



NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD

OCTOBER 1, 2021

9:00-10:30 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Davis, Rich Beck (RCEO), Bill Bradley, Patrick Buesching, Jordi Disler, Alan Duff, Brooks Fetters, Beth Green, Jane Gresham, Leroy Jackson, Kim Barnett-Johnson, Jeff Kellam, Mark Michael, James Phillips, Rebecca Schroeder, Chris Straw, and Tonya Weaver.

STAFF PRESENT: Rick Farrant, Karen Green, Erica Lillie, Anne Meyer, Edmond O’Neal, Lori Rice and Kim Tempel.

ALSO ATTENDING: Alex Corn.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Keith Davis called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.; a quorum was present. Davis welcomed Ivy Tech Fort Wayne Chancellor Kim Barnett-Johnson as a new member of the board and Erica Lillie as Northeast Indiana Works’ new director of quality initiatives and EO officer.

II. Consent Agenda

The minutes of the June 4, 2021 meeting and financials were provided in the packet of advance materials. Jordi Disler moved to approve the minutes and financial report. Leroy Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PY 2021-22 Budget

Chief Financial Officer Lori Rice briefly detailed several aspects of the \$7,658,140 budget. Tonya Weaver moved to accept the budget. Alan Duff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Apprenticeship Initiatives

Northeast Indiana Works Senior Director of Business Services/Human Resources Kim Tempel gave a brief overview of a new welding registered apprenticeship at Garrett High School, conceived and facilitated by Northeast Indiana Works, a registered apprenticeship intermediary. Board Member Tonya Weaver, superintendent of Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community Schools, and Chad Sutton, director of career development at Garrett High School, elaborated on the up-to-three-year, competency-based apprenticeship, which will initially involve 40 students. Another 38 students have indicated they will sign up. Weaver said it is hoped the apprenticeship model will be replicated across the state. Sutton said the apprenticeship is a great recruiting tool for employers. Both praised Northeast Indiana Works in helping set up the apprenticeship. Rick Farrant, Northeast Indiana Works’ communications director, mentioned that a Northeast Indiana Healthcare Consortium has been formed by Northeast Indiana Works and more apprenticeships may be secured through involvement with that group. Discussion and questions followed, focusing on wages and transferable skills afforded by the welding apprenticeship.

V. Mission Moment

Northeast Indiana resident Brenda Barton, whose life was upended by sexual assaults and drug addiction and who served 12 years in prison for a sex crime, described how her experience with WorkOne Northeast gave her hope and helped her land a job. Alan Siepker, human resources manager at Continental Structural Plastics in Huntington, noted all the ways Northeast Indiana Works and WorkOne Northeast have assisted the company, from worker recruitment to worker training.

Davis said the stories of Barton and Siepker help board members understand the impact of Northeast Indiana Works and WorkOne Northeast beyond data.

VI. Employer Training Grant Update

Tempel reported that Northeast Indiana Works has secured nearly \$10 million in Employer Training Grant (ETG) funds for employers in the last two years, including \$2.2 million this year.

VII. President/CEO Remarks

O'Neal noted that the Garrett welding apprenticeship was featured in the Indiana Department of Workforce Development electronic newsletter DWD Insider; discussed in more detail the development of the Northeast Indiana Healthcare Consortium; mentioned a WorkOne Northeast/Northeast Indiana Works employer seminar on September 23 that drew 87 employers; and announced that Northeast Indiana Works will be hiring an apprenticeship coordinator.

VIII. Board Chair's Remarks – Keith Davis

Davis suggested the board have a retreat in January to go over changes in the last 24 months and discuss plans for the future. A show of hands indicated board members liked the idea. O'Neal said a facilitator will be provided for the retreat. O'Neal added the executive committee will meet with leaders of the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership to discuss talent development opportunities as some of the partnership's talent development work transitions to Northeast Indiana Works. The partnership, meanwhile, will become a more economic-development-focused entity.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. January 7, 2022 at 200 E. Main St., Suite 910, Fort Wayne.)