

**Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board**  
**Jan. 17, 2019**  
**8:30 AM**  
**340 Main Street, Suite 400**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**The following members/proxies were present:** Paul Gilbody; James Chabot (proxy for J. Ryan Weekes); Leslie Baker; Joshua Froimson; Michael Bowes; Leslie Parady; Sarah Baldelli; Jil Wonoski; Luis Predraja; Alyssa Hansen; Alex Guardiola (proxy for Timothy Murray); Karen Sowsy; Jennifer Brunelle; Lynne Johnstone (proxy for Jennifer Almeida); Libis Bueno; Edward Bartkiewicz

Guests/Staff: J. Turgeon; Drew Weymouth; Cheryl Marzzarelli

- **Call to Order, Announcement of Quorum & Note of Conflict of Interest:** Vice Chair Paul Gilbody, called the meeting to order at 8:41 AM, and asked the members if anyone wished to note any conflicts of interest on the agenda. None were noted, and he welcomed all the attendees. He then informed the members that the MCRWB Chair, Rosalie Lawless was unavailable for the meeting.
- **Approval of October 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** The October 18, 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion and second by members.
- The Vice Chair then asked all attendees to introduce themselves. He also asked the members to review the acknowledgement form regarding conflict of interest and open meeting law and submit them prior to the end of the meeting.
- **Election of Chairperson:** P. Gilbody informed the members of the need to elect the 2019 Chair and opened nominations, noting the current Chair would agree to serve another term is elected. J. Froimson nominated Rosalie lawless for Chair, seconded by L. Parady.
- **Bylaws update:** J. Turgeon discussed the need to vote upon the bylaw changes proposed at the last meeting, which updates the bylaws with the new Board name and also consolidates the cultural competence work from a separate standing committee into the other standing committees. After a motion by P. Gilbody and a second by J. Froimson, the bylaws were approved unanimously.
- **FY2018 Budget Update:** J. Turgeon noted this year's budget contained Federal cuts, largely offset by increased state funding and new programming from state sources.
- **Program Updates:** J. Turgeon reminded members that program updates are in their meeting packets, and highlighted some of the programs that Board is currently working on:
  - The regional workforce blueprint implementation continues, largely aligning with the efforts coordinated through three regional training and employer consortia (in manufacturing, healthcare, and logistics/transportation) -- the manufacturing consortium has been established and funded through a state grant, and the healthcare consortium has

also been meeting (with potential state funding being available in the future), and the third consortium will be established in mid-February with the assistance of J. Winowski.

- As part of the state manufacturing grant project, area trainings at Quinsigamond Community College and the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's EdHub center, and a new Worcester Public Schools Nightlife program – which is recruiting participants now.
  - The Board has also submitted its four year WIOA plan to state officials. The plan lays out the ways it will locally implement the priorities set forth in the regional blueprint.
  - The Board, Career Centers and all the WIOA Partners continue to meet in order to coordinate their efforts to serve shared customers.
  - Plans are in place for the YouthWorks year round program that will serve 20 out of school – out of work youth the opportunity for a six week subsidized work experience. Planning is also beginning for the summer jobs program, with a community planning session on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm at the Worcester Public library. Members are welcomed to attend.
  - The Worcester Jobs Fund is currently recruiting for the spring Building Pathways (construction preparation) program, a phlebotomy class, and a commercial driver's license (CDL) training.
  - The Board is also working with the Worcester Chamber of Commerce, QCC and others to help recruit employers for a state funded apprentice program in IT – in order to help bring this program to our region, we will need to have employers committed to hire 12 IT employees (from specific IT occupations, such as coding and cyber-security).
- **Program Spotlight:**
    - The Board then welcomed Drew Weymouth from the Worcester Public Schools who gave a presentation regarding the newly developed Innovation Pathways program which allows students at the academic high schools to participate in an after school vocational training program for manufacturing, IT, healthcare, or construction/engineering throughout their Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years (the first year focuses upon work readiness, followed by the technical training, and then a senior year internship or capstone project). Board members were asked to consider partnering with the schools to offer internship opportunities. During the conversation regarding the program, the need to do a better job of preparing our youth in coding/IT skills was brought up by L. Bueno, asking whether we as a Board to help develop programs prior to high school, as this is too late to begin this education and exposure. D. Weymouth stated Worcester Public Schools has some limited programs but the overall point was accurate. J. Turgeon stated this aligns with one of the major goals of the regional blueprint and will follow up with L/ Bueno to determine methods to begin this work.
  - **Member Announcements:**
    - Jil Winowski announced Tri State Truck has expanded into several new locations and will be changing their name.
  - **Adjournment:** The meeting was then adjourned upon a motion, second and unanimous vote. The next MCRWB full board meeting is Thursday, April 18, 2019.

*Respectfully drafted by, J. Turgeon; MCRWB*