

Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday

January 30, 2024

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Huntington One-Stop Office

Meeting Facilitator: Melissa Bias, Executive Director of Region 2 Workforce Investment Board

Present: Chairman Charles Shaw, Melissa Bias (Executive Director Region 2 WIB), Region 2 WIB Staff: Heather Merritt, Malissa Dishman, Affiona Brown, Burcu Delph, and Jakki Jackson. Region 2 WIB Youth: Jakob Quintero, Ameris Tomblin, and Tasha Perry. Jayden Johnson (friend of Tasha), Cedric Greene and Michelle White (Blenko Glass), Tammey Quinonez (HVVHA), Karen Horner (MCTC), and George New (Wayne County BOE).

Call to Order: Pastor Charles Shaw – Youth Chair

Prayer: Pastor Charles Shaw

Executive Director Report:

- **Melissa Bias** welcomed everyone and introduced all the partners present at the meeting. She explained what the Region 2 WIB does and why to those in attendance. She told about the opportunity everyone has to volunteer at the Facing Hunger Foodbank in February and can sign up on the sign-in sheet. She introduced George New, one of R2 WIB's contracted partners, who spoke during our meeting.
- **George New** told his story of being Janitor at Wayne Co. Schools. He interacts with the students on a daily basis; one of those students was a young lady, Tasha Perry. George told how he walked into Rocky Top's Pizza to pick up his order and discovered Tasha working there. As he talked with her, he began to realize she had dropped out of school. He told her about Region 2 WIB's Youth Program and encouraged her to check it out. Tasha did in fact check it out and enrolled! After telling about Tasha's story, George introduced Tasha for her Graduation Ceremony.
- **Tasha Perry's Graduation Ceremony:**

Tasha Perry, with a big smile on her face and proud of her achievements, walked down the aisle at Region 2 Workforce Investment Board wearing a graduation cap and gown! Pastor Shaw and George New presented Tasha with her Penn Foster High

School Diploma. She gave a little speech and thanked everyone. A few pictures were taken with Tasha, along with Ms. Bias, Pastor Shaw, George New, Burcu Delph (Youth Career Planner), and with Tasha's friends and family.

- **Ms. Bias** announced Pastor Charles Shaw's birthday. We all joined in celebrating it with him by presenting him with a birthday card and cupcakes. Pastor Shaw thanked us and told us all he appreciated our thoughtfulness.

Youth Presentations:

- **Burcu Delph:** Burcu was a proud Youth Career Planner who spoke to us about Tasha Perry and another Youth, Abigail Hall, who had graduated from BCTC Cosmetology but was unable to attend our meeting.
- **Jakki Jackson:** Jakki shared stories of several of our youth that currently have a work experience contract with Region 2 WIB.
- **Affiona Brown:** Affiona told us about the Youth Career Planner's Workshops and Outreach Programs they are currently hosting/attending. Our Career Planners are reaching out to the community and searching for employers who would be willing to allow our youth to do Work Experience Contracts and work with us.

- **Melissa Bias, Executive Director,** introduced Heather Merritt as our new Youth Supervisor. Heather spoke about her new role she is now supervising in Region 2 WIB. Heather also spoke about how we can all come together in our community and help our Youth to succeed in life. Melissa Bias also talked about how Coalfield Development and Huntington Housing Authority helps the youth in our community. She spoke of how Region 2 WIB gathers donations for youth; one place we give donations to is at: The Center – The Youth Opportunity Hub.

- **Pastor Charles Shaw** took the ownership to discuss the last Youth Council Minutes saying it should have read that: "He informed everyone that he recently finished a 5-week construction job training program for the community partnered with Coalfield Development".

Adjourned at 1:03 pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Malissa Dishman

