

Workforce Solutions - Deep East Texas
415 S. First Street, Suite 110B
Lufkin, TX 75901
Business Services Committee Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2021

I. CHAIR TYANE DIETZ CALLED THE BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:03 P.M.

CHAIR TYANE DIETZ 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 COMMITTEE MEETING VIA VIRTUAL MEETING WEB LINK. SHE 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, CHAIR DIETZ CONFIRMED THAT A QUORUM WAS PRESENT:

Members Present: Lisa Balty, Tyane Dietz, Tim Ditoro, Staci Hodges, Eddie Hopkins, Quincy Martindale

Members Absent: TJ Colwell, Wayne Haglund, Karen Hatton, Laurie King, Rich Scott

Board Staff Present: Mark Durand, Brittany Feeney, and Karen Stubblefield

Visitors: Billy Reddick, Monica Peters-Clark, Paul Dunn

CHAIR TYANE DIETZ REMINDED THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION.

Chair Tyane Dietz asked that all members sign a conflict of interest declaration regardless of whether they have a conflict and send it to the Board staff for recordkeeping.

WELCOME OF GUESTS:

Mark Durand welcomed contractor staff members Billy Reddick and Monica Peters-Clark. He welcomed and introduced new board member Staci Hodges.

II. Discussion/Action Item: Approval of Minutes – November 2, 2020

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

Second: Eddie Hopkins

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Passes

III. Information Items

A. Recognition of Local Employer of Excellence

Mark Durand suggested that the Board invite the 2020 Deep East Texas Local Employer of Excellence, MVPs Dine Drink Cheer sports restaurant, to the April Board meeting. He noted that the presentation of the award will be made in person in Jasper on Thursday, February 11, by the Board members representing Jasper County – Eddie Hopkins, Quincy Martindale and Joe Clyde Adams.

B. Teacher Externship Update

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 informed to 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

Mark Durand reported that the board is working with the economic developers on a retail initiative. Brittany Feeney explained that five retail business locations have been selected and will receive a customer analysis to understand consumer activities such as travel from when they visit a business, where they live, their path to the business, and number of visits. The information is intended to help business with their marketing and staffing strategies.

Mark Durand also explained the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is seeking applications from eligible applicants to purchase, repair, or replace Equipment to support new or existing Dual Credit Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs between Lower Division IHEs and Texas school districts. Equipment purchased, repaired, or replaced must support new or existing Dual Credit CTE programs. He reported that applications were submitted from schools and colleges in the Deep East Texas region: Latexo ISD, Diboll ISD, Angelina College/Livingston ISD, Panola College/Shelby County ISDs, and Deep East Texas College and Career Academy/Jasper ISD.

IV. Discussion/Possible Action

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

None

V. Reports

A. Business Services Initiatives

Mark Durand, board staff and contractor staff summarized the first quarter progress on the four goals established by the board. Three of the four goals were met, and efforts are in place to reach the fourth goal in quarter two. Activities discussed included employer outreach and follow-up and enhancing job seeker participation at hiring events. Mr. Durand also noted the board is partnering on a Junior Achievement Virtual Career event project by helping to recruit employers providing eight 5-minute video workshops on communication and soft-skill topics. About 3,000 students are expected to participate.

B. Workforce Center Update

Discussed in section above.

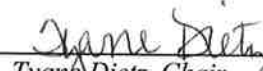
VI. Take Up Other Action As Needed

Tyane Dietz advised that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will be conducting surveys of employers related to their certifications needs. The survey will be shared with workforce boards in April or May, and Ms. Dietz encouraged as many board members and businesses to participate as possible. She also updated the committee on the Skills Development Fund grant – the fund remains and community colleges and boards are able to access it.

VII. Adjourn

Tyane Dietz adjourned the Business Services Committee Meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Duly passed and approved on this 7th day of April 2021


Tyane Dietz, Chair

Attest


Karen Stubblefield
Operations Manager