

Westside Association Meeting Minutes August 7, 2014
Meeting called to order by President Connie Drexler @12:00
Approval June 2014- minutes passed (Greg/Steve)

Treasurer's Report-

- Income-\$450.00 dues payments
- payments
 - Steinert Printing- brochures/insets- \$296.10
 -
- ending balance- July 31, 2014- \$5677.33

Chamber Report:

- Golf outing August 11
- Business after Hours- Aug 19 at LaSures
- AM Oshkosh- 08/21- Dockside

Membership:

- new brochures are ready for anyone to take and hand out to potential members

New Business:

- speaker schedule for 2014/2015 complete

Guest Speaker: Melissa Kohn-FVTC- Oshkosh Campus Director

(notes below from information sent from Melissa Kohn)

Technical College Governance and Funding

What's happening?

- A special legislative committee is being convened this summer to review the governance and funding of Wisconsin Technical Colleges with a bias toward moving to a state-controlled System.
- State governance would hinder technical colleges from responding nimbly to the unique needs of their communities, employer partners, and students.
- State funding would put technical college budgets in even more direct competition with all other state agencies (e.g. UW, corrections, BadgerCare). This would dramatically slow decision-making and put funding at significant risk, especially during economic downturns, when needed most by our local communities.

Why is this likely happening?

State lawmakers' interest in property tax relief

FACT: FVTC represents only about 10% of the local property tax burden and will be reduced to about 5% as of 2014 due to legislation already passed (Act 145).

FACT: Moving funding to the state doesn't lower the overall cost; it just shifts where the funding comes from and puts that funding at much greater risk.

Unelected technical college boards have tax levy authority ("taxation without representation")

FACT: Boards' property tax levy authority has always been limited by an operating mill rate, has been frozen other than the value from net new construction in the District since 2011, and now will be decreased by 44.6% in 2014.

FACT: Members of FVTC's Board of Trustees are statutorily appointed by the 28 elected school board presidents from the school districts in its service area.

FACT: Business leaders serving as Trustees are key to the success of technical colleges. Only special interest groups would run candidates for elected, volunteer Board seats; business leaders would not spend the time, money or energy in election campaigns.

Apparent desire for control (and removing control from local governmental entities)

FACT: Moving decision-making to the state level will severely limit responsiveness to local employer and community needs.

FACT: Increased centralized control and bureaucracy will add new costs, take a "one size fits all" approach, slow decision-making, and limit local flexibility.

We need your help this summer!

· Write or email your senator and representative to share your views. Please copy Rep. John Nygren and Sen. Sheila Harsdorf as committee co-chairs, as well as FVTC President, Dr. Susan May, on your correspondence.

· Visit your legislators to share your opinions on this matter.

· Invite a local legislator to your business, and help him/her understand the difference FVTC makes in your organization's success

Resources

www.districtboards.org contains more information about the legislative committee, as well as letter templates. Contact the FVTC Foundation office at (920)735-5695 or Foundation@fvtc.edu for additional assistance.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00PM