A State that Works

REGION 3 WORKS COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 18, 2013
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
JOINT OFFICES OF NE IN REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP & NEIN WORKS
200 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 910
FORT WAYNE, IN 46802
MINUTES

PRESENT: Cindy Atkinson, Dawn BonAmi, Patrick Buesching, Nathan Fink, Tim Holcomb, Robert Palmer, Grant Porter, Kathleen Randolph, John Sampson, Debra Stam, Douglas Thieme

Call to Order

Council chair John Sampson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.; a quorum was present. Members and all others in attendance introduced themselves.

Consent Agenda

Today's agenda and the minutes of the October 24, 2013 were sent in advance of the meeting for members' review. Deb Stam moved to approve the minutes as presented. Nate Fink seconded the motion; the motion carried.

John Sampson, council chair, reviewed the meeting agenda and explained that the meeting would largely focus on presentations designed to deepen council members' understanding of Career and Technical Education (CTE) at the secondary level. At a subsequent meeting a presentation will be made on CTE at the post-secondary level.

Career and Technical Education curriculum partnerships

Patrick Buesching, manager at 8020 Inc., a Whitley County based employer, described 8020's partnership with high schools, which led to the company's development of a curriculum that was approved by the Indiana Department of Education and is now implemented in two schools with a roll out in eight additional schools anticipated. The program targets freshman and sophomores and focuses on developing students' 21st century skills, including soft skills, and on technical skills such as auto cad, design, engineering fundamentals and marketing. The course work fits into the Design Technology career pathway and results in up to twelve dual credits with Ivy Tech. The council members agree that this description of a partnership between education and business was helpful as the council continues to evaluate career and technical education opportunities in the region and specifically what the council should be looking for in such partnerships.

Regional Workforce Development Strategies

Gary Gatman, Northeast Indiana Works vice president of strategic initiatives described the workforce development strategies underway in the region. The Region 3 workforce investment board is a business-lead board of 23 members, 18 of whom are business executives. The board's mission is to develop, attract and retain talent to meet the needs of regional industries. The board receives federal, state and private funds to operate a demand-driven talent development system that supports and funds employment and training activities in the region. Gary briefly highlighted the board's core regional strategies: align resources with the Big Goal Collaborative to reach the 60 percent goal; align resources with economic development to support talent needs of the sectors identified by the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership; assist employers in addressing their human resource challenges; support job seeker customers through employment and training activities.

Gary highlighted the region's unifying initiative called the Big Goal Collaborative – a region wide effort to increase the proportion of northeast Indiana residents with a degree or certification that is valued by the regional labor market to 60 percent by 2025. Currently education, business and workforce development leaders are working together to align

CTE funding analysis

resources and programs to meet the Big Goal. This includes career and technical education programming. Gary is facilitating the technical education action team under the Big Goal Collaborative. Ryan Twiss is Director of the Big Goal Collaborative, the key initiative of Vision 2020's 21st Century Talent pillar.

Career and Technical Education

Tim Holcomb, council member and executive director of the Impact Institute provided a presentation on School/CTE funding. Tim was asked by the council to provide information on how CTE is funded, both the sources of the funding as well as the factors that determine funding levels. The council agreed that the funding process is very complex and questioned whether it needed to be so complicated. One member stressed that we need all points on the education continuum to be effective and he complimented Impact Institute on its outcomes (certifications earned by students that meet industry needs) compared to funds invested. It was also mentioned that not all of the CTE programs and certifications provided in the region are relevant to this labor market. The council questioned whether this is squandering CTE resources or not? Is it appropriate that CTE funds are used in other various ways by schools? What are the legal and policy requirements for CTE expenditures? These questions will form the topical discussions to take place in subsequent works council meetings. In subsequent meeting, Ivy Tech will provide a presentation on post-secondary CTE. The council is keenly interested in outcomes for the CTE investments.

Public Comment

John Sampson opened the floor for any comment brought forth by the public who might be visiting the Works Council meeting. He noted that it will be the practice going forward to allow any interested party in the audience to relay information, be it factual or opinion, to the council going forward. There were no comments made, thus the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the council is Monday, December 16th at the same location – 200 East Main Street, Suite 910, Fort Wayne. Materials will be emailed to the council in advance of the meeting. Any members who wish to add items to the agenda should do so my notifying council chair, John Sampson John@neindiana.com or secretary, Kathleen Randolph KRandolph@neinworks.org.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.