

**Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 16, 2026
8:00AM - 9:30AM
United Way Building - The Rochester Room
Board members also attended via Zoom**

Attendees: Dana Abramson, Mary Beth Artuso, Bert Brinkerhoff, Sergio Esteban, Heather Gole, Glen Jeter, Edward Kurowski, Tyrone Reaves, Gary Rogers, Jose Rosario III, Melissa Suchodolski, Richard Turner, Kearston Vanderstyne, Dr. Charlene Wilson, Randy Andre, Dr. Robin Cole, Rodric Cox-Cooper, John Brach (Proxy for Mayor Malik Evans), Lia Festenstein, Shawn Futch, Judy Honan, Ana Liss, Grant Malone, Joseph Morelle, Tiffany Owens, Angelica Perez-Delgado, Dr. Patricia Stovall-Lane

Absent: Marco Altieri, Zachary Arnold, Anthony DiTucci, Janelle Harris, Michael Nevins, Rick Donovan, Dr. Shirley Green, Dr. Roosevelt Mareus, David Scott

Staff: Dave Seeley, Tricia Campbell, Viatta Carter, Marisol Cruz-Melendez, Jeanine Frenz, Theodore Jordan, Lee Koslow, Behiye Mansour, Mary McKeown, Laura Seelman, Antwan Williams

Guests:

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Melissa Suchodolski at 8:01 AM.

Welcome New Board Members:

Dave Seeley welcomed our 3 new board members:

- Richard Turner, Executive Director, Rochester Technology & Manufacturing Association
- Jose Rosario III, Principal/Owner, Nexo Group LLC
- Kearston Vanderstyne, Vice President of Human Resources, Quality Vision International

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the March 17, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Glen Jeter and seconded by Rodric Cox-Cooper. The motion was passed unanimously.

Finance Committee:

Review Program Year 2025, Quarter 3 Financials:

Financials:

Revenue:

- WIOA: Year to date, we have received \$4.9M in WIOA funding (36% Adult, 17% DW, and 33% Youth).
- SCION: Funding for the Disability Resource Coordinator is on budget.
- SYEP: We fully expended all the Summer 2025 Youth Employment funding.
- In School Youth/ROC Your Job: This program is performing very well. The allocation for this program was \$3.9M, which exceeded our budget from last year of \$2.8M.
- EDA Recompete: This grant ran through January 2026 and is now closed out.

- Monroe County and Private Foundation Revenue: Both are on budget.
- COMIDA: We are on budget with COMIDA and will spend the full \$200K by the end of July.
- Miscellaneous Revenue: Consists of \$93K from the Career Pathways Program through FLPPS, \$45K from MACNY (grant through Empire State Development), \$10K from a close out from a prior year grant (FEC), and \$17K of interest.

Program Expenses

Direct Expenses:

- Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) are at budget while OJTs are under budget.
- Wage Subsidies: Wage subsidies are about \$4.5M; the majority of this is from SYEP (\$1.4M) and Roc Your Job (\$2.6M).
- Client Services are over budget driven mostly by MACNY (\$38K), SYEP, and Youth activity.

Service Provider Payments:

- Overall, these are on budget.

Marketing & Outreach:

- The majority of Marketing expenses are related to Youth.

Operational Expenses:

- Salaries and benefits are on budget year to date.
- Rent, travel, and professional fees are all on budget.
- Office expense is over budget because of the CRM software and an upgrade to our document management system.

Year to date, we have a net surplus of \$308K.

A motion to approve the Review of Program Year 2025, Quarter 3 Financials as presented was made by Randy Andre and seconded by Bert Brinkerhoff. The motion was passed unanimously.

Program Year 2026 Budget Review & Adoption:

2026 Program Year Budget:

Revenue Challenges

- Overall WIOA funding is down \$1.624M (-21.2%) from last year.
 - (\$809,094) in Base Title I funding - 13.9%
 - (\$515,883) in WIOA Carryover - 32.7%
 - (\$300,000) in discontinued NYSDOL Incentive funding - 100%
- Overall, WIOA is down approximately 20% since 2023.
- WIOA funding always peaks and valleys, however unless Congress allocates more to the program nationally, we have likely hit our ceiling.

Implications of Lost Revenue (worst case scenario)

Out-of-School Youth

- We will have to reduce the number of contracted Navigators to seven (currently at 10).
- We will not fund a vacant community outreach position that was created last year.

