
MEETING MINUTES

BROWARD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC. & CAREERSOURCE BROWARD COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Partnership Meeting #257
Thursday, August 22, 2024
CareerSource Broward Boardroom
2890 West Cypress Creek Road, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309**

The Board and Council are reminded of the conflict-of-interest provisions. In declaring a conflict, please refrain from voting or discussion and declare the following information: 1) your name and position on the Board 2) the nature of the conflict and 3) who will gain or lose as a result of the conflict. Please also fill out form 8B prior to the meeting whether or not you are able to attend the meeting if you have a conflict with any agenda items.

Attendees: Mayor Josh Levy, Mayor Dean Trantalis, Commissioner Tim Ryan, Zac Cassidy, Dr. Ben Chen, Keith Costello, Paul Farren, Dr. Howard Hepburn, Frank Horkey, Kevin Kornahrens, Francois Leconte, Dawn Liberta, Felipe Pinzon, Richard Shawbell, Shane Strum, Bob Swindell, Marjorie Walters, Lori Wheeler, Tara Williams, and Heiko Dobrikow, who chaired the meeting.

Guests: Pamela Sands, Eugen Bold, Carolyn Augustin, Kathleen Hagan, Marcela Henriquez, Meg Kroll, Neeta Rancourt, Jake Stratmann, and Joel Shine.

Staff: Carol Hylton, Ron Moffett, Mark Klinecicz, Rochelle Daniels, Tony Ash, Kim Bryant, Barbara Cevieux, and Samantha Vazquez.

PRESENTATION

Board Chair Heiko Dobrikow welcomed Pam Sands, who recently resigned from her position on the Board. He acknowledged her membership since February 2006 and her tenure as BWDB Chair from 2013 to 2014. He expressed appreciation for her contributions over the years and then invited Ms. Sands to address the Board.

Ms. Sands stated her current career commitments are demanding more of her time. Ms. Sands credited CSBD with shaping her career, particularly in understanding public workforce policies and expanding access to talent in the community. Looking ahead, she expressed excitement for the future of the board and optimism for the opportunities it will continue to create for Broward County's residents and employers.

Mr. Dobrikow and the CSBD Council of Elected Officials presented a plaque to Board member Pam Sands.

MISSION MOMENT

The Marine Career Pathways video was presented, showcasing the various opportunities available in the marine industry. It highlighted the yacht service technician apprenticeship program as one of the avenues through which job seekers can connect with these opportunities.

Mr. Dobrikow acknowledged the contributions of the team and Board member Lori Wheeler, as well as the marine industry employer representatives who made the project possible, Joel Shine and Carolyn Augustin of Derektor Shipyards, Kathleen Hagan of FHG Marine Engineering Inc., John Kelly, Marcela

Henriquez, and Meg Kroll of Bradford Marine, Neeta Rancourt of Atlantic Technical College, and Jake Stratmann of Starboard Yacht Group.

Mayor Dean Trantalis inquired about the typical size of the graduating class and the number of graduates.

Ms. Wheeler responded the program usually starts with around 12 students per class. To date, three classes have graduated, and two are in process. Ms. Wheeler explained that the program is two years long, with two classes running concurrently, one in the first year and one in the second. Another class is scheduled to begin in January.

Carol Hylton stated that this and the other three videos under development aim to address the need to direct the community and job seekers toward in-demand occupations. Ms. Hylton explained the video will be shared with Ms. Wheeler for distribution within the Marine industry and our community partners. Ms. Hylton indicated that we are coordinating with Maria "Loli" Formoso, Director of Technical Adult and Community Education with the School Board, to distribute the video to students, parents, and BRACE advisors. It will also be incorporated into the curriculum for career champions at schools, shared with technical colleges, and promoted through Claim Your Future for juniors and My Next Move events. The video will also be featured on our website and social media and sent to about 3,000 summer youth applicants to share with their parents and our youth providers.

Ms. Hylton expressed gratitude to the employers present and online, Atlantic Technical College as well as Ms. Wheeler and CSBD staff members, Tony Ash, Alex Shaw, Barbara Cevieux, and Mark Klinecicz for their dedication in creating a valuable resource that highlights the industry and its in-demand occupations.

Mayor Josh Levy inquired about the availability of career resources within Broward County high schools. He suggested the idea of having a career office serving as something similar to a "My Next Move" available year-round, allowing students to regularly explore various career paths, including those beyond traditional college routes.

