

**MEETING MINUTES  
NYC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
QUARTERLY MEETING**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

One Liberty Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10006

**Attendees**

**Board Members Present:**

Lauren Andersen (Designee)	Saudia Davis	Merrill Pond
Linda Baran	Lenore Friedlaender	Adria Powell
Dave Bolotsky	Colleen Galvin	Ajani Pridgeon (Designee)
Grace Bonilla	Tonisha Hurd (Designee)	Edgar Romney
Daniel Bustillo	Matt Klein	Daphany Sanchez
Marco Carrión	Degan Leopold	Alysia Steinmann
John Catuogno (Designee)	Eliana Palmay	
Nicole Dais-Lewis (Designee)	Randy Peers	

**Members of the Public Present:**

Ogbe Agbato	Karl Laraque	Vanessa Preston
Paula Baily	Diandra Malahoo	Ardis Sanmoogan
Eunson Cho	Lucy McMillan	Divine Shabazz
Taylor Clanton	Jen Mongiori-Corcoran	Sing Ting So
Doug Cotter	Daphnie Montanez	Wendy Star
Ashely Farrell	Greg Morris	Amanda Wagner
Dynishal Gross	Miguel Pacheco	
Sara Iqbaal	Kyrie Philbrook	

**NYC Talent Staff Present:**

Matt Beller	Thwiba Eltom	Daniel Liss
-------------	--------------	-------------

Adolpho Casillas	Leah Hebert	Chris Neale
Danielle Chan	Stephanie Klocke-Whittenberg	Supriya Singh
Brendan Collins	Doug Lipari	Jasmine Vega-Pegram

**Opening Remarks**

- Co-Chair Adria Powell called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm and welcomed meeting attendees to the first quarterly meeting of 2026, and since the beginning of the new mayoral admin.
  - New Board member Marco Carrión from CWE was welcomed.
  - Co-Chair Powell and Co-Chair Merrill Pond announced they met with the Chief of Staff to Julie Su, the new Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice, and look forward to working with the DM and the new administration on the Board’s priorities.

**Welcoming Remarks**

- Doug Lipari, Executive Director of the NYC Office of Talent and Workforce Development, thanked the Board for their commitment during this transition period. He emphasized that the Board is well-positioned to play a critical role in shaping workforce strategy with the new administration and looks forward to working together with the new Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice to better connect talent to opportunities. He also described the new City Council Committee on Workforce Development and noted NYC Talent’s testimony at the recent hearing on Higher Education and Workforce Development with CUNY on February 27. He shared recent announcements of new Commissioners at DYCD and SBS and thanked the previous Commissioners for their work. Lastly, he mentioned NYC Talent will be working to expand access to Labor Market Intelligence data and looks forward to advancing the work of the Board’s 2025 strategic planning.

**Board Business**

- **Vote:** Co-Chair Adria Powell requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 3, 2025.
  - **Motion:** Board member Dave Bolotsky motioned to approve, with Board member Colleen Galvin seconding the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

## **Director's Report**

Chris Neale, Director, NYC Workforce Development Board, presented a Director's report to members.

- **WIOA Performance:** The first quarter of the program year is on track to satisfactorily pass all measures.
- **U.S DOL Audit:** Every three years as a routine Consolidated Compliance Review of WIOA implementation, the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) conducts an audit. NYC was selected as a sample area for this standard audit covering program, governance, and fiscal elements of WIOA implementation and was announced to visit in February 2026. This review was postponed due to the recent federal government shut down and is rescheduled for mid-April.
- **FY2027 Funding:** USDOL annual issue of WIOA estimated budget for FY27 is expected to arrive around March and will be shared with the Board once this information is received.

## **Agency Update - NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) Tech Talent Pipeline Residency Program (TTPR)**

- SBS Commissioner Dynishal Gross thanked the Board for their work and announced she has spoken to the new Commissioner of SBS Kenny Minaya, who will be starting on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- SBS Director of Technology Training, Karl Laraque provided an update on the Tech Talent Pipeline Residency Program (TTPR):
  - **Program Structure:** TTPR is a WIOA funded, direct service internship program designed to provide on-the-job experience to competitive STEM undergraduates, connect local employers to local talent, and deliver industry feedback to inform curricular content throughout CUNY. TTPR currently works with four schools (City Tech, Baruch, BMCC, and LaGuardia) in coordination with the larger CUNY 2x Tech program managed by the Tech Talent Pipeline, the tech Industry Partnership at NYC Talent, and serves over 300 students per partnership cycle. To date, over 1100 students have participated at 8+ CUNY colleges and counting. The program works with 40+ companies every year to connect program participants to internships.
  - **FY25-FY27 Outcomes:** TTPR has shown proven success in doubling the number of CUNY Computer Science graduates 100% of TTPR participants are connected to internships after program completion. TTPR participants are 3x more likely to get a tech job compared to non-TTPR participants, and 86% of TTPR participants get a full-time tech job.