Participant Services: Training Funds

- Maintaining our Training Grant budget will be a challenge. As a worst-case scenario, we will decrease our training grants by 35%.

- We are also actively trying to procure funding for our Enhanced Recovery Services programming, which is challenging given funders' reluctance to adopt existing (though very successful) programs. At present, we will be able to maintain effort into Q4.

Expiring Funding (planned)

- Career Pathways Training through FLPPS will expire 3/31/27 (\$115K for PY 26).
- Shift/Post Employment Program funded through ESL will expire 11/30/26.
- Funding for the School to Work Navigator Program through ESL and the Farash Foundation is scheduled to expire on 6/30/26. Extension requests have been submitted to both funders, and additional funding opportunities are being pursued to continue the program.
- Social Care Navigator Program will expire on 1/31/27.

Good News!

- In-School Youth Programming (approximately \$6M) continues to be funded through the State budget and will continue to allow us to employ several hundred teens in SYEP and ROC Your Job.
- County DHS funding is not impacted.

2026 PY Budget: High Level:

Bottom line: Despite WIOA cuts, our total budgeted expenses (\$13,678,067) mirror the current program year (only a 0.1% decrease).

Operating challenges:

- Our health care costs continue to rise: currently budgeted 18.15% to salaries, this will increase to 20% in coming Program Year.
- Employee benefits: 9% increase (\$114.6K)

Revenue portfolio: WIOA will fund for \$1.12M less of our budget. Every year, our total operations rely less on WIOA:

- PY 2022: 62% of total budget
- PY 2025: 46% of total budget
- PY 2026: 38% of total budget

2026 Program Year Budget:

Why Aren't We Panicking?

Finger Lakes ON-RAMP (One Network for Regional Advanced Manufacturing Program)

- Starting in Q4 of 2026 we will begin ramping up operations to provide recruitment, career advisement, and supportive services to trainees.
 - Six new FTEs are budgeted for the first year.
 - Approximately \$587K in operating revenue.
- Instead of this complementing our current WIOA One Stop Career Center model, we will see more of a braiding of funding.
- This will require some more urgent organizational change which will involve migrating some existing FTE positions into the new ON-RAMP model.

By Year 3, ON-RAMP operating revenues from NYS will be \$1.8M.

What is next - short term

- This budget represents a worst-case scenario, and hopefully we will be able to obtain additional grant funding to fill some of these gaps.
- We will begin internal planning to determine how we will make this transition to ON-RAMP funding supporting more of our existing operations - which is budgeted to start 1/2027.

What is next - longer term

- WIOA is not going anywhere and is still substantial and unmatched.
- Our strategic planning process will likely have enhanced focus on using non-WIOA funds to sustain our base One-Stop Career Center operation.
- Growing focus will likely be on industry sector funding (i.e., ON-RAMP) and special populations.

A motion to approve the 2026 Program Year Budget as presented was made by Richard Turner and seconded by Lia Festenstein. The motion was passed unanimously.

Blanket Transfer Authorization for WIOA Funds for Program Year 2026

Background

- WIOA allows local workforce boards - with State approval - to transfer up to 100% of a program year allocation between the local Adult and local Dislocated Worker programs, and to transfer up to 100% of Administrative funds back to the originating program funds.
- In recent years, there has been significantly more need for Adult funds, but this has started to balance out, the second half of the current program year.
- NYSDOL allows local Boards to request advance authorization to request transfers between Adult & DW funds, and transfers back in from Administrative, which the Monroe-ROC Board has done since PY 2024.

Proposed Action

- The Board provides prior authorization to fiscal staff to:
 - Transfer up to 100% of its Program Year 2026 Adult and Dislocated Worker program allotments between the two programs.
 - Transfer up to 100% of Administrative funds back to fund of origin.
- The Board Director will provide advance notice to the Board prior to submitting requests to NYSDOL.

A motion to approve the Proposed Action noting the Board provides prior authorization to fiscal staff to transfer up to 100% of its Program Year 2026 Adult and Dislocated Worker program allotments between the two programs, and to transfer up to 100% of Administrative funds back to the fund of origin, and the Board Director will provide advance notice to the Board prior to submitting requests to the New York State Department of Labor was made by Grant Malone and seconded by Glen Jeter. The motion was passed unanimously.