Dr. Howard Hepburn affirmed that the BRACE advisors at all high schools are dedicated year-round to educating students about various career opportunities, including those in the marine industry. He expressed support for the apprenticeship program and offered to help ensure it is effectively promoted within high schools. He will also ensure that the information reaches students through his cabinet meetings and other appropriate channels.

Ms. Wheeler expressed her gratitude to Dr. Hepburn and Ms. Rancourt for their support and acknowledged the exceptional efforts of the entire CareerSource team in producing the video. She thanked everyone involved and emphasized the significant effort required to achieve this milestone.

Mr. Dobrikow and the CSBD Council of Elected Officials presented Certificates of Appreciation to the employers and invited them to address the Board.

Jake Stratmann shared his personal journey, noting his initial struggle with academics and eventual shift to a career in the marine industry. He emphasized the positive impact the video can have on youth in choosing a career path.

Marcela Henriquez expressed gratitude for the program, noting its significant impact on students who are exploring different career options and discovering their capabilities.

Kathleen Hagan emphasized the importance of providing exposure to high-earning opportunities outside traditional academic paths.

Ms. Rancourt praised the partnership between CSBD, the marine industry and Atlantic Technical College, reflecting on the progress and success of the program. She mentioned the exposure it provides to a large number of adult students and expressed excitement about sharing the video and its positive impact.

Mr. Dobrikow related the discussion to the World of Works event, noting how visual aids like the video can inspire students by helping them see themselves in such careers. He thanked the employers for their participation and contribution to the event's success.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the 6/27 BWDB meeting #256.

On a motion made by Mayor Dean Trantalis and seconded by Keith Costello, the BWDB/CSBD Council of Elected Officials unanimously approved the minutes of the 6/27 meeting #256.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items are items that may not need individual discussion and may be voted on as one item. Any member wishing to discuss an item may move to have it considered individually.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Monthly Performance Report

The performance report for June is provided. The data reflects that within the Big 7 Regions, CSBD is in a four-way tie for 1st in WIOA Entered Employment Rate (EER), 1st in Welfare Transition (WT) All Family Participation Rate and Two-parent Participation Rate, and 3rd in WTP, Wagner Peyser and Veterans EER.

2. Letters of Support

Letters of support were written for 1) Goodwill South Florida application to the US DOL for its Skill-building, Training, Empowerment, and a Pathway program 2) OIC of South Florida's Workforce Pathways for Youth proposal and the following Quick Response Training grant applications 3) Keith and Associates 4) 7 Air 5) Aerothrust MRO 6) Gold Aviation Service 7) Longhorn Gator 8) Xtreme Aviation 9) Mako Surgical and 10) West Marine.

On a motion made by Mayor Josh Levy and seconded by Keith Costello, the BWDB/CSBD Council of Elected Officials unanimously approved the minutes of the Consent Agenda of 8/22.

REGULAR AGENDA

These are items that the Council and Board will discuss individually in the order listed on the Agenda. Individuals who wish to participate in these discussions may do so merely by raising their hand during the discussion and being recognized by the Chair. The Chair will determine the order in which each individual will speak and the length of time allotted.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Broward Workforce Development Board Appointment

Considered recommending the appointment of Ms. Catherina Rozario, the interim Director for Area 7 for Vocational Rehabilitation, who was referred to us by Mr. Armando Oliva, Chief, Bureau of Field Services, for the State Vocational Rehabilitation Division. Vocational Rehabilitation is a core partner and a mandatory member of the Broward Workforce Development Board, Inc. The CSBD Council of Elected Officials appoints board members following a recommendation from the BWDB. Approved at the 8/12 Executive Committee meeting. *(This is in alignment with the Board's goal to maintain our role as workforce development leaders through advocacy by the board, collaboration, and providing information and intelligence to stakeholders with feedback from the community.)*

Heiko Dobrikow presented the item. There was no further discussion.

On a motion made by Mayor Dean Trantalis and seconded by Mayor Josh Levy, the CSBD Council of Elected Officials unanimously approved Ms. Catherina Rozario's appointment to the BWDB.

