Northeast Indiana Works Board
April 10, 2026
9:00-10:30 AM

Board Members Present: Angie Dane, Jordi Disler, Leroy Jackson, Rebecca Schroeder, Shelly Sterns, Michael Venturini, Jim Walmsley, Patrick Buesching, Dana Berkes, Holly Christianson, Jessica Beste, Lance Halsey, James Phillips, Chris Straw

Staff Present: Edmond O'Neal, Erica Lillie, Kim Tempel, Lori Rice, Michael Scher, Cindy Neal, Jennifer Steigerwald.

Call to order

Board Chair Rebecca Schroeder called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. A quorum was present. It was noted that Phil Brown has retired from Real Alloy and that today's board meeting will be his last. Dana Berkes (NIPSCO) and Kristin Marcuccilli Green (STAR Financial) were ratified as new board members.

Consent Agenda: Board Minutes, Financial Report

The minutes of the January 9, 2026, board meeting and financial report were provided in the packet of advanced materials. Leroy Jackson moved to approve the minutes and financial report. Jordi Disler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Form 990

Lori Rice presented the Form 990 to the full board (also sent in advanced materials). It was noted that typically the executive committee approves Form 990 on behalf of the board due to timing constraints, but the timing allowed for the document to be presented to the full board this fiscal year. Michael Venturini moved to approve Form 990. Leroy Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Program Report

Cindy Neal, director of workone services, provided updates on several office relocations in LaGrange, Wabash, Steuben, and Wells counties. All are in progress and planned to be executed by July 1, 2026.

Edmond O'Neal provided updates on Workforce PELL, a federal workforce policy update, the State Workforce Development Board, and an update on regional realignment for workforce board regions.

Workforce PELL
Workforce PELL has passed at the federal level. The state is currently evaluating policy to support implementation, which will allow PELL to be used on non-traditional training programs, including those that do not qualify a student as full time.

Federal Workforce Policy
WIOA has not been reauthorized. Make America Skilled Again appears to be the workforce training program that will move forward at the federal level and currently is written to shift funding to block grants for states and set a mandatory minimum for funds expended on "training", which will be defined by each state.

State Workforce Development Board
Governor Braun has appointed individuals to the State Workforce Development Board. There are several representatives from local workforce development boards, including Northeast Indiana Works' board chair, and president of Whiteshire Hamroc, Rebecca Schroeder.

Regional Realignment
Discussion regarding regional alignment are ongoing. The Indiana Workforce Alliance (IWA) has connected with members of Governor Braun's team and continues to advocate for local involvement related to the process and implementation for statewide realignment.

Chief Elected Official Remarks

Commissioner Beck reiterated that the state is still aligning its strategic direction.

Board Chair's Remarks

Schroeder noted that she is looking forward to serving on the State Workforce Development Board and will apprise the board once she knows more information about meeting schedules and content.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. June 5, 2026. There will be a virtual option, but all are encouraged to attend in person.)