Youth Committee:

Title I Out-of-School Youth Navigator Service Awards:

Background

- Historically, RochesterWorks has contracted with subrecipients to support the administration and delivery of its WIOA Title I-funded workforce development programming for WIOA-eligible Out-of-School Youth (OSY), ages 17-24. This gives local boards the opportunity to ensure that funding matches the overall eligibility of our participants.
- In April, RW issued an RFP seeking qualified community-based organizations to provide Navigator services to OSY participants through June 30, 2029.
- We received proposals from nine (9) providers, which were all reviewed by an RFP committee made up of RW staff and partners.
- When the RFP was released, we had planned on funding ten (10) contracted Navigators. WIOA Youth funding cuts will only allow us to fund seven (7) for the upcoming program year.

Recommended Board Action

Based on the RFP Review Committee's rankings, RochesterWorks recommends that the Board award WIOA Out-of-School Youth Navigation Services contracts to three agencies to fund a total of seven (7) Navigators for Program Year 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 per full-time equivalent (FTE) Navigator.

- The Community Place of Greater Rochester - 3 FTE Navigators
- The Center for Youth, Inc. - 3 FTE Navigators
- Starbridge Services, Inc. - 1 FTE Navigator, with priority for one (1) additional FTE Navigator should additional WIOA Title I OSY funding become available

Based on the RFP Committee rankings, it is recommended that Goodwill of Finger Lakes receive priority consideration for at least one additional Navigator award, if additional Title I Youth funding becomes available.

A motion to award WIOA Out-of-School Navigator funds to The Community Place of Greater Rochester (3 Navigators), The Center for Youth, Inc. (3 Navigators), and Starbridge Services, Inc. (1 Navigator, with priority for one (1) additional Navigator should funding become available), in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 per Navigator, with a one-year term ending June 30, 2027, and furthermore the recommendation that Goodwill of Finger Lakes receive priority consideration for at least one additional Navigator award should funding become available, was made by Jose Rosario III and seconded by Glen Jeter. The motion was passed unanimously.

Workforce Innovation Committee:

Eligible Training Provider List Policy Revision:

The Challenge

WIOA requires Eligible Training Providers to report outcome data for all individuals engaging in the program of study, regardless of whether those students received WIOA funding.

In New York State, training providers have struggled to provide that data.

- At the local level, we can help by requiring new providers to demonstrate their capacity to submit outcome data prior to inclusion on the Eligible Training Provider List.
- We can also strengthen related provisions for maintaining continued eligibility on the list.

Updates to Policy 106 Eligible Training Provider Initial and Continued Eligibility Policy

Under III. Initial Eligibility, C. Course Offerings, make the following additions/edits:

Training providers with no currently active, approved offerings on the ETPL must also submit an initial evaluation form containing outcome data for a cohort of students who completed the course in recent years. Training providers who have an established arrangement with SUNY and/or NYSDOL to provide student Social Security numbers to New York State in exchange for course offering outcome data are exempt from this requirement.

Note: Failure to submit required data will result in removal of the training provider from the ETPL. Failure to submit the attestation **and/or the initial evaluation outcome data** will result in **course eligibility being denied**.

Under III. Initial Eligibility, G. Eligibility Determinations, make the following edit:

Board staff will act on a training provider's submission to the ETPL within 30 days of receipt. When making a determination whether to approve a submission, the following factors will be taken into account:

- Provision of any verifiable, program-specific performance information required by New York State Department of Labor **or RochesterWorks**;

Under **V. Termination of Eligibility**, make the following addition:

To retain Initial and Continued Eligibility, a training provider must deliver results and provide accurate information to the Board and New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL). Eligibility may be terminated for the following reasons:

- **The training provider does not maintain up-to-date administrative contact information in their ETPL provider record and/or the administrative contact does not respond to multiple attempts to contact them. “Multiple attempts to contact” is defined as at least one attempt each by phone (with a voicemail message left for the contact), email, and certified mail with a return receipt, and a response period of 10 calendar days after each method of contact.**

Related Update to Policy 104 Individual Training Account Guidelines

Under **XV. Approved Training Providers**, make the following addition/edit:

ITA training will only be funded through training providers and programs **that are on the New York State Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) at the time of ITA approval. If a course offering expires or is removed from the ETPL after the ITA approval date, the participant may continue to receive ITA funding for the duration of the approved training plan.**

A motion to approve the Eligible Training Provider List Policy Revisions as presented was made by Sergio Esteban and seconded by Rodric Cox-Cooper. The motion was passed unanimously.

