

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, June 1, 2023, 2:30 - 4:00pm
Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN

WIB Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Becky Degendorfer
Karen Gerdin
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser
Lisa Guetzkow
Lauren Hunter
Susan Jambor
Chad Kulas
Pamela Maldonado
Yolanda McIntosh
Rena Moran
Sean Mullan
Don Mullin
Paul Nikstad
Koami Pedado
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Rick
Sheri Riemers
Trish Stevens
Tanya Velishek
Ramona Wilson
Tracy Wilson

Members Absent

Shym Cook-EA
Jennifer Germain-EA
Hyon Kim-EA
Tony Lusiba-EA
Gaye Adams Massey
James McClean-EA
John Perlich-EA
Camila Mercado Michelli-EA
Julie Thiel-EA
Chris Tolbert-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Jonathan Banks
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Ivan Casique-Sanchez, GAP School Student
Breanna Galuska, St. Paul Public Schools
Kristen Hoyles, Goodwill
Caroline Karanja, Hack the Gap
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Brad Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Joe Nathan, MN Association of Charter Schools
Dr. Tolulope Monisola Ola, Restoration for All
Genesis Ortiz, GAP School Student
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
Khalique Rogers, Center for School Change
Mary Russell, Executive Committee Member
Jared Smith, Tree Trust
Tony Zahradka, Change Inc.

Call to Order & Announcements

Chair Chad Kulas called the meeting to order at 2:33pm and read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome our partners and guests joining us today.
- WIB meetings will be held in this room through October of this year. Restrooms are located directly across from the elevators in the main lobby.
- Welcome back to Lauren Hunter who recently rejoined the WIB. In just a few minutes, I will invite her to come up and introduce herself.
- On behalf of the WIB and staff, I want to extend a sincere thank you and best wishes to Karen Gerdin, Sean Mullan, Julie Thiel and Ramona Wilson who are not seeking reappointment for another term on the WIB. All of them have made tremendous contributions to the community and this board.
- WIB members and guests are invited to attend any committee meetings. All agendas and minutes are available on the WIB's webpage. All committee meetings are being conducted via video conference. Instructions to participate are included in the meeting invites and are also posted on the WIB's webpage.
- Article 8 of the WIB's Bylaws state that "...members shall not cast a vote on any matter regarding the provision of services by the member or by an entity that the member represents or on any matter that would provide direct or indirect financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member". If you believe you have a conflict on any items on today's agenda, please abstain from discussion and voting.
- The next WIB meeting will be on Thursday, August 10, 2023, from 2:30-4pm here in the 1st Floor Conference Center at the Ramsey County Plato Building. Please note: the August meeting was moved out a week to the second Thursday.

Land Acknowledgement

Pedado read the land acknowledgement aloud.

New Member Introduction

Kulas introduced Lauren Hunter. Hunter then shared a brief overview of her job as the Associate Director of External DEI Partnerships at UnitedHealth Group and shared that she is excited to work with everyone on the WIB in a greater capacity.

Approve Consent Agenda

June Meeting Agenda

April Meeting Minutes

WIB Financial Report

Executive Committee Member Reappointment-Tolbert

Motion (Mullin/Jambor) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

YouthBuild Construction Program Highlights

Becker introduced Hoyles, Zahradka and Smith who are core partners in the YouthBuild Construction Program. Each shared how their programs prepare workers for quality jobs and promote the attainment of skills and knowledge necessary for success in a knowledge-based economy. The programs specifically serve opportunity youth ages 16-24 who left high school without a diploma and have the greatest challenges in finding quality jobs. Becker shared information about the home on the west side of Saint Paul that GAP School students built, which goes on the market soon.

Expanding Opportunities for Youth to Build Homes

Rogers led a discussion focused on the need for changes in education, which programs should receive more funding, challenges getting information out about the YouthBuild program and recruitment efforts. Nathan expressed the importance of choices made today by educators, parents, businesspeople, students and policymakers and how they will determine the future of the next generation. Zahradka, Casique-Sanchez and Ortiz shared about their experiences in the YouthBuild program at GAP School.

Vern Vick Award Presentation – Dr. Tolulope Monisola Ola

Nikstad introduced the 2023 Vern Vick Award winner, Dr. Tolulope Monisola Ola, Founder and Executive Director of Restoration For All, Inc. He thanked her for her exceptional contributions to the support and empowerment of Ramsey County's youth, particularly those facing challenges related to the multiple pandemics of our time through personal and career development. Dr. Ola's nominator shared the unique local influence Dr. Ola has made to improve the lives of young people. Dr. Ola expressed appreciation for the recognition.

Other

Becker provided information on the fair opportunity work being done by an advisory group of community partners and the preliminary plans for the 2023 Welcome Home Party which will be held in September.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 10, 2:30-4pm – Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN