

MINUTES – MEETING OF THE
CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

September 8, 2020
1:00 p.m.

The Career Education and Workforce Development Board was called to order by Chairman Gina Radke. The meeting was held via ZOOM meeting.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Gina Radke, Chair
Dr. Jeff Standridge, Vice Chair
Mr. Kenneth Calhoun
Mr. Michael Garner
Mrs. Stacy Gunderman
Mr. Troy Keeping
Mr. Hugh McDonald
Mr. Stephen Percival
Mr. Mike Rogers
Dr. Keith Vire

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Cody Waits, Ex-Officio Secretary
Dr. Charisse Childers
Ms. Cindy Gillespie
Mr. Richard Cooper (Mr. Solomon Graves)
Mr. Johnny Key
Dr. Angela Kremers
Dr. Maria Markham
Dr. Andrea Henderson

ABSENT

Mr. Scott Copas

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Mike Preston
Ms. Wendy Kelley
Mr. Tim Allen
Ms. Patricia Brown

ACTION ITEM 1- MINUTES FROM JUNE 9, 2020

On a motion by Mr. Hugh McDonald and second by Mr. Michael Garner, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the minutes from June 9, 2020.

Mrs. Gina Radke introduced Mr. Kenneth Calhoun as a new member to the Career Education and Workforce Development Board. Mr. Calhoun has 30 plus years in the transportation industry. He has worked in management, logistics, and customer relations. Also, Mr. Calhoun is a member of the advisory committee for Arkansas State University-Beebe (ASU Beebe).

INFORMATION ITEM 2 – Altec Technical Education & OSD Partnership

Mr. Calhoun showed a video that gave some insight into Altec. He discussed detailed information such as when it was founded, the services provided, products offered, customers served, and Altec's core values.

The Altec Technical Education Program offers a diesel technology certification that includes hands-on training in needed workplace skills. A percentage of the educational costs covered, and Altec has currently partnered with two schools, State Technical College of Missouri and Arkansas State University-Beebe.

Altec is located in 120 countries around the world. Forty or more service centers are located across the United States and Canada. Eight major manufacturing facilities exist across the United States.

Mr. Calhoun also gave an update on Be Pro Be Proud. He stated they will be resuming their tour stops and are progressing through their fall schedule. They have completed 547 since the tour stops began. Approximately 100,000 students have been through the mobile units, and roughly 22,000 have joined the movement.

Two important dates discussed were:

- Cherokee County GA launched their version of Be Pro Be Proud on **July 23, 2020**. The question was asked could the program become a statewide effort and not just for the county.
- South Carolina officially launched a trailer similar to the one here in Arkansas on **September 3, 2020**.

Mr. Calhoun stated that their gaining attention through some of their efforts.

ACTION ITEM 3 – Approval of Revised Rules for OSD Grant Program

Mr. Cody Waits discussed the revised rules. The rules created for the OSD Grant Program have been the same for the last four years. Mr. Waits stated that the revisions are updates that need to take place as the program progresses.

Mr. Waits discussed in detail some of the changes. These changes were made to make the structure of the document flow efficiently. Below are the updates made to OSD Grant Program:

- Changed name from Career Education to Commerce
- Rules and Regulations changed to Rules
- Eliminated some of the comments around education (took some of the educational components out and made everything concise throughout the whole document)
- Changed certain roles to reflect the correct party (Governors Workforce Cabinet to Office of Skills Development)
- Removed duplicative information
- Simplified some of the language in the document
- Wage information must be provided on all trainees participating in training

Mr. Keeping stated that some of the information stated in the rules were still very unclear. He stated in previous discussions, the committee requested certain information that is not listed in the updated rules.

Mr. Waits suggested that the additional information requested can be put together and compiled into a report to the committee. The information will be added to the revised rules prior to them being submitted to the Governor's office

Dr. Charisse Childers suggested that performance data (wage data, success data, etc.) be required criteria for the application and performance report at the beginning. This allows companies to know what is asked of them before beginning any training. The data would be directly referenced to application and reporting criteria.

On a motion by Troy Keeping, to adopt the rules as presented with the amendment on performance criteria as discussed and second by Mrs. Stacy Gunderman, the Career and Education Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the revised rules for the OSD Grant Program.

