

FOOTHILL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (FWDB) MEETING

Minutes of February 18, 2026 FWDB Meeting

INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

Chair Selinske called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. Staff member Raymond Delgado conducted the roll call, and a quorum was established at 9:06 AM

Present - FWDB

Tom Selinske, Chair, Owner, Selinske and Associates Consulting
Laurie Wheeler, Vice Chair, President/CEO, South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Alexis Carter, Program Manager , Los Angeles/Coastal, EDD-Workforce Services
Rachelle Arizmendi, President, Arizmendi Consulting Group
Zachary Solomon, Business Representative, IBEW Local 11
Soyinka Allen, Program Director, Hospital Association of Southern California
Anthony Angulo, Owner, Legacy Kenpo Karate
Flint Fertig, Director of Adult Education, Monrovia Unified School District - 9:11 AM
Vicki Brannock, Senior Director, Workforce Strategy and Innovation Biocom – 9:08 AM
Gene Hurd, President, UAW Local 509
Dr. Salvatrice Cummo, Vice President – Economic & Workforce Dev., Pasadena City College – 9:45 AM
Amy Foell, Workforce Development Consultant, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership – 9:45 AM

Absent - FWDB

Dan J. Lien, DJL Professional Services
Keshia Darden, Owner, Simply Divine
K-Rahn Vallatine, CEO, Inner Sun Consulting
Denise McKnight, District Administrator, California Department of Rehabilitation
Noel Tony De Trinidad, Business Representative, Painters & Allied Trades DC 36
Hector Delgado, Vice President, Teamsters Local 986

Staff Present

Michael Trogan, Paul Enge, and Raymond Delgado,

Other Attendees

David Baquerizo – ProPath, David Shinder Facilitator

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the FWDB Full Board Meeting November 19, 2025, FWDB meeting were approved.

Motion: Rachelle Arizmendi

Second: Gene Hurd

Roll call vote:

Ayes- 9 (Selinske, Wheeler, Carter, Arizmendi, Solomon, Allen, Angulo, Brannock, Hurd)

Nays – 0

CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Selinske informed the Board that Michael Trogan has officially been appointed as Executive Director of the Foothill Workforce Development Board.

Vice Chair Wheeler inquired about Mr. Trogan’s official title with the City. Mr. Trogan responded that his title with the City of Pasadena is Career Services Administrator, his title with the Board is Executive Director, and once the non-profit entity is reactivated, he would hold the title of Chief Operating Officer.

PROGRAM UPDATE – Michael Trogan, Executive Director

Chair Selinske introduced the item and invited Executive Director Michael Trogan to provide the program update.

Mr. Trogan referred to the program performance data included in the meeting packet, noting that the summary reflects operations at the midpoint of the fiscal year. He reported that overall services are at approximately 70% of the total annual goal.

Mr. Trogan stated that the Wildfire Grant is not anticipated to reach 100% of its target for several reasons, including the availability of multiple alternative resources that reduced demand for assistance through the Board. He further noted that other workforce boards are experiencing similar challenges in fully expending Wildfire Grant funds and referenced Los Angeles County’s efforts to enroll 200 individuals in work experience prior to the March 31 deadline.

Mr. Trogan reported that performance in other program areas remains strong and highlighted the following data from the packet:

- **Adult Program (Program Year to Date):** 93 enrollments out of a goal of 120 (78%)

- **Dislocated Worker Program:** 92 enrollments out of a goal of 106 (87%)
- **Youth Program:** 51 enrollments out of a goal of 74 (69%)

Mr. Trogan stated that staff have continued efforts initiated last fiscal year to focus on consortium cities, establishing enrollment targets by jurisdiction. He noted that tracking goals by city assists staff in identifying service gaps and developing strategies to increase outreach in areas where enrollment targets are not being met.

Chair Selinske inquired about Youth Program enrollment numbers in Sierra Madre and South Pasadena. Mr. Trogan explained that staff have partnered with the City of South Pasadena and Pasadena City College to implement a stipend-based internship model.