2. Replacement of Air Conditioning System in Building "B" Main Office

Considered the ratification of a charge to the General Fund due to the emergency purchase of a new air conditioner for the B building at 2890 W. Cypress Creek Blvd. Following the failure of the air conditioning system in early August, making it extremely hot for staff to work, CSBD obtained quotes for a new air conditioner, which came in at \$19,950. The unit is considered a capital purchase (a useful life of more than 1 year and a cost greater than \$5,000), so we are required to request approval from the State, which was granted. Per the State's approval, the cost of the air conditioner had to be allocated, meaning a portion of the purchase had to be charged to indirect costs, could not be paid by the grants, and was charged to the General Fund. Under the emergency powers granted to the President/CEO by the governing boards, the charge was authorized so staff could return to their offices. The amount charged to the General Fund was \$4,363.40 and will be recouped over 5 years through depreciation, which can be charged to the grants. The depreciation collected will be used to repay the General Fund. *(This is in alignment with the Board goal to improve the sustainability of the workforce system through increased funding, technology and relevancy.)*

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Rochelle Daniels, General Counsel, to present it, which she did.

Mayor Dean Trantalis inquired whether a reserve fund is maintained for unexpected capital improvements or if these expenses are covered on an as-needed basis. Ms. Hylton confirmed that expenses are handled as needed. Mayor Trantalis suggested that considering a reserve fund for unexpected maintenance items during the budgetary process might be beneficial. Mr. Dobrikow agreed, proposing that the matter be referred to the Audit Committee to explore the establishment of a reserve fund for emergencies.

On a motion made by Mayor Dean Trantalis and seconded by Mayor Josh Levy, the BWDB/CSBD Council of Elected Officials unanimously ratified a charge to the General Fund due to the emergency purchase of a new air conditioner for B building at 2890 W. Cypress Creek Blvd.

3. Central One-Stop Lease

Considered approval to enter into an open-ended lease for 2660 & 2680 W. Oakland Park Blvd. and if the State agrees include 1) an option to purchase and 2) a right of first refusal. Although the State has decided to sell the buildings in the plaza where our central one-stop is located, they agreed to retain the two buildings at the far west end of the plaza for CSBD to move under an open-ended lease or a purchase. The Audit and Executive Committees compared the cost of a mortgage to the cost of maintenance, which is what the State charges us, in making their recommendation. Approved at the 8/1 Audit and 8/12 Executive Committee meetings. *(This is in alignment with the Board goal to improve the sustainability of the workforce system through increased funding, efficiency, technology, and relevancy.)*

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Zac Cassidy, Chair of the Audit Committee, to present it, which he did.

Carol Hylton explained that while a move is necessary, the key question has been whether to purchase or lease the two buildings. The State has been open to either option. The discussion has involved comparing the costs of purchase versus lease, with the lease option being more cost-effective in terms of maintenance compared to typical market rent.

Mayor Trantalis further emphasized that in weighing the options, consideration should include, not only the rent, but also the build-out costs, as the new space will need modifications to suit future needs. He asked for an estimate of the build-out costs in addition to the purchase price before deciding on the lease option.

Ms. Hylton responded that the modifications required would be minimal and are estimated to cost around \$100,000. She explained that as the State will be our landlord, they would cover costs for significant repairs like the AC system.

Purchasing the building would exhaust the General Fund and introduce additional maintenance responsibilities, whereas the State's support with the lease option offers a more manageable approach. Additionally, the lease would improve parking availability, as the space would allow for more efficient use of the parking area. Wagner-Peyser funds, if extended, would assist with furniture and build-out expenses.

Mayor Trantalis asked who determined the 8.75% interest rate on the mortgage and if it reflects the market rate.

Keith Costello responded that the Audit Committee had discussed the interest rate and indicated that it is likely close to the market rate, possibly a bit lower, and is associated with a 6-year mortgage. Mr. Costello noted that there will be associated expenses regardless of whether the option is a mortgage or a lease. He added that even with a lower rate, the cost of purchasing the buildings would be considerably higher compared to leasing. Additionally, there may be potential to negotiate build-out costs with the State.

Carol Hylton added that purchasing the buildings would result in approximately \$200,000 more in annual costs compared to leasing. She indicated that moving from four buildings to two would also lead to savings as we will occupy less square footage.

Carol Hylton stated that under the lease agreement, the State would cover costs for insurance, repairs, utilities, and taxes. The only expense for which CSBD would be responsible is the per-square-foot rent, as we have historically been paying.

