



NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD

JANUARY, 11, 2019

9:00-10:30 AM

200 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 910

FORT WAYNE 46802

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Darlene Stanley, Keith Davis, Doug Bauman, Leslie Crist, Alan Duff, Jane Gresham, Tim Hartigan, Leroy Jackson, Jeff Kellam, Mark Michael, John Niederman, John Sampson, Corey Schoon and Rick Sherck.

STAFF PRESENT: Andrea Bolinger, Rick Farrant, Karen Green, Anne Meadors, Edmond O'Neal, Kathleen Randolph, Lori Rice, and Kim Tempel.

GUESTS: Rich Beck, Ryan Twiss, Kent Sellers, Danny Lopez, Katherine Keegan and Kymberly Lavigne-Hinkley.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Darlene Stanley called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present. Stanley introduced guests Rich Beck and Ryan Twiss. It was also announced that Leslie Crist will become a proxy member of the board and that the primary member representing the Indiana Department of Workforce Development will be General Counsel Beth Green.

II. Consent Agenda: Board Minutes/Financial Report

The minutes of the Oct. 5, 2018 meeting and financial report were provided in the packet of advance materials. Jeff Kellam moved to approve the minutes and financial report. Leroy Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Indiana's Vision for Workforce Development

Danny Lopez, chairman of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, outlined the goals of the cabinet. They include ensuring connectivity involving the organizations and funding streams that support workforce development; identifying gaps in the workforce system and plugging them; consolidating funding streams when appropriate; preserving flexibility within the funding streams; making state government more responsive to needs across the board and seeking significant input to make sound policy decisions; strengthening the Employer Training Grant and Workforce Ready Grant programs under the Next Level Jobs initiative, including making credential attainment part of the employer training grants; rebranding Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to highlight their value, stair-stepping CTE funding along pathways, and using CTE programs as one way to combat a hemorrhaging of students who graduate high school with no plans for a postsecondary education. Lopez said 20,000 to 25,000 high school students in the state graduate without postsecondary plans. Another 8,500 to 9,000 depart postsecondary education after one year. Lopez' presentation sparked considerable discussion. Among the topics addressed: More and closer partnerships between businesses and educators; lack of a strategy to reverse the negative perspectives of CTE; flexibility to add core classes like math and English at CTE centers and thereby turn them into full-day learning sites; considering holding secondary schools accountable for eventual wage and/or postsecondary attainment, and continuing to grow work-based learning opportunities, including paid internships and apprenticeships.

IV. Program Updates

Career Pathway: Edmond O’Neal gave an update on the information-gathering activities of consultant Dr. Wylie Sirk and Northeast Indiana Works staff related to creating a career pathway for the food and agriculture sector. John Sampson noted the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership has assumed the lead in developing overall strategies to support and grow the sector.

Metrics: O’Neal reported the state had issued three performance metrics for Region 3: engagement, job creation and wage change. Keith Davis moved to accept the metrics as prescribed. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Skillful Indiana

Kymerly Lavigne-Hinkley and Katherine Keegan of Skillful, a Markle initiative, talked about the progress in bringing the program to Indiana and Region 3 specifically. Indiana is the second state (Colorado was first) to utilize Skillful’s programs, which include helping employers practice skills-based hiring, which focuses on competencies specific to a job, and providing in-person and online career coaching programs. Skillful will make available a digital platform to generate skills-based job postings.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. April 5, 2019 at 200 E. Main St., Suite 910, Fort Wayne.)