

MINUTES - MEETING OF THE  
STATE BOARD OF WORKFORCE EDUCATION  
AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

February 7, 2008

Chairman Jack Justus called a meeting of the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO) to order at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, 26 Corporate Hill Drive, Little Rock at 9:30 a.m.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Jack Justus, Chairman	<u>Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members</u>
Mr. Phil Taylor	None
Mrs. Kathy Scarsdale	
Mrs. Martha Dixon	
Mr. Richard Smith	
Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary	

ABSENT

Mr. Robert McClanahan	<u>Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members</u>
Mrs. Lucy Ralston	Dr. Steve Floyd, Interim
	Dr. Ken James

Mr. Justus informed the board members that Mr. McClanahan has submitted his resignation due to health issues. Mr. Justus asked that a letter be prepared for Mr. McClanahan expressing our gratitude for his years of service.

A. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF December 10, 2007

On motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mrs. Scarsdale, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the minutes of December 10, 2007.

B. ACTION ITEM – STATE PLAN FOR THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. John Davidson, deputy director of career and technical education recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve placing the draft of the five-year State Plan for Perkins on public review.

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) was signed by President Bush on August 12, 2006. A one-year transition plan was submitted for the 2007-08 fiscal year. A five-year stat plan is due by April 2008 to the U.S. Department of Education.

Mr. Davidson advised the board that the state is required to hold at least two public

hearings and to gather input from many constituent groups prior to submission of the state plan. Four public hearings are scheduled as follows:

- February 26 at 10:00 a.m. – Public hearing in North Little Rock (Pulaski Tech College)
- March 4 at 10:00 a.m. – Public hearing in West Helena (Great Rivers Coop)
- March 7 at 10:00 a.m. – Public hearing in Arkadelphia (Dawson Coop)
- March 11 at 2:00 p.m. – Public hearing in Harrison (North Arkansas College)

The five-year state plan is an expansion of the transition plan that was approved by the board last year. It includes several sections that were not required last year including professional development, recruitment and retention of CTE teachers, and coordination with economic development and other federal programs.

Mr. Davidson touched on some of the policy decisions contained within the five-year plan:

- Consolidation of the Tech Prep funding into the Basic State Grant
- In-State Distribution of Funds
- Projects/activities approved for funding at the local level
- Reserve of up to 10% from the local funds for state priorities or focus areas
- \$60,000 for support of nontraditional programs
- 1% of the state leadership funds for state institutions
- Accountability and continuous improvement
- Incentives, Sanctions, and Improvement Plans
- Program and fiscal monitoring, including high risk recipients

On motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mr. Smith, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously voted to approve that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities place the draft of the five-year State Plan for Perkins on public review.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Bill Walker reported on the following items:

Mr. Davidson gave a brief review of the letter of monitoring that the agency received for the Career and Technical Education Federal Audit.

Discussed comments that were received from the CTE Program of Study Workshop, which was held on February 5-6, 2008.

Advised the board members of a potential problem in the Jefferson County area with some factious GED transcripts. It was brought to our attention and we did our own internal investigation and have been in touch with the local prosecutor in Jefferson County and the Governor's Office. What we have been able to determine so far is that someone created a false GED certificate and was selling them. We do not know how widespread this is we just now of these two incidents at this time. A reminder has been sent out as to the proper way a GED certificate or transcript is to be issued and verified.

Informed the board that this administration asked us to come up with a preliminary budget and budget request and that it be submitted to them by middle of this month.

Therefore, we are in the process of putting together the White Papers, which will be a little bit more detailed than has been done in the past.

Handed out a letter that was just received from the U.S. Department of Education on the issue of the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Hot Springs.

Announced that we have hired a new Federal Surplus Property Manager, Mr. Duane Bell.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Justus adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.



William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary  
State Board of Workforce Education  
and Career Opportunities



Jack Justus, Chairman  
State Board of Workforce Education  
and Career Opportunities