



**Full Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
February 10, 2026 | 4 p.m.
SCW Conference Room & Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88385649195?pwd=JiOcMPLDKTLyXiwDY10vqiURfKOUpu.1>

Board Members Present:

Leanne Liddicoat, Chair	Daniel Gansereit	Matt Wilkes
Christy Pettey, Vice Chair	Dennis Flabetich	Peter Finch
Andrew Norman	Graciela Villanueva	Todd Wurl
Becky Gellerson	Jonathan Smith	
Chelsea Rullie	Mara Lopez	

Staff Present:

Amy Martinez	Travis Piatz	Tim Hoener
Meranda Smith	Ariana Cordova	Susy Moran
Armando Flores	Jensie Rosenow	Kris Hartman
Patricia Padilla		

Guests:

Commissioner Todd Andrews	Bianka DeSure	Anthony Peterson
Victor Phillips	Ajsa Suljic	Sondra Pieti
Karla Jessen	Israel Cervantes	Martin Garibay
Alma Caballero	Azucena Vasquez-Rojas	Tawnya Armstead
Patrick Baldoz	David Gutierrez Bentencourt	Jeff Barton
Jesse Diaz		

Call to Order

Leanne Liddicoat called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

Public Comment

Leanne Liddicoat opened the floor to guests for public comments for items not listed on the agenda. No comments were made.

Director's Report

Amy Martinez presented the upcoming WorkSource One-Stop Centers certification, which are required every three years. As in past years, board members will be invited to participate in on-site walkthroughs of the centers. Patrick Baldoz, the One-Stop Operator, noted that the review process is straightforward using a state-provided checklist, which the centers' administrative staff will complete, and board volunteers will verify. He added that the centers consistently meet required standards. Both Amy and Patrick emphasized that the walkthroughs provide board members valuable insight into the full range of services offered and offer an opportunity to meet

staff and better understand center operations. The board will be asked to formally approve the center certifications at the May board meeting. A request for volunteers will be sent in the coming weeks.

Next, Amy reported the first-year review of the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. As a requirement to review and update the plan every two years, this year's process include reviews during the February and May meetings, followed by a more in-depth mid-cycle review and working session in September. Today's review is based on program year 2024 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025) outcomes. The plan's three strategic pillars, Talent Pipeline, Quality Jobs, and Youth & Young Adults, noted the following significant gains:

- On-the-Job Training (OJT) placements increased from 1 to 11, a 1000% rise, reflecting the board's emphasis on expanding work-based learning.
- Youth enrollment across all programs grew by 51%, serving 764 individuals ages 16-29.
- Post-Secondary education entry among youth participants rose to 81%, reaching 435 students.
- Internship placements increased by 15%

Areas needing improvement include registered apprenticeship expansion, though new opportunities may emerge in medical assisting, IT, and meat cutting. Efforts are underway to support a proposed Yakima meat-cutting training center pending funding. Additional metrics show a 59% increase in participants achieving self-sufficiency and rising support service costs in childcare, housing, and transportation, resulting in fewer individuals served but higher assistance per person. Job quality tracking continues, adjusted for local wage realities.

Child Care Presentations

Meranda Smith introduced the Child Care presentations by Bianka DeSure with Spokane Workforce Council, and Lindsay Boswell with Yakima Valley Community Foundation. Meranda provided an outcomes summary of the \$3 million spent that concluded in August 2025, stating more details will be provided in the presentations. Presentation highlights included:

- Spokane's strong performance exceeding many of its "Reconnect to Work" program targets, some by more than 200%,
- The creation of 162 new childcare slots,
- Technical assistance was provided to 128 childcare providers in English and Spanish,
- Expanded connections to Washington's Working Connections Child Care subsidy,
- Support for the Memorial Foundation's feasibility study for an employee childcare center,
- Special spotlight on Busy Bees center: The highly collaborative Busy Bees project in Toppenish, included multiple partners and funding sources that coordinated to complete infrastructure needs for expanding the center from 30 to 80 slots, and
- Additional supported projects included smaller facility fixes and an expansion effort at the Happy Feet childcare center in Ellensburg in partnership with Kittitas Valley Healthcare.

