

**Workforce Investment Board
Merced County Board of Realtors
678 West 18th Street
September 11, 2003 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**



Members Present:

Lee Andersen	Andrea Baker	Benjamin Nicolas
Bob Bittner	Sharon Cresswell	Kathleen Crookham
Ben Duran	Ernie Flores	Peter Fluetsch
John Fowler	Scott Galbraith	Carol Greenberg
Brian Griffin	Robert Harmon	John Heading
Doug Kirkpatrick	Charlie Lambert	Nellie McGarry
Albert Montejano	Anne Newins	Rick Osorio
Carole Roberds	Al Romero	Mike Smith
Helen Sullivan	Mike Sullivan	Steve Tinetti

Members Absent:

Paul Aldrete	Don Bergman	Mike Boardman
Harry Dull	Jerimiah Greggains	Gisela Malone
Ned Miller	Terry Nichols	Ana Pagan
Alfonse Peterson	Tom Tsubota	

Others Present:

Bunny Bentley	Elaine Craig	Dave Cramer
Evelyn Eagleton	Eddie Harding	Holly Newlon
Donna Ornelas	Joanne Presnell	Mayra Rameriz
Penny Sawyer	John Spevak	Jackie Walther-Parnell

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- I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by the Chair, John Heading.
 - II. Introduction of New WIB Members – The newest member, Jeremiah Greggains was not in attendance.
 - III. Approval of Agenda – M/S/C Smith/Fluetsch to approve the agenda as written.
 - IV. Approval of Minutes – M/S/C McGarry/Crookham to approve the minutes of July 17, 2003.
 - V. Public Opportunity to Speak - none
 - VI. Consent Agenda – It was M/S/C McGarry/Smith to approve the consent agenda.
 - a. ITA Policy
 - b. Supportive Services Policy
 - c. Local Plan Modification
 - d. Addition to ETPL
 - e. Performance Measures
 - f. Membership to Youth Council – Taide Hernandez
 - g. Membership to Youth Council – Kristen Miller

VII. Regional Strategic Issues: "Issues In Education"

Panel of Members: Allen Rassmussen, Robert Fore, Lee Andersen, Ben Duran, (absent Paul Alderete)

Lee Andersen gave an overview of the objective for the presentation and a brief overview of the content and introduction of panel members.

Ben Duran addressed the Master Plan of education in the State of California. In addition he provided an overview of the community college systems and the four areas of focus. The four areas are, life long learning, terminal learning, two-year degree program, and economic development.

Allen Rassmussen discussed education as it serves as preparation for employment and higher learning. He noted the need in the workforce has outpaced education. Specifically, the area of technology. Mr. Rassmussen discussed some of the reform issues in education over the years and the challenges achieving those reform issues.

Robert Fore noted facts on skill requirements for new jobs, emphasis on ag related jobs, jobs moving out of the country, need for applied sciences, and the need to raise the standards

Lee Andersen spoke on behalf of Paul Alderete. He noted Los Banos has experienced a 7% growth in student population in the last year. In addition, he reported there was a great need to focus on structural improvement district-wide. Lastly, he noted some specific recommendations for the WIB

- 1) Become aware of the school standards
- 2) Supportive advocates for the education system needs
- 3) Become partners with families and school
- 4) Actively support ballot measures to support school

Mr. Andersen, discussed the support of K-16 efforts, ROP efforts and school to career programs.

Mr. Headding noted some of themes throughout the presentation – those being, reduced funding, challenges of legislative changes, technological challenges, staffing, and structural needs. The floor was then opened to discussion and/or question/answers.

Q. What is the key to improving student achievement ?

A. Use of the master plan, solid instructional programs, well trained teachers, universal pre-school program, early education

Q. How does Merced County compare with achievement scores?

A. The scores appear to be adequate for yearly progress. However, it was noted that educators are looking at a district in Texas as a model for success. The district published scores for public accountability. The scores increased 20%-30%. In addition it was noted that the education system as a whole is looking at English language learners and special education programs and promoting two accountability systems to include these two areas. Under the current accountability system, these areas have negative outcomes because of the combined measurement. This can potentially cause problems for the district if the schools fail to meet their targets.

