



MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKFORCE BOARD

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

7:30 a.m.

One Union Street, Suite 202

Lawrence MA 01840

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dawn Beati, Victor Betances, Michael Bevilacqua, Wilson DeLos Santos, Kemelin Domenech, Dr. Lane Glenn, Andrew Herlihy, Billy Lang, Vilma Martinez-Dominguez, Eric Nyandat, Carol Riemer, Frank Surillo, Nardy Vega, Calvin Williams, Juan Yepez

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Frank Amato, John Bruno, Conor Helfrich, Superintendent John Lavoie, Superintendent Maureen Lynch, Ellen Weinhold

STAFF PRESENT:

Frank Bonet, Lynda Buote, Varsha Gandhi, Cristy Gomez, Valerie Luque, Tracy Myzkowski, Corina Ossers, Matt Robert, Abby Seripais

GUESTS PRESENT:

Esther Albuquerque, Alicia Appugliese, Juan Belliard, Nelson Button, Adam Devoe, John Mitchitson, Eric Nelson, Aaron Smith

I. Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chairman Juan Yepez called the meeting to order at 7:44 a.m.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Yepez said welcome and thank you for attending today's quarterly meeting. Today's meeting is recorded for meeting minutes purposes only.

III. Approval of the January 27, 2026, Quarterly Meeting minutes (vote required)

Chairman Yepez called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026, Quarterly Meeting.

Motion made by Calvin Williams, seconded by Nardy Vega to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026, Quarterly Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Guest Speaker: John Mitchitson, Councilor, City of Haverhill

Chairman Yepez said today's guest speaker is City of Haverhill Councilor John A. Mitchitson. Councilor Mitchitson is a long-serving at-large member and current vice president of the Haverhill City Council, and

he has built a reputation as one of the Haverhill's strongest advocates for aligning education with workforce needs. He also chairs the council's Planning and Development Committee, which places him at the center of conversations about economic development, workforce readiness, and talent pipelines.

Councilor Michitson has consistently emphasized that the city's economic future depends on the skills of its residents, not just traditional development tools. He has publicly argued that vocational and career education should be treated as "applied STEM," elevating it to the same level as academic pathways. His work reflects a broader push to ensure that students are not only college-ready, but also career-ready with practical, in-demand skills.

Through his leadership on the Planning and Development Committee, the councilor has convened discussions with educators, employers, and workforce stakeholders to better align high school education with real labor market needs. These efforts include exploring expanded career technical education (CTE) pathways at Haverhill High School and creating more flexible, career-connected learning opportunities for students.

John's focus is not limited to youth. He has also supported adult workforce development initiatives, such as promoting state-funded AI and digital skills training programs as a "digital trade school" that can move residents into high-wage careers. This reflects a broader philosophy: career pathways should exist for both students and incumbent workers, especially as industries evolve.

Please help me welcome Councilor John Mitchison.

John said thank you. Let me introduce Adam Devoe, who is also here to assist in providing today's presentation.

John and Adam presented CLBHub (see slide presentation). Adam said CLBHub is an application geared toward youth with the goal to connect students and young people to employers. We're starting in Haverhill with the idea that we will roll it out from city to city where we will have businesses, schools and non-profits who have jobs and will work with the youth. Youth would be paired with advisors as they go through the system.

John said at a higher level, the idea is that instead of youth being focused on school or only with a non-profit organization to help them, it's now a collaborative solution that gets developed across different stakeholders.

Cal Williams said how does the advisory plan work, and John said that's one of the toughest issues to solve. There are problems about safety and security when you start going between organizations and we're trying to design this so we don't have heavy data exchange between all the various organizations and Adam said the core idea is that if you are a student in the system, you will have an advisory panel and it can be your parents or someone else the youth requests. Advisors may have to pass a CORI. We're currently creating the app for young adults over age 18 and then we'll look at how to work with youth under age 18.

Wilson DeLos Santos said if a youth wants to be a data scientist for example, will the application provide the courses and skills needed, and Adam said it will be designed in career ladders and it will tell them what they need to do that leads to that. It would also keep certifications and classes as the participant self-reports into the application, and it can generate a resume.

John said we don't want to duplicate work done by non-profits, schools, etc. We want to find a way to enhance what they already do.

Juan Yepez said is there a cost to students and Adam said we're currently doing this pro-bono and we haven't figured out the financial model. Let's see if it can provide value first. And John said Haverhill will be a test. We are not going to ask for money from schools. We will likely go out to foundations.

