

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

December 20, 2007

Members Present

Abe Hassan
Kirk Hayes
Bernie Hesse
Doug Hubbard
Peter Jessen-Howard
Sheldon Jensen
Becky Johnson
Rick Polanski
Dean Shawbold
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Billy Collins EA
Andrew Freeberg EA
David MacKenzie
Dale Maristuen
Rick Vazquez EA

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Traci Gauer, Saint Paul Public Schools
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Kirk Hayes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Sheldon Jensen with second by Peter Jessen-Howard to approve the October 25th minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Update on Saint Paul Career Pathways Academy

Traci Gauer presented the Career Pathways Academy project between Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) and Saint Paul College. This program allows high school students to take classes at Saint Paul College, while earning college credit, related to one of six career pathways. The Pathways are:

- Engineering, Manufacturing, and Technology
- Communications and Information Systems
- Business, Management, and Administration
- Health Science Technology
- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Human Services

The MN Career Information System is used to assist these students with skills assessment, which are translated into each student's six-year plan, planning high school and post-secondary pursuits.

There was discussion on the ability to track SPPS students to see how many continue on to college, and which schools they go to. There is a new tracking system with MnSCU schools that will provide accurate information on which students attended a MnSCU school. Fifty-eight percent of SPPS students went on to higher education after graduating in 2006. There are benchmarks to increase this number, as well as increase graduation rates.

Sheldon Jensen shared that there is a new agriculture school in Vadnais Heights. The Youth Council may want to hear from them about what they are doing with their students. Sheldon will get more information on the school.

Update on Building Lives

The ad hoc continues to work to find funding for Building Lives. They have been meeting with several interested parties and have been discussing funding options. The team has met with Rep. Paymar, Sen. Moua and Commissioner Fabian (of Corrections) and they are interested in the success of this project. Plans are in place to meet with Commissioner McElroy of DEED. There was also discussion on the connection between Totem Town and Building Lives. It was suggested that we hold a Youth Council meeting at Totem Town.

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

Peter Jessen-Howard was congratulated on his new position at the Juvenile Detention. The goals of this position are to reduce the use of detention and the disproportionate number of minority children in detention.

Update from Subcommittees

Jody Yunger's team has met a few times. They are looking at how schools are delivering workforce readiness skills, and plan to create an inventory/questionnaire to gather more information from schools on this topic. They also want to look at partnering better with businesses in the area.

Other

There was a story on MPR, narrated by Peter Jennings, where it was stated that 35% of Minneapolis Public School students are homeless.

The Joint Powers Agreement between the City and County is almost resolved. It does not appear that the Youth Council will have oversight over the CDBG funds, but the City has made a commitment to increased collaboration with the County and WIB, particularly with youth. Terry has met with the City regarding the Step Up program and how the City, County, and WIB can work together towards establishing this program.

Terry requested volunteers to assist with the WIA plan when it comes in; Rick, Jody, Doug and Dean volunteered to assist with the plan. The plan may be on the February meeting for approval, or there may be a potential of having a special Youth Council meeting in March.

FIRST grant announcements are expected tomorrow, December 21.

Adjourn

Adjourn 5:06

Next Meeting: February 28, Ramsey County Workforce Center Saint Paul