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program:

Laura Seelman provided an update on our Incumbent Worker Training Grant program. About three years ago, both in response to our Strategic Plan that the Board developed, looking to focus more on retention for existing employees, we decided to put together this policy and program to help businesses fund upskilling for their current employees. Through the IWT Grant we can reimburse employers for up to \$10K in costs to send their current employees to short-term trainings that will provide them with either technical or soft skill upgrades. The goal is to support training that will benefit employees in their current position as well as in their long-term career path, as well as help the employer retain the employee long-term and open up promotional opportunities in the future. This may open up some more entry-level positions that could then be supported by the On-the-Job training and our other recruiting efforts and job fairs. Now, approximately 2.5 years into its implementation, we have gained valuable insights and received feedback from both staff and employers throughout the process.

IWT Grant helps businesses invest in the skills of their existing workforce through reimbursement of short-term training costs.

Goal: Increase employee skills and competencies to improve retention, expand business capacity & competitiveness, and support new technologies & processes.

- Supports training leading to new skills, credentials, certifications, and career advancement opportunities
- Reimburses 50%-90% of eligible training costs
- Up to \$10,000 per employer
- Training completed within 6 months
- Employer contribution/match required

Three Year Impact:

- 26 IWT contracts and 24 unique employers served.
- 504 total workers trained.
- Total training investment:

- RochesterWorks \$169,928
- Employers \$152,745

Outcome	PY23	PY24	PY25
Employers Served	5	7	14
Workers Trained	46	196	262
RW Investment	\$36,677	\$48,976	\$84,275
Employer Investment	\$21,071	\$46,004	\$84,670

Types of Training Supported & Industries Served:

Manufacturing & Technical Skills

- Mastercam
- Geometric Dimension & Tolerancing

Professional & Workplace Skills

- SHRM-CP
- Professional Administrative Certification (PACE)
- Communication & Performance

Leadership & Supervisory Development

- African American & Latino Leadership Development

Quality & Process Improvement

- ISO 9001 & Internal Auditor
- Food Safety & Quality Systems

Technology & Digital Skills

- Office 365
- Building Information Modeling (BIM)

Industry	Employers Served PY23 - PY25
Manufacturing & Production	8
Community, Non-Profit & Social Services	4
Optics, Photonics & Imaging	3
Construction & Skilled Trades	3
Professional & Technical Services	3
Healthcare	1
Education	1
Real Estate & Property Management	1

Testimonials from Business and Employees:

- Quality Vision International: The grant funding supported leadership development across multiple levels of the organization, resulting in stronger leadership skills, improved employee engagement, and a more connected workplace culture.

- Child Advocacy Center: The RochesterWorks grant provided the opportunity to participate in the United Way Emerging Leaders Program, supporting their growth as a leader, expanding professional connections, and helping create positive opportunities for students and the broader community.

Revisions to the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program:

The following revisions were presented for discussion and consideration:

Proposed Revision #1 - Allowable Training Costs

Current Policy

- Coaching activities not fundable under IWT.

Proposed Revisions

- Allows coaching when delivered as part of a structured training program focused on workforce skill development and measurable learning outcomes.
- Examples may include leadership, supervisory, technical, occupational, communication, or performance management training.
- Business coaching and consulting, organizational strategy, strategic planning, and general business operations consulting remain disallowed.

Reason for Requested Update

- Coaching-based training models are increasingly being used for workforce and leadership development.
- Current policy language may unintentionally exclude legitimate workforce training activities.
- Supports employee retention, advancement, and internal leadership development.
- Adds clearer distinction between allowable workforce training and non-allowable business consulting activities to reduce confusion.

Proposed Revision #2 - Training Materials & Supplies

Current Policy

- Training supplies and materials are not eligible for reimbursement.
- These costs may only be counted towards the required business contribution.

Proposed Revisions

- Allows reimbursement for training manuals, books, supplies, and tools directly related to training.
- Specifies that materials may not be used for general business operations, production, or resale.
- Food, beverage, entertainment, and hospitality costs are not allowable.