○ **Board Feedback and Discussion:**

- Board member Daphany Sanchez asked if students have to matriculate in school or have a certain GPA to qualify for TTPR and is thinking of many students who live in NYCHA who may not be in school or work.
  - Director Laraque responded that, depending on the school, qualification for TTPR participation is based on student circumstances at the time of first contact, which requires that the student be matriculated.
- Board member Sanchez also asked if TTPR is connecting program participants to opportunities in the clean energy sector and if there have been opportunities to connect to accelerators in other industries struggling to hire talent (such as climate tech for example). She mentioned the funding available through NYSERDA for clean energy opportunities.
  - Director Laraque responded that they have seen a push to be involved in the clean energy sector with some community-based organizations (CBOs) and small businesses and are open to more connections here.
- Co-Chair Merrill Pond asked about the process for student recruitment.
  - Director Laraque responded that recruitment starts with students supported by CUNY 2x Tech. From there, SBS conducts workshops on a host of topics and evaluates applications to TTPR jointly with the CUNY school.
- Co-Chair Pond also asked if any of TTPR's work is connected to NYC Public Schools' (NYCPS) Office of Student Pathways tech pathway, which is part of the of the FutureReady NYC initiative.
  - Director Laraque responded that SBS has partnerships with the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and runs similar programs with partners to explore industries. The Director also noted this iteration of TTPR features SBS' first time working with two-year colleges.
- Board designee Lauren Anderson offered congratulations to SBS on the program outcomes and asked how businesses currently support this program to ensure students have a good experience.

- Director Laraque responded that based on what students demonstrate on their applications, SBS connects to businesses with service packages based on these areas of expertise. For example, during the pandemic, interns were paired with small businesses to develop digital tools due to the demonstrated need from these businesses, and the skills students were applying with.
- Board member Dave Bolotsky asked if TTPR featured any curriculum for students on AI platforms.
  - Director Laraque responded that the foundations of the core curriculum for TTPR and CUNY 2x remain. Students are now taught about generative AI and coding. Each school has an AI model, and some have more in-depth AI training.

### **Discussion of Bylaws, Budget Process, FY2026, and Strategic Roadmap**

Co-Chair Merrill Pond continued the Board meeting with a discussion on the following:

- **Board Bylaws:** Co-Chair Pond mentioned that going forward, Board meetings will have presentations from WIOA-funded programs and asked for recommendations from Board members for any programs they'd like to see.
- **Budget process:** She also mentioned that two time-limited workgroups will be set up to move along the process for the Board bylaws, where Board staff will also coordinate with the NYC Law Department, and for the FY27 WIOA budget.
- **FY2026:** For FY26, the current fiscal year, the Board moved to a process where the Executive Committee reviews and advances the budget and then the full Board votes to approve the budget. The Board will continue this process for FY27 is looking to have a wide variety of ways Board members participate in this process.
  - Board member Randy Peers asked about the calendar for WIOA funding and how it relates to the city calendar.
    - Director Neale responded that WIOA funding maps to the City's fiscal year cycle, even though it is federal funding.
- **Strategic Roadmap Update:** Co-Chair Pond highlighted the need for system interconnectedness with data on training programs and more partners. She looks forward to improvement with this process now that the co-chairs have connected with the Chief of Staff for the Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice.

### **FY27 Priorities Discussion**

Board members broke out into small groups and reviewed a list of priorities that were distilled down from the 2025 strategic planning process to give feedback.

### **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Application Deadline**

- Daphne Montanez, Associate Commissioner from DYCD provided an update on SYEP. Applications have been extended and will close on March 13<sup>th</sup> and worksite applications will close on May 8<sup>th</sup>. DYCD is on track to break another record with applications. Daphne asked Board members to assist with employer engagement to recruit more employers for worksites. DYCD will be inviting Board members to visit one of their programs and will work with the Board to coordinate this.

### **Meeting Closing**

- Co-Chair Merrill Pond thanked the presenters and members for the robust discussion. She noted that the next quarterly meeting will be on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and site visits will be announced soon. The 2026 meeting calendar will be distributed soon.
  - **Adjournment:** Board member Lauren Anderson motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Board member Dave Bolotsky at 4:55 pm.