

## Minutes of December 12, 2019 meeting

GREETING AND CALL TO ORDER - meeting called to order at 8:00

### INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dave Slutz, Chair

- State Representative Susan Williams Gifford for the Second District Plymouth – updates on business tax credit and affordable housing initiatives being taken up by the state.
- Introductions from board members and guests.
- 2019 Manufacturing of the Year Awards – congratulations to recipient Board members Anne Broholm, Ahead, LLC, and Joe Bahena, Joseph Abboud Manufacturing.
- The Advanced Manufacturing Training grant was awarded to MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board serving as the lead for the four boards of MassHire SE Workforce Region. MassHire GNB also secured the YouthWorks Year-round planning grant to focus on the maritime industry along with other grants.

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1 & 2 (Combined Vote)

Dave Slutz, Chair

- Minutes of September Quarterly Meeting and Treasurer's Report (Vote)
  - Motion to approve made by Anne Broholm seconded by Carl Taber

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Jim Oliveira, ED/CEO

- Jim attributed our successes in a large part to the governing legislation (WIOA) that required workforce efforts be filtered through local boards. Accomplishments are evident by the grant awards we are receiving in manufacturing and the partnerships established with other MassHire boards throughout the state. The \$637,000 manufacturing grant was awarded to us again this year and is a testament to the hard work being done by the staff and our manufacturing partners.
- Jim outlined our involvement in the community-of-practice statewide led by the Mass Technology Center. We are currently working on responding to the Department of Defense to participate in a \$5,000,000 grant to develop a plan for robotic and photonic technician training programs. We have been aggressive in positioning New Bedford within the region, partnering with the four other SE Workforce Boards as well as the boards of the Cape and Islands. There have been great results from those efforts including the Labor Market Regional Blue Print Report.
- Jim credited the work of board staff and complemented Donna Ramos, Deborah Meggison and Julie Rodriques for their efforts. Jim said we have received a \$15,000 planning grant for the maritime industry for summer and year-round jobs that he believes it will evolve into pre-apprentice and apprenticeships programs in the future. We have received a planning grant that involves coordinating efforts for offshore wind that will give us the opportunity to be in the center of the conversation as the industry develops. Jim noted Andrea McLaughlin's successes with youth programs. He also noted the WorkPlace, our career center operator, has hit their stride as they close out their second year. There are plans for summer youth programs to be focused more on introducing kids to a first job in our local industry sectors and help them to take on progressive leadership roles. Jim also mentioned complements received about our website from the creator of the statewide MassHire websites.
- Jim thanked the board for their support and noted that we would be asking for more participation from the board moving into 2020. Our 3-year strategic plan requires in depth input from the board, especially from our manufacturing partners.

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 3

Dave Slutz, Chair

- Use of available discretionary income of \$40K to install security cameras and pay for guard in order to address security issues at the MassHire Greater New Bedford Career Center (Vote)
  - Motion to approve made by John Fernandes seconded Helena DaSilva Hughes

### REPORTS

- Performance & Oversight Committee Dave Slutz (speaking on behalf of Ron Melbourne, Chair)
  - Dave noted the surveys that are currently being conducted especially outreach to employers who may have “left us” to revisit the career center and services offered.
  - Dave also mentioned revisions to Career Center performance and BSU reports.
- Business Development Committee Dave Slutz (speaking on behalf of Rick Kidder, Chair)
  - Dave noted the enhancements made to the MassHire Workforce Board website
  - Dave also reviewed the Foundation Search membership, and its grant finding capabilities. Dave also noted that other not-for-profit organizations are welcome to utilize this tool and to contact the board staff for details.
- Youth Council Andrea McLaughlin, MassHire GNB WB Youth Program Manager (speaking on behalf of Jeff Pelletier, Chair)
  - Cyber Security Grant Program funded through the UMass Tech Collaborative that has been running over the last 12 months. The program currently has 18 students in the program and is in the last stretch of the program getting ready for their certifications.
  - Connecting Activities and what the program involved.
  - Career center state monitoring wrapping up and overall the results were very positive.

Jim Oliveira noted Andrea was brought in as career center monitor in addition to her Youth Program duties and that she was doing an excellent job.

### GUEST SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Andrea McLaughlin

#### Guest Speakers

Steven Frechette, Assistant Professor Cyber Security, BCC  
Claire Hubert, Fairhaven High School student

Steven Frechette noted cyber security is the fastest growing IT fields in the world and offers great opportunities. Steve noted his appreciation for the partnership with the Workforce board and felt it had great synergy. Steve then introduced Claire Hubert cyber security student participant. Claire stated she had been considering a career in computer forensics, but learned it wasn't really what she wanted to do. After learning about the cyber security program she applied and gained insight into cyber security profession. She worked as an intern at People Acting in Community Endeavors (PACE) and gained a lot of experience. She stated it was a great chance to see what she was getting into before investing thousands of dollars into college tuition and that she and her parents appreciated the opportunity. Steven then thanked Andrea and the Workforce Board for their work and contribution to the program.

- Career Center Operations Elizete Perry, Assistant Manager of the MassHire CC  
Beth Costa, MassHire Career Center
  - Elizete Perry shared a success story of a career center customer who was several weeks into his unemployment and attended manufacturing training program at Voc Tech. About halfway through the program he started experiencing problems with his unemployment. Unfortunately his employment did get discontinued temporarily. However Career Center Counselor, Trisha O'Brien, worked closely with him and he completed the program. The Career Center recently received word that the gentleman has secured employment with Lockheed Martin. Elizete noted the client stuck with it, reached his goal and they were very proud of him.

- Elizete also reviewed activities at the Career Center including successes with the Youth Team. She is proud to announce they are already at 64% in the FY20 RFP. She attributed this to hard work of the team. Elizete also noted the online applications for youth and the positive feedback received with these changes. They are also looking implement this for adults and are exploring other ideas to assist customers and make intake easier and more assessable.
- Beth Costa then highlighted the two performance charts and the enhancements that were done in collaboration with the Performance & Oversight Committee provide a more meaningful report to the Board in order to move the Career Center's performance forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Pam Kuechler, Executive Director, PACE took the opportunity to complement Clare Hubert and the work she had done for their organization, and that they were implementing the programs she had brought in.
- Steve Frechette reiterated the vast changes and expansion of the cyber security industry.

ADJOURN - meeting adjourned 8:59 am