

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
Jesse Clingan

Minutes

Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust
Tuesday, May 12, 2019, at 5:30PM
Gotomeeting

In attendance: Vickie Choitz, Anika Van Eaton, Thomas Bent, Rand Wilson, Lisa Cook, Thomas Galligani, Jesse Clingan, Silvana Dinka, Josh Grehan

Staff Present: Ben Sommer

Guests Present: Betsy Cowan, MAPC

Meeting commenced at 5:34pm

All members were present

1. Approval of April 21st Special Meeting minutes
 - Motion to approve made by Josh Grehan. Seconded by Thomas Galligani.
 - Motion was unanimously approved.
2. Updates and announcements
 - Ben Sommer gave an update on conversations with the schools. More information is needed from SPS on budget.
3. Rapid Response Plan
 - Betsy Cowan, Economic Development Director at MAPC, gave a presentation on progress made in developing the rapid response plan. Draft plan will be made available on in mid-June.
 - Vicky Choitz asked if self-employed individuals were included in presented data. Betsy said that the next dataset will include that data.
 - Josh Grehan asked what process looked like for each stakeholder: business, non-profit, government, resident.
 - Vicky Choitz asked about employer participation. Described major structural changes in the workforce. Suggested several sources such as Worklab Innovations, Learn and Earn programs, Adult Foundational Skills. Also asked

about how workforce development could deal with trauma, as many of our communities are experiencing major trauma.

- Thomas Galligani mentioned reverse workshare that exists in New Hampshire, as innovative model.
- Thomas Bent highlighted the critical role of employers in this conversation.
- Vicky Choitz noted the importance and success of sector partnerships as a model for employer engagement.

4. Job Quality RFI

- Vicky Choitz gave an update on the RFI responses which the review committee received the previous week. Vicky also shared the changes the committee made to the draft RFP which included more detail in the programming description, clarity in the difference between the two program tracks, emphasis on the curriculum being open-source (and, therefore, cost efficient), and streamlined program description requirements.
- The board discussed the draft RFP. Silvana Dinka asked if there was an organization who could do both. Vickie responded that COSH had included in their letter that they do have the capability to do both.
- Thomas Bent said he would reach out to his network to see who might be able to apply on the HR/business side.

5. RFP Schedule Review

- Agreement was made to push back the schedule for the Job Quality RFP. The next board meeting would be moved to June 23rd to accommodate the RFP review process.

6. Adjournment

- Josh Grehan made a motion to adjourn. Anika Van Eaton seconded the motion
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.