

NEISDC Meeting Minutes

Location: The Regional Chamber, V2030 Conference Room
Date: April 26, 2024
Time: 3:00 pm
Facilitator: The Regional Chamber

Agenda Items

DETERMINE QUORUM

We have a quorum. In attendance is Richard Strick, Andrew Briggs, Stephane Frijia, Steven McMichael, Bill Konyha, Mike Vanover, Keith Thornton, Mark Wickersham, Sharon Tucker

APPROVE AGENDA

Steve McMichael motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH MEETING

Steve McMichael motioned to approve the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Keith Thornton and passed unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bill reviewed the report provided in the advance material. Bill does not recommend a virtual option for any SDC Meetings moving forward unless it is a dire emergency. Steven McMichael motioned to ban the virtual option, which was seconded by Mark Wickersham and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- GOAL I COMMITTEE (TALENT ATTRACTION & RETENTION)

- GOAL II COMMITTEE (TALENT DEVELOPMENT)

- NORTH EAST INDIANA EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION FUNDING REQUEST

Mayor Strick briefed the material provided in the advance material. Allie Sutherland presented their 2024 Initiative to the Commission. The ask is for \$5M over four years. Brightpoint is their fiscal agent. Sherri Grate commented on the importance of this pilot program and the upcoming budget session. Steven McMichael asked if the full \$5M could not be allocated to the program for four years if they could start with a smaller funding for two years. Mark Wickersham asked if the SDC would take on any liability with supporting the program as presented. Richard Strick motioned to approve the proposal with relevant discussion, seconded by Mark Wickersham. A discussion from Steven McMichael recommended a 2-year \$2.5 million allocation for the program. Bill asked for clarification on per-child investment to ensure the allocation is tied to child census data. Steven McMichael asked for the question; the full Commission voted aye; there were no nays.

- QUESTA EDUCATION FOUNDATION FUNDING REQUEST

Liz Bushnell briefed the material provided in the advance material about forgivable loans for secondary education. The ask is for \$110K to fund 25 students focused on engineering pathway programs committed to working in the regional area for a predetermined number of years. Bill asked about the terms of the loan forgiveness. Students must graduate and remain in the region for five years. Richard Strick added that those students recruited outside the region would only be eligible if they committed to stay in the region. The formulae for the program are not necessarily needs-based but a community-reviewed approval process. Richard Strick motioned to approve, seconded by Sharon Tucker, and passed unanimously.

- GOAL III COMMITTEE (HOUSING)

The committee met on April 25th and planned for September 12th at Purdue Fort Wayne for the housing symposium to address systemic problems. Sand's Strategies will facilitate the hosting and developing of the agenda and logistics for the seminar with a contract not exceeding \$3900.

NEXT MEETING: MAY 24TH, 2024, at 3:00 pm.

Congratulations to Sharon Tucker and her appointment to Mayor of Fort Wayne

ADJOURN