Mayor Josh Levy stated that given the financial analysis and the favorable lease terms provided by the State, including potential options for negotiation such as a right of first refusal or an option to purchase, it is prudent for the organization to proceed with the lease option. This approach avoids depleting the General Fund and aligns with the Audit Committee's recommendation.

Carol Hylton confirmed that the organization could still consider purchasing the buildings in the future. The lease agreement will include provisions for a right of first refusal or an option to purchase, as discussed with the State.

On a motion made by Mayor Dean Trantalis and seconded by Francois Leconte, the BWDB/CSBD Council of Elected Officials unanimously approved entering into an open-ended lease for 2660 & 2680 W. Oakland Park Blvd. and if the State agrees, include 1) an option to purchase and 2) a right of first refusal.

4. WTP Community Service Contract for Broward Education Foundation

Considered approval of a non-financial Welfare Transition Program (WTP) community service worksite contract with the Broward Education Foundation, Inc. (BEF). WTP participants assigned to the BEF will obtain soft skills in a customer service setting. Because Board member Dr. Howard Hepburn is on the BEF Board of Directors this recommendation will require a 2/3 vote of the Board members present once a quorum has been seated at a Board meeting. Approved at the 8/12 Executive Committee meeting. *(This is in alignment with the Board goal to encourage employers by engaging and identifying their needs, educating and connecting them to the workforce system to produce innovative workforce solutions.)*

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Carol Hylton to present it, which she did.

Dr. Howard Hepburn declared a conflict of interest as he is on the BEF Board of Directors. Dr. Hepburn abstained from the vote and discussion and will complete a conflict-of-interest form.

There was no further discussion.

On a motion made by Mayor Dean Trantalis and seconded by Keith Costello, the BWDB/CSBD Council of Elected Officials unanimously approved a non-financial WTP community service worksite contract with the BEF.

5. Renewal of the Contract for Audit Services with Anthony Brunson, P.A.

Considered approval to renew the contract between CareerSource Broward and Anthony Brunson P.A. with Watson Rice serving as the engagement partner for conduct of the CSBD fiscal year 23/24 organization-wide audit in the amount of \$34,000, the same rate as last year. This is the 1st of 4 one-year renewals under their contract. Approved at the 8/1 Audit and 8/12 Executive Committee meetings. *(This is in alignment with the Board goal to improve the sustainability of the workforce system through increased funding, efficiency, technology, and relevancy.)*

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Zac Cassidy, Chair of the Audit Committee, to present it, which he did.

Rochelle Daniels stated that we have been very satisfied with Brunson's services. She explained that he provides thorough work and is readily available for counseling and advice throughout the year. She also mentioned that his fees are reasonable, contributing to our overall satisfaction.

On a motion made by Keith Costello and seconded by Francois Leconte, the BWDB/CSBD Council of Elected Officials unanimously approved the renewal of the contract between CSBD and Anthony Brunson P.A. for the conduct of the CSBD fiscal year 23/24 organization-wide audit in the amount of \$34,000.

6. Renewal of Contract with Taylor Hall Miller Parker, P.A. (THMP) for Program Monitoring Services

Considered approval to renew the contract between CSBD and THMP for the conduct of Program Year 24/25 program monitoring in the amount of \$81,000, or \$27,000 a visit for 3 visits at the same rate as last year. This is the 2nd of up to 4 one-year renewals under their contract. Approved at the 8/1 Audit and 8/12 Executive Committee meetings. *(This is in alignment with the Board goal to improve the sustainability of the workforce system through increased funding, efficiency, technology, and relevancy.)*

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Zac Cassidy to present it, which he did.

There was no further discussion.

On a motion made by Mayor Dean Trantalis and seconded by Francois Leconte, the BWDB/CSBD Council of Elected Officials unanimously approved the renewal of the contract between CSBD and THMP to conduct Program Year 24/25 program monitoring in the amount of \$81,000.

7. Renewal of the Contract with Cherry Bekaert (CB) for Fiscal Monitoring Services

Considered approval to renew the contract between CSBD and CB for the conduct of Program Year 24/25 fiscal monitoring in the amount of \$73,800, or \$24,600 per visit for 3 visits. This is an increase of \$300 over last year. This is the 2nd of up to 4 one-year renewals under their contract. Approved at the 8/1 Audit and 8/12 Executive Committee meetings. *(This is in alignment with the Board goal to improve the sustainability of the workforce system through increased funding, efficiency, technology, and relevancy.)*

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Zac Cassidy to present it, which he did.

