

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Education Committee Meeting
May 13, 2009

Present:

Deanne DeGraff
Bill Lowe
Judy Mortrude
Jane Nicholson

Absent:

Craig Anderson EA
David MacKenzie EA
Dean Shawbold

Staff/Guests:

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 am.

All members introduced themselves and new member Deanne DeGraff was welcomed.

Approve March Minutes

Motion made by Judy Mortrude with second by Jane Nicholson to approve the March Education Committee minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Finalize Strategic Plan Education Goal

Mary Jo went through what has happened thus far in the WIB's strategic planning process. The Education Committee is to finalize education-focused goal and tactics at this meeting.

The committee members were given a handout with information from the previous strategic planning meetings, including the Workforce Committee meeting on May 7th that focused on the business goal. The individuals at that meeting developed four tactics associated with the business goal, identified on April 30th. The following is the education goal, the business goal and the business tactics identified in this process:

Education Goal: To convene industries to clarify their workforce and training needs.

Business Goal: To convene Ramsey County business, education, training and community representatives to assure alignment of resources to meet future business needs and opportunities.

Business Tactics:

1. Complete an annual environmental scan with input from business, education, training, and community representatives.
2. Identify and communicate current training and workforce development opportunities.
3. Convene stakeholders to connect workforce needs with training opportunities.
4. Sustain and support existing WIB initiatives.

From these goal/tactics it seems that the education and business goals overlap and it may make sense to combine the goals into one with the identified tactics. Members felt this made sense, as the business perspective is essential in the education goal. The members wanted to identify populations/industries for focus to incorporate into the plan, as identified at the last Education committee meeting. These are healthcare, manufacturing, green industries, early childhood education and disadvantaged workers. There was discussion on these foci; healthcare, manufacturing and green industries make sense as focus industries; early childhood education seems difficult for the WIB to affect; and the population of disadvantaged workers is the main focus of most WIB work and may not need to be identified specifically as a focus. Further, attendees at the business meeting on April 30th were very interested in including construction as a focus. From this discussion, it was agreed that focus areas for WIB efforts would be: healthcare, manufacturing, construction and green industries. There will also be a stipulation added to allow for flexibility as other focus comes up over the next three years.

Other

There has been incremental stimulus funding from the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development and Workforce Solutions is developing a plan to use this money based on the department's requirements. The Communication, Advocacy and Oversight Committee will review this information and the Education Committee can be included on this information as well.

At a future meeting, Mary Jo will present a brief orientation on the WIB allowing the Education Committee a better perspective of the WIB's work and how this committee fits into the larger structure of the organization.

There was discussion on the next meeting date, as it is close to the Fourth of July holiday. Members will be asked to RSVP in late June to assure adequate attendance at the meeting.

Adjourn

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