



# **CITY OF DETROIT** **MAYOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Friday, March 8, 2019

10:00 am-12:00pm

Location: Detroit Public Safety HQ  
1301 Third Ave, Detroit MI 48226

## **Meeting Minutes** ***Co-Chairs: Cindy Pasky & Dave Meador***

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting of the City of Detroit –Workforce Development Board was called to order at 10:15 am by Workforce Development Board Co-Chair Cindy Pasky.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Chair Pasky asked for a motion to approve the Draft Agenda as presented. A motion was made and supported to adopt the draft as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Draft Minutes from November 2018 Meeting:**

Chair Pasky asked for a motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the December 17, 2018. A motion was made and supported to adopt the Draft Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Co-Chair Report: Cynthia Pasky and Dave Meador:**

Cindy Pasky welcomed everyone in attendance including Hilarie Chambers in her new role as Chief of Staff for the Michigan Secretary of State and Marita Grobbel as the new Executive Director of Reading Works.

Dave Meador provided a recap of the Mayor's State of the City. We are making a lot of progress but the current reality is we still have high poverty and high unemployment but those numbers are coming down. We are doing systemic work that takes time, but we are working hard to increase the number of adults in the workforce. The city is working on bringing new businesses to the city and making sure Detroiters get a chance to get those jobs. We track available jobs daily at [Detroitatwork.com](http://Detroitatwork.com). This year, the Mayor proposed a \$4.5 million increase in the training budget to increase capacity. We have had success in raising money to provide training. There are barriers however, including professional licensing reform, driver's license barriers and help for returning citizens in find background friendly employment.

Cindy Pasky stated we are committed to track results by skill sets, training to placement rates, hires, and retention. Will be able to use objective data to know where to focus our attention in the process.

#### **Jeff Donofrio, Executive Director Workforce Development, City of Detroit:**

##### **Updates**

GDYT: The registration portal is open through March 15th. We once again are targeting 8000 students to be employed for the summer. 250 students are enrolled in a year round career academy through partnership with DPSCD. Jeff Donofrio and Cindy Pasky encouraged Board to host students over the summer.



Detroit Promise: Every Detroit student has a path to a tuition free degree at either a 2 or 4 year school and at the State of the City through the Detroit Promise. The Mayor announced the City is adding technical certifications to the Detroit Promise to create as many career paths as possible. The certification programs have to be Pell-eligible because the Promise is a last dollar in program. Bishop Vann asked if there was a number we are looking at for skilled trades jobs. Jeff responded in the thousands. Hundreds of welders are needed right now. It takes years to become proficient in skills and we are working to build the pipeline and ensure Detroiters are hired. Nicole Sherard Freeman stated that they are looking at the Bridge project in both macro and micro terms. Andra Rush stated that 2.5M skilled trades jobs will be needed and the message has to get pushed down to the education level. Dr Ivery stated that the skills gap is a critical conversation. Parents and young people need to be educated as to the opportunities that are and will be available. Hilarie Chambers made the point that the Detroit Chamber is helping to keep the students enrolled in their second year but there is a gap in the process as there are restrictions on the Promise for adults. Dr Ivery asked how to extend the Promise to older adults. Jeff Donofrio stated that the Governor's proposed Reconnect program would provide college degrees to those age 25 and up. Success coaches are a critical difference of the Detroit Promise and have helped students stay in the program longer. The Chamber is conducting a study. To find out more information on the promise and other youth programs, visit Detroit at Work Youth page-[Detroitatwork.com/youth](http://Detroitatwork.com/youth).

Foundational Skills: Over 90K adults lack a high school diploma or GED in Detroit. Over the last year with help of CSW, Reading Works, and funding from JP Morgan Chase, United Way and others we were able to award funding to accelerated GED/HSE programs. Hilarie Chambers stated that partners are testing different approaches that integrate training and will be able to report back what works. It's an exciting year in our foundational skills efforts.

Dave Meador raised the issue of special needs students leaving high school without a diploma. There is a pilot with Home Depot, Ken's Krew that does vocational placement. United Way and DTE are the initial funders for a pilot to be run in Detroit.

Jeff shared that the Carpenters Union announced they are moving two training centers into to Detroit to train 1500 apprentices. It will be opening in 2021.

At the last meeting we talked about the impact of marijuana legalization on our employers. We created a website and are rolling out public education campaign including posters, videos, and billboards. Employees need to know that even though it is legal, a person can still lose their job. The Barriers Committee is taking the lead.

Nicole Sherard Freeman provided an update on the Gordie Howe International Bridge and the work to build a construction pipeline. There is a six year construction plan and most of the workers will be contractors. Peak of the building will be during 2021-23. Bridging North America has the contract for managing the bridge project.

**Rachel Perschetz, Director of Youth Employment:**

Randolph Update: Strong enrollment with 315 students for 2018-19 school year. Dannis Mitchell from Barton Mallow and Jay Williams from DTE are organizing an Alumni group for people that were students at Randolph to serve as mentors for current students. Students really want to hear from near peers and those who share their same experiences. We are working to strengthen the career pathways with DPSCD. Working with a group from UofM and Urban Alliance to ensure students have soft skills as well as the knowledge they need to do various jobs. These students are being offered jobs.

Breithaupt Update: 491 enrollment for 2018-19 school year. Working to strengthen industry partnerships and build collaboration. Adult education programs will launch this month with Henry Ford College and



Cleary University. Highly recommend the student buffets at Breithaupt and our next Board meeting will be held there. Alycia Meriweather said that the Districts partnership with the City is highly valued.

Golightly Update: We continue to identify the scope of work and the kinds of training that might be available at the school with DPSCD.

#### **Doug Ross, Advisor to Governor Whitmer on MI Prosperity:**

We are working to define the future. Detroit's MWDB is a model for the state. Governor sees opportunity with MI Reconnect and MI Opportunity.

1. As MI Reconnect and MY Opportunity programs work their way through the legislature and administration, how can we ensure usability?
2. What can the state be doing to help more? Need strategy for the next decade so we can meet the goal of moving from 45% of post-secondary credentials to 60% by the end of the next decade.

There's no silver bullet that can dramatically increase education levels, rather we must work on a number of opportunities at the same time. Detroit region is 32<sup>nd</sup> of major US cities for college attainment. Detroit Promise is one such opportunity for expansions, and through MI opportunity program, would be offered to the rest of the state. The Reconnect, targeting adults without college degrees has been launched in Tennessee and has been proposed by Governor Whitmer for Michigan

Bill Robinson stated that Tennessee efforts made a difference in statewide level of education. Jeff Donofrio mentioned that the pre-read Politico article details how Promise and Reconnect programs are seen as economic competitiveness programs rather than free college programs.

#### **Cindy Pasky, Public Comment**

None.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Mayor's Workforce Development Board Chair Pasky requested adjournment of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm. Motion carried

#### **Attendees:**

Cindy Pasky, Co-chair

Dave Meador, Co-chair

Jeff Donofrio, Executive Director

Mike Aaron, Hilarie Chambers, John Carter, Bruce Dall, Bill Dirksen. Mark Gaffney, Marita Grobbel, Mike Haller, Dr Curtis Ivery, Mike McLauchlan, Jean Meyer, Bill Robinson, Andra Rush, Alice Thompson, Bishop Edgar Vann, Frank Venegas, Carla Walker Miller, Steven White, Alycia Meriweather for Dr. Vitti.

