

# **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.**

**July 14, 2021**

**3:30 p.m.**

## **MINUTES**

### **Directors Present: VIRTUAL via ZOOM**

Diana Bello  
Curtis Brown  
Drummond Camel  
Keitha Daniels  
Dave Gammon  
Kim Hustad  
Jim Lamb  
Mike Nagle  
John Talmage-PRESENT  
Michael Wukitsch

Mike Biskie - PRESENT  
B.J. Brundage  
Michael Dalby  
Bill Diamond  
Brian Hirsch  
Brent Kettler  
Brad Myers  
Aaron Stitt  
Joe Wheeler

### **Directors Absent:**

James Coalwell  
Melvin Morgan  
Dr. Amy Teproovich

Mike Jackson  
Dr. Thomas Norman

### **Guests Present:**

Troy Collett, DBS-PRESENT

Greg Urbancic, Board Attorney - ZOOM

### **Staff Present:**

Peg Elmore  
Joe Paterno  
Mary Anne Zurn

Thais Kuoman  
Benita Richards

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mike Biskie, Vice Chair, 3:30 p.m., via ZOOM. A verbal role call was taken and established a quorum was present.

## **II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Welcome was made by Mike Biskie and Joe Paterno.

## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Michael Dalby made a **motion** to approve the May 12, 2021, minutes; Brian Hirsch seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

## **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

State Law, Right to be Heard: 286, will be offered following each motion. Public Comment: N/A

## **V. DESTINATION GRADUATION PRESENTATION**

### Information Only-No Action Required

Thais Kuoman shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board; also previously emailed. All schools hosted graduation this year; most outside on the football field or in an arena. The presentation provided a review of graduation rates from 2020-2021: Collier County – 83%, Lee County – 84%, Charlotte County – 100%, Hendry County – 100%, and Glades County 94%.

Recently, two Destination Graduation Mentors retired. The organization restructured with now 11 Mentors in the same 15 high schools; with a couple of the Mentors picking up two schools. However, we will be phasing out Cape Coral High School and Gulf Coast High School. We will continue to mentor the current students in the program, but no new students.

## **VI. REGION 24 ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES**

### Information Only-No Action Required

Joe Paterno reviewed the updated organizational chart effective 7/1/21; also previously emailed. This includes the retirement of Tom Sullivan, IT Director; Jim Wall, Communications Director; Sue Noe, Business Services; Kathryn Royal, Destination Graduation Mentor, all effective 6/30/21, and Florrie Mingo, Destination Graduation Mentor, effective 5/31/21. These positions were not replaced via hiring additional staff, but via restructuring staff. The organization chart also included all the Centers and staff.

## **VII. MOU/BY-LAW UPDATES RE HOUSE BILL 1507**

### Information Only-No Action Required

Board Attorney shared he is currently updating the Board By-Laws to include items outlined in House Bill 1507, such as, eight-year term limits for non-government positions of the Board. In addition, he is working on a revised Local Elected Official Agreement with updates outlined in House Bill 1507 for Regional Consortium to review and sign.

Included in the House Bill is information we are now required to post on our website, such as, Regional Budget, Board Financial Disclosure Submission, Employee Wages, Board IRS 990 Tax, Board Conflict of Interest Contracts, which has been modified, etc.

Joe Paterno shared DEO/DOE to write the rules that will govern the Bill. The Bill also created a committee called Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH). This Committee will establish the programs and courses all local workforce boards should follow in approving training for customers. Another committee will be established to develop a list of master credentials that need to be achieved. A concern has to do with the required 10% hold back on the payment of tuition.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Regional Economic Development Ad-Hoc* – John Talmage, Chair, shared they hosted a guest speaker on entrepreneurship in Southwest Florida; Entrepreneurial Ecosystems. The third Symposium was 6/24/21 for Legislation. Guest speakers included Senator Passidomo, Representative Melow, Chancellor Henry Mack, and Dan McGrew (CareerSource Florida).

*Finance Committee* – Michael Dalby, Chair, shared Financial Monitoring performed by DEO was complete and there were no findings for PY 20-21. Auditors will be on-site end of August 2021. And the Committee reviewed the Final Funding Schedule PY20-21.

### Action Required

*Program and Planning* – Kim Hustad, Chair, shared the Committee recommends two programs, Nursing Assistants and Motorboat Mechanics, to be added to the Regional Targeted Occupational List (RTOL); also previously emailed.

Michael Wukitsch made a **motion** to approve both Nursing Assistants and Motorboat Mechanics to the RTOL; Mike Nagle seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Public Comment – N/A

Next the Committee recommends updating the Local Caps for Workforce Funded Training; also previously emailed. The Committee recommends only changing Certificate programs from \$6,500 to \$7,000; Associates Degree \$8,000 and Bachelors' Degree \$10,000 to remain the same.

Joe Wheeler made a **motion** to approve only increasing Certificate programs to \$7,000; John Talmage seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Public Comment – N/A

The Committee will continue researching Online Funding. Brent Kettler was elected Chair for PY21-22.

*Public Relations* – Jim Lamb, Chair, shared Janeth Castrejon provided the Committee with website and Social Media status updates; also previously emailed. Website inquiries report for 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021 had a total of 625 inquiries with 25% inquiries about tuition, 20% about hiring, and 18% other. CareerSource Southwest Florida recently hosted an in-person hiring event with 20 employer and 75 job seekers. The Communications Department will be adding a new team member, a Website Specialist. Keitha Daniels was elected Chair for PY21-22.

*Service Delivery* – Bill Diamond, Chair, shared the Committee reviewed Board attendance and will have Benita Richards submit their recommendations to the Board Attorney. The Committee reviewed Program Summary Reports, Performance Indicator Report, DEO Programmatic Final Review Report, Regional unemployment and labor figures. Two new self-sufficiency initiative partnerships were introduced as well, Job Plus Initiative with the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers and Recovery Navigator Initiative. Bill Diamond was re-elected Chair for PY21-22.

*Youth Council* – Aaron Stitt, Chair, shared the Council also reviewed the Destination Graduation presentation. The Council reviewed PY21-22 Goals which include Picture This As A Career Poster Contest, WIOA/Youth Work Experience, and Career Exploration Events. Aaron Stitt was re-elected Chair for PY21-22.

## **IX. BOARD OFFICER NOMINATION COMMITTEE SELECTION**

### Action Required

Greg Urbancic shared per our By-Laws, this Committee is required to have no less than three Board members. Greg opened the floor to all Board members to volunteer. Mike Biskie shared the Executive Committee members will take part along with any other Board member volunteers. No volunteers.

Aaron Stitt made a **motion** to approve the Executive Committee members serve as the Board Officer Nomination Committee; Kim Hustad seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Public Comment – N/A

## **X. SEPTEMBER ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE**

Friday, September 10, 2021, Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort. Benita Richards will be sending out additional information.

## **XI. OPEN FORUM**

The Board expressed their deepest sympathy in the passing of Board of Director Geri Yoraschek. Geri served over 10 years on the Board and Service Delivery Committee. Her Celebration of Life is being held tonight at 6 p.m. in LaBelle.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.