



MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Friday: September 4, 2026 | 1:00p
CareerSource Polk | 600 N Broadway Ave, 2nd Fl | Bartow, FL

Members			Members			Members			Staff & Guests Present	
Dimmick, Scott, Board Chair	P		Lehman, Tori	P		Wilson, Amanda	P		Joylette Stevens	
Altieri, Jorge	E		Lunsford, Katrina	P		Wright, Sharon	P		Lidia Cordova	
Case, Karen	P		McCraw, David	P					Gerardo Meza	
Clark, Gary	P		Oguntola, Dr. Andy	P					Cristina Mazarredo	
Garner, Ginger	P		Olivas, Yesse A.	P					Nilda Blanco-Guest	
Helms, John	P		Reis, Ryan	P						
Jantomaso, Cynthia	P		Sapp, Sherry	P						
Khan, Adil	P		Severson, Karen	P						

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Scott Dimmick called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. followed by introductions of those present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *During the public period, members of the public may raise their hand to be recognized by the Chair and are permitted up to three minutes to present their comments.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Dimmick called for a motion to approve the Board of Directors meeting minutes for August 20, 2026. Gary Clark made a motion to approve, and Katrina seconded. There were no corrections. All voted. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: N/A

CHAIRMAN REMARKS:

Chair Dimmick explained that this session was an emergency meeting because information had been received during the week and the Board needed to understand the status and next steps quickly. Chair Dimmick apologized for the Friday afternoon timing before a holiday weekend but emphasized that the meeting was driven by the timeline of events and the need to respond promptly.

Chair Dimmick provided a broad overview of workforce development nationwide and how boards operate under federal funding and service expectations. Chair Dimmick described workforce boards as organizations serving two main customer groups: job seekers and job creators, such as employers and training providers. Chair Dimmick explained the board's role in connecting job seekers with training and employment pathways. He also distinguished between voluntary job seekers who seek help on their own and involuntary job seekers who are referred through public assistance programs such as SNAP, unemployment, or dislocated worker programs. Chair Dimmick stated the board is generally held to three core performance outcomes: helping people earn credentials and measurable skills, helping people obtain jobs. Chair Dimmick stressed that when participants fail to attend training, fail exams, don't secure employment, or do not stay employed those failures are reflected as performance deficiencies.

Chair Dimmick reviewed the board's recent performance concerns:

- In 2025 CareerSource Polk received notice that some performance measures were below required thresholds.
- Chair Dimmick explained that the organization entered a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) process beginning in 2025. Gary Clark noted as having led communications with the state representatives during the PIP process. Gary Clark explained that the board was told that discussions about the PIP continued through 2025 and 2026, and finalization was still underway.
- Chair Dimmick shared that on August 25, 2026, the board received a state letter titled "Formal Notice of Material Noncompliance" from the FloridaCommerce Secretary and President of CareerSource Florida. He reviewed the letter and cited four categories of allegations. He explained the letter assigned responsibilities to both CareerSource Polk and the Polk County Board of

County Commissioners. The Chair explained the county's role in ensuring CareerSource Polk meets performance standards and complies with the cited requirements. Chair Dimmick informed the Board of Directors that the county reviewed the matter and, at a meeting, passed a resolution temporarily to remove Stacy pending the Commission's review.

Chair Dimmick also made the Board of Directors aware that the county had retained an external consulting firm, Canopy Consulting, as an independent, neutral third party. In response to August 25, letter and supporting documentation. Chair Dimmick stated he had asked Ms. Campbell-Domineck and her five directors to provide written responses to the allegations outlined in the letter. Chair Scott mentioned that the materials would be assembled and sent to CareerSource Florida, Florida Commerce, the County Commissioners, and Board Members. He described the response packet as extensive, approximately 600 pages. Chair Dimmick invited questions from the Board.

Board Member Katrina Lunsford raised major concern about whether the board itself had legal representation to help navigate the current situation. She said the lack of support left volunteer board members exposed and without tools to evaluate the matter properly. Ms. Lunsford stressed that the board needed protection and guidance to ensure they are protected.

Board Members commented they were confused regarding the allegations and not aware of this situation. Gary Clark noted that nobody contacted the Board with the circumstances of this situation. Deputy County Manager John Bohde commented that the BOCC got involved after Polk County Commissioner Michael Scott had a briefing with the state and informed him of the letter. Mario Rubio of the Canopy Management Group introduced himself shared that they have been retained by the county to review the letter and conduct a compliance and governance assessment related to the letter. He shared that the county would need to respond to the state by September 11, 2026. Deputy County Manager shared that the county asked for an extension, but no extension was granted. Board Members Ryan Reis and Adil Khan shared their concern with the process and agreed the Board needed counsel.

Board Member Lunsford commented that a definition of the measurements from the state and county are needed and with this short notice it was not possible to get legal representation. Board Member Clark again noted that no one contacted the Board with the circumstances of this situation. Board Member Sherry Sapp shared that she was not aware of the situation and was concerned.

Motion was made Karen Case, seconded by Sherry Sapp

Sherry Sapp: Commented I am confused regarding the allegations and unaware of this situation.

Approval of the Appointment of Interim Executive Director

Chair Dimmick redirected the discussion to a motion regarding the appointment of an interim executive director. Chair Dimmick shared Nilda Blanco's resume and bio with the Board and noted that she has worked in workforce development for many years and has the qualifications needed for the role.

After some discussion, Board Member John Helms made motion to appoint Nilda Blanco as Interim Executive Director. Board Member Amanda Wilson requested clarification on the discussion of the motion or if there was a desire to amend the Motion. Board Member Lunsford suggested amending the motion to add that the Board will review the Succession Plan created several years ago to consider next action steps. Board Member Helms again made a motion to appoint Ms. Blanco as Interim Executive Director with the amendment offered by Board Member Wilson to include a review of the referenced succession plan in place. Board Member Lunsford seconded the motion. **Vote:** Chair Dimmick called for a vote on the appointment of the Interim Executive Director. Karen Case conducted the roll call. Fifteen Board members voted yes; three members were not present.

Meeting adjourned at 3:02pm.