ACTION ITEM 4 – Apprenticeship Update & Sub-Committee Creation

Mr. Waits gave an overview of the apprenticeship program, number of apprentices and apprenticeship programs by state. He stated there are now over 140 apprenticeship programs around the state. The number of apprenticeship programs and the number of apprentices has progressively increased.

Mr. Waits also discussed the State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant, Strategic Apprenticeship Partnerships, and sub-committee creation for apprenticeship.

State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant

OSD was recently awarded a \$450,000 grant from the Department of Labor.

The money will be used to:

- Update the apprenticeship website.
- Build a new database. The database will allow schools to report numbers more efficiently to the State Office of Apprenticeship. Also, it will allow apprentices to be able to check hours in real time.
- Hire an additional person that will work within the Office of Apprenticeship.
- Provide technical assistance to some of our local board and apprenticeship stakeholders.
- Create additional industry intermediaries. ACDS is acting as our IT intermediary. There has been great success through this partnership.

Strategic Apprenticeship Partnerships

- Conagra: 30 apprentices
- Lockheed: 90 apprentices hired since October 2019
- University of Arkansas Fort Smith: Have helped to get process started
- North Arkansas College: Turf Management

Apprenticeship Sub-Committee

The purpose for creating a sub-committee for apprenticeship is expand apprenticeship in IT, Manufacturing, and Medical. Mr. Waits stated that the committee would probably meet either every 2 weeks or every 4-6 weeks to discuss new information. Mr. Calhoun volunteered to participate on a sub-committee.

On a motion by Mr. Hugh McDonald and second by Troy Keeping, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the creation of a sub-committee for Apprenticeship.

INFORMATION ITEM 5 – Secondary Center Update

Ms. Stephanie Isaacs discussed how COVID-19 has impacted secondary career & technical centers. This is the first year that we have set funding. With enrollment going down, funding will be affected drastically in certain areas. Ms. Isaacs stated no set numbers have been received at this time. The numbers are not required until October 2020. Enrollment is down 35% around the state. Out of 30 career centers only two career centers reported increased enrollment. Those two centers are UACC Batesville and NWTI. UACC Batesville is a fairly new facility that has added new programs and a new industrial building. NWTI has new leadership which may be the cause of the increase in enrollment. The other 28 centers have substantially low enrollment.

Other factors that have negatively impacted funding are:

- Student choosing virtual learning.
- Social distancing requirements reduce class size. The classes are limited to 12-15 students, whereas, it was originally 20-30.

- Seniors not being required to take an elective. Even though this has been set in place for some time now, school districts were still having seniors to take electives.
- Decreased enrollment in Tier 1 programs. Tier 1 programs are generally the top funded programs. Industrial Maintenance, C&C Machining, Welding, and Automotive Technology are a few of the programs that are Tier 1 programs. These can't be done virtually; they have to do this type of training in person.

Ms. Isaacs also discussed:

- how centers have adapted whether 100% in person, 50% half virtual, half in person, or 100% virtual
- how decreased enrollment leaves a balance in appropriation.
 1. This would be left up to the committee to decide on what would happen to the funds.
 2. No decision was made at this time.
 3. Additional information will be given at the next meeting.

INFORMATION ITEM 6 – Director’s Report

Mr. Waits discussed how COVID-19 has impacted the grant process. The number of grant applications have decreased tremendously. The current amount of applications received is 25, whereas, it was 57 at this same time fiscal year 2020. Mr. Waits also discussed additional projects that have been funded which are coordinated to aid workforce investment. A few of those projects include Future Fit, Mobile Training Units, and Peak Innovation Centers.

Mr. Waits shared with the committee the topics for legislative review which were apprenticeship, vocational center aid appropriation, and code revision.

Due to COVID-19, sector reviews came to a complete stop before much progress was made.

Mr. Waits stated that the next meeting will be December 8, 2020. It is his hope that the meeting will be held in-person. All COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. The committee members who choose not to attend in-person will have the option to attend virtually.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Jeff Standridge to adjourn the meeting, it was second by Mr. McDonald.

Dr. Jeff Standridge adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

Mr. Cody Waits, Director
Office of Skills Development

Mrs. Gina Radke, Chair
Career Education and Workforce
Development Board