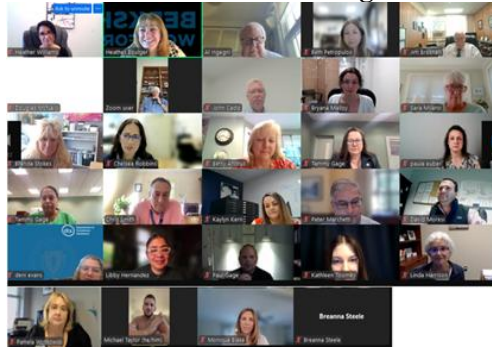




Board of Director Meeting
Thursday, September 4, 2025, 8-9:15AM Via zoom
Minutes of meeting



Attendees:

✓	B. Andrus	✓	L. Harrison	✓	B. Petropulos		Staff:
*	T. Billington	✓	L. Hernandez	*	A. Rankin	✓	H. Boulger, H. Williams
✓	M. Blake	✓	A. Ingegna	✓	C. Robbins	✓	K. Toomey; S. Milano; B. Malloy
✓	J. Brosnan	*	E. Kennedy	*	E. Sheridan		
✓	J. Cadiz	✓	K. Kern	*	M. Sweet		
✓	E. Dellea	*	J. Maturevich	✓	C. Smith		Guests:
✓	P. Euber	✓	D. McNally	✓	B. Stokes	✓	Mayor Marchetti
✓	D. Evans	*	M. McGeeney	✓	M. Tyler	✓	Dr Phillips, Pittsfield Public Schools
✓	P. Gage	✓	D. Moresi		20/28	✓	Brenna Steele, iBerkshires.com
✓	T. Gage	*	B. Morrison		*excused absence		

Mission: To develop partnerships, generate resources, and advocate for workforce solutions that result in a skilled workforce, prospering businesses, and equitable access to meaningful career pathways and quality employment for residents and youth.

I. Call to Order

Board President David Moresi started the meeting at 8:04AM by welcoming Mayor Marchetti, Dr. Latifah Phillips from Pittsfield Public Schools, new Board members, and guests. David offered his appreciation to the Board and employees, and noted the theme for this year is appreciation, collaboration, and opportunity. The FY2025 Workforce Impact awardees were highlighted, including CHP Berkshires (2025 Employer of the Year), McCann and Taconic (2025 Workforce Professionals), and Chris D'Aniello and Heather Boyko (2025 Educators). A quorum is present.

Consent Agenda

President Moresi noted that consent agenda item B. FY2025 Audit was removed from the agenda as it has not been completed. He asked if there were any additional items that needed to be removed. Hearing none, the following items were considered:

- A. Minutes from proxy June 5, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting.
- B. FY2025 Audit (removed, still in progress)
- C. FY2026 Financial Statement (\$78,691 income; \$142,138 expenses; net loss (\$63,519); \$117K checking; \$162K money market; \$85K Accounts Receivable)
- D. Individual Training Accounts – 1 provider

A motion was made by Albert Ingegna to approve the consent agenda items, seconded by Gene Dellea, and the motion carried.

II. Announcements/Communications

President Moresi noted the next meeting of the full board of directors

- Quarterly Board meeting – December 4th at 8AM in person!
- Executive Committee – November 12th at 8AM via zoom
- Evaluation Committee – October 16, 2025 at 8AM via zoom
- Youth Council – October 2, 2025 at 9AM via zoom

Communications included:

- 16th Annual MA Jobs & Workforce Summit on 9/25/25 in Haverhill
- MassHire Awards – nominations until 9/12/25
- Board & Career Center certified
- Open Meeting Law – remote meetings expire 3/31/27 unless action is taken
- MWF Issuance #14-503 State Ethics Commission's conflict of interest online training must be completed ever 2 years

Welcome to New Board Members:

- **Betsy Andrus**, Executive Director of the South Berkshire Chamber of Commerce
- **Kaylyn Kern**, Director of Operations, Bosquet Sport
- **John Cadiz**, Director of Human Resources, 18 Degrees, Inc.
- **Brenda Stokes**, Executive Director, Human Resources for Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- **Makayla-Courtney McGeeney**, Marketing Consultant for the North Adams Chamber of Commerce
- **Libby Hernandez**, Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker Outreach Specialist from the Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development

Self-introductions occurred.

III. New Business

FY2026 WIOA Plan – MassHire Berkshire is required to submit an annual plan for FY26 as outlined in Issuance 100 DCS 04.116. The Executive Director noted that there was an 18.7% decrease in funding and will research other grant options. The FY26 plan would provide up to 10% WIOA funding to the BCREB, permission to negotiate performance goals for FY26, and seek a training threshold variance of 20%. The Career Center's Integrated Budget is for \$2,053,648. Discussion ensued and ***a motion made by Doug McNally to approve the FY26 WIOA Plan as submitted. Seconded by Albert Ingegni, the motion carried.***

Connecting Activities FY26 school contracts – Heather Williams provided an overview and recommendation.

