

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MARCH 22, 2005

8:30 A.M.

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

PRESENT: B. Blanchard, R. Bohman, D. Cooper, L. Dillon, J. Fogler, C. Haynes, L. Leonard, J. Maglione, T. Mallinson, D. Marsh, J. Mattick, P. McKee, J. McPheeters, M. Opperman, R. Pass, L. Patz, A. Pedersen, S. Pronti, J. Rossi, I. Stein, M. Turnbull, J. Wesche

EXCUSED: P. Carey, R. Fortier, D. Herath, J. Little, N. Zahler

ABSENT: T. Colbert, W. Cooke, D. Czerwonka, P. Gardner, K. Mann, S. White

GUESTS: T. Joseph, Tompkins County Legislature; L. Carrere, Tompkins County Area Development; S. Gillis, TST BOCES; J. Serino, S. DiBenedetto; Broome-Tioga Workforce Investment Area; T. Doherty, J. Sorbello; NYSDOL; V. Zeppelin, Tech Prep; B. Heath, Tompkins County Office of Employment and Training; L. Dohlert, Primet; P. Govang, Cornell University

STAFF: Debra Giordano, Jennifer Luu

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Turnbull called the meeting to order at 8:33 and introductions followed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The World of Skills Job Fair is scheduled for April 19th at the Holiday Inn. There are over 30 employers participating and businesses who have not yet registered may do so by visiting the Board's website.

Also on April 19th the Job Service Employer Committee in conjunction with Tompkins Workforce New York will be holding a forum with Peter Jones from Bond, Schoeneck & King to discuss updates on federal, state, and local employment related laws and regulations, protected classifications of the workforce, the Fair Credit Report Act among other legal updates.

Mr. Pass reported on a recent article in a Elmira area newspaper that spoke about the skilled labor shortages and the disconnect between schools and the needs in Chemung County. Mr. Marsh reported that the Skilled Trades Diversity Consortium will be holding its first annual careers in construction day at the Lansing Rink on April 12, 2005. There are over 600 students and chaperones attending from area schools and 42 exhibitors have signed up to participate. The idea is to bring vendors in from all facets of the construction industry and provide exposure to students. This is an excellent opportunity for youth and will provide a hands-on demonstration in the skilled trades.

Ms. Dillon announced that over 200 of her colleagues from around New York State are in town for a conference at the Statler Hotel. She thanked Ms. McPheeters and the Chamber for their assistance in providing brochures.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

It was Moved by Mr. Pedersen, seconded by Mr. Pass and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of January 25, 2005.

Board Appointment(s)

It was Moved by Ms. Dillon, seconded by Ms. McPheeters and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the appointment of Dr. Ellen O'Donnell, Superintendent at TST BOCES to the Board. Ms. O'Donnell was unable to attend the meeting and will be introduced at a future meeting.

Job Link Funding

It was Moved by Ms. Opperman, seconded by Ms. McPheeters and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the additional funding requests totaling \$15,707 as outlined below and authorize the Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board to negotiate and/or amend the necessary contracts to reflect the new funding levels.

<i>Additional Services</i>	<i>\$5,520</i>
<i>Staff Development</i>	<i>\$5,259</i>
<i>Center Operating</i>	<i>\$6,628</i>
<i>Miscellaneous Collaborative Costs</i>	<i>\$800</i>
TOTAL	\$18,207

Ms. Opperman stated the Youth Employment Council reviewed requests totaling \$53,930 and deferred \$25,612 of those requests for further review.

Amend Residency Requirements for Youth Job Link Eligibility

It was Moved by Ms. Opperman, seconded by Ms. McPheeters and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the amendment to the requirements for Youth Job Link eligibility to allow participation by youth in Tompkins County if they live within a Tompkins County school district, or demonstrate an attachment to the Tompkins County labor market (prior employment, only feasible transportation option is to Tompkins County, or other reasons that demonstrate attachment to the Tompkins County labor market). Youth in Tompkins County state-run facilities are ineligible unless they meet any of the above criteria immediately prior to placement in the facility

Mr. Joseph asked why the requirement is necessary and stated that in the County's economic development efforts more emphasis is being placed on using a regional approach. Ms. Giordano explained that the funds come from the federal government and it is possible to serve residents from out-of-the County; however, every county receives a certain amount of funding and based on the limited resources here guidance is provided on how the funds should be used.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Giordano distributed and commented on her written report. The full report can be accessed on the web at: <http://www.tompkinsworkforceny.org/March2005staffreport.pdf>

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN AN EMERGING TECHNOLOGY COMPANY

Mr. Leonard Dohlert, President and CEO of Primet Precision Materials, gave a presentation on Primet's move to Ithaca, the company's staffing experience and impressions of Tompkins County.

Mr. Dohlert stated Primet is an advanced materials company that creates better performance in solar cells, fuel cells, and other consumer-friendly industrial applications. Primet developed and is the sole owner of its advanced technology.

He stated Primet's decision to move to Ithaca was based on the high quality labor force, the high quality consultants and advisors, including retirees, the low cost of doing business, and the synergy with Cornell University. They have a current staff of eight people, six of whom were hired after the move to Ithaca, and for each job opening they have received numerous qualified applicants from the area. The company's impressions are Ithaca is a great place to do business, but has an unnecessarily negative self-image about its ability to compete in the national business environment and in its ability to attract qualified employees. He

stated Cornell is a significant resource and the underutilized manufacturing infrastructure of the region is another resource for emerging technology companies.

Mr. Dolhert stated areas that Primet would like to see improvements made in are better transportation out of Ithaca, lower property taxes and a better funding system for start-up companies. He suggested a local job board, similar to Monster.com, would also be an asset to the community.

TOP TOPICS IMPACTING THE WORKFORCE

Ms. Blanchard stated she and Ms. Giordano have been participating in a committee that was formed to ensure implementation of the Economic Development Strategy. Some of the biggest challenges in Tompkins County are property taxes, rising assessments, and the lack of variety in housing. Urban living is limited and there is a need for different housing designs and more should be done to get these developed.

Ms. Stein asked why the private market isn't responding to the situation and building more housing. Ms. Blanchard stated she believes it may be because of the zoning and height restrictions within the County that deter developers. Ms. McPheeters stated limited sewer and water lines in some areas and existing infrastructure in outlying areas are also a factor. She stated that retirees also face housing issues as well.

Ms. Blanchard stated the economic development committee will continue to discuss this situation and asked that anyone with comments to please let the group know.

ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Bohman and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. in the Borg-Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library.