



NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD

FEBRUARY 3, 2017

9:00 – 10:30 A.M.

NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS OFFICE

200 E. MAIN STREET

FORT WAYNE, IN 46802

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Darlene Stanley, Keith Davis, Doug Bauman, Larry Gerardot, Jane Gresham, Tim Hartigan, Leroy Jackson, Jeff Kellam, Mark Michael, John Niederman, Joe Peters, John Sampson, Sandy Widener and Dennis Wimer.

STAFF PRESENT: Kathleen Randolph, Andrea Bolinger, Rick Farrant, Gary Gatman, Karen Green, Anne Meadors, Edmond O’Neal, Lori Rice and Beth Suman.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Darlene Stanley called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. Consent Agenda

The minutes of the October 7, 2016 meeting were provided to the board in the packet of advance materials. Jeff Kellam moved to approve the minutes and LeRoy Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Financial Report

Lori Rice presented the financial report. She noted that customer-related expenses were trending low – something that was expected. She said that, as sector partnership initiatives are executed, expenses are expected to increase. It is also anticipated that On-The-Job (OJT) expenses will increase. Typically, companies delay hiring and utilizing the OJT packages until after the first of the year. Rice also noted several instances of increased funding: for a Skill UP Round 2 grant for skilled trades and insurance industry initiatives and for financial services work conducted for Region 6. She also reported that the audit for the period ending June 30, 2016 is almost completed. John Niederman moved to approve the financial report and Mark Michael second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Presentation/Vision for Indiana’s Workforce Development System

Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Commissioner Steve Braun presented a forward-looking report on the workforce system entitled “The Demand Driven System: The Right Skills at the Right Time in the Right Way.” The statewide system, he said, will focus on improved forecasting of job demand; an employer-informed understanding of skill needs; alignment of education with employer needs; and informing students, parents and jobseekers about in-demand occupations. Among the other key points of his presentation: Ensuring schools, notably in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) fields, are focusing on high-wage, high-demand career paths; mandating that Indiana Career Explorer is a required high school course; growing the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) program; closing the gap between certification attainment and the demand for people with industry-recognized certificates; addressing out-migration of college graduates; and creating networks of education and training providers that are responsive to the needs of employers. He also discussed some of the elements of House Bill 1008, an education bill that generally supports DWD’s demand-driven focus. Lengthy discussion followed, including questions about the timeline of implementing various aspects of the vision and the extent of involvement of other governmental organizations.

V. Presentation/Talent Recruitment

Michael Galbraith, director of the Road to One Million campaign for the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, reported on the need to retain and attract talent in northeast Indiana, and that succeeding will require significant collaboration among community stakeholders. One tool, he said, is a recently launched web-based portal – done in conjunction with Northeast Indiana Works – that provides information on jobs and internships for people outside the region in the hopes of attracting them to northeast Indiana. He also talked about efforts to promote northeast Indiana’s diversity and relatively low cost of living. Wide-ranging discussion followed and, in response to one query, Gary Gatman described the scope of work-and-learn programs. On another matter, Kellam raised concerns about how county allocations were determined for next year’s adult education funding; some counties are losing significant percentages of their funding while others will experience extremely large increases. Staff will follow up with DWD to explore options in addressing the funding challenges.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. June 2, 2017 at the same location – 200 E. Main St., Suite 910, Fort Wayne)