

**Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board**  
Education Committee Meeting  
January 14, 2009

**Present:**

David MacKenzie  
Dean Shawbold

**Absent:**

Craig Anderson EA  
Bill Lowe EA  
Jane Nicholson EA

**Staff:**

Mary Jo Gardner  
Kate Raleigh  
Carli Stark, WIB VISTA

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**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:20 am by Dean Shawbold, acting chair.

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**Approve Minutes**

**Motion** made by David McKenzie and seconded by Dean Shawbold to approve the November Education Committee minutes as presented.

**Motion carried.**

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**Approve New Member**

Judy Mortrude, Adult Basic Education Supervisor for Saint Paul Public Schools, has applied for membership on this committee. Members discussed Judy's application and credentials.

**Motion** made by David MacKenzie with second by Dean Shawbold to approve Judy Mortrude as a member of the Education Committee.

**Motion carried.**

Members discussed other possible avenues for membership.

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**Discuss Education Committee Charge/Issues for Discussion**

The two agenda items of Education Committee Charge and Issues for Discussion were discussed together. Mary Jo reviewed the catalyst for the creation of this committee and pointed out that the WIB did not define the charge of the committee. There was a general discussion on issues and opportunities in education, causes for which the committee could advocate and possible angles for the committee to explore.

Education and workforce issues discussed include:

- The achievement gap
- Recent immigration
- Individuals do not have the skills for available jobs
- Future workforce needs associated with the retirement of baby boomers
- Individuals not aware of available jobs and the training needed to get them
- Lack of awareness of post secondary training opportunities beyond traditional college

The committee discussed the focus the education committee could have including initiative work, oversight work, or advocacy work. One suggestion was to focus on creating awareness in the community of high demand jobs, the training needed to obtain these jobs, and the pay and workplace associated with these jobs. From this, it was suggested the charge, at least partially, address creating awareness among the public and specific populations for the jobs in demand and the training needed to be successful at these jobs. These specific populations could include students, parents, educators, businesses, etc. WIB staff will work on drafting a charge for the committee to review electronically before the next committee meeting.

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**Adjourn**

**Motion** made by David McKenzie with second by Dean Shawbold to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 am.

**Motion carried.**