

**Workforce Development Council  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 17, 2014**

Mike Bolander called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm at American Produce Express in Okanogan.

**Directors Report**

Dave welcomed Theresa Martinez CPA- Controller, Columbia Fruit and Duane Johnson's alternate, Pablo Villarreal – Regional Supervisor, DSHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to the Board. Theresa returns to the board replacing Mike Wade, Columbia Fruit owner. Pablo supervises DVR staff Moses Lake, Sunnyside, Wapato and Tri-Cities, and serves on the Benton-Franklin WDC.

**Guests**

**Dr. Richard Johnson, Superintendent – Okanogan School District;** Several years ago WorkSource approached the District about collaborating to fund dropout retrieval education at the Center after another District pulled out. Dr Johnson went to his Board and was clear regarding the effect of these dropouts on the Districts performance. Even so, the District voted to contract with WorkSource to serve these students continuing its history of providing varied opportunities for all students.

The WorkSource Center class averages 26 the District's class at the juvenile detention center averages 18. Another 70 youth attend Outreach, an alternative school serving 11 districts. Twenty-six former dropouts received certificates and diplomas this year.

**Dara Farmer, OJT graduate– Cinnamon Twisp Bakery;** Dara reported that she was laid off from an office job about two years ago. Through WorkSource she discovered her lack of computer skills hindered reemployment in the local labor market. She was determined to acquire the skills employers want and made the 60 mile round trip drive from Twisp to Omak three days per week to study computer skills. After unsuccessfully searching for office work, a bakery posted a help wanted sign for a barista. She did not have the skills required for the job but approached the business about On-the-Job Training assistance from WorkSource. OJT got her foot in the door but once hired the company recognized her computer skills (especially QuickBooks), expanded the position and gave her a raise. WorkSource training and support enabled her to become reemployed.

**John Butler, Owner - American Produce Express;** John explained the building was constructed in the 1920's as a flour mill. In 2000, a local physician renovated the mill into an activity center with an Irish pub, roller rink and climbing wall. The business closed after the Doctor left to sail around the world. John purchased the building in 2008 and relocated his apple slicing operation.

American Produce Express started with sliced apples in 2002 shortly after Crunch Pak opened. John started in the sliced fruit business during a time when the apple industry was depressed. Today they provide sliced apples, oranges, and vegetables to over 80 school districts in Washington and Idaho and contracts with distributors that deliver to Montana, Oregon, and California. In most cases, from slicing to the plate is 24hrs.

**March 14 Board Meeting Minutes**

**Shaun Koos moved and Clyde Rasmussen seconded to approve the March 14 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.**

**Okanogan Committee Report**

Dave announced staff will bring budget modifications to the Board next September as there are a couple of grant applications pending. Roni said the Kinross Gold Mine is expected to close in mid-2015 impacting 230 workers in

Okanogan & Ferry Counties. These are high paying jobs and will be difficult to replace. Dave added since the mine is in Ferry County we would likely partner with the Eastern WDC to retrain, reemploy or relocate laid off miners.

**Lavonne Roy moved and John Butler seconded to approve the Okanogan County Service Delivery Budget as presented. Motion passed. Craig Carroll abstained.**

#### **Grant/Adams Committee Report**

ESD administrator Gary Warren reported that Employment Security has 25 pages of unfilled job openings in Grant County. Dave added that Grant County's workforce shrunk by 1,000 workers from April 2013 to April 2014. The population is up since 2009 but the workforce had decreased in part due to baby boomers retiring and long term unemployed dropping out of the workforce.

Grant/Adams budgeted income is mostly due to reduced State Education revenue in Moses Lake and Othello. Fewer dropouts were retrieved last year and that trend is expected to continue as both School Districts strive to retain at-risk students.

**Clyde Rasmussen moved and Pablo Villarreal seconded to approve the Grant/Adams budget as presented. Motion passed.**

#### **Chelan/Douglas Committee Report**

Shaun reported revenue and budgeted expenses are consistent with current year.

**Shaun Koos moved and Tom Boyd seconded to approve the Chelan/Douglas budget as presented. Motion passed.**

#### **Executive Committee Report**

Mike Bolander reported that the executive budget proposes status quo. Furloughs have been worked out of the system. There is a 2% merit increase budgeted. Dave explained the 2% for raises may be apportioned equally to all staff not currently at top pay or used to give selective staff larger increases to maintain market competitiveness. Okanogan WorkSource ESD staff wages are governed by the State of Washington and its collective bargaining agreement.

**Tom Boyd moved and Shaun Koos seconded approval of the Executive budget as presented. Motion passed.**

#### **Vice Chair Vacancy**

Mike's term as Chair ends December, 2014. Federal policy requires the Chair be a business member. We also attempt to rotate the position between the three areas. Our last Chair from Okanogan was Georgia Nelson, Brewster Drug and Hardware co-owner. The board must elect a Chair and Vice-Chair no later than November.

8<sup>th</sup> District U.S. Representative Dave Reichert visited the Wenatchee Center in June. Our five county area falls into three Congressional Districts; Doc Hastings (4<sup>th</sup>), Cathy McMorris (5<sup>th</sup>), and the 8th. Four participants explained how they benefitted from education and training. Rep. Reichert said Workforce Investment appropriations must be protected from cuts.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

#### **Members Present:**

Mike Bolander  
Craig Carroll for Marcia Henkle  
Polo Villarreal for Duane Johnson  
Shaun Koos  
Clyde Rasmussen for Terry Leas  
Theresa Martinez  
Tom Boyd  
John Butler  
Debi Clark  
Roni Holder-Diefenback  
Mary Watson for Jim Richardson  
Lavonne Roy

#### **Members Absent:**

Megan Richardson  
Michelle Price  
Dimitri Mandelis  
Heidi Myers  
Oscar Garza  
Rich McBride  
Irasema Ortiz-Elizalde  
Jonathan Smith  
Peggy Vines  
Polo Garza  
Wayne Johnson

#### **Staff:**

Dave Petersen  
Lisa Romine  
Laura Leavitt  
Mary Hinger

#### **Guests:**

Dr Johnson, Okanogan School District  
Dara Farmer, Cinnamon Twisp Bakery