Dr. Glenn said as you pointed out, there are existing systems out there; the Career Center, the college uses Handshake, everyone uses Indeed. How might this interact with those other systems? Is that what you meant by scraping – you get the URLs? How does it work? Adam said like Google news, it's an aggregate. We want to present it in a way for youth as a mobile app. We're trying to get their attention. I take your point that there are other things out there and we need to look at how this is different. Our matching is very good and once you set up your interests, it does a great job finding jobs.

Cal said are you reaching out to unions and labor contractors and Adam said that's a great idea. We haven't yet and Cal said the pipeline to apprenticeships is empty.

Cal said how are you bringing in local non-profits to help you and Adam said we are setting up meetings and pivoting with the action items from those meetings. Our promise is to work with you to try to make your life easier.

John said we had public meetings in Haverhill and citizens and stakeholders attended multiple sessions. At a high level, there is agreement that this would have value. As we get deeper into it, we have to have one-on-ones like today. We're going to do a pilot with Makelt Haverhill to show the value. Eventually we will go to all non-profits and the business community to figure out how this can work for them.

Vilma Martinez-Domingues said I'm assuming there will be formal MOUs and agreements because it is data that is shared that would be one of the concerns as a non-profit and it would be something to discuss with the groups. You mentioned looking for foundation funding and I would say in growing this model it would be good to think about sustainability moving forward for when grants go out. Perhaps finding more solid funding would make sense and John said we know it's hard to get funding from businesses and our goal is to go in and show them actual value and hopefully they will help with the sustainability of it. We know that is going to be very difficult to do. The businesses we have spoken with have said they don't have anybody to do their end of it. We would like to work with non-profits and others and help us learn about what is available in the workforce. If we can show that we can add value, I think it will go a long way as far as future funding. We don't have a solution yet.

Eric Nyandat said the demographics you are dealing with don't have a long attention span. Are you involving users in the work you are doing, and Adam said our idea is that I want some of you to say I like this or I don't like this before we involve youth. We want to build out a little of the vision and once we have it, we're going to take it to some youth users. That point is well taken.

John said do you mean hand-holding where the advocate helps them and Eric said no, my question is as you are building this app, are you asking youth what they want and Vilma said yes, engaging the youth in the development of this, and John said yes, but we need to do more. An interesting point made by the head of counseling at Haverhill High School was that she wants to see youth in the driver's seat and impacting this. This would help the counseling department's workload. We're looking at that as well. There are a lot of open questions, and this is a good platform to help.

Adam said that's what small pilots with non-profits are for, to get you involved. You can tell us what information will be useful to the youth. That's the back end. If the youth don't like the presentation or the way it's presented to them, we can work with them to try to make it better.

Dr. Glenn said Chairman Yopez said a lot of important things about John in his introduction and maybe I can bookend that. If you haven't met John before, I've known him for almost 20 years, and at least once a year he presents an idea to help kids connect to careers. He's not trying to sell you software and John said I don't make any money with this and Dr. Glenn said this is a note of support to walk along with him a little bit to see where it goes and see if it works. There could be some considerable potential.

Chairman Yopez said thank you John and Adam. We can see you put in a lot of time and dedication and commitment to come up with this program to help youth.

Frank Bonet said we have John's and Adam's contact information if you want to keep this conversation ongoing and with the MMVWB and Career Center.

Juan said thank you, we really appreciate the presentation.

V. Report of Chair – Juan Yopez

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for attending today's meeting. I trust that your spring season is enjoyable, although I know it's a bit colder than what we expected.

I have a brief report to share today, but first in accordance with rules of order, this meeting of the Merrimack Valley Workforce Board is being recorded solely for the purpose of preparing the official meeting minutes. The recording will not be used for any other purpose, will not be distributed, and will be retained only as long as necessary to complete the minutes.

I'd like to welcome our newest member to the MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board. Victor Betances was nominated and approved during our last board meeting. He was away on business. Victor brings more than twenty years of leadership, management, and training experience across public service, workforce supervision, and entrepreneurship. He is the owner of two upscale businesses (La Grekka) employing approximately twenty-five full- and part-time staff, and he is currently embarking on the development of a major distribution operations company, further demonstrating his commitment to regional economic growth and job creation. Please welcome Victor L. Betances.

