



Spokane Area WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd ♦ Room 606 ♦ City Hall ♦ Spokane, WA 99201-3302
(509) 625-6210 ♦ Fax (509) 625-6929 ♦ E-mail: admin@wdcspokane.com

MINUTES SPOKANE AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL Wednesday, June 11, 2008, 7:30 a.m. Spokane Skills Center

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frankie Arteaga	Ben Cabildo	Peter Casimir	Polly Crowley	Ron Dalla
Donna Dalzell	Craig Dias	Robert Duron	Tom Fritz	Steve Jurich
Craig Lee	Kevin Managhan	Julie Meyer	Paul Milliken	Nancy Nelson
John Serben	Hugh Severs	Dixie Simmons	Beth Thew	Lisa White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jeff Benesch	Steve Dahlstrom	Kim Do	Rich Hadley	Bill Kalivas
Mike Senske	Diana Wilhite			

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susan Christenson- CVSD	Alina Droz- Manpower	Cami Hanson- WorkSource	Christi Harter- SPS CTE	George Iranon- CPS
Talana Mielke- RSD-CTE Scott Oakshott- Freeman School Dist/Spokane Skills Center	Darrell Mihara- SFCC	Anne Millane- WS	Trina Miller- CCS	Mike Nepean- SPS
Matthew Miller- Mead SD	Mollie Patshkowski- WorkSource	John Savage- EVSD	Allen Skoog- CSD	Doug Tweedy ESD
	Jim Minkler- CCS	Joanne Murcar- IEL		

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Mattke- Workforce Strategy & Planning Director	Peg Waldron- Assistant Director Workforce Operations	Gordon Gutterud- Accountant	Dawn Karber- Youth Program & Development Manager	Anne Lockwood- Secretary	Lori Meakin- Workforce Development Program Specialist
---	--	-----------------------------------	--	--------------------------------	---

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 am. Introductions were made.

TAB #1 – REVIEW MAY 14, 2008 MEETING MINUTES:

On a motion and a second to approve the May 14, 2008 WDC Meeting Minutes.
Approved. None Opposed.

CORE 24 AND MEANINGFUL HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

The Council welcomed Amy Bragdon, a member of the State Board of Education. Ms. Bragdon presented information regarding the SBE's policy initiative known as Core 24. The intent is to increase the number of credits required for high school graduation to 24 across the state in order to help ensure that students are better prepared to enter post secondary education and/or the workplace.

The State Board of Education is also examining factors that act as barriers to schools' success, e.g., the number of students, size of the school, and contractual issues.

The State Legislature has mandated that there will be a third credit requirement for math for high school graduation. The State Board of Education is working to determine what the third year of math would entail and reports that business indicates Algebra II is the necessary level of math for success in the workplace. Questions were raised by several Council members who posited that applied mathematics which has a practical application is more valuable to business and also aids in learning and retention of math skills.

The Core 24 proposal contains elements that may be of benefit to students if implemented. Students would have a choice of three tracks that prepare them for college, other post secondary education, or careers. However, one of the issues of concern raised was that of the level of support offered for students. It was pointed out that at this time counselors in high school do not have the time to work with all students at the level needed to give meaningful guidance and select one of the three tracks outlined by Core 24, and then work with them to complete high school. Also, there are not funds to support additional classrooms and the teachers in math, science, and other subjects that would be required under Core 24. Members are encouraged to continue providing input to the SBE via an online survey on their website or by contacting Ms. Bragdon directly.

ITEM #2 – STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Julie Meyer was nominated for the position of Chair of the WDC for PY08. No other nominations were presented. On a motion and a second to approve Julie Meyer as PY08 Chair of the WDC. Approved, none opposed. None opposed

Robert Duron was nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the WDC for PY08. No other nominations were presented. On a motion and a second to approve Robert Duron as PY08 Vice-Chair of the WDC. Approved, none opposed. None opposed

This year the WDC has elected to use reserve funds to offset the impacts of the rescission and not cut jobs or program services in the workforce development system. The Executive Committee approved the allocation of PY08 funds to service providers and contracts are in process. The WDC will contract with the Spokane Workforce Consortium and continue with the same mix of providers, with some minor changes based upon lessons learned from PY07. The WDC will continue to have all service providers operating out of the WorkSource center.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council is moving forward with developing services at the Northeast Community Center and working to determine which services will be of the most value to youth in the area.

The August meeting of the Youth Council will be held at the Next Generation Zone. Donna Dalzell is seeking a Board member to co-chair the Youth Council for the coming year. If anyone is interested, please contact Anne Lockwood.

The Pizza Pop and Power Tools event was an outstanding success again this year with over 400 8th grade girls participating. Three days later there was a "Construction Cruise" for youth to see how buildings were constructed.

ANALYSIS OF MANUFACTURING & HEALTHCARE CLUSTERS

The number one issue that employers are reporting as critical to their ability to grow and prosper is workforce. Demographic data indicates that 43% of the manufacturing and healthcare workforce is eligible for retirement in the next 10 years. In addition to this, the manufacturing sector anticipates that over the next 10 years there will be an increase of over 3000 new jobs and 9000 replacement jobs in the Spokane MSA, with an average earnings per worker of \$26.95 per hour with benefits. In Spokane there are 580 employers in the manufacturing sector that employ 18,500 people. Also, 84% of the workers will require less than an AA degree and 50% will require a license or certificate.

In the healthcare cluster, data indicates that there will be 9000 new jobs and 17,000 replacement jobs in the next decade. 77% of these jobs will require an AA degree or less and 93% will require a license or certificate. The earnings per worker will be \$19.28 per hour and jobs will be in Clinics, Labs, Diagnostics, Home Health care, Ambulance, Nursing and Residential care sectors.

Communities that have trained employees in critical sectors and the infrastructure to deliver a skilled workforce will be positioned to successfully compete in the 21st century.

One of the constraints upon the educational system's ability to prepare students to enter these fields is the availability of teachers in the State. School districts are using a variety of methods to attract and retain teachers, including incentivizing teachers through signing bonuses, housing allowances, and paying for professional development. Public/private partnerships have also been utilized to support higher pay for trainers and teachers, and alternative options for delivering instruction, such as apprenticeship, may offer cost effective solutions.

Businesses report that Generation X and Generation Y present issues that salary alone cannot address. Workplace flexibility may be used to help employers create successful strategies for working with younger individuals. Pre-apprenticeship programs at Spokane Public Schools have helped youth to transition to construction careers and programs like FIRST Robotics connect youth to careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Business Solutions is working in partnership with a variety of other community partners to identify employers and consult in order to determine the services required to support their human capital needs. The information the employers are providing to the workforce development system is being placed into SKIES for use by all partners.

TAB #4 – OTHER BUSINESS:

1) SAPTAC –

The plans for the use of Perkins funds at area high schools were distributed to the WDC. Members had a number of questions about priorities for expenditures and details which were answered by staff present.

On a motion and a second to support the proposed uses of Perkins funds in the amount of \$586,998. Approved. None opposed. Lisa White abstained.

2) Don Howell was recognized and thanked for his years of service to the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council.

3) The WDC determined there will be enough members to warrant holding a meeting on July 9th. Staff will email members regarding location.

4) Joanne Murcar reported that the Institute for Extended Learning (IEL) was awarded a grant by the American Association of Community Colleges as part of a 3 ½ year effort to create or expand campus programs to engage the 50+ population in learning, training/re-training programs, and/or volunteer, civic, and service activities. This project also intends to use distance education to reach the rural community.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

NEXT MEETING:

The next WDC Meeting will be Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at the WorkSource Spokane, 130 S Arthur Street.