

BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

**March 27, 2024
MEETING MINUTES**

STAFF: Thoo, Tran, Walter

GUEST: John Melville, CEO, Collaborative Economics

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

In Committee Chair Takahashi's absence, committee members present unanimously agreed to Ms. Smith serving as chair pro tempore for the meeting.

Chair Pro Tempore Smith called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Benavidez, Goel (attended via Zoom under the teleconferencing provisions in the Brown Act), Hill (attended via Zoom under the teleconferencing provisions in the Brown Act, left meeting at 5:51 pm), Scott (attended via Zoom under the teleconferencing provisions in the Brown Act), Shah, Smith (attended via Zoom under the teleconferencing provisions in the Brown Act)

Absent: Chao, Takahashi

All votes by roll call.

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes

ACTION: Mr. Hill moved, Mr. Benavidez seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the acceptance of the January 16, 2024, Business Services Committee Special Meeting minutes.

B. Election

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

C. Non-Traditional Apprenticeships

Lawrence Thoo, Strategic Engagement Manager, reported that four participating South Bay companies have or are in the process of finalizing the hiring of about 30 individuals to fill first-in-the-state semiconductor manufacturing technician Registered Apprenticeships, including more than a dozen from San Jose. The apprenticeships are new talent gateways for South Bay manufacturers and high-road career opportunities for job seekers from historically under-resourced/underinvested/marginalized backgrounds, and Mr. Thoo shared that the City of San José has made a one-time investment of funds to support San Jose-resident apprentices.

Committee members Mike Hill and Andy Scott, representing Applied Materials and Infinera, shared the companies' experiences and their vision for the apprenticeships.

D. Healthcare Sector Partnership Initiative

Board Chair and committee member Priya Smith and Collaborative Economics CEO John Melville reported on the scheduled April 16 launch meeting of a work2future initiative to convene South Bay healthcare leaders to agree workforce challenges and solutions. They shared the project's vision and the Next Gen Sector Partnership approach being used.

E. RERP

Mr. Thoo briefed the committee on the California Workforce Development Board's grant of \$1.6 million to the Bay-Peninsula Regional Planning Unit, comprised of work2future, NOVAworks and the San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development to support a Regional Equity and Recovery Partnership (RERP) collaboration with Gavilan College, Mission College, College of San Mateo and City College of San Francisco.

F. Miscellaneous Updates

Strategic Engagement Project Manager Deanna Walter reported on job fairs and other business services including a paid training and internship project in partnership with Goodwill of Silicon Valley and recent developments in Incumbent Worker Training.

G. Layoffs Report

Business Services Lead Analyst Huong Tran reported on year-to-date layoff activity in the region.

H. Labor Market Update

Mr. Thoo reported on regional labor market conditions. The unemployment rate in the San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 4.4 percent in February 2024, unchanged from a revised 4.4 percent in January 2024, and above the year-ago estimate of 3.2 percent, the California Employment Development Department announced March 22, 2024. The unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in Santa Clara County and 4.5 percent in San Jose. It was 7.9 percent in San Benito County which, together with Santa Clara County, makes up the MSA. Total employment in the MSA increased by 2,900 jobs between January 2024 and February 2024 to reach 1,154,200. However, it fell 0.5 percent between February 2023 and February 2024, losing 6,300 jobs.

I. Members' Roundtable

No comments were noted.

III. OPEN FORUM

No comments were noted.

IV. OTHER

Mr. Thoo noted the scheduled committee meetings in 2024.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pro Tempore Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.