As many of the members know, the Merrimack Valley Career Center has changed the date of its open house. The career center, once they confirm a new date, will send notifications to the Workforce Board members, elected officials, and partners. At this moment they are considering June 3rd, 5th, 10th, or 12th.

As Chair of the MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board, I want to emphasize that our Career Center open houses are more than informational events—they are a critical entry point into the workforce system we oversee. When individuals attend an open house at the MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center, they gain a clear understanding of how our system supports job seekers, from initial registration through job placement. They learn how to access career counseling, job search tools, and workshops, as well as how to take advantage of training opportunities that can lead to meaningful employment and career advancement.

Just as importantly, these events demonstrate the strength of our partnerships and the real value of our investments. Attendees see firsthand how we connect residents to employers, align training with industry needs, and create pathways to economic mobility. In a very tangible way, the open house reflects our mission in action—ensuring that the workforce system is accessible, responsive, and delivering results for both job seekers and businesses across the Merrimack Valley.

This concludes my report. Thank you.

VI. Reports of Committee Chairs

i. Planning and Career Center Committee

Frank Surillo said good morning. As Chair of the MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board Planning Committee, I want to provide a comprehensive briefing on the performance and trajectory of the MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center based on the last three Planning/Career Center Committee meetings covering December through March performance data. As you know performance metrics are reported one month prior to the actual meeting month.

Over this period, the Career Center has demonstrated steady growth in scale and engagement. Job seekers served increased from 4,497 (51% of plan) in January to 5,519 (63% of plan) by March, while employers served grew from 870 (66%) to 955 (73%). This reflects a strengthening labor exchange system and increased market penetration. Employer engagement, in particular, is a clear strength. Repeat employer utilization remains high (over 80% of plan), and employers receiving referrals reached nearly full plan levels (99%) by March. Additionally, services to priority populations significantly exceeded expectations, most notably individuals with disabilities, reaching 146% of plan by March, underscoring strong partnerships and equity-focused service delivery.

From a quality-of-outcomes perspective, the system is performing exceptionally well. Average wages at placement consistently exceeded targets across all programs, with Dislocated Worker wages reaching as high as 156–169% of plan and overall average wages rising to approximately \$36–\$37 per hour.

This indicates that while total placements have lagged earlier in the year, those who are being placed are entering higher-quality, higher-wage employment aligned with in-demand sectors. Training investments have also increased over time, with WIOA training expenditures rising from approximately \$493,930 in January to nearly \$595,000 by March, suggesting a strengthening pipeline into skilled employment. Youth work experience and group programming have also exceeded plan (up to 129%), reinforcing a strong early pipeline strategy.

At the same time, the data highlights critical performance challenges that require continued attention. Entered employment, while improving from 39% in January to 52% by March, remains below annual targets and is the system’s most significant gap. This suggests a persistent issue in converting strong engagement and referrals into actual hires. Similarly, while employer engagement is strong, earlier concerns around new employer acquisition have only recently begun to improve (from 44% to 57%), indicating prior stagnation in expanding the employer base. Negative exits in Adult and Dislocated Worker programs have also increased beyond plan—reaching as high as 156% in Adult programs—pointing to retention challenges and the need for enhanced case management and barrier mitigation strategies.

Programmatically, training pipeline development remains uneven. While overall training participation has improved, Individual Training Account (ITA) enrollments for youth and adults continue to lag the annual plan (generally in the 27–31% range), signaling the need to accelerate enrollment into occupational skills training aligned with employer demand. However, there are clear signs of course correction, with increases in new participants, stronger partnerships with community organizations, and expanded outreach into high schools and priority populations. These efforts are expected to improve both enrollment and placement outcomes in the latter half of the fiscal year.

From an operational standpoint, the Career Center has been actively strengthening its infrastructure and partnerships. Staffing gaps identified earlier in the year are being addressed, new employer engagement strategies such as sector roundtables are underway, and expanded community pipelines—including partnerships with schools, healthcare providers, and re-entry programs—are being developed to drive future growth. The launch of recruitment events, job fairs, and a new satellite presence in Haverhill further demonstrates a proactive approach to accessibility and service delivery expansion.

In summary, the Career Center is in a mid-year recalibration phase, not a performance deficit. The system shows strong fundamentals: growing customer volume, high employer retention, exceptional wage outcomes, and meaningful progress in equity populations. The primary focus moving forward must be on accelerating job placement conversions, expanding training pipelines, reducing negative exits, and continuing to grow the employer base. If these areas are successfully addressed, current trends indicate the Career Center is well-positioned to achieve strong year-end outcomes and deliver significant workforce impact across the Merrimack Valley.