Engaged conversations about funding, region's needs and advocacy were covered

Approval of Minutes

Leanne Liddicoat called attention to the November 18, 2025, meeting minutes.

Dennis Flabetich moved to approve the November 18, 2025, meeting minutes, seconded by Graciela Villanueva. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Leanne Liddicoat called attention to the items on the consent agenda listed below, asking if any item needs to be removed for discussion. No comments followed.

- 02-25-001 December 2025 Financial Statement
- 02-25-002 Executive Committee Action Forms
- 02-25-003 SCW Board Approved Policies

Graciela Villanueva moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Jonathan Smith. Motion carried.

Bylaws Revision

Amy Martinez presented the following update and revisions of the South Central Workforce Bylaws. The State of Washington Policy 5610, Revision 1, [Local Board Member Appointment Criteria](#), which outlines local board composition related to Local Workforce Development Board composition, is currently undergoing updates. Historically, the Washington State Workforce Education and Coordinating Board (WTECB or State Board) allowed local workforce boards to operate under certain exceptions permitted by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). One such exception allowed a single individual to occupy two seats on a local board. For South Central Workforce, this applied to the combined Labor and Apprenticeship seat. However, under current Policy 5610 language, the provision titled “Board Members Representing Multiple Entities” (page 4) does not permit one individual to hold multiple board seats. As a result, until the policy update process is complete, local workforce boards must fully comply with the existing policy requirements. Accordingly, South Central Workforce is required to add a separate Apprenticeship representative to the Board. The Executive Committee met on January 13, 2026, to address this requirement and to make corresponding updates to the Bylaws and board composition. The proposed changes are summarized below:

Article V – Board of Directors

- Expands the Board from 19 to 20 members, with detailed composition requirements across business, labor, education, and government sectors.
- Updates language to align with policy requirements for at least two small business representatives and efforts to include minority- and women-owned businesses.
- Updates language to align with policy by separating labor and apprenticeship representation, allowing for union and/or non-union representation.
- Clarifies nomination processes across all sectors to ensure appropriate local representation.

- Updates proxy voting language to require written notice submitted via email to the CEO prior to the meeting.

Article VI – Officers

- Clarifies succession protocol when both the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent, designating the Treasurer or another private-sector Director to serve as Chair Pro Tem.

Article VII – Committees

- Updates Executive Committee composition to include the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and four at-large Directors, with voting members maintaining a majority of business representatives.
- Adds language granting the Executive Committee emergency authority to act on behalf of the Board on time-sensitive or emergency matters, subject to ratification at the next Board meeting.

Article VIII – Meetings

- Adjusts the quarterly Board meeting schedule by moving the August meeting to September; February, May, and November remain unchanged.
- Clarifies that Directors may participate remotely via virtual platforms or conference call and be considered present.

Article XI – Books and Records

- Requires public posting of Board and Executive Committee meeting minutes on the SCW website, with approval at the subsequent meeting.
- Confirms retention of Articles, Bylaws, and Director/officer rosters at the registered or principal office, with copying costs borne by requestors.

No further discussion followed.

Dennis Flabetich moved to approve the Bylaws Revisions as presented, seconded by Graciela Villanueva. Motion carried.

Board Member & Community Updates

To support ongoing collaboration and awareness across our region, Leanne Liddicoat opened the floor for brief updates from board members and guests. These may include organizational news, program highlights, community needs, or upcoming opportunities. Leanne shared that Dr. Teresa Rich was recently appointed as the new Yakima Valley College President. Although Dr. Rich was not present, Leanne noted she performed admirably in her interim role and has already demonstrated strong leadership and promise for the future. Next, Travis Piatz reported several recent layoffs, including Crunch Pak and International Paper in Union Gap, impacting over 200 workers. A WARN notice for Congdon Packing was incorrectly filed as a permanent layoff but was later confirmed to be seasonal. Staff is coordinating a rapid response meeting with Crunch Pak scheduled next week in English and Spanish, for the 102 employees affected before the facility closes at the end of March. Tree Top is already recruiting on-site. Efforts to reach International Paper are ongoing. Jeff Barton, with Fort Simco Job Corps, invited board members and guests to attend an upcoming event, offering a tour of their facility to showcase their training and instructional programs.

Next Steps/Assignments

None.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.