

Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
Executive Committee
1/27/2010
Fairhaven MIS Conference Room

Executive Committee members present: Chair David DeJesus, Jr., Maria O.Pinarreta, Peter J. Muise, Richard Mello, John Fernandes, David J. Ferreira, Christopher J. O'Neil, Ronald F. Rheaume

Executive Committee members absent: David Cabral (sent written Proxy to Chair); Charles R. Simpson, Jr. (sent written Proxy to Chair)

WIB Staff: Craig Baker, Len Coriaty, Jean Fox, Steven Grant, Sean McGauley

Workforce Development Staff: Norm Audette, Mayor's Liaison, Brenda Francis, NDSI; Joseph Notini, DCS.

Chair's Welcome

Chair Dave DeJesus began the meeting at 4:42pm. He announced he had the proxies for David Cabral and Charles Simpson, if needed.

Consent Agenda: John Fernandes moved to approve the 12/2/09 meeting minutes, seconded by Maria Pinarreta and all were in favor.

Scorecard Reports

Executive Committee

Dave noted all had copies of the scorecard. He reviewed the membership roster and mentioned that the board was just short of the required number of private sector members (51%) but it was expected to be resolved by year end. He also spoke to the Chair's article that would be included in the eNewsletter to help engage the members. Peter Muise commented the one weakness of the eNewsletter was the connection to business. It was mentioned that the NB Area Chamber is a great source but is also very protective of its' database. John Fernandes said the Chamber might be willing to receive the eNewsletter and then forward to its' database and would not have to share the info. It was agreed that the board should explore ways to expand the eNewsletter distribution.

On the matter of legislative affairs Mr. DeJesus discussed meeting with Mayor Lang. He noted some 15 topics that were discussed with the Mayor recently:

- Draft letter to Congress and the President about use of ARRA stimulus funds
- Update Career Center Operations
- Restrictions using current data system
- Eagle Industries –no NEG but expanded Set-Aside funding
- Update on New Bedford Tactical Gear
- ABE Volunteer project –still looking to engage volunteers
- Summer Jobs Program
- Career Center Charter renewal
- High Performing Board application
- NB Housing Authority proposal \$200K not approved
- Assisting Precix, Inc.
- WIB Branding / Logo
- Market Basket outreach and potential funding, Job Readiness training.
- Re-entry Program (services for incarcerated individuals reentering society)
- Additional funding for Connecting Activities (CA)

Steve Grant mentioned that there had been discussions in the office about using funds that were originally budgeted for the ABE volunteer program and asked if the staff would be authorized by the board to proceed with that shift of funds use. Len Coriaty told the committee that the Mayor said we could look at that but wanted to be notified before any final action. Peter Muise was in favor of using the funds to support the program through June, and was also in favor of looking to fund the ABE pilot in future budgets. He made the motion to approve the transfer of funds to continue the support of the CA programs at the NB Area Chamber and BCC. After a lengthy discussion on the CA issue relating to the current and future budgets, the current contracts, and the mayors approval, the vote was taken and the motion passed 6 to 1 with 1 abstention by David J. Ferreira.

Finance and Performance Measurement Committee

Peter Muise referred the committee to the scorecard and highlighted the work on the Charter Review and the High Performing Board application. He noted great work has been done on each. He entertained any questions on the scorecard. Richard Mello expressed concern that the plan for the HPB might stray from the Board's Mission Statement from 2002. It was discussed that

there had been adjustments to the Mission Statement over recent years and the committee decided to include the reading of the Mission Statement to begin future meetings.

Peter Muise made a motion that the board supports the submission of the HPB application. Motion seconded by Maria Pinarreta and all were in favor.

Business Development Committee

Chris O'Neil referred to the scorecard and report. He said that the objective of the marketing plan was to increase the level of communication to all the stakeholders that we deal with. He highlighted the State Energy Sector Partnership in the Resource Development plan. Len Coriaty noted that the state was funded with a \$6 million grant and our budget of about \$450K was included. Sean McGauley said the committee was developing a marketing plan for the Education Attainment program.

Mr. O'Neil also highlighted the MA Learn at Work program that was not pursued. Discussion centered on inability to secure employer partners despite tremendous outreach efforts. Dave DeJesus noted that the main issue with these grants is the in-kind requirements. With many companies staffed "to the bone" they cannot afford to lose staff time to these projects.

Len Coriaty noted the State had cut WTF funding in half and moved up the 3rd round of applications to January because the funding expires December 31st.

Mr. O'Neil noted limited relations with Economic Development, explaining that we would like to complete the rebranding and new logo before picking up on that activity.

Mr. O'Neil presented logo designs for review and comment by the committee members. He said the ultimate goal was to have a graphic that would stand on its own after a period of time. He would like to come back for a vote on the logo in February. Committee members were to forward votes and comments on their logo choice to Sean M. as soon as possible. The next BD committee meeting is scheduled for 2/24/10.

Youth Council

John Fernandes said that a lot of outreach was going on for school collaborations, and noted that Jean Fox was working with school districts to secure Connecting Activities funding. John noted that the council is committed to expanding the use of the Mass Work Based Learning Plan. He said the Frameworks RFP is being revised and also that work is underway on the RFP for summer programs after a good meeting with New Directions youth staff. Good work was done on developing timelines for the RFP process.

John noted that the council did not get a lot of response on employer surveys. He said the council is looking forward to the WIA 101 sessions to reach out and build awareness of the youth program to many more businesses.

John also said they would be asking for more frequent reporting from vendors in order to keep the Board better informed of what is going on.

Steve Grant mentioned the possibility of another failed competition (meaning only one respondent) relating to the Framework Services RFP and potential repercussions from our funding source. There was acknowledgement of that and it has been discussed at meetings. Mr. Fernandes said the process is open and advertised to the public but the council does continue to look at ways to open up to more competition, including advertising for different pieces of framework services.

Other Business

Due to the late hour Len Coriaty handed out the latest information on the Governor's budget and spoke briefly on efforts of the MA Workforce Board Association and Partners to seek continued funding for the Youth Solutions Act and the Workforce Training Fund.

Len also touched on the new MA Ethics Law which may result in his having to register as a lobbyist. The WB Association is requesting a written opinion from the Secretary of State.

Len handed out a revised WIB Staff Classification and Pay Schedule for information purposes, reviewed by the Chair, noting salary ranges have been maintained for each grade and step with few minor exceptions. Len stated the schedule is three years old and it will be reviewed and recommendations will be developed for performance based pay increases beyond 3%.

Adjourn

At 6:11pm the chair asked for a motion to adjourn. Peter motioned to adjourn, Maria seconded, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Grant
CFO