There was no further discussion.

On a motion made by Zac Cassidy and seconded by Lori Wheeler, the BWDB/CSBD Council of Elected Officials unanimously approved the renewal of the contract between CSBD and CB to conduct Program Year 24/25 fiscal monitoring in the amount of \$73,800.

8. Region 22 Targeted Occupations List (TOL) for Program Year (PY) 24/25

Considered approving changes to our local area's TOL for PY 24/25. As we always do, we researched the State's preliminary list and compared it to the Board-approved criteria. To get input on the State's proposed list, we sent it to local education and business stakeholders and community partners to invite them to a publicly noticed meeting on 7/8. Based upon our review and community input, CSBD recommends 1) adding forty-four (44) new occupations proposed by the State and 2) retaining thirty-one (31) occupations proposed by the State for removal. Throughout the year, the CSBD governing boards may approve changes and add new occupations to the TOL. Approved at the 8/5 Employer Services and 8/12 Executive Committee meetings. *(This is in alignment with the Board goal to align Broward County community services*

(social services and education) to maximize employment and work opportunities for targeted populations (veterans, youth, individuals with disabilities, older workers, and ex-offenders).)

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Francois Leconte, Chair of the Employer Services Committee, to present it. Mr. Leconte reviewed the changes to add 44 new occupations and retain 31 occupations.

There was no further discussion.

On a motion made by Paul Farren and seconded by Lori Wheeler, the BWDB/CSBD Council of Elected Officials unanimously approved changes to our local area's TOL for PY 24/25.

9. Continued Eligibility – Universal Technical Institute

Considered approving existing Eligible Training Provider (ETP) Universal Technical Institute with 1) continuing eligibility for the period 9/1/24 through 8/31/26 and 2) maintain their currently approved occupational training programs on our ITA list. Provider has met continued eligibility requirements that include licensure, accreditation, issuance of industry-recognized credentials, and reporting to the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program. CSBD reviewed their application for completeness to ensure that CareerSource Florida requirements and Board-mandated criteria were met. Approved at the 8/6 One-Stop Services and 8/12 Executive Committee meetings. *(This is in alignment with the Board goal to align Broward County community services (social services and education) to maximize employment and work opportunities for targeted populations (veterans, youth, individuals with disabilities, older workers, and ex-offenders).)*

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Rick Shawbell, Chair of the One-Stop Services Committee, to present it, which he did.

There was no further discussion.

On a motion made by Rick Shawbell and seconded by Zac Cassidy, the BWDB/CSBD Council of Elected Officials unanimously approved Universal Technical Institute with 1) continuing eligibility for the period 9/1/24 through 8/31/26 and 2) maintaining their currently approved occupational training programs on the ITA list.

REPORTS

1. General Fund Balance

As of 4/30, we reported that the General Fund balance was \$1,197,452. From 5/1 through 6/30, we realized revenues of \$104,980 and incurred expenditures of \$23,527. The General Fund balance as of 6/30 is \$1,278,905. Of this amount \$544,601 is held in reserve leaving a balance of \$734,304.

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Zac Cassidy to review the report which he did.

There was no further discussion.

2. Budget vs. Actual Expenditure Report

Pursuant to Board request throughout the year we provide reports on Budget vs Actual

expenditures. Each year we budget to spend 100% of our grants. CSBD receives some of its funds based on its program year which is 7/1 – 6/30 and some of its funds based on the federal fiscal year 10/1 – 9/30 which is also the CSBD fiscal year. While Wagner Peyser, and Veterans' expenditures appear low, we have plans which will result in expending the funds.

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Zac Cassidy to review the report, which he did.

There was no further discussion.

3. Taylor Hall Miller Parker, (THMP) P.A. Program Monitoring - Report #2 Issued 6/24

THMP conducted program monitoring for the period 11/17/23 through 3/14/24. They reviewed a total of 179 files consisting of 6,432 elements. There were 5 findings and 9 observations. This equates to an error rate of .08%, or less than 1%. All findings and observations were corrected except where cases were closed and no further action could be taken.

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Zac Cassidy to review the report, which he did.

Ron Moffett acknowledged Kimberly Bryant and her Operations team for the impressive results.

