

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
**Youth Committee Meeting**  
January 17, 2019 - 2:30 – 4:00pm  
CareerForce - North Saint Paul  
2266 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North, No. St. Paul, MN 55109

**Members Present**

Karen Gerdin  
Kathy Kittel  
Robert Morse  
Jane Nicholson  
Paul Nikstad

**Members Absent**

Tom Aasheim-EA  
Jennifer Germain-EA  
Larry Gilbertson-EA  
Brian Goodspeed-EA  
Joy Nyabwari  
Tim O'Brien

**Staff/Guests Present**

Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff  
Dunn Yoshitani, Workforce Solutions

---

**Call to Order**

Chair Paul Nikstad called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

---

**Approve November Youth Committee Minutes**

**Motion (Nicholson/Gerdin) to approve the November 29, 2018 Youth Committee minutes as presented.**  
**Motion carried.**

---

**Conflict of Interest Statement**

Nikstad read the statement aloud. Members were asked to review and sign the form.

---

**Updates**

*Outreach to Schools Program:* Yoshitani reported that two interns have been hired so far. He is hoping that a third and perhaps a fourth intern will be hired soon. It was suggested that economic factors may be making it more difficult to fill these positions.

*APEX Career Exploration Program:* Yoshitani stated that Washington County and the Finishing Trades Institute received a \$20,000 grant award. Ramsey County will be a referral partner. With lots of vacancies in the trades, Yoshitani feels this is a great opportunity for our youth. They hope to enroll 30-40 students into the program.

---

**Preliminary PY 18 Youth Performance Outcomes**

A DEED report with preliminary performance outcomes was reviewed. Yoshitani explained that Ramsey County is meeting all its goals. He mentioned that goals for skills gains and median earning have not been set by DEED yet. Yoshitani also provided a supplemental report containing additional performance data. The report showed 208 youth were served. It was noted that no eligible youth are turned away. WIOA mandates that 75% of the funds be spent serving out-of-school youth. Workforce Solutions staff are going to places where out-of-school youth gather. Any suggestions from the committee on connection points are welcomed.

---

**2019 Vern Vick Award**

The proposed nomination form and timeline were reviewed. It was noted that there were several good candidates last year who could be nominated again this year. Nominations will open February 1 and close on March 15. The nominations will be reviewed at the next committee meeting and the award will be presented at the June WIB meeting.

---

**2019 WIB Policy Platform**

The WIB's 2019 Policy Platform drafted by the Policy Committee was reviewed. Gerdin suggested adding a bullet in support of Adult Basic Education services to the first statement. The Platform, with this change, will be forwarded to the Policy Committee and then to the Executive Committee and full WIB for final approval. Kittel reported that career exploration in the junior high schools has been incorporated into the Saint Paul Public School's strategic plan. Adults currently working in the trades, students in the high school pathways programs and representative from other organizations are coming into the junior highs to talk about careers.

---

## **Committee Member Updates**

*Job Corps:* Nikstad reported that Job Corps is implementing My Pace, a new Department of Labor program where students spend their first 30 hours exploring interests, skills and career options. The information is used to create goals and a formal needs assessment to get them into a career pathway. At the end, students meet with Job Corps staff to track their goals. Nikstad also stated that enrollment at the Saint Paul site is full but they are always looking for new referrals and partners.

*Saint Paul Public Schools: Career and Technical Education:* Kittel explained that the school district's strategic plan includes career-based learning for all grades, Pre-k to 12, with the goal of preparing each student for high wage, high demand careers, early college credits, and internships/apprenticeships. The career pathways in the high schools are focused on emerging technologies. They are looking for construction teachers.

*YWCA of Saint Paul:* Massey provided an overview of the programming offered through the YWCA, focused on four key areas: fitness, youth programs, housing, and employment. The YWCA provides culturally specific employment counseling and is trying to implement more integrated approaches. One way this is being done is by bringing employment and housing together for the full family. Massey also mentioned that they focus on short term training in high demand, high wages industries. Their CDL program is very popular and graduates get placed immediately. Other training tracks are healthcare (CNA), office and culinary. The youth programs are geared toward youth who are not destined for college or youth who are preparing for college.

*Century College:* Nicholson mentioned that the deans are now aligned by career pathways. The school is also focusing on exposing women to high wage jobs. After some discussion, it was noted that the colleges and high schools should work together to align their pathways.

*Mid-County Bank:* Morse reported on the initiatives in the White Bear Lake and Vadnais Heights area to fill the workforce gap. The fab lab at White Bear Lake High School is training students for careers in manufacturing. Several local employers are now offering paid internships to students. There is interest in expanding the program to automotive, IT and other technical areas. Morse also announced that he was recently appointed to a seat on the Vadnais Heights City Council.

*Saint Paul Public Schools: Adult Basic Education:* Gerdin explained that the Hubbs Center offers extensive job training programs. Five students in the para professional program are now working in the schools. Gerdin also mentioned that a GED program is now being offered online. Overall enrollment is down due to low immigration and the good economy. English language classes are being offered at business locations, such as the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Airport. The first airport cohort will graduate in February.

---

## **Other**

Yoshitani reported that the Workforce Solutions staff is starting work on the Local Youth Plan. He asked for volunteers from the committee to review the draft Plan. Once completed, the Plan will be shared with the entire committee before going to the WIB and Ramsey County Board. It will be discussed in more detail at the next committee meeting.

---

## **Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 pm.

**Next Meeting:** March 21, 2019, 2:30-4:00 in Training Room B, North Saint Paul Affiliate Workforce Center