

Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
Annual Meeting Minutes
06/17/2009
Wamsutta Club

Members Present: David DeJesus, Jr., **Chair**; Lawrence W. Bennett (*written Proxy to Ex Dir*), David Cabral, Richard Colon, Paul F. Correia, Thomas G. Davis, Edward J. Dennehy, Charles DiPirro (*written Proxy to Chair*), John Fernandes, David J. Ferreira, Dennis D. Galvam (*gave Proxy to Chair*), Fernando Garcia, Michelle N. Hantman, Nelson Hockert-Lotz, Lisa A. Jochim, Dr. Jean F. MacCormack (*gave proxy to Lee Blake*), David R. Maher (*gave Proxy to ExDir*), Helena S. Marques, Richard F. Mello, Bruce Morell, Peter J. Muise (*gave Proxy to Chair*), Roy Nascimento, Joseph Notini, Christopher J. O'Neil, Maria O. Pinarreta, Ronald F. Rheame, Ronald L. Rouillard, Anthony R. Sapienza (*gave Proxy to Chair*), Dr. John J. Sbrega, Charles R. Simpson, Jr. (*gave Proxy to Chair*), Caroline St. Don (*gave Proxy to Chair*), Louis St. John, Jeffrey Travers, Corinn Williams

Members Absent: James Butler, Charles N. Decas, Jenny T. Fialho, Andrew T. Guilbeault, Walter Jones, Lisa M. Lemieux (called), Edward Lobo (called), Roger W. Masson, James C. Nichols, Joan Ann Niles (called), Alice Oliveira (called), Cynthia Rodrigues, Charles D. Ryan, Michael R. Shea (called), Charles N. Sisson (excused), James F. Snow, Dean Robert V. Ward

WIB Staff Present: Bridget Alexander, Director of Development, Craig Baker, Chief Operating Officer; Len Coriaty, Executive Director/CEO; Jean Fox, Youth Council Director, Steven Grant, Chief Financial Officer

Workforce System Staff Present: Beth Costa, DCS; Bonnie K. English, GNB CC; Marie Franqui, GNB CC; Patricia Garcia, GNB CC; Maria Grace, GNB CC; Rita Guidotti, GNB CC; Marie Franquis, GNB CC; Tim Nelson, Wareham CC; Elizete Perry, GNB CC

Guests: Norm Audette, Mayor's Liaison; Peg Curro, BCC; Barbora Hazuková, TRA – South Shore; Diane Hurley, DCS; Kalia Lydgate, Green Jobs Mayoral Fellow; Patricia McPartland, Upper Cape Tech; Judy Moniz, DCS; John Panarese, Faxon Animal Rescue League; Dianne, Rivet, GNB Youth Council; Dr. Laurie Robertson-Lorant, UMD; Rosemary Wilde, NB Public Schools

Welcome and Introductions – Chair DeJesus called the meeting to order at 8:05am. He announced 9 Proxies: Dr. Jean F. MacCormack granted his proxy to Lee Blake to represent her on all votes taken; and the following 8 members gave their proxy to the Chair: Lawrence W. Bennett, Charles DiPirro, Dennis D. Galvam, David R. Maher, Peter J. Muise, Anthony R. Sapienza, Charles R. Simpson, Caroline St. Don.

He thanked the Board and staff for meeting the difficult challenges posed in the past year, and thanked all for their continued efforts in FY 2010.

Mission Story

Craig Baker introduced John Panarese for this year's mission story. Mr. Panarese was laid off from his position as Director of Development and attempted to find a job on his own for several months. He eventually sought assistance from the Greater New Bedford Career Center. Mr. Panarese credits the involvement of the Career Center, and his Counselors in particular, with providing him with the tools necessary to secure employment in today's competitive job market. Mr. Panarese is now the Executive Director of the Fall River Animal Rescue League.

Consent Agenda

Upon a motion made by John Fernandes and seconded by Paul Correia, the minutes of the May 21, 2009 WIB Special meeting and Treasurer's Report through May 31, 2009, were unanimously approved.

FY '09 Highlights

Chair DeJesus discussed WIB accomplishments and urged Board members to be involved in meetings. The Chair then discussed the recent efforts that went into refining the strategic plan goals and objectives. Though well-intentioned, the effort was not well-timed with the economic crisis and the subsequent labor-intensive stimulus fund process. Going forward, the strategic plan includes three goals that function as a useful framework for presenting GNBWIB's future direction. However, these goals and their related objectives are inter-related and represent an integrated approach to building an effective workforce development system in Greater New Bedford. Please contact AMassicotte@gnbwib.org for a copy of the FY '09 Goals and Activities.

