

**Workforce Solutions - Deep East Texas**  
**415 S. First Street, Suite 110B**  
**Lufkin, TX 75901**  
**Business Services Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**June 8, 2022**

**I. CHAIR TYANE DIETZ CALLED THE BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:01 P.M.**

**CHAIR TYANE DIETZ ANNOUNCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDANCE FROM THE TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION (WD LETTER 28-19) DATED NOVEMBER 19, 2019, REGARDING THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 551 ALLOWING THE USE OF VIDEOCONFERENCING AS A METHOD FOR CONDUCTING BOARD MEETINGS, THE BOARD IS PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ITS COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE AND 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. PRESIDING OFFICER, TYANE DIETZ, WAS PHYSICALLY PRESENT.**

**AFTER THE ROLL CALL, MS. DIETZ CONFIRMED THAT A QUORUM WAS PRESENT:**

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

Members Absent: Wayne Haglund, Laurie King, Matthew Lowery, Rich Scott

Board Staff Present: Mark Durand, Lauren Phipps, Karen Stubblefield, Misty Woodard

Visitors: LaTreaser Cartwright

**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 the form to Board Staff.

**WELCOME OF GUESTS:**

None

**II. Public Comments**

None

**III. Discussion/Action: Approval of Minutes – May 10, 2022**

Motion: Eddie Hopkins made the motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Staci Hodges

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Passes

**IV. Discussion and Possible Action**

**A. Action Item 22-15 Local Employer of Excellence Nominee**

The Business Services Committee reviewed and discussed multiple employers for the Local Employer of Excellence category. The discussion consisted of how often and in what ways do each of the employers partner with Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas (WSDet). The Committee asked for input from workforce contractor staff. LaTreasor Cartwright responded that Pinecrest Retirement Community (Pinecrest) and Etech work with WSDet workforce centers the most. Mark Durand stated that Pinecrest partners with the workforce centers in several ways, including participating in job fairs. Ms. Dietz added that Pinecrest has worked closely with WSDet for many years. Ms. Cartwright confirmed, stating Pinecrest began partnering with WSDet in 2004. The Business Services Committee based their Local Employer of Excellence nomination on the employer's longstanding partnership with WSDet and the employer's utilization of WSDet services.

Motion: Anita Humphreys made the motion to nominate Pinecrest Retirement Community for Local Employer of Excellence.

Second: Eddie Hopkins

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Passes

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

None

**V. Take Up Other Action, As Needed**

**2022 Teacher Externship Update**

Updates were provided regarding the 2022 Teacher Externship program that will take place the week of June 13, 2022. Mr. Durand reviewed the list of participating independent school districts (ISDs), teachers, and businesses. Mr. Durand reported one teacher recently declined participating due to conflict in schedule, so there are now 27 teachers, 11 ISDs, and 25 businesses participating in the program across seven (7) counties. Mr. Durand also reviewed the Orientation and Debriefing agendas, highlighting the guest speakers for each.

**JET Grant Update**

Updates were also provided regarding the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant. Grant applications are due by June 9, 2022. The Board has received 17 confirmed applications, for a total of 2.4 million dollars in grant funds that will benefit more than 800 students. Some ISDs are partnering with local colleges, such as Angelina College. Jasper ISD is partnering with Lamar Institute of Technology. Ms. Dietz emphasized the importance of the development and growth of partnerships between ISDs and local colleges, and suggested the Committee communicate with their ISDs contacts to provide assistance in developing these partnerships. The Board is encouraging school districts to partner with Economic Development Corporations (EDCs). Mr. Durand pointed out the smaller ISDs that have submitted applications, such as Goodrich, Deweyville, and Tenaha. Mr. Eddie Hopkins mentioned he wrote a recommendation letter for Spurger ISD and inquired why the school district was not on the list of confirmed applications. Mr. Durand stated the Board received the application confirmation the day before, and Spurger ISD will be added to the list. Ms. Anita Humphreys asked if there is a cap dollar amount for total funding. Mr. Durand responded the maximum dollar amount of funding for the JET Grant is \$75 million statewide for ISDs and colleges.

**East Texas Health Association**

Mr. Durand commended Mr. Hopkins for hosting, and Ms. Humphreys for presenting at, the East Texas Health Association meeting in Jasper County. Through this association, health care industries in the region came together for a discussion of the needs of the various health care industries and how they can partner together to strengthen the organizations, including those in rural areas. Mr. Durand reported on the emphasis that was placed on the shortage of physicians and nurses across the region, and the discussions of how to encourage ISDs and colleges to expand their health care programs. Mr. Hopkins reiterated the importance of

developing partnerships between health care organizations and the school districts. Ms. Humphreys discussed ways to grow the industry, and how introducing the health care industry to individuals can spark their interest in pursuing a career in that industry. Ms. Humphreys shared that her organization has had staff that started out working at the front desk, and through an internal program, became dental assistants.

**Skills Development**

WSDet is working with Angelina College on a skills development fund for an electromechanical program. A luncheon will be held with employers to discuss the need and benefit of this funding. Ms. Dietz requested Committee members reach out to their employer contacts that may benefit from this funding.

**VI. Adjourn**

Tyane Dietz adjourned the Business Services Committee Meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Duly passed and approved on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022

  
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Tyane Dietz, Chair

Attest

  
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Lauren Phipps, Planning and Policy Specialist