This concludes my report. Thank you.

ii. Youth Committee

Cal Williams said this quarter, we are pleased to share several key accomplishments and updates:

The Workforce Board Youth Team has successfully enrolled 210 youth in the 2025–2026 YouthWorks Year-Round Program, achieving 100% of our enrollment target. We continue to expand our employer partnerships, including the addition of new worksites in the Triton Regional High School area, increasing access to internships and meaningful subsidized employment opportunities for youth.

During the February vacation, 10 YouthWorks participants completed Driver’s Education training and are now on track to obtain their driver’s licenses. This is an important step toward independence and employability.

As of March 31, the total number of youth enrolled in WIOA Youth is 74. This is 68% of our annual goal.

The Haverhill Public Schools WIOA In-School Youth Group Program remains strong, reaching 97% of its enrollment goal of 34. All participants have completed internship preparation classes and are completing or are being placed in internships. Additionally, the participants are developing career portfolios and preparing presentations on their experiences.

The career center team has enrolled 16 youth in Individual Training Account trainings. This constitutes 31% of our annual goal.

On March 9, the Workforce Board released the FY27 WIOA Youth Request for Proposals (RFP) for both Out-of-School and In-School Youth Services. Proposals are due by Tuesday, May 19th at 11:00 AM. We aim to fund high-quality programs that effectively meet the needs of the young people we serve.

Through Connecting Activities, the youth team continues to support multiple high schools across the region to connect employers and schools to support work-based learning and career development for students. We are facilitating career readiness opportunities to expose students to in-demand careers using labor market data, while offering career counseling, skills development, and hands-on learning experiences.

We are also pleased to share that the Commonwealth Corporation has awarded us a YouthWorks Program Year 2026-2027 grant in the amount of \$1,022,400. This allocation will support 300 youth placements in service-learning projects and subsidized employment opportunities.

The 2026 YouthWorks Summer Youth Application opened on April 6th and closed on April 10th, generating an impressive 593 applications in just five days. The team is currently collecting eligibility documentation to fulfill the summer enrollment goal of 175 youth.

Upcoming Events:

- DESE Connecting Activities Annual Regional Workforce Connections Convening – May 6th at 9:00 AM. At this convening, we will share the area workforce trends, resources, and best practices for high-quality youth career and workforce development opportunities.
- YouthWorks Summer Employer Partner Orientation Breakfast – June 3rd at 9:00 AM. This session will prepare employers to host youth interns and review program expectations.

We are actively seeking employer partners to provide Merrimack Valley youth with meaningful exposure to the world of work. We encourage you to connect with our Youth Team to learn more about partnering with us.

Before I conclude my report, I'd like to say to the youth teams at the MMVWB and at the Career Center, congratulations on a job well done. We are doing more work with less money and getting the job done.

Frank Bonet said last year we had possibly double the number of youth in our summer program as we have this year and that's a result of reduced funding from CommCorps, the state, etc. We have been advocating to our legislators to increase funding next year by an additional \$2,000,000 to the overall state budget. We took CommCorps to visit Lawrence High School participants and they were very impressed with the work on their career paths.

Cal said I'd like to remind you that youth are 100% of our future and I'd like to thank John and Adam for their presentation this morning. If there is anything we can do to help youth get up and running we're willing to do it.

Unless there are any questions, this concludes my report.

iii. Nominating Committee

Billy Lang said welcome. The last time we met was the morning after a big snowstorm. I hope everyone has been able to catch up on things that fell behind over the winter.

It seems that my reports are usually the same reports, except for the very few times I've had the honor of nominating a business to this board.

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, I would like to provide an update on the status of board composition and leadership needs.

At this time, we are still actively seeking nominations from the small business sector. Securing adequate representation from small businesses remains a priority to ensure compliance with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements, specifically the mandate that at least 51% of board membership be comprised of private sector representatives. Achieving this threshold is essential to maintaining both regulatory compliance and a strong employer-driven board structure.

We encourage all board members to assist in identifying and recommending qualified small business leaders who can contribute to the mission and strategic direction of the board.

Additionally, the Nominating Committee is still seeking a volunteer to serve as Finance Chair. This role is critical to supporting the board's fiscal oversight responsibilities. Should no volunteers come forward, the board will move forward with identifying and nominating a current board member to serve in this capacity.

We appreciate your continued support and engagement in strengthening the leadership and composition of our board.

This concludes my report. Thank you.

Chairman Yopez said if someone is interested in serving as Fiscal Chair, please see me or Frank Bonet.

iv. Finance Report

Frank Bonet said the following is a comprehensive budget briefing based on January, February, and March. This is intended to give a clear picture of spending pace, investment strategy, and alignment with performance outcomes.

The total FY26 budget remains stable at approximately \$10.48 million, with expenditures steadily increasing in line with the program year:

- January 31, 2026: \$3.98M spent (41.75%)

- February 28, 2026: \$4.40M spent (46.16%)
- March 31, 2026: \$4.99M spent (52.59%)

As of March 31st, we are 54% expended and accrued, with 27% of our FY26 funding available to spend by June 30th.

- Workforce Board administrative spending increased from 35.8% in January to 45.3% by March.
- Career Center spending rose from 34.6% to 54.7% over the same period.
- DCS expenditures data are available through January, with 58% of expenditures being reported.

Training and participant-related costs represent one of the most critical budget categories:

- January: \$1.4M spent and accrued (49.8%)
- February: \$1.53M and accrued (54.7%)
- March: \$1.64M spent and accrued (58.3%)

Breakdown highlights:

- WIOA Training increased from \$493K → \$594K
- Non-WIOA Training increased from \$146K → \$151K

This signifies that the investment in training is ramping up at the right time in the fiscal cycle, positioning the system to drive placements later in the year.

Grant Utilization and Remaining Balances - As of March 31, 2026, key remaining balances include:

- Youth Works: \$257K
- Career Center One Stop: \$186K
- Connecting Activities: \$142K
- ESOL Programs: \$170K – this is the mayor’s initiative for the City of Lawrence

Multi-Year Grants - Approximately \$3.6M (72.8%) remain available beyond FY26.

Budget-to-Performance Alignment

Where Budget and Performance Align Well

1. High wages: Training investments are translating into strong wage outcomes
2. Youth programming: Funding aligns with over-performance in work experience
3. Disability services: Investment supports strong equity outcomes (over 140% of plan).
4. Employer engagement: Resources are sustaining strong employer retention and service levels.

Where Misalignment Exists

1. Entered Employment: Spending is on pace, but placements lag—indicating a conversion issue, not a funding issue.

2. Training pipeline (ITA): Funds are available and increasingly spent, but enrollment flow remains below expectations.
3. Negative exits: Financial investment is not yet fully mitigating participant retention challenges.

The bottom line is the budget is stable, well-managed, and aligned with strategic priorities. Spending is on pace, training investments are increasing, and the system is producing high-quality wage outcomes. However, the key issue is not funding—it is performance conversion. The final quarter must focus on ensuring that investments translate into placements, retention, and measurable workforce outcomes.

Frank said this concludes the finance report and Chairman Yepez said thank you.

XI. Report of the Executive Director

Frank Bonet said good morning. On Monday, March 9, 2026, we released the FY27 WIOA Youth Request for Proposals (RFP) for both Out-of-School Youth and In-School Youth Services. We invite you to participate as proposals reviewer. This is a valuable opportunity to play an active role in shaping youth programming across our region.

As a reviewer, you will evaluate proposals designed to serve both in-school and out-of-school youth. Your input will directly contribute to the grant award decision-making process, helping ensure we fund high-quality programs that effectively meet the needs of the young people we serve. Your participation is a meaningful way to lend your expertise and insight. As an information note, we report that 25% of the fund will be used for in-school youth, while 75% of the funds must be used for out-of-school youth.

If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, please let me know by Friday, May 1, 2026.

The State Budget season is fully underway at the Massachusetts State House. House Leadership unveiled their FY27 \$63.3 billion proposal recently, citing fiscal uncertainty and potential challenges in the coming year.

The House proposal leverages \$2.7 billion in Fair Share Amendment tax revenue – the fourth year of tax revenue on millionaires in the Commonwealth. These dollars are constitutionally required to be spent on education and transportation and see \$127 million expended on continuing the Commonwealth’s free community college initiative.

The House proposal’s largest investment continues to be in healthcare spending. \$22.36 billion is directed to MassHealth – the Commonwealth’s Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) program.

