

**Executive Committee
February 22nd, 2023 12:00PM
Quest Center for Innovation
Meeting Minutes**

Attendance: David Slutz, Rick Kidder, Carl Taber, Lisa Lemieux, Duarte Silva, Ron Melbourne
Workforce Board/Career Center Staff Attendance: Jim Oliveira, Joe Lopes, Taylor Nichols-Xavier, Deborah Meggison, Kyra Greco, Jacqueline Sylvia, Fran Grey

Greetings and Call to Order – David Slutz, Chair

Chair, Dave Slutz, called to open the meeting at 12:04PM. Roll call vote was had to officially open the meeting.

Consent Agenda

- Treasurer's Report
- Minutes of Meeting December 8th, 2022
 - Motion to approve consent agenda made by Rick Kidder, seconded by Duarte Silva, followed by roll call vote.

Votes to Approve

1. **National Emergency Grant (NEG) Dislocated Worker Support Services Policy**
 - Motion to approve made by Lisa Lemieux, seconded by Rick Kidder. All voted in favor and the motion carried.
2. **Approve Joseph P. Lopes as Executive Director/CEO effective April 1st**
 - Motion made by Rick Kidder, seconded by Lisa Lemieux.

Executive Director, CEO Comments – Joe Lopes, Jim Oliveira

Joe Lopes briefly reviewed his Executive Director report that was provided to the Committee. He noted the different grants that are being worked on by individual staff members at the Workforce Board. Joe stated that the Youth Team recently submitted their proposal for funding to the state. The Youth request for this year was \$1.8 million with the intention of increasing the amount of youth served in both summer and year-round programs. Joe stated that according to recent reports from the state, our municipality is serving only 35 less youth than other larger municipalities that contain multiple Workforce Boards. It was also highlighted that the MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board's Youth Team was identified as the contact for any information or questions regarding Virtual Reality equipment. Rick Kidder asked Joe if there was any update on lease information. Joe made mention that tomorrow (February 23rd, 2023) was the last day for the board to receive responses to the RFP. It was noted that the request for 10,000 sq. feet can be a difficult ask, as it is a lot of space to accommodate. Joe made mention to the committee that Titleist reached out to the Workforce Board again to discuss collaborations. Jim Oliveira provided further information about Titleist, and the opportunity to potentially have a member from their staff serve on our Board. He provided an update on the work that he has been putting in as he nears retirement including the development of a Donnelly grant application relative to paraprofessionals.

MassHire Career Center Updates– Fran Grey

Fran Grey discussed happenings with the Career Center and local businesses. He noted that since Talbots closed, they presume that Titleist will absorb a lot of these employees. They have been working to get this running as a Recruitment Solutions Initiative (RSI). RSI is a standardized model for specialized and targeted recruitment assistance for businesses who have contacted the Governor's office, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, MassHire State Workforce Board, local MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Department of Career Services/Rapid Response Team, or other state partners with a request for assistance with candidate recruitment and hiring. Career Center reports were reviewed by Fran Grey. He highlighted that the Career Center has significantly increased their employer related numbers. Employment numbers are down state wide- which will have a corresponding negative effect on adult numbers as well. It was mentioned that employment numbers are not entered until second quarter after exit, which plays a role in the employment numbers being stagnant. Committee members expressed concern for some of the numbers that were being

presented as they were repetitive. Fran Grey also presented a report that showed the Career Center Activity compared to the State.

Other Business

Rick Kidder noted the gathering of a Nominating Committee, and requested that other members of the Executive Committee consider serving on this Committee. He made mention of his intention in keeping Dave Slutz as the Chair of the Board so long as this vote was approved in the future. Joe Lopes noted that Rick Kidder, Deborah Meggison, and himself met to discuss the gathering of this committee. Joe Lopes noted that Diane Hurley's replacement has been identified, Mr. Michael Williams. Additionally, a staff member from the Southcoast Hospital Group has been identified as a candidate that Joe noted he will submit to the Mayor on this morning (February 22nd, 2023). Joe Lopes noted that there will need to be a replacement for Helena DaSilva Hughes as she does not plan to continue to serve on the Executive Committee. Dave Slutz mentioned that Margarita Graham may be a good candidate. Joe Lopes noted that the Nominating Committee will discuss this matter and decide on this. Joe called for a motion to establish a Nominating Committee. Motion made by Lisa Lemieux, seconded by Duarte Silva. Jim Oliveira recommended to the Executive Committee to consider the Executive Director/CEO effective April 1st. Motion made by Rick Kidder, seconded by Lisa Lemieux. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Adjourn – David Slutz, Chair

Motion to adjourn made by Rick Kidder, seconded by Duarte Silva, followed by roll call. Meeting was adjourned at 12:52PM.