4. Tobacco Free Florida Employer Outreach

CSBD is partnering with Nova Southeastern University to support the state's efforts through the Tobacco Free Florida program to reduce tobacco use by Floridians. The program offers 1) individualized quit plans 2) 4-week supply of nicotine patches and gum. CSBD will receive \$50 for each individual referred to the program. We plan to share the information on social media and collaborate with the Chambers, industry associations, and community partners to inform the business community. CSBD has set up an online registration portal for interested individuals.

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Carol Hylton to review this initiative.

Ms. Hylton stated that the goal is to refer 600 individuals, generating \$30,000 for the general fund. She highlighted that the service is free for participants, who can access the online portal using a QR code on the marketing materials. After inputting their information, staff would follow up with a phone call to guide them through the process, where participants can receive counseling, nicotine patches, gum, and other support.

Mayor Dean Trantalis noted that this initiative aligns with the ongoing efforts of the state legislature to ban smoking in public places, further emphasizing the importance of supporting individuals through the referral program.

5. CSBD Infograph July 2023 – June 2024

CSBD's Infograph was created to convey information quickly and clearly through visual elements about the delivery of our services to employers, community stakeholders and job seekers. The infograph is ideal for enhancing our storytelling and increasing the shareability of content across various platforms. During the period covered, the data reflects that CSBD hosted 110 recruitment events and job fairs, assisted Broward employers with nearly \$4.5 million in work-based training and provided over \$3.9 million in scholarships for training.

Heiko Dobrikow presented the item and reviewed the infographs. He highlighted key metrics from the infographs, emphasizing their importance in telling the story of CareerSource Broward's impact on job seekers and employers. Mr. Dobrikow expressed hope that the Board will find these infographs helpful in showcasing CareerSource's success.

6. Education and Industry Consortium (EIC) Second Quarter Report

The goal of the EIC is to align educational programming with industry needs at the local level. The EIC held its second meeting on 5/29. The Consortium 1) identified additional industries to consider for Worlds of Work Youth Career Exploration Event in 2025 and 2) decided to invite guest speakers from two industries at each meeting to discuss workforce challenges for businesses and job seekers and to identify strategies to overcome them.

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Carol Hylton to review the report.

Ms. Hylton stated that the second quarter meeting featured valuable dialogue among the consortium members, particularly focusing on the pervasive labor shortages in their industries. The discussion emphasized the importance of engaging young people early on, noting that our career pathway videos are an effective tool for reaching them. She emphasized that the consortium's initiative to bring speakers to meetings will address industry challenges at a more strategic level.

Ms. Hylton added that following the meeting she engaged Sandy McDonald and secured a spot on the agenda for the Broward County Building Trades Meeting on the 28th, which she anticipates will be a significant opportunity to showcase our employer services.

7. Walter G. "Skip" Campbell Lawyer Award

Commissioner Tim Ryan received the prestigious Walter G. "Skip" Campbell Lawyer Award at the Broward County Bar Association 2024 Annual Installation Gala. Named after the Honorable Walter G. "Skip" Campbell, this award honors individuals who exemplify Campbell's dedication to community service and legal excellence. Congratulations Commissioner Ryan!

Heiko Dobrikow presented the item and congratulated Commissioner Tim Ryan on his award, inviting Eugen Bold to speak on behalf of Commissioner Ryan.

Mr. Bold explained that the award serves as recognition for the significant contributions Commissioner Ryan has made during his time in the legislature. He highlighted Commissioner Ryan's efforts in promoting the interests of Broward County in Tallahassee, noting that his legislative work has been impactful and consequential for the community.

8. Broward County Public Schools Earns an 'A' rating

The Florida Department of Education has released the latest school grades, and Broward County Public Schools have achieved an impressive 'A' rating! Additionally, the district celebrated the significant achievement of having no schools with a "D" or "F" rating for the first time since 1999. Congratulations Dr. Hepburn!

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item.

Mayor Dean Trantalis expressed optimism about the future of the school system under Dr. Howard Hepburn's leadership. He highlighted that having no schools rated D or F since 1999, after 25 years of struggling performance, represents a significant milestone. He emphasized that this improvement is crucial for providing a quality education, which is vital for attracting businesses. Business owners often ask about the local school system when considering investments, as they want their children and their employees' children to receive a good education without relying on private schools. Additionally, he stressed that a strong

education system contributes to better student attendance and reduces delinquency, ensuring a brighter future for Broward County's youth.

