

MINUTES - MEETING OF THE
STATE BOARD OF WORKFORCE EDUCATION
AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
9:30 am

April 16, 2009

The State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO) was called to order by Chairman Jack Justus. The meeting was held at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, 26 Corporate Hill Drive, Little Rock.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Jack Justus, Chairman
Mr. Phil Taylor
Mrs. Lucy Ralston
Mrs. Kathy Scarsdale

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members
Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Ex-Officio Secretary

ABSENT

Mr. Justin Mitchell
Mrs. Martha Dixon
Mr. Richard Smith

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members
Dr. Ken James
Dr. Jim Purcell

Mr. Justus introduced Dr. Karen Wheeler, Associate Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

A. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2009

On motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mrs. Ralston, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved minutes of February 5, 2009.

B. ACTION ITEM – FUNDING FORMULA FOR ADULT EDUCATION

Jim Smith, Deputy Director for Adult Education, recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve the new state funding formula for the operation of local adult education programs.

The funding formula for local programs has been revised to align with the requirements of Title II of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (Adult Education and Family Literacy Act). Under the new formula, funds will be allocated based on program performance relating to two criteria: outcomes and participation. Data on outcomes and participation is measured through the National Reporting System for Adult Education.

On motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mrs. Scarsdale, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the funding formula for Adult Education.

C. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE EDUCATION
EMPLOYEE MANUAL

Pam Harris, HR Administrator, and Deborah Germany presented the new DWE Employee Manual.

It was recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve the implementation of the DWE Employee Manual to become effective July 1, 2009.

The new manual includes the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. The agency will operate from one standard policy manual.

Mr. Justus commended the committee on a job well done.

On motion by Mrs. Scarsdale and second by Mrs. Ralston, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the Department of Workforce Education employee manual.

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION OF AMERICAN RECOVERY AND
REINVESTMENT ACT STIMULUS FUNDING DESIGNATED FOR ARKANSAS
REHABILITATION SERVICES

Robert Trevino, ARS Commissioner, and Mr. John Wright, Chief Financial Officer, informed board members that the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division has been designated to receive stimulus funding under two grant formulas. First, ARS will receive an estimated \$5.5 million Title I funding and an estimated \$250,000 from Title VII funding as part of the direct Vocational Rehabilitation State Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Secondly, ARS anticipates funding between \$2 and \$6 million from the state's allocation of the Stabilization Fund under Governor Beebe's direction.

E. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – RECOGNITION OF MARION FLETCHER'S INDUCTION INTO
THE ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME

Marion Fletcher, Program Manager for Agricultural Science and Technology, was recognized by Director Walker, Chairman Justus, Deputy Director John Davidson, board members, and his co-workers for his many years of dedicated service to agriculture education, the FFA, and students. Mr. Fletcher was inducted into the Arkansas Agricultural Hall of Fame on March 13, 2009.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Davidson briefed board members on a workshop hosted by DWE on Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Mr. Davidson also reported that DWE will receive an \$8 million grant from the Department of Workforce Services. The *Arkansas Works* grant will be used to provide college and career planning services in the poorest counties of the state.

Governor Beebe visited with students at SkillsUSA in Hot Springs and attended the National JAG Board meeting. Director Walker gave special recognition to Marylene Tate, Sandra Porter, Darrell Stephens, and staff for making the meeting a success.

On July 1, 2009, the agency will have a new name - the Arkansas Department of Career Education.

Introductions

Judy Smith, Interim Administrator of HSRC

Carl Daughtery, Interim Chief of Field Services

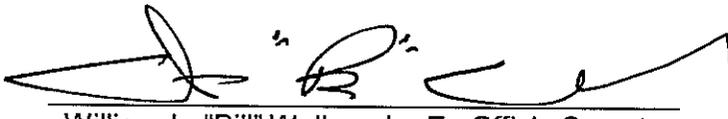
Next board meeting

June 4, 2009

Camp Couchdale

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Justus adjourned the meeting at 11:40 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