



NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD

APRIL 14, 2023

9:00-10:30 AM

IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patrick Buesching, Dale Buuck, Keith Davis, Jordi Disler, Beth Green, Jane Porter Gresham, Tim Hartigan, Leroy Jackson, Mark Michael, Corey Schoon, Rebecca Schroeder, Alan Siepker, Shelly Stearns, Jim Walmsley and Tonya Weaver.

STAFF PRESENT: Rick Farrant, Erica Lillie, Edmond O’Neal, Lori Rice and Kim Tempel

OTHER ATTENDEE: Tracy Davis (Representing Board Member Kim Barnett-Johnson)

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Keith Davis called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present. Davis announced that Alan Siepker of Teijin Automotive had been ratified as a board member.

II. Consent Agenda: Board Minutes, Financial Report

The minutes of the October 7, 2022 meeting and financials were provided in the packet of advance materials. Jane Porter Gresham moved to approve the minutes and financial report. Leroy Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. 990 – Lori Rice

Mark Michael moved to accept the completed 990. Jordi Disler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. JAG Spotlight – JAG State CDC Participants

Three North Manchester High School students, award-winners at the state Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) competition and headed for the national competition in Orlando, FL, spoke virtually to the board about their JAG experiences. Josh Steely, Hope Martin and Skye McCullough talked about their JAG projects, the benefits of JAG, and what the state competition was like. There was considerable interaction between board members and the students, as well as discussion afterward about JAG in general. Board members wished the three students good luck in the national competition.

V. NAWB Review – Rebecca Schroeder, Rick Farrant

Rebecca Schroeder and Rick Farrant shared takeaways from the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) forum in Washington, D.C., March 25-28. Among the takeaways: workforce challenges are similar across the globe; apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities are seen as key tools in filling talent pipelines; some workforce boards have performance metrics and some utilize a committee structure; non-traditional funding sources outside of WIOA are needed to carry out workforce initiatives; there needs to be a straightforward, affordable path to work for immigrants and refugees; employing gig workers is becoming a more utilized strategy in supporting workforces, and humor or other lively, lighthearted measures should be considered in telling workforce development stories.

VI. Manufacturing Experience Camps – Rick Farrant

Rick Farrant shared a PowerPoint presentation on Manufacturing Experience day camps for middle-schoolers – one aspect of a wide-ranging manufacturing career awareness campaign launched by Northeast Indiana Works. Thus far, two camps have been held – one in Noble County and the other in Allen County. Those camps were greeted with great enthusiasm from students, educators and parents, and an eventual goal would be to conduct one camp a year in each of Region 3’s 11 counties. The manufacturing campaign is funded by the Don Wood Foundation and Davis thanked Patrick Buesching of the foundation for the philanthropic organization’s support. Edmond O’Neal also thanked the foundation, as well as Farrant for leading the initiative.

VII. President/CEO Remarks – Edmond O’Neal

O’Neal announced that Northeast Indiana Works is in the process of securing a service provider for day-to-day operations of Region 3’s 11 WorkOne Northeast career centers. He said stricter policies at the federal level require heightened oversight of such operations and Northeast Indiana Works, which currently provides that oversight, is no longer in compliance with the policies. Northeast Indiana Works has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a service provider and will present a recommendation for board approval at the June 2 board meeting. O’Neal said three organizations have expressed interest in being the service provider, which will report to Northeast Indiana Works. O’Neal said all staff members have been notified of the impending change and received it fairly well. In some cases, staff will have a new employer of record.

VIII. Board Chair’s Remarks – Keith Davis

Davis said board members interested in participating in the service provider evaluation process should contact O’Neal.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. June 2, 2023. There will be a virtual option, but all are encouraged to attend in person.)