Q. How do we accelerate the need for rapid technological growth?

A. There needs to be a paradigm shift in the curriculum. In addition, a higher functioning level with continued learning.

- Q. What is the role in charter schools in educating students?
- A. There is currently one public school charter, and several private organization charter schools. It was noted that it would be beneficial to have a public/private collaboration in achieving technological efforts. I was also noted that research suggest that charter schools a little more successful, but overall will not change the education system.
- Q. If the K-12 system is not preparing students for the workforce and 75% of students will attend college, what are we going to do to address the other 25%?
- A. It is anticipated vocational education programs come back, however they will be structured differently. In addition, it is anticipated the system will work on creating internships.
- Q. In regard to Economic Development, and the need to respond to business request for qualified and skilled workforce, what can WIB do to help young people stay engaged?
- A. Campaign to set higher standards.
- Q. What kind of outreach is being done with employers and educators?
- A. It was noted that due to lack of staff, time and money this poses a great challenge. However, it is recommended that this be accomplished by building the channel through Chambers, MCEDCO, and the WIB.

Mr. Headding asked that the panel bring recommendations to the next WIB meeting on how the board can engage and work through these issues.

- VIII.** Advocacy Report - Andrea noted that we have received feedback from Dennis Cardoza on support of WIA. Additionally, a letter was received from Barbara Matthews on worker's comp reform. She thanked the members for letters
- IX.** Operational Reports – Youth Opportunity Program – Holly Newlon shared the Summer YOP year book and noted the work done by students. Additionally, she noted the curriculum also included soft skills and proved to be highly successful.
- X.** Action Agenda
- a. LVN Contract - It was M/S/C – Fowler/Fluetsch to approve the LVN program 2003-2004 through 2004-2005. (abstention – Newins)
- XI.** WIB Strategic Goals
- a. Update Progress – The Chair asked that the committee Chairs to briefly report at the next WIB meeting.
- XII.** Information Items
- a. JCG – Out of School Contract – It was noted that staff are working with JCG to provide clarification on the contract. It was also noted that staff are working on obtaining support documents. It was requested that the WIB get a copy of monitoring report at the next meeting.
 - b. October WIB Retreat
 - c. WIB/BOS Joint Meeting
 - d. Rapid Response Application
 - e. WIB Performance Review Priorities
 - f. Monitoring Report, Jan-Jun 2003
 - g. Grant Application – Disability Program Navigator

- h. EDD Fiscal Procurement Final Monitoring Reporting
- i. California Master Plan for Education – Executive Summary
- j. LMI Updates
- k. Fiscal/Participant Reports
- l. Director's Notes
- m. Committee Reports – www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/wib/wib.html (or faxed upon request)

- XIII.** Spotlight on WIB Member - Tom Tsubota was not in attendance.
- XIV.** Director's Comments – Andrea Baker reported the WIA allocation still not approved. The Senate reauthorization postponed. Ms. Baker will provide a side-by-side comparison of the legislation when it becomes available. The economic impact of child care study has been completed and it anticipated there will be a report at next meeting. The RN program won the CSAC Challenge award.
- XV.** Chair Comments – Mr. Heading request that anyone interested in becoming a committee chair contact him by the end of next week. Mr. Heading noted the joint BOS/WIB meeting will be held October 7, 1:30, at the Board of Supervisor chambers and encouraged 100% attendance. Mr. Heading reported the CWA annual meeting went well and noted a special thanks to Andrea Baker for her presentation at the conference.
- XVI.** Other- none
- XVII.** Next Meeting regular scheduled meeting will be held November 13, 2003.
- XVIII.** Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.