



Duluth Workforce Development Board

218-730-5241 | efoshay@duluthmn.gov

402 West First Street | Duluth, Minnesota 55802

www.duluthmn.gov

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 26, 2026

Duluth City Hall, Room 330, 411 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802

Present:

Jack Carlson, President, Duluth Building and Construction Trades
Andrea Chartier, Workforce Development Specialist, Essentia Health
Nicole Christiansen, Human Resources Manager, Aspirus/St. Luke's
Corey Cusick, Community Services Director, United Way
Chiamaka Enemuoh, President, Lifestone Health Care
Claire Farmer-Lies, Marketing & Communications Specialist, Residential Services Inc.
Angie Frank, Manager, Duluth Adult Education
Susie Gilbertson, Sr. Recruiter, Maurices Corporation
Lindsey Growette Stingle, Human Resources Director, National Bank of Commerce
Brianna Gunderson, General Manager, Holiday Inn & Suites
Carolyn Haney-Siers, Founder/Owner, Duluth Core Learning
Julie Johnson Atkinson, Vice President of Sales, Visit Duluth
Linda Kingston, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Lake Superior College
Kathy Koch, Manager of Human Resources, Allete
Eric Nordgren, Director of the Center for Professional Training and Lifelong Learning, The College of St. Scholastica
Jennifer Oakes, DEED Job Service Site Supervisor, Duluth CareerForce
Danette Seboe, Principal Career and Tech Education & Career Readiness, ISD 709
Ian Vincent, Director of Business Services, True North Goodwill
Faith Wickenhauser, Associate Human Resources Consultant, Terch & Associates
Amanda Yates, Assistant Director Economic Services and Supports, St. Louis County
Elena Foshay, Director, Duluth Workforce Development
Carson Gorecki, Northeast Regional Labor Market Analyst, DEED
Carol Turner, Operations Manager, Duluth Workforce Development

Meeting called to order at 2:03 p.m.

- Welcome from Ian Vincent and Susie Gilbertson, creating space to ask questions
- Introductions and icebreaker activity

Public Comment:

- None

Board Actions:

- November 17, 2025 board minutes were approved by all in attendance
- New Chair/Vice Chair welcome and note of appreciation for Kayla Dietzmann (outgoing Chair, since 2024) Claire Farmer-Lies (outgoing Vice Chair, since 2022) for their service leading the Board
- Board field trips
 - Consider hosting a board meeting at your site
 - Must be open for the public to attend
 - Tours for board committees are great too
 - Jack Carlson noted that the Labor Temple is available and has space for at least 30 people

Updates and Success Stories:

- A DWD counselor learned about Essentia Health's medical assistance apprenticeship. Working with Andrea Chartier, an MFIP participant was referred to the program, enrolled and is currently working!
- A dislocated worker enrolled in CLIMB to start a new business. Their business is off the ground and was recently highlighted in the news!
- We received just over a million dollars from the state of Minnesota since we last met. These grants support career pathway trainings, tuition assistance, paid internships, women in manufacturing programs, pay for student teachers, school nurse training, and commercial driver's license training.
- The City Attorney's office helped us create a plan for employees to manage a visit from ICE, should one occur.
- The Recredentialing Career Pathways Program is available to help participants transfer credentials from other countries. It comes up frequently in medical and manufacturing fields.
- Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) legislative priorities:
 - Efforts looking at the workforce system, funding, performance measures and outcomes
 - Any member of a workforce board can join the Governor's Workforce Development Board
- Construct Tomorrow will be held March 17-18, 2026 at the DECC. This event serves over 1000 students a year.
- Planning educational sessions/outreach for elected officials in Duluth

Committee Updates:

Governance:

- Orientations for new members, encouragement to take leadership positions in committees, conflict of interest policies, and field trips.

Emerging Workforce:

- Youth Craft Fair, Youth Build, Youth Team work plan, and updating the annual strategic plan for DEED.

Construction Working Group:

- Great employer participation and has been a hub for connecting. Discussing challenges and opportunities to help people find jobs in construction.

Manufacturing Working Group:

- Tour of Manufacturing in October was a success. It was modeled after Construct Tomorrow.

Healthcare Working Group:

- Scrubs camps are happening, including one for middle school students in Silver Bay, and four for adults. Work plan and apprenticeships discussed.

Equity Working Group:

- Employer champions and Equity Summit.

Other notes:

- Discussion to review our current building/lease.

OSO Metrics Review:

- Provide oversight of the one stop operator, review and select consortium, and updates from Elena Foshay.

Workforce Development Fund 101:

- Elena Foshay gave a presentation on the Workforce Development fund, the Job Skills Partnership Board, what the WDF supports, and how the board is involved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

- Next meeting: Monday, March 16, 2026 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Duluth City Hall, Room 330, 411 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802