

Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Department of Economic and Community Development

December 17, 2018

9:00-10:30am

450 Columbus Boulevard, Conference Room C, Plaza, South Tower

Attendance

- Board Members Present: Commissioner Catherine Smith, Chris DiPentima, Todd Pihl, Colin Cooper, Don Balducci, John Zoldy, Kelli Vallieres
- Board Members via phone: Shane Eddy
- Quorum: Yes
- Absent: Beverlee Dacey, Emir Redzic
- Stakeholders Present: Bernice Zampano, Sue Palisano, Paul Striebel, Mike Kozlowski
- Stakeholders via phone: Kathy Marioni
- DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Barbara Fernandez

Minutes

Catherine Smith opened the meeting at 9:00 AM.

Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to accept the October minutes. Chris DiPentima moved to accept the October meeting minutes. Don Balducci seconded the motion. Motion passed with one abstention (Kelli Vallieres).

MIF Portfolio (Update)

Commissioner Smith provided an update of the MIF financial portfolio, as of December 17, 2018. The statutory authorized balance is \$16,786,257. Colin Cooper asked if funds can be carried forward, to which Commissioner Smith replied yes and asked the Board to think about what the ask should be for next fiscal year, what the annual allocation is, and how much the Board tends to spend each year. The Board should also consider the dollar “run rate” for each program.

Dream It. Do It. & YMA (Vote)

Dream It. Do It. presented a new concept for the program – digital. The proposal builds upon the successful Connecticut program based on a national initiative developed by the Manufacturing Institute. It leverages existing state funds and additional grant funding, and continues to expand the program throughout the state with a focus on urban youth, including new YMA in-school program. Dream It. Do It. will develop a virtual statewide presence and deploy an aggressive social media campaign. The intent is to curate and host robust online resources and streaming content that will be available to every middle school in the state. It will partner with others to get subscription based content. Colin Cooper commented that these two programs Dream. It. Do. It and YMA are complimentary: Dream. It. Do. It exposes young people to manufacturing and YMA gives them hands on experience. Chris DiPentima asked if there should be a position in the Department of Education focused on manufacturing. Commissioner Smith commented that each school should develop a manufacturing champion, similar to Ohio.

Kelly Vallieres mentioned that EAMA is working with DOL to give comprehensive high school pre-apprentice hours. This will increase the pipeline of apprentices from the comprehensive system. John Zoldy commented that a video from the 2018 competition was presented by the Board of Education in Watertown and it was very well received. The superintendent is a big champion of exposing students to manufacturing at an early age. CCAT said that they would put together a budget based on this presentation to be voted on at the next MIF meeting. Chris DiPentima moved that the board approve \$292,000 for YMA, John Zoldy seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

MVP Funding Request (Vote)

Paul Striebel provided an overview of the Manufacturing Voucher Program, including MIF funds committed to date, applications received (on average, 10 per month), the number of and reason for denied applications, industries served, and use of funds. Paul stated the program has been very successful. Kelli Vallieres commented that the next Governor should expand the MVP program. Commissioner Smith moved to forward with the next round of funding in the amount of \$1,750,000 with 5% for administration. Colin Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Manufacturing Mobile Training Lab Update (Discussion)

Carmen Molina-Rios provided an update on the mobile training lab. Two proposals were received, however, one did not meet the RFP requirements and the other requires further discussion and negotiations regarding scale, scope and pricing. Next step is to send a denial letter to the ineligible respondent, a follow-up meeting to be scheduled with the eligible respondent and subcommittee members (DECD, MIF Board, DOL), and a MIF Advisory Board vote on final recommendation.

College Connection Update (Vote)

Mike Kozlowski presented on College Connections. This program connects high schools to neighboring CSCU Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers across the state. Through these connections, high school students get hands-on exposure to the rewarding work and strong earnings potential a career in advanced manufacturing can offer. The program added an agreement with the technical high school system, and is also working to expand the program to other schools. Tuition and transportation costs are issues with some school systems, especially Hartford. MIF terms and conditions include working to lower transportation costs for students attending the program; repay DECD on a pro-rata basis if the program does not have an additional 300 students participating in the program by December 30, 2018. The program currently has 146 additional students by the CSCU is confident it will reach the 300 mark by June 2019. Chris DiPentima moved that the date be extended to June 2019 but with no additional MIF funds. Kelli Vallieres seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Report (Discussion)

Commissioner Smith asked for comments by the end of the week on the draft MIF Advisory Board Annual Report.

2019 Meeting Schedule (Vote)

The 2019 meeting schedule was presented. Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to approve. Colin Cooper moved to accept the motion. Kelli Vallieres seconded the motion.

Other Business: None

Meeting Closed

Commissioner Smith requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris DiPentima motioned and John Zoldy seconded the motion. The motion passed. Commissioner Smith closed the meeting at 10:35 AM.