

Workforce Solutions - Deep East Texas
415 S. First Street, Suite 110B
Lufkin, TX 75901
Business Services Committee Meeting Minutes
April 7, 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, TJ Colwell, Tyane Dietz, Tim Ditoro, Eddie Hopkins, Laurie King

Members Absent: Wayne Haglund, Karen Hatton, Staci Hodges, Quincy Martindale, Rich Scott

Board Staff Present: Mark Durand, Brittany Feeney, Karen Stubblefield, Tiereny White

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

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 introduced new board staff member Tiereny White, who has been named the Workforce Career Education Outreach Specialist.

II. Public Comments

None

III. Discussion/Action Item: Approval of Minutes – February 4, 2021

Motion: Lisa Balty made the motion to approve the minutes as presented.
Second: Eddie Hopkins
In Favor: All
Oppose: None
Abstain: None
Motion: Passes

IV. Information Items

A. Teacher Externship Update

Mark Durand reported the Teacher Externship program is scheduled for June 14-18, 2021. Brittany Feeney said 15 independent school districts in 10 counties have signed up to participate. Teachers will be matched with industry specific employers to educate, guide and connect students to industries that match their CTE programs. 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.

B. Retail Initiative

Mark Durand reported that the consumer retail study has been completed in collaboration with the economic developers. The five retail business locations that were selected have received an analysis to understand consumer activities such as origination, their path to the business, day and time of visits, and number of visits. The information helps the business with marketing and staffing strategies. Tyane Dietz commented that the information was valuable to businesses and would like to see studies such as this continue. Eddie Hopkins said he agreed and recommended funds be earmarked for the future project.

V. Discussion/Possible Action

A. Action Item 21-10 Registered Apprenticeships for Information Technology

Mark Durand explained that the Texas Workforce Commission issued a Request for Application (RFA) for Information Technology (IT) Registered Apprenticeship (RAP) Expansion Program. IT RAPs can provide quality training for individuals and establish career pathways with industry-recognized credentials and continued professional growth. The Deep East Texas demand and target occupation lists include several IT occupations.

Motion: Eddie Hopkins made the motion to approve the submission of the Request for Application to the Texas Workforce Commission.

Second: Lisa Balty

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: Tim Ditoro

Motion: Passes

Tim Ditoro declared a conflict.

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

None

VI. Reports

A. Business Services Initiatives

Staff updated the members on the plan to advance access through technology in rural areas. Computer kiosks will be placed in facilities in rural areas to provide the convenient direct access to virtual workforce services such as job search and workshops.

B. Workforce Center Update

Rural services outreach schedule continues in the six counties without workforce centers. Updates were provided on job fair participation, services to employers and updates on training participants.

VII. Take Up Other Action As Needed

Tyane Dietz updated the committee on the Texas Reskilling & Upskilling through Education (TRUE) initiative being considered by the state legislature. The initiative aims to better position community colleges in supplying workforce training certifications.

VIII. Adjourn

Tyane Dietz adjourned the Business Services Committee Meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Duly passed and approved on this 8 *day of* June *2021*



Tyane Dietz, Chair

Attest



Karen Stubblefield
Operations Manager