

Minutes: Minnesota Governor's Workforce Development Board Meeting

Agenda Time: Quarter 2, May 27, 2026, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Location: Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN

Meeting Type: Regular

Meeting Facilitators: Surya Iyer, GWDB Chair, DeLinda Washington, GWDB Vice Chair

Quorum Present: Yes

Meeting Goals

- **Align Workforce & Economic Development Priorities:** Orient members to the GWDB's role in connecting Minnesota's workforce strategy with broader economic development goals.
- **Advance Key Board Decisions:** Review and act on administrative approvals, committee charters, policy recommendations, and waiver items.
- **Shape Future Performance:** Begin defining the Board's approach to workforce center performance metrics and future legislative reporting.

Call to Order

- Chair Surya Iyer called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. A quorum was present.

Updates

- The Chair welcomed members, recognized outgoing members, introduced new and reappointed Board members and acknowledged staff. Members participated in introductions. Staff also shared information regarding volunteer opportunities with the Office of Public Service Advisory Committee.
- Staff provided updates on implementation of the statewide workforce development strategy, including labor force growth planning, Interagency Workforce Alignment activities and development of the Minnesota Inventory of Workforce Supports (MIWS).

Reports and Presentations

- Staff provided an update on H.F. 3732 and the Executive Committee's legislative engagement during the 2026 legislative session. Members were informed that no legislative action was taken and that additional work will continue through a Board workgroup.
- Kevin McKinnon, Deputy Commissioner of Economic Development, DEED, presented an overview of Minnesota's economic development priorities and discussed opportunities to strengthen alignment between workforce development and statewide economic development strategies.

- Ron Wirtz, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, presented an overview of current economic conditions, labor market trends, workforce participation, demographic changes, inflation and long-term economic considerations. Members discussed the implications for Minnesota's workforce system.
- Staff presented the proposed Workforce Pell Program Determination Policy, including implementation priorities, program eligibility criteria, public comment updates and the implementation timeline. Members discussed the proposed policy prior to Board action.
- Staff introduced the Board's work to establish a baseline workforce center performance framework for future legislative reporting. Discussions included current data availability, reporting gaps, employer performance measures and future performance metric development.
- The Board received updates from the Sector Partnerships Committee, State and Local Coordination Committee, and Innovative Service Delivery Committee regarding Quarter 2 activities, ongoing initiatives and work planned for the remainder of 2026.

Board Actions

The Board approved the following actions:

1. Quarter 1 2026 Meeting Minutes
2. Quarter 1 2026 Staff Report
3. 2027–2028 GWDB Meeting Dates
4. Sector Partnerships Committee Charter
5. Workforce Pell Program Determination Policy
6. Recommendation to advance the MDH–OHE Nursing Assistant Employment Outcomes Data Sharing Agreement
7. Recommendation to establish an annual statewide "Celebrate Caring Careers" Month
8. Recommendation to align state workforce communications around CaringCareersStartHere.com
9. State and Local Coordination Committee Charter
10. State Workforce Development Board Membership Waiver
11. Innovative Service Delivery Committee Charter

All motions were approved as recorded in the official motion log.

Attendance

Voting Board Members

Voting Role	Name
Labor Organization Rep #2	Barry Davies
Labor Organization Rep #6	Bernie Burnham
Business Rep #9	Brian Zirbes
Business Rep #15	Carol Anderson
MAWB Director	Cate Duin
Business Rep #12	Crystle Illa
Business Rep #8	Deb Broberg
Business Rep #21	DeLinda Washington
Business Rep #24	Erik Johnson
Business Rep #11	Gabriel Mooney
Business Rep #21	Gail Cruikshank
Labor Organization Rep #1	Hannah Alstead
Business Rep #17	Jeffrey Rainey
Business Rep #2	Jennifer Thiesen
Labor Organization Rep #5	Jeremy Andrist
Business Rep #4	Matt Lewis
MN DEED Commissioner	Matt Varilek
Business Rep #3	Melissa McLean
Career and Technical Education Representative	Michael Berndt
Business Rep #7	Nicole Mattson
Local Elected Official (County)	Nola Slagter-Johnson
Legislator, Subcommittee on Committees of the House of Representatives	Pete Johnson

Voting Role	Name
President, University of Minnesota	Delegate Lori Carrell, Chancellor UMN Rochester
Business Rep #1	Robert Stark
Community-based Org. Rep. #1	Sandy Pulles
Business Rep #16	Scott Cummings
Business Rep #23	Steve Kalina
Business Rep #5 - Chair	Surya Iyer
Business Rep #10	Troy Haugen

Non-Voting Board Members

Non-Voting Role	Name
MN State Council on Disability	David Dively
Department of Corrections Representative	Jami Doeden
School-based Service Learning	Jill Stewart-Keller
Public Libraries Rep	Natalie Draper

Public and State of Minnesota Staff

Name	Name	Name
A Taylor-Douglas	Adesewa Adesiji	Autumn Herber
Brad Hasskamp	Colleen Harris	David Campana
Della Ludwig	Emily Lefholz	Jessica Miller
Jovon Perry	Julie Dincau	Kanika Couchene
Katie McClelland	Kevion Ellis	Liz McLoone
Nolan Thomas	Philip Arellano	Shayla Drake
Sonji Davis		