

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Education Committee Meeting
March 11, 2009

Present:

Craig Anderson
Bill Lowe
David MacKenzie
Judy Mortrude
Jane Nicholson
Dean Shawbold

Absent:

Staff/Guests:

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Carli Stark, WIB VISTA

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Craig Anderson at 9:09 am.

Approve January Minutes

Motion made by David MacKenzie with second by Dean Shawbold to approve the January Education Committee minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Approve New Member

Deanne DeGraff, Principal of 916 NE Metro Career and Technical Center has applied for membership on this committee. Dean recommends her and nominates her as a new member.

Motion made by Dean Shawbold with second by David MacKenzie to approve Deanne DeGraff as a member of the Education Committee.

Motion carried.

Update on Education Committee Charge

Members discussed the committee charge, as developed at the last meeting: To connect the education, business and workforce development communities to raise awareness of high demand industry occupations and their associated training opportunities.

An amendment was made to add the words "Ramsey County" before "education," creating an amended charge of: To connect the Ramsey County education, business and workforce development communities to raise awareness of high demand industry occupations and their associated training opportunities.

Motion made by David MacKenzie with second by Dean Shawbold to approve the Education Committee charge as amended.

Motion carried.

Discuss Education Focus of WIB Strategic Plan

The WIB held a strategic planning session on March 5, 2009. Attendees included Youth Council and Education Committee members, the Friends of the WIB, WIB and City of Saint Paul representatives. The process was not completed on the 5th and committees have been charged with developing SMART goals for each of the overarching visions decided upon at the session, which will be presented to the WIB for approval. Comments made at the session regarding education were reviewed.

Opportunities discussed included:

- Connecting business and education quickly to take advantage of upcoming stimulus opportunities, and to get people through training programs in a timely manor.

- Helping businesses identifying their short-term as well as long-term needs using the MMSI as a model for engaging businesses.
- Convening organizations within a sector to build unified workforce initiatives. This will also create a unified business voice, which is helpful for influencing policy.
- Further educating employers of services available to them.
- Identifying short term and long term goals so the WIB can identify timely issues while having a plan for addressing future needs. Examples of goals discussed were convening organizations to better utilize the stimulus in the short term, and anticipatory training to fill gaps from baby boomer retirement in the long term.

The committee agreed to focus on one goal that will be attainable. The identified goal is to convene industries to clarify their workforce and training needs. Specific industries and focus areas mentioned were green industries, healthcare, manufacturing, early childhood development and disadvantaged workers.

The WIB will post a discussion page with a refined version of the goal for comment and hold a teleconference for discussion at a later date.

Other

Members discussed other possibilities for membership. They thought it would be prudent to recruit members from K-12 education and a charter school association.

Dean Shawbold presented a “Pathways to Success” pamphlet published by the MN Department of Education and MnSCU. It has information for parents and teenagers about careers and educational opportunities and it may be a good resource for the WIB and other workforce/education minded organizations to keep on hand. The WIB will order copies from the Department of Education.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon completion of the agenda at 10:18 am.