

**CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
HIGHER EDUCATION INVESTMENT
COMMITTEE NOTES**

June 13, 2019

Regular Meeting

A meeting of the Higher Education Investment Committee was called to order at 3:25 p.m. Roll was called and the following members were present:

Marjorie Brant

John Hampson

Randy Holt

Absent: *Eli Perkins, Brad Faust*

Ex-Officio members present: Tami Kelly, Clerk of Council,

1. Ms. Brant moved to approve the Minutes from 4/26; seconded by Mr. Hampson. Motion unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

2. The Committee reviewed the up-to-date Program Guidelines. The only major change would be that the three-year residency option would go away and service hours will be mandatory.

The Committee discussed how to “package” the ordinance. Chair Holt said he wants to ensure that this will be the governing information for the Committee. Mr. Smith and Ms. Kelly will figure out “packaging” and present it to the Committee at the next meeting. Chair Holt asked the Committee to review the Guidelines one more time to make sure it is set for finalization.

3. Mr. Don Walters was present to update the Committee on the Workforce Development Program. Mr. Walters shared that the group consists of The City, South-Western City Schools, and Columbus State. He shared that Grove City would be the first Ohio town to have a collaboration with Columbus State to pair training functions. The group’s goal is to help businesses find work-ready employees - providing that the businesses give enough compensation to employees/interns. Mr. Walters said that Columbus State has a large enrollment from South-Western City School students and are anxious to keep their interests within Grove City. Mr. Walters is hoping that this will lead to an academic facility within Grove City. He said the Columbus State President has shown interest, especially in the recent week.

Mr. Holt asked if students would be able to receive a certificate through this program. He said that Ohio employers are finding it difficult to hire educated employees. SWCS and CSCC believe that workforce development begins in grades school and they want to prepare kids for an Associate’s Degree/Certificate Program.

Mr. Walters believes this program will prepare students even further than the career academy. He said that classes may be paid by an employer. If they are at Columbus State, they could apply for the Higher Education Scholarship for tuition assistance. SWCS and Columbus State want to work with the City and the next meeting is planned for July 10th.

The Committee discussed curriculum and various other components of this Workforce Development Program. Mr. Walters said they have only had one meeting and have just recently confirmed that there is interest from the parties to continue with this idea. The next step is to approach some businesses. Chair Holt asked Mr. Walters to consider how this Committee could help. Mr. Walters said he would keep this Committee updated.

New Business:

5. Mr. Hampson asked about skilled trades. Chair Holt said Mr. Berry and he are working on a program, but it isn't ready yet. Mr. Hampson said he would like to revisit on-line classes and possibly expanding what is permitted for the Scholarship Program. Ms. Brant said that would require the Criteria being retooled or changing the Scholarship's purpose.
6. The Committee agreed to set the next meeting for after July 10th so that Mr. Walters could update the committee on the workforce meeting.
7. The meeting adjourned at 4:46.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Secretary



Randy Holt
Chair

Background:

Developing programs and assisting employers with training, internship and employment of qualified candidates provides employer-controlled sustainability, flexibility and proven success.

The City of Grove City, Columbus State Community College and South-Western City School District have engaged in discussions regarding each other's programs to: 1) train associates; and 2) enhance opportunities for Grove City employers to attract and/or operate in-house programs to train qualified applicants and/or existing associates to fill positions in highly competitive specialty fields.

Involved parties agreed to explore together, how the City may assist its more than 1,200 businesses in expanding development programs.

Listed are random proposed meeting objectives and a straw man proposal to spur discussion:

Meeting Objectives:

- Capitalize on the common interests of Columbus State Community College, the South-Western City School District and the City of Grove City to provide access to affordable education/training for in-demand, high wage jobs/careers through collaborative training programs with Grove City employers.
- Leverage Columbus State's successes achieved with creative training/mentoring/hiring programs developed with and for Nationwide Insurance, Honda, and others.
- Leverage the successes achieved by SWCD's workforce training programs developed for and with many Grove City businesses.

Proposal for Group Discussion:

- The City has had discussions with several of its large employers regarding the lack of qualified/trained applicants in a myriad of fields including welding, CNC operators, medical administration, etc. – some of which are open to considering a program involving an in-house training/mentoring program, similar in design (must include an employer commitment to pay the trainee/intern an hourly rate during the internship and a competitive living wage when training is completed), to Columbus State's Nationwide Insurance and Honda in-house training/mentoring programs. As a discussion starter, a few ideas include:
 1. Form an "expert team." Columbus State, SWCSD Career Academy and the City to develop a process that would allow the City's Development Department to approach candidate companies with minimum criteria to establish a qualifying level of interest and commitment; and
 2. For those that accept, proceed to a meeting with the employer (team in attendance) to discuss how a training/mentoring program could be written/developed to meet the employer's needs.

Team Continuity:

- Regularly scheduled workforce training/team meetings may keep the team together to focus on making program adjustments, avoiding duplicate training programs, sharing successes and discussing experimentation with additional workforce development strategies.
- The team could occasionally invite guests such as Columbus2020, Workforce Development Board, Ohio Means Jobs, etc. to widen its access to resources, ideas and trends.