

Workforce Development Board of Northwest Georgia

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, Noon

Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Calhoun, Georgia

Minutes

Attendance-WDB

WDB Members Present, County:

Cynthia Brown, Paulding
Kate Daggett, Floyd
Jim Henry, Chattooga
Selena Galmon, Bartow
Barry Gentry, Murray
Rick Gibson, Bartow
Bethany Gilmer, Floyd
Beth Kelley, Walker
Randy Long, Pickens
Mike Murphy, Bartow
Elizabeth Scott, Bartow
Lisa Shaw, Floyd
Chris Thomas, Polk

WDB Members Not Present, County:

Andy Allen, Chattooga
Marion Barber, Bartow
Zac Dixon, Floyd
Harry Harvey, Chattooga
Mitchell Morgan, Gilmer*
Cam Parker, Bartow
Matthew Salmon, Polk
Robert Strickland, Gordon
Gregg Webb, Bartow*
Carey Tucker, Floyd

NWGRC Staff:

Boyd Austin
Karla Conetta
Christy Elrod
Susan Gentry
Lesia Lambert
Terri Morgan
Anthony Rucker
Phyllis Walker

Guests/Visitors:

Michele Abdul-Qawiy
Al Abernathy
Sheila Derry
Brandi Dover
Lori Dowdy
Mitchell Jackson
Lynn Long
Danny Mitchell
Michael O'Neal III
Vicki Thompson
Chris Upchurch

**resigned*

Youth Committee Members Present:

Beth Kelley

I. Welcome Mike Murphy

Mike Murphy called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. It was established that a quorum was present for the Workforce Development Board.

II. Minutes Mike Murphy

Mr. Murphy informed the Board that the *minutes* from the November 15, 2023 Joint Meeting (attached) had been e-mailed and were also attached for review. Beth Kelley made the motion for WDB approval of the minutes. Rick Gibson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Reports & Workforce Business Items

A. Fiscal Report Anthony Rucker

Anthony Rucker presented a *fiscal report* (attached) encompassing the Adult, Dislocated Worker, QUEST, Rapid Response, and Youth programs. Kate Daggett made the motion for the WDB to approve. Rick Gibson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Performance Report Karla Conetta

Karla Conetta provided a performance report (attached) and informed the Board that it was very similar to the previous report due to changes in reporting.

C. Rapid Response Report Lesia Lambert

Lesia Lambert presented a "Worksource Northwest Georgia Rapid Response/Dislocation Report" (attached) regarding the closures of Summit Hill Food (Rome, Georgia) and Unique Fabricating South (LaFayette, Georgia). She reported that Worksource Northwest Georgia and partners provided resources and information to the affected workers.

D. Youth Committee Report

The Youth Committee did not meet and, therefore, no report was available.

IV. One-Stop Operator Update. Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert informed those present that the Boyd Austin, Executive Director, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, had received a letter from Bruce Thompson, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL), informing him of the their decision to terminate the One-Stop Operator contract. She stated that more information is being sought and Mr. Austin will write a letter to obtain clarification from Mr. Thompson. Technical assistance from

the Technical College System of Georgia advised that we proceed with procuring a new One-Stop Operator expeditiously.

V. Georgia Northwestern Technical College Request Phyllis Walker

Ms. Walker reported that Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC) submitted a request (handout attached) for an increase in the tuition and support service budget line items in the current contract. This request is needed to cover the contractor's shortfall in the budget projection, and an underestimation of students' tuition and support costs.

GNTC requested an additional \$48,000 in the tuition line item to cover an additional 19 QUEST slots and the shortfall in the tuition line item for Adult funds. In addition, \$128,000 was requested in the support line item to cover student enrollments. They are contracted to serve 168 new contract enrollments and are currently serving 122 of the 168 new enrollments.

Ms. Walker stated that it was staff 's recommendation to approve the request of **\$176,000**, to cover the tuition and support costs, increasing the current budget from **\$1,152,806 to \$1,328,806**. The total increased contract amount of \$1,328,806 can not be exceeded. Beth Kelley made the motion to approve the request. Jim Henry seconded. Motion carried with Lisa Shaw abstaining (due to her employment with Georgia Northwestern Technical College) and with no dissenting vote.

VI. Demand Occupations Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert informed those present with an updated list of demand occupations (attached). She stated that the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development, provided the list. Selena Galman made the motion to accept the updated **demand occupations**. Chris Thomas seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Danny Mitchell, Technical College System of Georgia

Danny Mitchell, Apprenticeship Program Manager, at the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development, provided an Apprenticeship Update (attached).

Other

Mr. Murphy informed the Board that a list of upcoming Workforce Development Board meetings was included in the packet. He thanked the Board for attending the meetings and announced that future meetings would start with lunch at Noon for those in attendance and then the meeting would be called to order at approximately 12:15 p.m., with meetings lasting an hour.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.