

Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas
415 S. First Street, Suite 110B
Lufkin, TX 75901
Board Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021

I. CHAIR WAYNE HAGLUND CALLED THE BOARD MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:31 P.M.

MR. HAGLUND ANNOUNCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDANCE FROM THE TEXAS GOVERNOR AND ATTORNEY GENERAL DATED MARCH 16, 2020, REGARDING SUSPENSION OF OPEN MEETING LAWS, THE BOARD IS PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ITS MEETING VIA VIRTUAL MEETING WEB LINK. HE ALSO SAID THE MEETING IS BEING RECORDED AND THE OPEN SESSION PORTION OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST.

AFTER THE ROLL CALL, MR. HAGLUND CONFIRMED THAT A QUORUM WAS PRESENT:

Members Present: Joe Clyde Adams, Lisa Balty, Rebekah Burkhalter, TJ Colwell, Tyane Dietz, Tim Ditoro, Gregg Durham, Robert Fitzpatrick, James Gentry, Wayne Haglund, Ethan Herr, Staci Hodges, Eddie Hopkins, Malcolm Ifoezeh, Garvey Jackson, Kotosha Jeffery, Laurie King, Gene Lee, Kelli Marshall, Quincy Martindale, Ellen Mills, Marisa Phillips, Randall Roberts, Rich Scott, John Allen Slocomb

Members Absent: Phyllis Grandgeorge, Karen Hatton, Anita Humphreys, Jessica Rogers, John White

Board Staff Present: Mark Durand, Misty Woodard, Debb Homman, Karen Stubblefield, Linda Miller, Brittany Feeney

Visitors: LaTreaser Cartwright, Billy Reddick, Misty Spears, Billy Reddick, Scott Amey, Monica Peters-Clark, Amy David, Heidi Geyer, Rhonda Cartwright, Luis Garza, Kevin Bradford

CHAIR WAYNE HAGLUND REMINDED THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION.

Chair Wayne Haglund asked that all members sign a conflict of interest declaration regardless of whether they have a conflict and return the form to board staff.

WELCOME OF GUESTS:

Mark Durand welcomed the staff members from Dynamic Workforce Solutions and Goodwill.

II. Public Comments

None

III. Discussion/Action: Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2021

Motion: Quincy Martindale made the motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Robert Fitzpatrick

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None
Motion: Passes

IV. Information Items

Two new members have been appointed and approved to serve on the Deep East Texas Local Workforce Development Board: Staci Hodges, Junior Achievement of Angelina County Executive Director, to represent the Education sector; and Randall Roberts, Director of Angelina College Adult Education and Literacy, to represent the Adult Basic and Continuing Education sector. Eight members of the Workforce Board were also confirmed as reappointments by the Commissioners: Lisa Balty, T.J. Colwell, Tyane Dietz, Robert Fitzpatrick, Wayne Haglund, C. Malcolm Ifoezeh, Ellen Mills, and John White. The Deep East Texas Local Workforce Development Board is in compliance with TWC requirements with the structure of 30 Board members.