Rachelle Arizmendi referenced a program in the City of Sierra Madre involving placements within Parks and Recreation. Mr. Trogan clarified that while Sierra Madre serves as a worksite location, the participating youth are not necessarily residents of Sierra Madre.

Chair Selinske requested that representatives from Sierra Madre coordinate with Mr. Trogan to support increased enrollments from the area.

Mr. Trogan also referenced the Business Services Report included in the packet and provided updates regarding Rapid Response activities. He directed Board members to additional informational flyers contained in the packet.

VII. ACTION ITEM – FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A RECOMMENDATION TO RENOMINATE FWDB EXPIRING MEMBERSHIPS FOR NEW TWO-YEAR TERMS

Chair Selinske introduced the item and explained that several FWDB member terms are set to expire. He stated that the Board is being asked to consider recommending the renomination of the following members for new two-year terms to the FETC Policy Board.

Chair Selinske asked staff member Raymond to review the expiring memberships.

Raymond presented the following members whose terms are expiring:

Business Category:

- Tom Selinske, Owner, Selinske and Associates Consulting
- Laurie Wheeler, President/CEO, South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
- Keshia Darden, Owner, Simply Divine
- Vicki Brannock, Principal, Advance Consultants

- Daniel J. Lien, Principal, DJL Professional Services

Labor Category:

- Zachary Solomon, Business Representative, IBEW Local 11

Economic and Community Development Category:

- Amy Foell, Workforce Consultant, Amy Foell Consulting / San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

Raymond reported that staff contacted each member listed, and all confirmed their willingness to continue serving and renew their membership.

RECOMMENDATION TO RENOMINATE FWDB EXPIRING MEMBERSHIPS FOR NEW TWO-YEAR TERMS

Motion: Rachelle Arizmendi

Second: Gene Hurd

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – 10 (Selinske, Wheeler, Carter, Arizmendi, Solomon, Allen, Solomon, Allen, Angulo, Fertig, Brannock, Hurd)

Nays – 0

Chair Selinske thanked the members for their continued commitment and willingness to serve.

Vice Chair Wheeler inquired whether the item would proceed to the FETC Policy Board for final approval. Executive Director Trogan explained that at the previous FETC Policy Board meeting, the Board adopted a resolution delegating limited authority to the FETC Chair to approve time-sensitive items without convening a separate meeting. Therefore, the recommendation may be acted upon under that delegated authority.

Board Member Vicki Brannock asked about the two current vacancies and whether there is a targeted industry sector being considered. Raymond clarified that there is effectively one additional member needed, as both vacancies fall within the Business Category.

Chair Selinske encouraged Board members to forward the names of potential business representatives who may be interested in serving. He noted the importance of geographic

representation and suggested identifying candidates from within the consortium cities, specifically mentioning Arcadia as an area of interest.

FWDB MEMBER COMMENTS/ROUNDTABLE – OPEN DISCUSSION

Chair Selinske introduced the item and provided Board members the opportunity for open discussion. He acknowledged the earlier Board Retreat discussion and encouraged members to share sector updates during future meetings.

Vice Chair Laurie Wheeler shared that small businesses within her community, and likely across other communities, continue to face financial challenges. She provided an example of a local business experiencing a \$30,000 increase in electricity costs, along with rising waste management fees. She noted that these increased operating expenses are impacting businesses' hiring capacity and hours of operation. Vice Chair Wheeler emphasized the importance of keeping these economic pressures in mind when considering workforce strategies.

Board Member Gene Hurd reported that the UAW, which represents members across California, Nevada, Washington, Alaska, and Oregon, recently responded to proposed reductions in Caltech funding. He explained that the union made the decision to allocate funding to support graduate students who were at risk of being laid off.

Board Member Anthony Angulo inquired whether members have observed increased automation affecting trade occupations and asked how the Board should prepare for potential workforce transitions resulting from technological advancements. Executive Director Trogan acknowledged that automation is a topic of discussion across industries and stated that it is an important consideration in the Board's future planning efforts.

