



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Monday, November 25, 2013  
12:00 p.m.  
Whittier Regional Vocational High School  
115 Amesbury Line Road  
Haverhill, MA 01830**

**Members Present:** Joseph Bevilacqua, Chair, Anne Ormond, Peter Matthews

**Members Absent:** Cal Williams

**Staff Present:** Rafael Abislaiman, Barbara Zeimetz

**1.) Call to Order**

A quorum of committee members being present, Board Chairman Joseph Bevilacqua called the meeting to order at 12:10.

**2.) Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Joseph Bevilacqua called for a motion on the minutes of the June minutes.

**Motion by Peter Matthews seconded by Anne Ormond to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2013 Executive Committee meeting minutes as submitted.  
Motion passed.**

**3.) Status/Update on MVWIB Funding and Programs**

We expect all FY 2014 funding to shortly be billable now that the Federal Sequester is over.

Only some youth training was done in the first quarter. There was no adult or dislocated worker training. Staff was paid using carry-in FY2013 funds.

Client flow has been reduced due to UI on-line and the absence of training funds. We have historically had about the second highest client flow in the State and have now moved to 4<sup>th</sup>. Other areas may not have observed UI on-line guidelines as strictly as VWCC. Its State staff initially told customers that they could not help. There was some discussion on whether UI On-line would facilitate a State take-over of workforce development at the expense of the regions.

The State mandate to integrate Municipal and State staff roles was diligently carried out at VWCC. But State unionized staff have mostly refused to do so. Because they know both jobs, municipal staff will be able to avoid some problems previously encountered with State staff.

It was mentioned that young unionized staff are unhappy with their Union due to its preference for senior staff versus better performing ones. The last in first out policy boots out younger employees when there are budget cuts. They are concerned about losing their jobs.

There was a discussion on the lack of clarity at the Federal level. It is impacting State staff performance. Due to political parties' unwillingness to negotiate compromises, there is not much hope that a new WIA will be passed.

It was noted that WIA has had two contradictory impulses – to make employers more globally competitive and to dedicate its funding to the hardest to serve. As a result, staff sometimes see themselves as social service workers and not as job brokers.

The WIB staff hope to take more responsibility for youth programming and operations. That is not a strong VWCC performance area. The WIB will run next summer's State funded youth employment program as is done in other parts of Massachusetts. WIA and Wagner-Peyzer laws prohibit us from operating direct services. We must instead oversee them and set their policies. We can however provide services using non-WIA/WP resources.

Plans on what course of action the Board prefers to take going forward with the new or current CEO were discussed. The options are to continue the status quo relationship with the City of Lawrence and risk complete integration into its fiscal processes, partially separating from it by exercising the 501C3 for non-WIA and Wagner-Peyzer contracts and grants, or more completely separating from it by negotiating a contract with the City whereby the 501C3 would administer all grants. The consensus was to take the middle course. Due to our regional mission, Board members also prefer to stay where we are in Lawrence rather than getting further away from 495 by going downtown.

Members are pleased that a Haverhill Career Center on the Northern Essex Community College campus will soon be opening.

## **5.) Adjournment**

**Having no further business Ann Ormond made a motion to adjourn seconded by Peter Matthews. Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Kivell*

Mary Kivell  
Recorder