

LWIA 21  
Workforce Development Board  
Youth Committee  
November 20, 2024

Chair Chuck McEvers called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was done by self-introduction and sign-in sheet

**In-Person**

Chris Casey  
Dr. Val Harris  
Robert Heape  
Matt Jones  
David Lacy  
Chuck McEvers  
Marsha Mueller-Boehler  
Jennifer Russell  
Betty Scheldt

**Remote**

Dirk Muffler

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Chuck McEvers asked if there were any comments or corrections on the August 22, 2024, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet. There being none:

**Motion:** It was moved by Dr. Harris and seconded by Robert Heape to approve the August 22, 2024, Youth Committee Minutes as presented. All votes aye. **Motion Carried.**

**Discussion Points**

Membership recruitment was discussed. Matt suggested possibly a strong parent advocate. We could recruit from within the community, it doesn't necessarily have to be a board member. At one time, there were students as board members to get a different perspective on ideas. Dr. Harris asked if we could provide transportation to a youth member. Matt explained that we give mileage reimbursements to WDB members, there's a possibility it could be done for a student as well.

Matt reported on the budget in Ben's absence. Mileage reimbursement for the students may need to be cut back due to the budget constraints. Ben will provide an update on the budget at the February 2025 meeting.

Chris Casey mentioned other schools have reached out regarding start-up of programs similar to Chuck's at North Greene High School. Southwestern and Hillsboro have been in discussion, but we need to see where our budget numbers stand.. Hillsboro school seemed more interested in job

shadowing. Bunker Hill wants to shape their youth program like Chuck's, but only two students have signed up as of now.

Dr. Harris discussed the Youth Taking Back the Trades Grant, which is focused on Avionics. They have already participated in some field trips. The students can visit places like West Star or Gulf Stream Aviation. The goal is to provide students with exposure to the aviation industry. High school students can receive dual credits by attending high school in the morning and avionics classes in the afternoon. The college is also applying for funding for sheet metal workers and upholstery technicians. Val also discussed the challenges of promoting students to GED (Illinois High School Diploma) classes.

Jennifer Russell reported on a new trade school opening in Springfield this year. The school's name is San Damiano School for the Trade and is a Catholic-based school.

There was a discussion regarding addressing students' academic struggles and how to get the student back on the right path for graduation. Dr. Harris suggested it be put on the meeting agenda for the next meeting.

Matt asked about updates on the day-care project Chuck has been working on for the school. Chuck stated it is in the development stage. Matt said it was discussed at the ROE 40 meeting he attended earlier in the day. It was brought up as a solution for students with children so they can finish out their GED or high school diploma with their child in the daycare. He then passed out an article he recently found regarding a business owner who tried to help his workers with daycare at the worksite. Dirk asked if Lewis and Clark possibly have a dual credit course in early childhood and let the students work in the day-care. Chuck stated that was the idea, to let the students attend childhood classes in their junior year and then during their senior year they would work in the daycare.

Matt also informed the committee that he hasn't given up on the community garden project with Carlinville, but there just hasn't been much contact recently.

The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

  
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Chuck McEvers, Chair

Date 2/27/25