

Governor’s Workforce Development Board - Minutes

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 - 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Videoconference via Zoom

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| **GWDB Members/Delegates** | **Guests** | **Speakers** |
| Sr. Vice Chancellor Ron Anderson, Minnesota State  Shirley Barnes  Kristin Batson, MMB  Laura Beeth, Chair  Josh Berg  Robert Blake  Dr. Vance Boelter  Dr. Jeffery Boyd  David Dively  Jason Duininck  Mary Ferguson  John Fisher for Dee Torgerson, DEED VRS  Jeanna Fortney  Les Fujitake  Rep. Barb Haley  Sen. John Hoffman  Dr. Nerita Hughes  Abdiwadi Husen  Valerie Johnson  Jennifer Lang  Katie Lundmark  Bill McCarthy  Loren Nelson  Bill Nelson  Eric Nesheim  Dr. Dennis Olson, OHE  Tuleah Palmer  Scott Parker  Catherine Penkert  Kate Perushek, DLI  Dr. Paul Pribbenow  Laura Sayles  Roy Smith | Tammy Biery  Barb Chaffee  Julie Dincau  Elena Foshay  Mark Jacobs  Patricia Jesperson  Anne Kilzer  Benya Kraus  Lance G. Lewis  Jeffrey Rainey  Jinny Reitman  Tory Schalkle  Nola Speiser  Michelle Ufford  Hanna Valento | David Heisted and Julio Caesar, Bloomington Public Schools;  Raymond Robertson, Texas A&M University;  Deputy Commissioner Hamse Warfa, DEED;  Marc Majors, Director, DEED Employment & Training Programs  **GWDB Staff**  Ben Baglio, Director  Kay Kammen, Sr. Policy Analyst  **DEED Staff**  Anisa Hajimumin, Assistant Commissioner, Immigrant & Refugee Affairs;  Lorrie Janatopoulos, CareerForce Director;  Maureen Ramirez, Director, Office of Economic Opportunity;  Lolita Davis Carter  Larry Eisenstadt  Lensa Idossa  Alyssa Klein  Nancy Omondi  Jason Wadell |

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Laura Beeth, Chair of the Governor’s Workforce Development Board, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., welcoming members, speakers, guests and staff who joined the meeting via teleconference.

**GWDB Business Meeting**

***Action Item:*** *Approval of Chair Report*

Shirley Barnes made a motion to approve the Chair Report for First Quarter 2021***.*** Bill McCarthyseconded the motion and the report was unanimously approved.

***Action Item****: Approval of Minutes December 9, 2020 Meeting*

Shirley Barnes made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Joint GWDB-MAWB meeting on December 9, 2020. Vance Boelter seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved.

**Research Findings from Bloomington Public Schools (ISD 271)**

David Heistad and Julio Caesar with the Bloomington Public Schools presented research findings on Minnesota’s K-12/Higher Education/Workforce Development system, from high school graduation rates to post-college earnings.

The team also reported on the development of the Workforce Development Information System (WDIS), which provides data to track education and career pathways progress across industry sectors.

Raymond Robertson, with Texas A&M University, discussed the empirical research project from a Return on Investment (ROI) perspective. He said there are short-term gains but also lifetime gains within the school district. He said educational investments translate into higher lifetime earnings.

WDIS data is continually being collected and evaluated. Feedback is welcome, as well as input on other directions the school district might take going forward.

A Question and Answer Session followed. The accompanying PowerPoint presentation can be viewed under the Materials tab at <https://mn.gov/deed/gwdb/about/gwdb/>

**DEED Employment & Training Programs (ETP) and Grant-Making: Updates & Discussion**

Hamse Warfa, DEED Deputy Commissioner, told GWDB members that, hopefully, in-person meetings for the Board will resume this year. The agency is focused on meeting the needs of workers and businesses during this unprecedented period of pandemic and job loss, with reskilling and training as top priorities. He said a multi-pronged approach to building workforce supply and demand, and infrastructure, is required. Policy changes, investments to “meet the moment,” and gearing up for the biennial grant-making cycle are short-term goals.

The Deputy Commissioner said upcoming Community Engagement sessions are planned throughout the state to hear community voices and address issues such as the digital divide and technical support services.

Marc Majors, Director of DEED’s Employment and Training Programs Division, gave an overview of the division’s work since the onset of the pandemic. He spoke about how COVID-19 and civil unrest in Minneapolis impacted workforce partners, who had to pivot, shifting processes, policies, and procedures

He complimented the various teams within the division for their performance, including Youth Training Programs, Federal Dislocated Worker, Fiscal/Monitoring, as well as state-funded Pathways to Prosperity, Women’s Economic Security Administration (WESA) and Southeast Asian Economic Disparities Relief grant programs. Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and the Rapid Response Team were also key players in providing outreach and services to workers affected by the economic downturn.

A Question and Answer Session followed. The accompanying PowerPoint presentation can be viewed under the Materials tab at <https://mn.gov/deed/gwdb/about/gwdb/>

**Director Updates**

GWDB Director Ben Baglio summarized the Employer Roundtables hosted by the GWDB in March and April. The virtual panels brought together GWDB members and others from priority industry sectors – and Hospitality – to discuss challenges facing their industries and strategies being implemented to address those challenges.

Ben gave a progress report on Coursera, the on-line learning platform that the GWDB is overseeing for DEED. In Minnesota, 10,000 Coursera courses have been accessed with 1100 individuals completing three or more courses.

Board appointments will be announced soon with orientation for new members to be conducted this summer. And, committee/task force rosters are in the process of being finalized.

**Closing Remarks**

Chair Beeth expressed her gratitude to the presenters for their efforts, which have been life-changing in creating career paths with intention. “Minnesota continues to be viewed as a state with innovation and partnership. She also thanked attendees for taking part in today’s meeting.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Vance Boelter and Ron Anderson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

*The next meeting of the Governor’s Workforce Development Board, the GWDB-Minnesota P-20 Initiative Summit, is scheduled from* ***1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 15*** *via Zoom.*