Reason for Requested Update

- Supplies and materials are needed to successfully complete training and produce successful skill upgrades.
- Training providers often bundle required materials and supplies into overall course costs vs. separating them on cost quotes and invoices.
- Requires employers to go back to providers for itemized breakdowns, resulting in administrative delays.
- Adds clear language for employers and staff on what is allowable and is not allowable to reduce confusion.

A motion to approve the Revisions to the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program as presented was made by Rodric Cox-Cooper and seconded by Bert Brinkerhoff. The motion was passed unanimously.

New Business:

Approve Contract Award for Strategic Planning Consultant Services:

Strategic Planning Consulting Contract

Background:

- RochesterWorks will be conducting a strategic planning process during the 2nd half of 2026.
- In April, RW released a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking qualified consultants to assist with stakeholder engagement, strategy development, and the creation of an actionable implementation plan.
- 49 qualified proposals were received.
- The RFP Review Committee conducted an initial scoring assessment and shortlisted six (6) consultant firms to advance to the final interview phase.
- After conducting interviews, the RFP Committee recommends the Center for Governmental Research, Inc.

Recommended Board Action:

- Award a contract to the Center for Governmental Research, Inc. for strategic planning consulting services in an amount not to exceed \$37,300, plus a 10% allowance for unforeseen costs.

A motion to approve the Contract Award for Strategic Planning Consultant Services as presented was made by Glen Jeter and seconded by Rodric Cox-Cooper. The motion was passed unanimously.

Approve Contract Award for Strategic Grant Writing Services:

Grant Writing Services Contract

Background:

- RochesterWorks intends to submit a proposal in response to the U.S. EDA Artificial Intelligence Upskill Accelerator Pilot Program.
- To support the development of this application, RochesterWorks seeks to engage a qualified grant writing consultant and issued an RFQ in May soliciting proposals.
- RW received six qualified and timely proposals.
- The RFQ Scoring Committee reviewed and scored all proposals and is recommending an award to Brockport Research Institute (BRI).

Recommended Board Action:

- Award a contract to Brockport Research Institute (BRI) for strategic grant writing services related to the development of RochesterWorks' proposal to the U.S. EDA AI Upskill Accelerator Pilot Program, in an amount not to exceed \$11,250, plus a 10% allowance for unexpected costs.
- Further authorize RW to extend or amend this contract should any additional grant writing needs arise over the next 24 months.

A motion to approve the Contract Award for Strategic Grant Writing Services as presented was made by Richard Turner and seconded by Tyrone Reaves. The motion was passed unanimously.

Board Member Program Spotlight:

YAMTEP (Young Adult Manufacturing Training Employment Program):

Tyrone Reaves provided a presentation on YAMTEP's workforce development initiatives and organizational growth over the past 11 years. He explained that YAMTEP partners with community organizations to take on participants rather than recruiting directly, with a focus on assisting high school seniors graduating from high school and adults ages 17-60 in obtaining employment.

Mission: YAMTEP trains, empowers, and launches young adults into lives of purpose, independence, and community impact.

Programs and Services:

What We Do:

- **Workforce Development:** YAMTEP prepares young adults and job seekers for living-wage careers through hands-on training, career readiness coaching, and direct connections to employers.
- **Transportation Innovation:** Through its transportation program, YAMTEP removes transportation barriers that prevent individuals from accessing jobs and job training located outside public transit routes.
- **Economic Mobility:** By combining training, employment placement, and transportation support, YAMTEP helps individuals secure stable careers, increase their income, and build long-term financial independence.

Youth and Adult Workforce Development:

Youth Programming

- Youth programs run three times a year (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Open to juniors and seniors
- Expanding our school list
 - East High School
 - Edison Tech High School
 - Padilla High School
 - Wilson High School
 - Verlus High School
 - U-Prep High School
 - We are in contract with Webster and East Irondequoit School Districts
- Expecting consistent growth

Adult Programming

- Runs year round, via monthly cohorts
- Open to anyone 17 years and older
- Participants are mostly referred from other community-based agencies
- Participants are trained in
 - Resume writing
 - Soft Skills
 - Conflict resolution
 - Professionalism
 - Basic Manufacturing
 - Basic math
 - Basic measurement and tool utilization

Transportation Program:

Transportation to Job Training

YAMTEP works with other community based organizations and workforce development programs to transport their participants to their programs.

Transportation to Employers

YAMTEP provides transportation solutions that help employers improve attendance and retention, regardless of whether they hire YAMTEP participants.

