

MINUTES – MEETING OF THE
CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

June 9, 2020
11:30 a.m.

The Career Education and Workforce Development Board was called to order by Chairman Hugh McDonald. The meeting was held via ZOOM meeting.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

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

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Cody Waits, Ex-Officio Secretary
Dr. Charisse Childers
Ms. Cindy Gillespie
Mr. Richard Cooper (Ms. Wendy Kelley)
Mr. Johnny Key
Dr. Angela Kremers
Dr. Maria Markham
Dr. Andrea Henderson

ABSENT

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Mike Preston
Ms. Wendy Kelley
Mr. Tim Allen
Ms. Patricia Brown

Mr. Hugh McDonald opened the meeting with greetings to the board members. Mr. McDonald thanked the Office of Skills Development (OSD) for keeping business flowing during these unprecedented times.

ACTION ITEM 1- MINUTES FROM MARCH 10, 2020

On a motion by Dr. Jeff Standridge and second by Mr. Michael Garner, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the minutes from March 10, 2020.

ACTION ITEM 2 – Election of Chair/Co-Chair

Mr. McDonald made the board aware that this would be his last meeting as Chair of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board. The new term for new officers begins July 1, 2020. Mr. McDonald nominated Mrs. Gina Radke as a Chairperson and Dr. Jeff Standridge as Vice Chairperson.

On a motion by Troy Keeping and second by Keith Vire, Gina Radke and Dr. Jeff Standridge were elected as chair and co-chair for the new term. The Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the nomination.

Mr. McDonald stated that this would be the last meeting that Dr. Adam Arroyos and Mr. Burton Weis would serve as members of the board. He thanked them both for their service during their terms. Also, Stephen Percival, Dr. Jeff Standridge, and Scott Copas agreed to serve another term.

INFORMATION ITEM 3 – Director’s Report

Mr. Cody Waits thanked Dr. Arroyos and Mr. Weis for their service over the last 3-4 years.

Mr. Waits discussed some of the significant changes that occurred with the Office of Skills Development (OSD) in terms of internal operations. He discussed some of the cross training of employees that took place during the transition into a new office space. Mr. Waits thanked the OSD staff for their hard work and commitment to make sure that all roles were sufficiently filled.

Mr. Waits gave an update on the following areas:

Sector Reviews

- 16 schools for HVAC reviews
- 11 schools for Machining reviews
- Completed 16 reviews
- Reviews will continue once schools have reopened
- The board will receive a tentative report of the current reviews completed at the September board.

Secondary Career Centers

- In 2015, there were 45 unserved districts
- Only 2 districts unserved as of June 2020
- Of those 2 districts, there is a plan in place to serve one of them

OSD grants

Fiscal Year 2019:

- 246 grants received
- \$2.6 million approved funding
- \$2 million paid out
- 2,000 trainees trained

Fiscal Year 2020:

- 273 grants received
- \$2.88 million awarded
- \$1 million paid out
- 2,200 projected trainees

The board will review the revised rules for Office of Skills Development (OSD) grants at the September board meeting. The rules revision is needed to remove outdated processes and add new processes that are currently being used.

Apprenticeship

As of this year:

- Increase of 20 programs from June 2020
- Started IT Apprenticeship (Data Analytics, Security Professionals, and Web Developer)
- 6,602 Apprentices
- 1100 Apprentices started
- 638 employers across the state serve apprentices

Special Projects/Partnership
Ford NGL

- Partnered with OSD to see what partnerships they can help them obtain
- Equipment funding needed

Fort Smith Peak Innovations

- In twelve months it should come to fruition

Arkansas Center for Data Sciences (ACDS)

- OSD had worked with them to increase the number of IT Apprentices across the state of Arkansas

Mr. McDonald asked Mr. Waits to send out a hard copy of all the updates given during his discussion.

INFORMATION ITEM 4 – Board Discussion

Mr. Scott Copas gave feedback about the Ford NGL project. He stated that \$3 million dollars was requested from the Governor. This request was for a four-year time span.

Mr. McDonald stated that all four school districts (Jacksonville, Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Pulaski County Special) came together to support.

Mr. McDonald thanked the board and several others for their service and leadership. He stated it had been a pleasure serving as chair.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McDonald adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Cody Waits, Director
Office of Skills Development

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