School	FY26 WBL Coordinator Stipends	FY26 Career Team Stipends
Drury	\$5,500	\$2,500
Hoosac	\$5,500	\$2,500
Lee	\$5,500	\$2,500
Lenox	\$5,500	\$2,500
McCann	\$3,500	\$2,500
Monument	\$5,500	\$6,000
Mt. Everett	\$5,000	\$2,500
Mt. Greylock	\$4,000	\$5,000
Pittsfield High	\$4,500	\$2,500
Taconic	\$4,500	\$2,500
Wahconah	\$5,000	\$6,000
BART	\$4,000	\$5,000
Total	\$56,500	\$42,000

Discussion ensued and a ***motion was made by Gene Dellea to accept the recommendation, seconded by Doug McNally, and the motion carried. James Brosnan and Tammy Gage abstained.***

The new Pittsfield Superintendent, Dr. Latifah Phillips thanked the Board for inviting her to the meeting, noted that her core values are about collaboration, and is looking forward to aligning workforce development with education through early career and pathway programming efforts.

IV. Chief Elected Official Comments

Mayor Peter Marchetti thanked the Board for their critical workforce programming efforts which help employers, job seekers, and youth with their employment and training needs. He recognized the Board and Career Centers' many programs and initiatives, and looks forward to engaging the additional 31 Berkshire communities. The City of Pittsfield appreciates MassHire's support and noted some promising opportunities. As the Lead Elected Official, he appoints quality leaders to the Board to have tough conversations and to take action to improve the economy, and welcomed the 6 new board members. He congratulated the 2025 awardees and looks forward to working with the MassHire team to revitalize the economy by getting our job seekers and youth back to work. Doug McNally and David Moresi thanked the Mayor for joining today's meeting and for being a strong advocate for workforce development.

V. Reports

Executive Director Report – Heather Boulger highlighted quarterly activities including:

- EOLWD Secretary Jones/ visit to the Berkshires to kick off the statewide 250 Revolution Tour (tour of Interprint and CEO roundtable with Berkshire Health Systems)
- Annual monitoring (MSWF, fiscal, systems & programmatic)
- Increased funding 20% in FY25 and programs 15%
- Marketing increased by 32%
- Part of Berkshire Community College's Inaugural State of the Berkshire Workforce Summit
- MassHire Advocacy with our continued values of collaboration, respect, reliability & ingenuity
- Workforce Blueprint 3.0
- Legislative outreach
- Sara Milano highlighted the Manufacturing grant with 4 completing MACWIC & 13 BIC training and 14 on-the-job training opportunities at 5 companies
- Rapid response services provided to 7 companies impacting 424 workers

Youth Director Report – Heather Williams and Kat Toomy reported quarterly youth activities:

- North County Internship Program – in its 11th year with 7 youth and 5 host employers. Program sponsors include: MountainOne, ABC, Miraval, Moresi & Associates, and Berkshire Bank
- Crane contributed \$5K to help 2 students continue their internship into the fall.
- Visited 7 youth at 4 employers as part of the Berkshire Career Center's state-funded YouthWorks program
- Berkshire Taconic Foundation funds supported summer career readiness enrichment activities at Lenox, Lee, Monument, and Mt. Everett
- Connecting Activities funds supported career readiness enrichment activities at Herberg, Pittsfield High, Hoosac Valley and Mt. Greylock
- Wishing our Taconic graduate and intern Katie the best with her future endeavors.
- Connecting Activities FY26 will focus on the School-to-Career database, plans for MEFA Pathway, and strengthening post-secondary & career teams

Industry Training Report – Bryana Malloy outlined Career Technical Initiative and Healthcare Hubs activities:

- McCann Tech enrolled 38 adults in the Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive Technician & Welding programs with 26 completing (68%).
- Taconic enrolled 23 adults in the Welding & Automotive Body Repair, 17 completing (74%)

- Healthcare HUBs grant enrolled 328 trainees, 265 completing (80%). Training included nursing assistant, CNA, medical assistant, EMT, registered behavior technicians, phlebotomy technician, and licensed practical nurse.

MassHire Berkshire Career Center Report – Pamela Wojtkowski highlighted career center activities:

- YouthWorks enrolled 90 participants
- Manufacturing & Welding CTI graduations
- ESOL & Healthcare/Human Services Job Fairs
- Future events include English for Employment Workshop (10 weeks starting 9/16/25) and Veterans Job & Resource Fair (11/13/25)
- Business served in FY25 was 875, with goal of 675 (129%); new to center 286 (127%); repeat businesses 589 (130%); 117 recruitments; and 799 marketing & outreach activities
- Job seekers served in FY25 was 4,194, with goal of 3250 (106%) with 13,979 total visits to the center and 2,401 job seeker workshops
- Youth enrolled 43 and 16 gained Hise/GED credential
- Adult enrolled 28 with 17 entering training
- Dislocated worker enrolled 80 with 23 trainings and 57 in Opioid grant which ends 9/30/25
- DUA (unemployment program) has transitioned to new modernized technical claims systems
- RESEA (reemployment/UI) completed for 707 customers with 164 returning to work.
- Unemployment assistance provide for 2,381 customers
- Veterans services provided to 146 with 12 entering employment

VI. Strategic Discussion

- David Moresi noted that Moresi & Associates had 5 summer youth (1 from BCREB program), and he is confident in today's young people and the narrative about trades and lack of jobs is changing.
- John Cadiz asked for a list of acronyms to be provided.
- Doug McNally echoed the quality of the summer youth programs and opportunities that are provided for both the young people and the employers.

VII. Adjournment

President Moresi thanked Mayor Marchetti and Board Members and staff for their continued commitment and hard work. The next meeting of the full Board will be December 4th, 2025 at 8AM in person. ***With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Doug McNally, seconded by Linda Harrison, and unanimously approved.*** Meeting ended at 9:04AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Robbins, Secretary
HPB