

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

December 11, 2008

Chairman Jack Justus called to order the meeting of the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO) at the Clear Channel Metroplex Event Center, 10800 Colonel Glen Road, 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>
Mrs. Lucy Ralston	
Mr. Justin Mitchell	
Mr. Phil Taylor	
Mrs. Martha Dixon	
Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary	

ABSENT

Mr. Richard Smith	<u>Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members</u>
Mrs. Kathy Scarsdale	Dr. Ken James
	Dr. Jim Purcell

A. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2008

On motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mrs. Dixon, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the minutes of November 3, 2008.

B. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND THE HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD OF NOVEMBER 3, 2008

On motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mrs. Dixon, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the joint meeting minutes of November 3, 2008.

C. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MEETING DATES FOR 2009

Mr. Justus recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities set the following meeting dates for 2009 per A.C.A. 25-6-302:

Thursday, February 5, 2009
Thursday, April 2, 2009
Thursday, June 4, 2009
Thursday, August 6, 2009
Thursday, October 1, 2009
Thursday, December 3, 2009

On a motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mrs. Ralston, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously voted to set the following meeting dates for 2009:

Thursday, February 5, 2009
Thursday, April 2, 2009
Thursday, June 4, 2009
Thursday, August 6, 2009
Thursday, October 1, 2009
Thursday, December 3, 2009

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES OPERATIONAL BUDGET 2008-2009

Mr. Walker introduced Commissioner Trevino and Mr. John Wright from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

Commissioner Trevino stated that the agency had a very good year and looking forward to another good year coming up.

Mr. Wright, Chief Fiscal Officer for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, referred to the ARS Financial Update handout concerning the following issues:

Biennial Budget

- a. Personnel Actions: 3 positions to be reclassified to counselor positions with no new funding and 3 new counselor positions with general revenue recommendation
- b. Special language: re-authorization of the counselor loan forgiveness program via special language. The language specifies eligibility and employment responsibilities for applicants.

ADFA Loan program: ADFA transferred \$1.5 back to ARS. They will no longer handle program as the fiscal intermediary. ARS is currently making arrangement to hire a loan manager for this program and the loan forgiveness program. We will also have a contract with another fiscal intermediary to meet the requirements of the federal grant award.

Mr. Wright also stated that he had attached financial update spreadsheets to the handout for the board to look at as well.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Walker stated that this was an exciting day; we deliberately planned this day to coincide with our joint staff meeting. He invited the board members to attend and to stay for lunch.

Mr. Walker informed the board members that Governor Beebe had been invited and has graciously accepted the invite to speak at the joint staff meeting today and the staff is unaware of that.

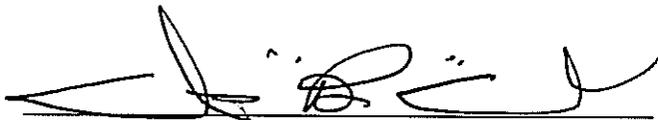
Mr. Walker shared with the board members the special edition of the newsletter.

Mr. Walker stated that he had some not so good news that he needs to share with the board members today. The Workforce Cabinet meetings are back on, we had a meeting with the Governor he did announce in his administration two structural changes that will take place, and one does impact us directly. There has been a lot talk about things moving around and changing, the Department of Workforce Services will grow and take in the Workforce Investment Board that will become one department and the area of Federal Surplus Property that we have been proud to be part for many years will be moved from our agency to Arkansas Department of Emergency Management. Mr. Walker states that this will take place during the course of the legislative session.

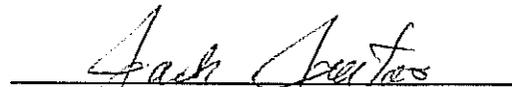
Mr. Walker introduced Mr. Arthur Woods, who is the new manager for Federal Surplus Property.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Justus adjourned the meeting at 10:00 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