FY '10 Workplan

Chair DeJesus outlined the workplan for FY '10 as it currently stands. Priorities will be:

1. Successful implementation of economic stimulus programs, youth, ABE/ESOL, weatherization/green jobs;
2. Charter Renewal; current 3 year charter with New Directions expires 6/30/09; extended one year. A new charter must be developed in the next six months;
3. Continue implementation of Career Center Operations Review recommendations;
4. Achieve High Performing Workforce Board Certification, including finalizing metrics/benchmarks/outcomes for WIB Strategic Plan that will inform the WIB Development Plan and Marketing Plan;
5. Continued economic development outreach and partnership development with NBEDC, private developers, EPA, HUD, et al.;
6. Internal WIB organizational assessment with focus on work plan, priorities, and resource deployment, including, Executive Committee development and implementation of Executive Committee Scorecard, a monthly reporting tool.

Youth Council

Chair Fernandes discussed a recent meeting of the Youth Council chaired by Nelson Hockert-Lotz regarding the negotiation process to decide who gets funding. Currently there are \$760K in requests. Because of stimulus funding, an effort was made to solicit as many vendors as possible. To date, 5 new vendors have been added. The Chair stated that negotiations are still needed but the results of such negotiations may limit certain vendors' ability to provide service, with timing limiting the amount of available supporting information.

Chair Fernandes asked for a motion allowing Greater NB WIB staff to negotiate with 11 bidders with possible result that some bids may be eliminated.

Maria Pinarreta made the motion, with Ron Rouillard seconding. Upon voting, the Motion unanimously passed at 8:31am.

Election of FY '10 Officers

Chair DeJesus presented a slate of nominees for office in FY '10 as follows: David DeJesus, Jr., Chair; Maria O Pinarreta, Vice-Chair; Peter J. Muise, Treasurer; David Cabral, Assistant Treasurer; and Richard F. Mello, Clerk. Chairman DeJesus opened the floor to further nominations. With none offered, John Fernandes moved to close nominations, which was seconded by Tom Davis. Nominations were officially closed. Roy Nascimento made a motion to accept the slate of officers; the motion received a second, and carried unanimously.

The GNB WIB elected officers for FY '10 are as follows:

Chair	David DeJesus, Jr.
Vice-Chair	Maria O. Pinarreta
Treasurer	Peter J. Muise
Assistant Treasurer	David Cabral
Clerk	Richard F. Mello

FY '09 Awards and Recognition

Before handing out the awards, Dave DeJesus noted the high commitment and energy of WIB staff, and specifically Annie's e-mails at all hours.

The following individuals and companies were recognized for their exceptional commitment to the workforce development priorities in the region:

Unsung Heroine – Dianne Rivet, has quietly advanced the mission of the Workforce Development System and consistently impacts the system in a positive manner.

Partner of the Year – Annmarie Pereira Sawyer, that has recognized the efficiencies and benefits of collaboration and partnership to the workforce development system and tirelessly pursues resources and opportunities to join with other individuals or organizations to provide training, programs, and/or education that will advance the needs of the workforce and further workforce success.

Team of the Year – Judith Moniz, Bonnie English, Patricia Brum, and Karen Potter, four women who have provided consistently professional, friendly, high quality service to the large numbers of unemployed individuals seeking claims assistance at the Career Center.

Work Ethic Award – Marie Franqui - known for her commitment to establishing a positive relationship with all her customers, providing encouragement and, at the same time, prompting them to help themselves accomplish their training and meet their goals.

Workforce Development Champion - Suzanne Jennings- She saw the potential of a “green economy” before it became a national agenda. She observed that the region’s workforce and geography could play significant roles in green development and, therefore, in regional economic development. She spearheaded efforts to bring key organizations and individuals together to chart the region’s green course.

Employer of the Year Award – Richard B. Colon have dedicated significant resources to building the skills of local workers and providing solid support to meeting workforce and economic development goals.

Certificate of Appreciation- Bruce Morell - served on the Executive Committee as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, and he has chaired both the Finance Committee and the Finance and Performance Measurement Committee.

Certificate of Appreciation – Nelson Hockert-Lotz- dedicated significant resources to family literacy, youth programming, and numerous community and philanthropic endeavors. He has made it his mission to elevate at-risk youth and to help them fashion solid strategies for life success.

Special Recognition – Nancy Feeney - committed to the mission of the Youth Council and is a tireless advocate for court-involved and at-risk youth. She has been a member of the Youth Council for four years, consistently dedicating herself to the goals and objectives of the Council and volunteering countless hours to assess youth programming, read and evaluate proposals, and offer her years of expertise in pursuit of Council goals for area youth.

Other Business / Community Input

Kalia Lydgate, Green Jobs Mayoral Fellow, discussed grant funding that may create energy efficiency jobs within the City of New Bedford. The WIB can be an influential force in this Green Jobs growth initiative by providing training, best practices, and connections to certification programs. The effort to secure September funding is ongoing and Ms. Lydgate offered to keep the Board posted on her progress.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by John Fernandes and seconded by Paul Correia, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48am.

Next Meeting – September 16th, 2009 – location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard F. Mello
Clerk