

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Trent Clark
Chair

B. J. Swanson
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 West Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Workforce Development Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm (Mountain Time)

Meeting Conducted By: B.J. Swanson, Committee Chairman

Committee Members: BJ Swanson, Kelly Kolb, Jason Hudson, ~~Christi Reed~~, ~~Todd Schwarz~~ John Smith, Scott Syme, ~~Lori Wolff~~, Jani Revier, Tom Kealey, ~~Tom Schultz~~

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Paige Nielebeck, Caty Solace, Matthew Thomsen, Amanda Ames

Guests:

Call to Order at 2:02 PM

Roll Call – Quorum met

Review Agenda – no changes to the agenda

Approve September 17 & October 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Kealey to approve the September 17 & October 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Mr. Kolb. Motion carried.

Legislative Initiatives Policy

Ms. Secrist reviewed changes made to the draft policy during the October meeting. Please see attached document.

In the document it says that the Council "advises" on legislation changes. Could the Council recommend making a change to legislation to better align with the Governor's vision? Also, would WDC staff time count as putting funds toward a legislative initiative?

- Part of the Council's role is to advise, and when appropriate, the Council could provide information to better align existing policy. This would fall under the process for Council-led or Partner-led initiatives.
- Staff time would not fall under expending funds. The statement is intended to clarify that the Council cannot host an event or otherwise spend money advocating on behalf or against something.

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The Committee requests that the policy be changed to say that “Ms. Secrist will report to the Executive Committee and the Council any testimony by the end of the week that the testimony is provided” in the last sentence of the document.

Motion by Mr. Kealey to approve the proposed policy with the added change to include updates from Ms. Secrist to the Executive Committee and Council on any testimony by the end of the week the testimony is provided. Second by Ms. Revier. Motion carried.

Review Partner Legislative Priorities

Ms. Solace requested from the Council’s partners any legislative initiatives, priorities, line item requests, etc. Ms. Secrist reviewed the list that was created from this collection. Please see attached document.

If the Governor does not recommend an item that is on the list, does it get taken off?

- Yes. It states in the policy that these items are all subject to the approval of the Governor’s Office.

With respect to the Department of Commerce item, how many of the Business Advantages has Idaho awarded?

- Roughly 2 to 3 a year, per Mr. Kealey. This is a fairly small number but is likely due to businesses not being aware of the program.
- Is there a projected cost on this program?
 - Mr. Kealey will check to see if Commerce can get a cost. Commerce is working on the proposed fiscal impact of 10 additional years right now.
- This does not seem like something the Council should be considering. How does it align with the strategic plan?
 - This program helps create investment of jobs being created in rural Idaho. The Council could make a case for supporting this type of work.

How comprehensive does this list need to be?

- That is a question the Committee needs to decide on. How direct or how broad does the Committee want the list to be?
- The presented list has already been narrowed down significantly from the responses Ms. Solace received from the Council’s partners.

Besides the mastery-based education, it is hard to see how the other State Department of Education initiatives apply to the Council.

- All the items the State Department of Education listed align with our strategic plan at a high level in “Improving the effectiveness, quality, and coordination of programs and services designed to maintain a highly skilled workforce.” If our youth don’t graduate college and career ready, then we will have to continue to invest in efforts that remediate what could have been accomplished in K-12.
- Some of the things on the list would come off if the Governor was not in support of them.

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- It does not hurt to leave all the initiatives on the list unless the Council is adamantly opposed to one of them. This document is providing guidance to the Council staff and the Executive Committee on what initiatives to testify on, if asked. This list will also go before the Full Council for approval.

Motion by Mr. Kolb to recommend approval to the Full Council of the Legislative Priorities list as presented. Second by Ms. Revier. Motion carried.

ETP Policy Update

In July the Council approved a new methodology to align eligible training providers to in-demand occupations. Currently, if training for an occupation does not meet the requirements to be placed on the Eligible Training Provider List, there are two ways the training provider can appeal. The training provider can request that a hearing officer review the appeal, or they can bring it to the Council. The timing described in the policy is that if the Council is meeting in 14 days or more, the appeal would be added to the agenda. If the Council meeting is in less than 14 days, the appeal would have to wait until the next quarterly Council meeting. Ms. Secrist has been working with Idaho Department of Labor to consider options that would streamline the appeals process.

Since the approval of the new methodology, the Council has received two appeals. Both appeals were denied due to the training providers not meeting deadline requirements in the policy. The two appeals were made by training providers in Southwest Idaho in the occupations of welding, telecommunications line worker, and crane operator.

In Southwest Idaho, there is a much larger spread of occupations and limiting to the top 150 may not reflect the workforce needs accurately. The policy could expand the number of occupations used for selection or include the number of openings and wages as a factor. Does the Committee want to do something now or wait until the late Spring? The Committee did require that the policy be reviewed on an annual basis. The next review would be in July of 2020.

The Committee would like to work discussion on the ETP Policy into meeting agendas over the next few months to prepare for the update of the policy in July.

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm.