

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD**

August 14, 2024

1:00 PM – 2:20 PM

Roosevelt Warm Springs, 6135 Roosevelt Highway, Warm Springs, Georgia 31830

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Wilson, Chair	Suzanne Dooley (virtually)
Faye Perdue, Vice Chair	Vincent Martin (virtually)
Sandy Adams, Secretary	James Defoor (virtually)
Craig Camuso	
Louise Hill (virtually)	
Jane McCall	
Chris Wells, GVRA Executive Director Ex Officio Member	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Johnathon Taylor

Opening, Welcome, and Invocation

GVRS Board Chair Tom Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance, and the meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Chairman Wilson performed a roll call and recommended the agenda be as amended as follows:

- Move the FY2024 and FY2025 Budget Reports to Executive Director Wells's section as an Informational Item

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the amended agenda.

On motion of Vice Chair Perdue, seconded by Mr. Camuso, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Agenda as amended.

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following:

- Approve Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Session

On motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Vice Chair Perdue, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

GVRA Staff Updates/Reports:

Executive Director Report – Executive Director Chris Wells

Budget Reports

Executive Director Wells reviewed the FY2024 and FY2025 Budgets with the Board and stated that the Budget approval was underway with RSA.

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Agency Spotlights

- Executive Director Wells recognized all FY2024 Employees of the Month. These outstanding employees and their supervisors were guests of the GVRB Board meeting and enjoyed lunch with the Board. Executive Director Wells highlighted those chosen as Employees of the Month not recognized at previous Board meetings:
 - Alfred Wheeler, VR Supervisor for the Dublin Office, June 2024 Employee of the Month
 - Kathy Riner, Intake Specialist at the Dublin Office, May 2024 Employee of the Month
 - Aszure Odum, Intake Specialist at the Columbus Office, April 2024 Employee of the Month
- Executive Director Wells reminded the Board that the Enterprise Training Office has developed a professional learning rotation and schedule.
- Executive Director Wells introduced the Board to the new Client Services Director, Mrs. Deana Brown.

Georgia CTI

Mrs. Mary Donahue, Executive Director of Georgia Career & Technical Instruction, Inc. (CTI) shared how her agency partners with GVRA and the Georgia Department of Education to strengthen the local school contacts and VR counselor relationships, helping to identify qualified high school students for VR support and increasing the Pre-ETS and client base. She highlighted the following:

- A recap of the GVRA Day with the Braves
- G.R.O.W. with GVRA
- In-school Pre-ETS with GVRA
- Information about Georgia CTI

Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute Update

Mr. Chip Medders an update on RWS 2.0 which includes the following:

- Current Pathway Offerings:
 - Low Voltage Wiring
 - Hospitality
 - Logistics/Warehousing
 - Heavy Equipment Operator (RWS has an excavator and bulldozer on site for students in the pathway to develop work-based learning skills.)
 - Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN)
 - Auto Detailing
 - Retail (CVS)

All program offerings allow students the opportunity to earn nationally accredited industry certifications.

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- New Pathway Options Coming Soon include:
 - Construction Jumpstart (components include framing/carpentry, light HVAC and plumbing, and small engine repair)
 - Pharmacy Technician
 - Groundskeeping
- The RWS Student Calendar for 2024-2025
- The RWS Class Schedule
- Dorm Life at RWS
- The Center for Therapeutic Recreation (CTR) and other Campus Amenities
- Tour offerings such as Transition Tours, School Faculty Tours, and Parent-Student Tours
- A Comparison of Enrollment from August 2023 to January 2024 to August 2024.

Old Business/New Business

Chairman Wilson reported that Greg and Katherine Rekken visited RWS. Mrs. Rekken is the granddaughter of Henry Pope, Sr. Mr. Pope developed a strong, lightweight, comfortable leg brace built from steel tubing which revolutionized the field of braces used to aid polio victims and eliminate the need for costly custom building. Mr. Pope helped to purchase the property where President Roosevelt built the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute.

Chairman Wilson reminded the Board of the remaining meeting for the year:

- October 9, 2024, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, also GVRA Day at the Fair

Public Comment & Adjournment

Chairman Wilson opened the floor for public comment. As there was no public comment, he called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Mrs. McCall, seconded by Mr. Camuso, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:18 p.m.