Workforce Development spending has stayed relatively stable, albeit with minor decreases and increases in various line items. Most notably, YouthWorks allocations were increased by \$2 million over the Governor’s recommendation and we must wait for State Senators to approve. The statewide allocations for workforce tracked line items are as follows.

- MassHire Career Centers: \$7,927,586
- Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (WCTF): \$10,000,000

- Re-Entry Demonstration: \$2,450,250
- YouthWorks/Summer Jobs: \$17,365,000
- Career Technical Institutes: \$8,898,244
- Registered Apprenticeship: \$3,333,577
- Employment Program for Young Adults with Disabilities: \$1,000,000
- Department of Economic Research: \$780,308
- School-to-Career Connecting Activities: \$6,472,081
- Increasing Access to Career & Technical Education: \$3,087,315

President Trump released his “Skinny Budget” proposal. We have some details based on the Massachusetts Workforce Association and National Association of Workforce Boards who have been talking to Congress and Senators in DC about making additions.

In addition to this, the President’s Administration, through U.S. Dept. of Labor (USDOL) have made it clear that WIOA Reauthorization is not a priority. Their focus is on consolidating programs and creating them in their vision.

House Republicans released a WIOA Reauthorization draft despite the current administration’s proposal to consolidate workforce programs. They have taken a different approach – attempting again to reauthorize WIOA and related programs through legislation. The proposal released in early April largely mirrors efforts from 2024, where the House passed WIOA Reauthorization in April 2024. The bill ultimately failed to pass the Senate before a new Congress started in 2025.

The Republican proposal contains three major provisions:

The legislation would allow for Governors to set aside an additional 10% of State WIOA Allocations to create a new “Critical Industry Skills Fund”.

The legislation requires that no less than 50% of the funds allocated to a local area be used to provide training for eligible individuals. Up to 10% of this 50% can be used to provide supportive services or individual career services (essentially requiring 40% of funds to be used on training).

The legislation requires the Governor to do an initial review of workforce areas in the state before the third program year after passage. The Governor can propose new workforce areas or keep the current map.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Section 107, requires the establishment of a Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) in each local area of a state. The LWDB is appointed by the Chief Elected Official (CEO) in each local area in accordance with State criteria established under WIOA 107(b) and is certified by the Governor every two years {WIOA 107(c)(2)}.

The certification requirements were submitted to the CEO for approval and signature, and once we receive the packet in return, we will obtain the chair’s signature and send it to Massachusetts Department of Career Services before the May 1st deadline.

This concludes my report and Chairman Yopez said thank you.

XII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated

Andrew Herlihy said the state is offering free AI training. Is there a role for the Career Center to help connect people to this training and Frank Bonet said we haven't been given any guidance from the state on the Google AI training through Coursera. They may not have considered the computer literacy of some communities where they don't have internet or the means to get on laptops. I've been reviewing the data and 43% of people in Lawrence have internet access on their phones only. Eric Nelson may be able to share additional information.

Eric said All Grow with Google courses are offered through the Coursera platform and are funded by MA AI Hub. This doesn't go through the Career Center. Massachusetts residents aged 18+ years old with average computer skills can sign up on MA AI Hub, or if they express interest at the Career Center, they are screened and connected to MA AI Hub. MA AI Hub will send the registration link to the learner. Training courses must be completed by December 31, 2027. They will receive completion certifications directly from Coursera. Progress is tracked by the Career Center only for customers who register through MassHire.

Frank Bonet said our IT Director is taking the AI courses and will brief the workforce board who may also take these courses. It's a skill that applies to any occupation.

Frank Surillo said the Boston Public School system is adding AI to their curriculum in September.

John Michitson said Haverhill will have an AI Summit in June and you will all be invited. Frank Surillo said Lawrence will have one soon as well.

Frank Surillo said the Department of Planning and Development is working on the Economic Development Master Plan and we will reach out to non-profits, organizations and elected officials to discuss how the City of Lawrence moves forward over the next 10 years as well as a comprehensive Master Plan for the whole city.

XIII. Adjournment (vote required)

Having no further business, Chairman Yopez called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Frank Surillo to adjourn, seconded by Wilson DeLos Santos. Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Buote

Recorder

Exhibit Used:

CLBHub Presentation

Documents and Exhibits Used (Distributed but not discussed):

Labor Exchange Program and WIOA Performance Summary for the MHMVCC as of 3.31.26

MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board Budget Report for FY 2026 as of 3.31.26