Employer Relationships

YAMTEP partners with employers to understand their workforce needs and place participants in roles where they can succeed and grow, increasing retention and attendance.

Snapshot of employer partners:

Alliance Precision Plastics
Flower City
Friendly Home
Jamestown Container
Plug Power

Result: YAMTEP removes the transportation barrier which helps individuals secure stable careers, increase their income, and build long-term financial independence.

Projected Growth of Participants and Riders:

Tyrone reviewed YAMTEP's projected growth in transportation services and its long-term sustainability strategy. Transportation operations are expected to become financially self-sustaining as ridership increases, with a goal of reaching approximately 1,000 riders, at which point the program is projected to operate without relying on external funding. He noted the transportation program currently generates more than \$300,000 in revenue annually while maintaining an affordable monthly participant fee.

The transportation network is designed to provide convenient access to employment by utilizing centralized neighborhood pickup locations and employer drop-off sites. Employer participation continues to expand, with organizations utilizing transportation services regardless of whether they hire YAMTEP program participants.

Tyrone further explained that as ridership continues to grow, YAMTEP expects to expand service throughout Monroe County, creating greater routing efficiencies, and increasing the organization's ability to provide transportation to participants.

Directors Report:

Monroe County-Rochester WDB Member Survey Results:

Results of our Board survey include:

88% Response Rate: 30 of 34 active members

97% Effective is Board in Fulfilling mission: 40% Very; 57% Somewhat

97% Satisfied w/ Experience on Board: 43% Very Satisfied/44% Satisfied

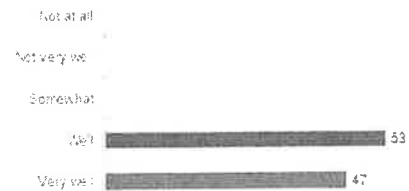
94% Would Recommend Serving on Board to others

Board Knowledge & Role Clarity

Q1: How clear are you about your roles and responsibilities?



Q2: How well do you understand the mission and strategic goals?



Q3 — Confidence in Workforce Development Systems (WIOA, partnerships):

40% Very confident • 57% Somewhat confident • 3% Not very confident

Nearly all members feel at least somewhat confident in understanding the workforce development ecosystem.

Meetings, Engagement & Member Contribution

Q6: Board meeting efficiency

74% Very efficient

Q11: Skills being used effectively?

36% Fully/50% Somewhat

Q8: Comfortable expressing opinions?

67% Very /23% Comfortable

Q10: Skills aligned with Board needs?

67% Fully/ 30% somewhat

Q12: Active Contribution Frequency?

48% Always/Often

Leadership, Strategic Direction & Community Impact

Q15: Leadership Effectiveness (Chair / Executive Director)

80% Very Effective
20% Effective
0% Ineffective

Q16: Strategic Direction vs. Operational Oversight

43% Very Well
47% Well
10% Somewhat/Poorly

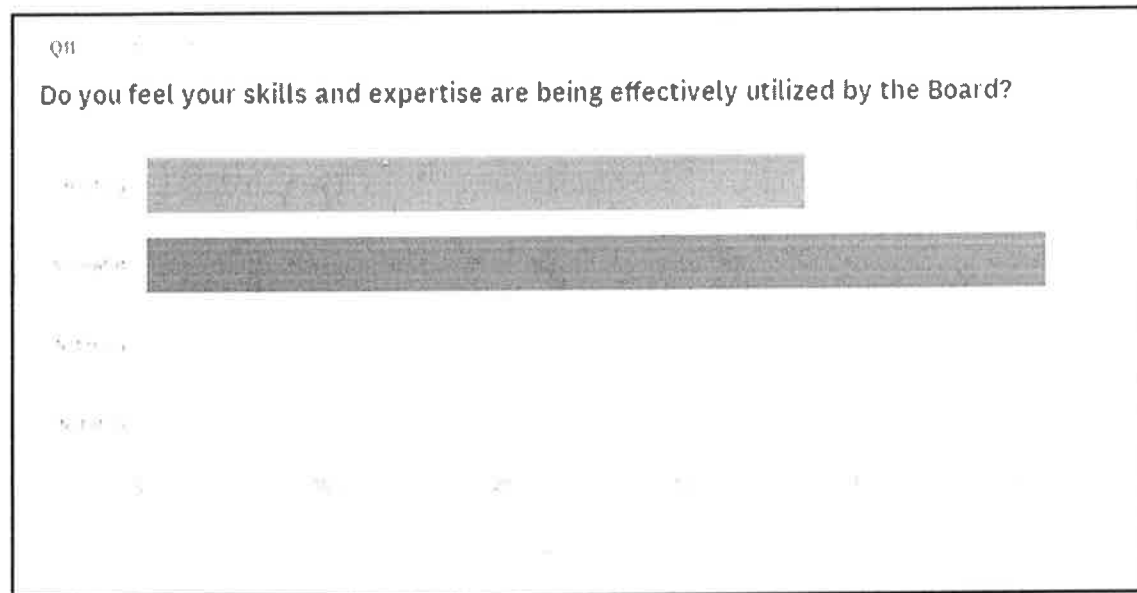
Q18: Impact on Job Seekers in Monroe County

