

City of Somerville, Massachusetts Job Creation and Retention Trust

Trustees

Thomas Bent
Vickie Choitz
Lisa Cook
Silvana Dinka
Thomas Galligani
Anika Van Eaton
Rand Wilson
Josh Grehan
Matthew McLaughlin

Minutes

Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust
Tuesday, July 2nd, 2019, at 6:00 pm
3rd Floor Conference Room, Somerville City Hall

In attendance: Vickie Choitz, Anika Van Eaton, Lisa Cook, Matthew McLaughlin, Thomas Bent, Thomas Galligani, Josh Grehan

Staff Present: Ben Sommer, Chadi Salamoun

Meeting began at 6:15pm

Ben Sommer introduced Chadi Salamoun, the new economic development intern.

1. Approval of June 4th, 2019 Minutes

- Vickie Choitz, Anika Van Eaton, Lisa Cook, Thomas Bent, Josh Grehan approved the minutes. Thomas Galligani abstained

2. Presentation and discussion on labor market information

- Anika Van Eaton gave a presentation on labor market data for the Metro Boston area. Top industries by employment in Somerville include Health Care, Food Services, and Retail. The fastest growing industries in Somerville include Professional and Technical Services, Food Services, Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, and Health Care (See appendix A for full presentation).
- Josh Grehan said that the economic development office should discuss employment needs with developers and incoming anchor tenants. Thomas Galligani said that he would reach out to developers to begin these conversations.

3. Brainstorming ideas for investments

- Vickie Choitz explained the brainstorming process for this meeting and the next meeting. Tonight would include sketching out ideas for investments aligned with the four Talent Equity Playbook strategies. The remainder of the meeting and the August meeting would be devoted to discussing and prioritizing ideas through a “dotocracy” voting and discussion process.
- Following a 20 minute brainstorming session on which ideas were written on poster paper under the headings of the four Talent Equity Playbook strategies, the discussion focused on further explaining Strategy 1 investment ideas which included: access to jobs, i.e., online jobs board and job fairs; career navigation services; education and training programs, particularly in career and technical education (CTE) for English language learners (and leveraging Somerville HS CTE programs and Bunker Hill Community College); student scholarships; supporting system capacity, e.g., teacher professional development, research and planning grants; and system coordination.

4. Revisit regularly scheduled meeting day

- It was decided that the group will stick with the meeting on the first Tuesday of August, the 6th, as the first priority, but adjust as needed each month. The board decide to move up the meeting time to 5:30pm, and try to hold each meeting at City Hall, as much as possible.

5. Updates and Announcements

- Thomas Bent gave a short update listing the career programs at the High School’s Career and Technical Education program.

6. Adjournment

- Anika Van Eaton made a motion to adjourn, Josh Grehan seconded the motion.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

APPENDIX A
Labor Market Presentation