Chair Selinske stated that automation and technological disruption are complex issues and suggested placing the topic on a future meeting agenda for deeper discussion. He also mentioned that Dr. Salvatrice Cummo from Pasadena City College may be able to provide insight into how educational institutions are supporting trade industries while incorporating emerging technologies.

David Baquerizo shared that the U.S. Department of Labor has encouraged workforce boards to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) literacy into workforce services, including digital literacy programming. He noted that, in collaboration with a professor from San Bernardino, scenario planning is underway to evaluate potential job displacement projections, including a model estimating the possible loss of up to 100,000 positions in

certain sectors over the next three years. Mr. Baquerizo explained that the scenarios explore potential responses such as training initiatives and educational pathways to address workforce displacement.

Executive Director Trogan stated that a current organizational goal is to provide staff training on artificial intelligence. He noted that while he has participated in AI trainings, he did not find them particularly beneficial, as they did not sufficiently address practical application and appropriate implementation.

Board Member Flint Fertig agreed with Mr. Trogan's assessment and shared an example from the educational sector. He explained that the institution where he works previously offered a well-regarded cybersecurity training program led by a former Navy SEAL, and graduates were consistently hired upon completion. He stated that as AI technologies advanced, the program was eventually discontinued. Mr. Fertig further shared that the former instructor described varying levels of AI, including commonly used personal-assistant tools and more advanced systems capable of performing complex functions that could potentially replace roles in fields such as cybersecurity, trucking, and logistics.

Chair Selinske noted that these are important strategic considerations and reiterated his interest in scheduling a future agenda item to further explore the topic.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Selinske announced that the Board would adjourn to Closed Session.

The Board entered Closed Session.

Following Closed Session, the Board reconvened in Open Session. Chair Selinske reported that information was received and no reportable action was taken.

BOARD RETREAT DISCUSSION – Facilitator: David Shinder, Professional Workforce Services Consultant

Chair Selinske introduced the item and welcomed facilitator David Shinder.

Mr. Shinder explained that the purpose of the retreat was to initiate a discussion regarding the Board's strategic priorities. He stated that the session would include an overview of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), as well as a review of the Board's obligations, roles, and responsibilities under the statute.

Mr. Shinder noted that the objective of the discussion was to support Board members in identifying forward-looking priorities and to lay the groundwork for future implementation of selected strategic initiatives.

Chair Selinske commented that he values a proactive, future-focused approach and emphasized the importance of Board member engagement and collaboration. Mr. Shinder concurred and proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation.

Presentation Overview

Mr. Shinder's presentation included the following topics:

- **Objective of the Planning Session**
 - Identifying Board priorities
- **Background and Level Setting on Key Characteristics of Workforce Development Boards**
 - Statutory purpose and vision under WIOA
 - Roles and responsibilities assigned to Workforce Development Boards
- **Review of Most Recent Priorities Identified by the Board**
- **Consideration of Forward-Focused Strategies**
 - Key issues
 - Areas of focus

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Shinder asked Board members to reflect on potential priorities for the organization.

Following a break, Mr. Shinder reconvened the discussion and invited members to share what matters most for the Board's focus moving forward.

Board members identified the following priority areas:

- Staff Development – Labor Market Information (LMI) Knowledge
- Asset Inventory – Board Assets and Community Resources
- Enabling Board Members to Leverage Their Assets Within the Local System
- Layoff Aversion and Business Retention
- Business Engagement
- Funding
- Innovative Programs and Pilots Focused on Identified Gaps
- Focus on Cities and Communities (Surveys and Analyses)
- Program Structure
- Marketing and Networking

Mr. Shinder concluded the session by reviewing the identified priorities and asked Board members to reflect on and select their top five priorities to guide the Board's focus over the next 18 months.

Executive Director Trogan stated that staff will circulate the list of priorities to Board members for ranking and feedback.

Chair Selinske thanked Mr. Shinder and the Board members for their participation in the retreat discussion.

There being no further business, Chair Selinske adjourned the meeting at 12:57 PM.