40% Strongly Agree
54% Agree
6% Neutral

Q19: Impact on Employers / Businesses in Monroe County

33% Strongly Agree
57% Agree
10% Neutral

Q17 — Communication Between Meetings: ~60% Very Satisfied • ~33% Satisfied •
~3% Dissatisfied — strong overall, minor room for improvement.



Priorities, Barriers & Overall Satisfaction

Top Priorities for Next Year (Q20)

- Employer & industry engagement
- AI & workforce technology impacts
- Diversified / federal-independent funding
- Strategic planning & outcome tracking
- Job seeker skills & soft-skills programs
- Political threats & advocacy

Overall Satisfaction (Q23):

43% Very Satisfied

53% Satisfied

3% Neutral

Top Barriers to Contributing (Q13)

Time constraints

Lack of relevant opportunities

Limited understanding
of topics

Meeting structure

Lack of clarity on role

**Q24: 94% Would Recommend
Serving on This Board**

New Career Center:

- Asbestos abatement starting this month
- Construction bids being released this week (scheduled)
- Final construction to start in November, 10-month project
- Completion set for September 2027

Finger Lakes ON-RAMP:

Key RochesterWorks Roles:

- Fiscal agent for the grant, for at least 18 months
- Coordinator of Training Infrastructure
- Community Outreach/Recruitment
- Career Navigator/Success Coach
 - Starting with 3 in Year 1, ending with 18-20 by Year 5

What's Next?

- RochesterWorks has been awarded a Phase II implementation grant from ESD.
- Award Letter received on May 22nd, 2026 not to exceed \$39M (\$20M in operating and \$19M in capital).
- When approved, short-term punch list items include:
 - Engaging with a consultant to assist with start-up
 - Working with MCC to form an advisory board which will eventually become the 501(c)3 Board of Directors
 - Hiring an Executive Director for the Program
 - Start enrolling students under the program in Q4 of 2026

Omni - New Integrated Workforce & Reporting System:

- Internally developed to address historically disconnected processes and workflows
- Unified digital platform that consolidates workforce development operations into a single, secure, role-based system powered by an integrated AI assistant

- Built specifically for RochesterWorks workflows and terminology
- Accessible via web browser - no software installation required
- Role-based access ensures staff see only what they need
- AI assistant available to every user for guidance and support
- Real-Time dashboards, Queue system and reports hub
- Referral improvements
- Time Management/HR process improvements

Good News:

Every year, the Rochester affiliate of the National Human Resources Association (NHRA) selects a local organization to support through its Annual Benefit Auction - typically focusing on agencies that expand employment opportunities across our region.

This year, NHRA has selected RochesterWorks as its partner organization. Through the November auction event, they will highlight our work - and more importantly, the impact our staff members make every day as workforce development professionals.

Proceeds from the event will help us provide supportive services to our customers, including those who may not be covered by WIOA or other funding sources.

Equally important, this is an opportunity to tell our story to the broader community. That story begins with our work - connecting thousands of residents to opportunity each year. That impact should never be taken for granted, and we are proud that NHRA is helping shine a spotlight on RochesterWorks.

Adjournment: 9:42AM

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Melissa Suchodolski and seconded by Rodric Cox-Cooper. The motion was passed unanimously.

WDB Meeting Schedule:

September 15, 2026

December 15, 2026

March 16, 2027

June 15, 2027

Approved:



David Seeley



Date

Submitted by: Mary McKeown

Reviewed by:

David Seeley: July 27, 2026

Jeanine Frenz: June 29, 2026