Mr. Dobrikow echoed the sentiment, stating that the new "A" rating for Broward County Public Schools provides a powerful message for the Board to use in such discussions with business leaders looking to invest in Broward County.

9. Broward County Unemployment and Economic Dashboard

The unemployment rate in Broward County was 3.6 percent in July 2024. This rate was 0.5 percentage points higher than the region's year-ago rate. In July 2024, Broward County's unemployment rate was 0.2 percent less than the State's rate. Out of a labor force of 1,095,776, up 7,081 (+0.7 percent) over the year, there were 39,130 unemployed Broward County residents. The dashboard is a value-added resource allowing businesses the ability to make data-informed decisions.

Heiko Dobrikow introduced the item and asked Mark Klinecicz to review the dashboard, which he did.

Mr. Dobrikow highlighted that the current labor market in Broward County shows a near balance between supply and demand, with 39,000 job seekers and 41,000 job openings. He noted the improvement in the hospitality sector, as concerns about labor shortages have decreased.

Mayor Dean Trantalis emphasized hospitality's role as a key economic driver in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Dobrikow pointed to the year-over-year growth chart on the dashboard, stressing its value as a tool for the Board to reference in their discussions. The chart shows job growth across various sectors, including construction with 3,500 jobs, trade and transportation with 5,200 jobs, and hospitality with 3,400 jobs, underscoring the county's economic progress.

MATTERS FROM THE CAREERSOURCE BROWARD COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

None.

MATTERS FROM THE BROWARD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD CHAIR

Heiko Dobrikow expressed gratitude for the extensive efforts involved in evaluating the lease deal, acknowledging the hard work of staff and the Audit and Executive committees in making an informed decision. He noted that the topic had been thoroughly discussed across various committees as well as the Council of Elected Officials during this meeting.

MATTERS FROM THE BOARD

Keith Costello expressed his appreciation for the intern his company received from CSBD, noting that it was their first time participating in the program. He was pleasantly surprised by the intern's skill level, describing them as having incredible technical abilities. He strongly recommended that other employers take advantage of this opportunity, emphasizing the value it brings. Mr. Dobrikow echoed this sentiment, stating that he had a similar positive experience with CSBD interns.

Dawn Liberta thanked the Board for including employers in the video project and for inviting them to the meeting, which made them feel valued.

Francois Leconte announced that his company will be exclusively broadcasting high school football games from August 22 to November 7, with around 20 games scheduled. In Fort Lauderdale and Miami,

games will air on Channel 18.2, while in Palm Beach, they will be on Channel 18, and in Key West or Tallahassee, on Channel 11. The games can also be viewed online via their app.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

MATTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Carol Hylton reported that September is Workforce Development Professional Month and highlighted the all-day staff training on September 6, during which the centers and main office will be closed. She encouraged members to share words of appreciation for the staff after the Board meeting, which would then be made into a video and played at the event.

She discussed the Worlds of Work (WOW) event and stated that we sent a letter to the Amerant Bank Arena, where the event was held last year. The letter, signed by Commissioner Tim Ryan, showcased the value of our event to underprivileged youth in our community and asked that management consider offering use of the facility for free. As a result, the Management team at the Amerant Bank Arena agreed to provide the venue free of charge. Ms. Hylton added that the Employer Services Committee recently approved the addition of a few more “worlds” to the event, which is tentatively scheduled for March. Planning with the School Board is anticipated to begin soon.

Ms. Hylton also discussed the upcoming State Workforce Summit in Orlando starting October 9. CSBD will conduct a panel discussion that will include Tony Ash and Barbara Cevieux, along with Marie Suarez, President of the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Mark Klineciewicz will serve as the moderator. The discussion will focus on our successful partnership with Chambers of Commerce.

Ms. Hylton mentioned that we are planning for the Paychecks for Patriots event and ongoing discussions with Tamarac Mayor Michelle Gomez to secure a larger venue, due to the success of this event over the past few years we need bigger space.

Lastly, we have a tour scheduled at our south center with Edward Fears from the U.S. Small Business Administration on September 17. Ms. Hylton will contact Sandy McDonald to see if he would like to join the tour, which aims to strengthen employer partnerships.

ADJOURNMENT 1:35 p.m.

<p><i>THE DATE OF THE NEXT BROWARD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD/CAREERSOURCE BROWARD COUNCIL MEETING IS OCTOBER 31, 2024.</i></p>
