

MINUTES – MEETING OF THE
CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

March 10, 2020
10:30 a.m.

The Career Education and Workforce Development Board was called to order by Chairman Hugh McDonald. The meeting was held at the Arkansas Department of Commerce Building, 1 Commerce Way, Little Rock, Arkansas.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Hugh McDonald, Chair
Mr. Scott Copas
Ms. Stacy Gunderman
Ms. Gina Radke, Vice Chair
Mr. Burton Weis
Mr. Michael Garner
Dr. Jeff Standridge
Dr. Keith Vire
Mr. Troy Keeping
Dr. Adam Arroyos
Mr. Mike Rogers

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Dr. Charisse Childers
Mr. Cody Waits, Ex-Officio Secretary
Mr. Tim Allen
Ms. Andrea Henderson
Dr. Maria Markham
Mr. Richard Cooper (Ms. Wendy Kelley)
Mr. Johnny Key
Ms. Sonja Wright-McMurray (Dr. Angela Kremers)
Mr. Mike Preston
Mr. Mike Mertens

ABSENT

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Larry Crutchfield (Ms. Cindy Gillespie)
Ms. Wendy Kelley
Ms. Cindy Gillespie

Mr. Hugh McDonald opened the meeting with greetings to the board members. Mr. McDonald introduced Mr. Mike Preston and asked him apprise the group on the building status. Mr. Preston briefly welcomed everyone to new Department of Commerce location and discussed some of the transitional phases connected to the move.

Mr. McDonald stated that one of the agenda items would need to be moved up. Agenda Item 6 would need to be moved up to Agenda Item 3.

On a motion by Dr. Jeff Standridge and second by Mr. Michael Garner, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously voted to move Agenda Item 6 to Agenda Item 3.

ACTION ITEM 1 – MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 10, 2019

On a motion by Mr. Scott Copas and second by Dr. Keith Vire, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the minutes from December 10, 2019.

ACTION ITEM 2 – UPDATED BOARD BYAWS

Mr. Cody Waits, Office of Skills Development (OSD) Director, stated the bylaws were updated to align with today's post-transformation operations. The bylaws were updated with current names and statutes.

On a motion by Dr. Standridge and second by Mr. Copas, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the updated Board Bylaws.

INFORMATION ITEM 3 – REPORT ON WORK FOR AR CENTER FOR DATA SCIENCES (ACDS)

Mr. Bill Yoder, Executive Director, discussed how ACDS wants to assist in closing the gap between the current supply of IT talent and the demand for IT talent in the workforce. In order to make this happen, ACDS focuses on enhancing job awareness and training individuals in the Registered Apprenticeship Program.

Mr. Lonnie Emard, Apprenticeship Director, discussed the demand side of IT and how ACDS can help in providing the services needed in order to fill this gap. Mr. Emard also discussed their progress with companies over the last six months.

Mr. Yoder completed the presentation by discussing the budget and investments made to the budget.

ACTION ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF RIVER VALLEY STC

Ms. Stephanie Isaacs, OSD Associate Director, discussed the benefits of transferring River Valley Technical Center (located at South Conway School District on the Morrilton High School Campus) to University of Arkansas Community College Morrilton. The transfer will allow concurrent credit, more programs being offered, and more students being served. Also, the projected amount of the new FTEs will increase between 30-40.

On a motion by Dr. Standridge and second by Mr. Stephen Percival, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved River Valley Technical Center to transfer to UACCM.

INFORMATION ITEM 5 – REPORT ON HVAC SECTOR REVIEWS

Mr. Tom Hunt, Executive Director at Arkansas HVACR Association, discussed the progression of the HVAC sector reviews. Mr. Hunt presented the metrics that the review committee developed and discussed those metrics within each school. Each school was ranked from one to seven, based on the metrics.

There are five HVAC sector reviews remaining. The reviews were set to be completed by the end of April.

Mr. McDonald stated that the board will want a final report at the end of the reviews.

INFORMATION ITEM 6 – REPORT ON MACHINING SECTOR REVIEWS

Mr. Michael Garner presented on the first four reviews that his committee conducted. Mr. Garner specifically discussed: the number of students in each program, facilities, equipment, the budget and competencies achieved. He went over the evaluation process and the rankings to date. He also discussed the review challenges: length of review three to four hours, the importance of the instructor knowledge, and the importance of speaking to local employers.

INFORMATION ITEM 7 – REPORT ON AUTOMATION READY KIDS

Mr. Mike Rogers presented a video on automate ready kids which is a Tyson initiative to drive more students to automation and manufacturing fields. In addition, he spoke about the partnerships with OSD Skills Gap grants that provided robots in six different schools across the state. He also spoke about Tyson's commitment to Apprenticeships across the state.

INFORMATION ITEM 8 – COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Ms. Kimberly Asther, OSD Communications Director, discussed the OSD social media strategy. This strategy consisted of four phases which are strategy, initiative, implementation, and analysis. The goal of this process is to raise awareness about the OSD and the resources that we offer, as well as, increase the usage of those resources. OSD is currently using Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube as their social media platforms.

Mr. Copas questioned why Instagram was not used as a social media platform. He explained that the younger audience uses this platform. Also, posts can be made to both Facebook and Instagram at the same time. Mr. Waits stated that OSD will revisit the platforms. Also, Mr. Waits stated that some of the names for the social media accounts may change.

Ms. Asther informed the board of the OSD newsletter that is set to be published at the end of the month.

INFORMATION ITEM 9 – DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Waits stated that he would be sending out his Director's Report at the end of the day. The report will display the increase in OSD grants from year to date, increase in Apprenticeship from year to date, and overall growth.

Mr. Waits informed the committee that the fiscal session and budgeting would be taking place in the next few months. Also, there will be additional conversations with Secretary Preston around mobile training units and Be Pro Be Proud Initiative. Mr. Waits stated there may be an action item in June in terms of funding for these special projects. In addition, OSD will be creating the legislative agenda for 2021 general session. Mr. Waits stated to Secretary Key that there may need to be a conversation around HVAC Licensing and licensing in general.

Additional sector reviews will be done by Mr. Keeping in the culinary/hospitality sector. Mr. Waits stated that there have been conversations about what reviews will be completed next. The school year ending in a few months may create challenges for completing sector reviews. Mr. Waits stated that the reviews may have to be completed at the beginning of the new school year.

INFORMATION ITEM 10 – BOARD DISCUSSION

Secretary Key stated that he heard quite a few statements around the term awareness. Secretary Key stated he wanted to bring his team to talk with the board about student success plans.

Mr. McDonald stated that the next meeting would be June 10, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McDonald adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Mr. Cody Waits, Director
Office of Skills Development

Mr. Hugh McDonald, Chair
Career Education and Workforce
Development Board