Mr. Walt Wong to elaborate. Mr. Wong highlighted developments of the state's biennial budget including the resulting impact to the Workforce Board's two-year budget. Mr. Wong indicated the agency's 2009-2010 Operating Budget would be on the agenda for the Board to adopt at the June 25 meeting. Ms. Karen Lee also updated the Board on Unemployment Insurance and the Shared Work program. Ms. Papadakis asked Board members to participate in the upcoming Washington Award for Vocational Excellence award ceremonies and to schedule their time with the Board secretary.

Ms. Elizabeth Smith announced the statewide apprenticeship event occurring in Ellensburg on June 15-16, 2009. She acknowledged Mr. Bryan Wilson's role in the meetings across the country.

Transitioning Military into Civilian Workforce

Ms. Alfie Alverado from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Ms. Sandy Miller from the Employment Security Department, and Mr. Lee Williams from the Workforce Board presented the material for Tab 2. Ms. Alverado stated that with 672,000 veterans in the state, Washington has one of the largest populations of veterans in the country. These veterans serve in all branches of military service and include active duty individuals and those who are released from active duty. Many of these service men and women will require workforce development services. *High Skills, High Wages: 2008-2018* addressed the need to smooth the transition of veterans returning from military operations and identified opportunities for improvements in veterans' services. Mr. Harrison identified four policy issues: (1) Services for veterans: Are we doing enough?; (2) Integration and articulation efforts; (3) Intensive Services; (4) Quality of programs. He also acknowledged related Workforce Board work including Career Bridge www.careerbridge.com, Private Vocational Schools Act licensing efforts, and our evaluation of programs. Mr. Ziob suggested looking at the United Kingdom's model in which they support their military troops with education that assists them in their current capacity but also prepares them for post-military work. Ms. Lee indicated the older veterans have the most challenges. Ms. Lori Province felt that labor might play a larger role, especially in the trades. Ms. Lynnae Ruttledge shared that disabled veterans prefer the term "wounded warriors." Mr. Ziob also indicated that veterans need to know what to expect following their discharge. Ms. Alverado concluded by acknowledging that the families of veterans also require services.

2009 Legislative Summary

Mr. Wes Pruitt and Ms. Madeleine Thompson presented the material for Tab 3. 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. Mr. Harrison asked Mr. Pruitt and Ms. Papadakis to meet with Ms. Kathleen Lopp to further explore dropout prevention issues. Mr. Mark Mattke asked about

the budget language regarding the Associate Development Organization (ADO) and the Workforce Development Councils (WDCs). Mr. Harrison asked Ms. Papadakis to explain.

“G.I. Bill for Washington Workers”

Mr. Martin McCallum presented the material for Tab 4. At the August 13, 2008, Workforce Board annual retreat, Board members discussed potential future policy issues that could lift a greater number of Washingtonians above 200 percent of poverty (\$42,000 for a family of four). The concept of a “G.I. Bill for Washington Workers” emerged as an important topic—worthy of further examination.

At the January 22, 2009 meeting, the Board held a brief discussion on the concept of the “G.I. Bill.” Board members agreed to participate in an online survey to gather opinions on design criteria for an initiative. Board members discussed the survey results and whether this should be an initiative for all Washingtonians or for incumbent workers. Mr. Harrison suggested that staff craft an informed vision paper for discussion by members in the fall or at the retreat.

Update State and Local WDC Plans

Mr. Martin McCallum and Ms. Holly Watson presented the material for Tab 5. Mr. McCallum gave the Board a brief overview of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) guidelines, and stated that the Employment Security Department (ESD) sent a letter to DOL on April 15, 2009, requesting that the 2007-2009 State Plan for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser be extended through June 30, 2010.

In addition to extending current State WIA/Wagner-Peyser Plans for one year, DOL issued Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 14-08 instructing states to modify the plan. Plan modifications must describe both adjustments to current strategies and new activities related to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) implementation. Mr. Mike Hudson asked how work readiness would be measured. Ms. Province raised the issue of ARRA participants supplanting existing workers. Mr. Mattke raised the issue of performance measures waivers. Mr. Harrison asked that micro-enterprise efforts be a part of future discussions. The Board took action on the recommended motion after a suggested change was inserted to reflect “based on staff review” between “Board” and “recommends.”

Motion 09-136-04

Ms. Beth Thew moved the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, based on staff review, recommends Governor approval of 12 local area Strategic Plans for a two-year period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011. Ms. Kathleen Lopp seconded the motion. The motion passed with changes.

Governor’s 2009 WIA 10 Percent Funds

Ms. Robin Arnold-Williams and Mr. Chris Alejano from the Governor’s Policy Office presented to the Board. Ms. Arnold-Williams discussed the Governor’s thinking on the WIA 10 Percent Funds. The Governor’s priorities are training for aerospace, green jobs, and other high demand jobs. Ms. Arnold-Williams suggested a meeting in the next week with Mr. Marc Baldwin and Mr. Alejano and agency staff to discuss these efforts further. A conference call with the Board members prior to June was also suggested. Ms. Arnold-Williams also shared that the Governor’s Council on Aerospace will look at the role of two- and four-year institutions and how to connect research and training.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.