V. Board Members Comments on Activity in their Respective Areas

None

VI. Executive Director's Report

A. Contracts/Agreements

B. Performance

C. Contacts and Coordination Efforts

D. Rules and Legislation Update

E. Funding

F. Other Activity and Administrative Matters not requiring action by the Board

In addition to his written report, Mr. Durand reported that the board IT Specialist had resigned. He and Misty Woodard were exploring executing an Inter-local agreement with the East Texas Council of Governments to partner for IT services in the interim, as well as to assess and strengthen the board's IT services. They are in the process of interviewing candidates for a Network Administrator. He recognized Irma Castellanos, IT Intern, who has done an excellent job and increased her hours to support IT services during this transitional time. As of December 2020, Child Care enrollment was 86% with 1,752 children enrolled in care with a goal of 2041. Enrollment opened January 11, 2021, and the contractor enrolled 159 children in the month of January. There are seven new Texas Rising Star providers, 40 in total representing 10 of the 12 counties. The Workforce Centers are meeting eight of the ten measures according to the November 2020 Monthly Performance Measures (MPR) YTD report. The two, WIOA Adult Employed Q2 median earnings and WIOA Dislocated Worker Credential Rate, should be met by the March performance report. Board staff met with contractor and developed an action plan to correct monitoring errors that were found in E Taylor and Associates' review. The contractor has initiated an Operational Oversight Committee that is reviewing files; monthly quality reports are submitted and reviewed by Board staff. The Board has set a schedule to review areas that were noted in the monitoring review. Outreach and communication with partners continue. Mr. Durand noted that the Alabama Coushatta Indian tribe receives Child Care Development Funds (CCDF) from TWC. Federal requirements require the State and local Boards to report coordination efforts. The Alabama Coushatta child care center provides care for 20-25 children. Child care is offered to the families living at the reservation and employees of the Naskila Gaming. The Board received \$351,500 funding for the Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) grant from TWC that will fund up to 90 participants to gain employment skills during the Summer of 2021. SEAL provides students with disabilities an opportunity to develop employment skills and preparation for successful transition to postsecondary education and employment. A Retail Analysis project is under way in partnership with the region's five economic development organizations; the five businesses that will receive a customer analysis: Wal-Mart, Shelby County; Lufkin Downtown District, Angelina County; Texas Size Bling, Nacogdoches County; Crockett Downtown District, Houston County; and Jasper Quality Meats Inc, Jasper County. The Board is partnering with Junior Achievement of Angelina County, area businesses and multiple school districts on a virtual career exploration event. Over 3,000

students are expected to participate. The virtual platform is scheduled to go live in March 2021. Staci Hodges described the event and invited other board members to participate. Mr. Durand said the Board is helping with funding, employer recruitment, offering webinars and a booth.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee

1. Committee Activity/Briefing Items

a. Recognition of Local Employer of Excellence

Tyane Dietz reported that MVPs Dine Drink Cheer sports restaurant in Jasper County, which was selected as the 2020 Deep East Texas Local Employer of Excellence, will be recognized in Jasper on Thursday, February 11, 9 a.m. The Board members representing Jasper County – Eddie Hopkins, Quincy Martindale and Joe Clyde Adams – will present the award. Board members are invited to attend.

b. Teacher Externship

Mark Durand reported the Teacher Externship program will occur this summer with the goal to have 30 participating CTE teachers, to date 26 teachers representing 9 counties are signed up. The focus is on placing the teachers in a minimum of 15 industry partners. Teachers will be better able to inform, educate, guide and connect students to industries that match their skill sets. Connecting classroom content to the real world and workplace will help students understand and develop the academic and technical skills they need to enter the workforce and compete for jobs that are in demand in the local community.

c. Retail Initiative

Discussed in the executive director's report.

B. Executive/Finance Committee

1. Committee Activity/Briefing Items

None

2. Discussion/Possible Action

a. Action Item 21-04 Strategic Plan PY 2021–2024

Mark Durand noted that the final version of the Strategic Plan PY 2021-2024 is being presented for Board approval by the Executive Finance Committee. The draft plan, approved by the board in January, was open for public comment from January 19 – February 2, and no comments were received.

Motion: The Executive/Finance Committee recommended approval of the Strategic Plan for PY 2021-2024.

Second: Tyane Dietz

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Passes

b. Action Item 21-05 Closed Session – Personnel Matters – Tex. Gov't Code Section 551.074

Action item was removed from the agenda by Chair Wayne Haglund.

3. Open Session Action, if any, as a result of Closed Session

None

4. Discussion and Acceptance of Financial Reports

a. Financial Reports December 2020

1. Statement of Financial Position

2. Budget vs. Actual

3. Grant Report

Misty Woodard provided financial updates for the months of December of 2020. She reviewed the contracts outstanding. On a motion by Gene Lee, seconded by Eddie Hopkins, the board accepted the financial reports.

VIII. Adjourn

Chair Wayne Haglund adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Duly passed and approved on this 13th day of April 2021


Wayne Haglund, Chair

Attest


Karen Stubblefield, Operations Manager