

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

March 28, 2019

**BOARD ROOM
NJEDA OFFICES, 36 WEST STATE STREET, TRENTON**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present: Chairman Gunjan Doshi, CEO Tim Sullivan, of the NJEDA; Commissioner Lamont Repollet of the Department of Education; Diana Gonzalez representing Secretary Zakiya Smith Ellis of the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education; Kai Feder representing Beth Noveck of the Office Innovation; Public Members Dr. Joel Bloom, Charlene Brown, Debbie Hart, and David Pascrell, Non-voting Members: Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips, Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, Dr. Robert Barchi, and Beth McGrath representing Dr. Nariman Farvardin.

Members present via conference call: Senator Robert Singer, non-voting member

Absent: Senator Paul Sarlo, non-voting member.

Also present: Deputy Attorneys General Gabriel Chacon and Elizabeth Tillou; Joe Kelley, Phillip Loureiro, Kathleen Frangione, and Dennis Zeveloff, Office of the Governor; and staff.

Chairman Doshi called the meeting to order at 3:30pm with a quorum of the Commission present and read the Open Public Meetings announcement. Muneerah Sanders performed the roll call of the Commission.

Chairman Doshi opened the meeting with a brief history of himself, discussing his modest beginnings, however; he entered school and finished his master's degree in nine months. He stated that the U. S. as well as New Jersey is losing out on opportunities, without placing an emphasis on higher education for everyone. He added that he promised Governor Murphy that this commission would be more than just a meet and greet, but one of action, however; the journey would not be overnight.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Doshi asked the Members present to introduce themselves and provide a brief history.

Assemblyman Zwicker stated that he was beyond thrilled to serve on the Commission again. He stated that he was a plasma physicist by background and never imagined that he would be a legislator.

Charlene Brown, AT&T, stated that she was the Head of External Affairs for AT&T, and she looks forward to working with people like Dr. Joel Bloom who knows how to get companies together.

Lamont Repollet, Commissioner of Education since June 2018, stated that we have to work to truly inspire and engage kids. He added that there needs to be a cultural mind shift, and that our kids are digital natives and adults are digital immigrants.

Assemblyman DePhillips stated that he and Assemblyman Zwicker sat on the previous Commission and competed with other states. He's an attorney who concentrates on life science and innovation in general. He added that right now, we are the ambassadors and we have to compete aggressively, and provide opportunities for young people.

Timothy Sullivan stated that he joined the EDA as CEO approximately 14 months ago. Prior to joining the EDA, he worked at the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, and the department of Economic Development for New York City. Mr. Sullivan added that the Commission is a robust and powerful tool, and that innovation is at the center of Governor Murphy's plan.

Mr. Sullivan introduced Kathleen Coviello, head of the Technology & Life Sciences division of the EDA to the members.

Muneerah Sanders, Executive Assistant, EDA, stated that she's been with the EDA for over 21 years, serving in several divisions before landing in Executive. She added that she has taken minutes for several boards including the State Economic Recovery Board for Camden, the Capital City Redevelopment Corp., and the EDA Board.

Gabriel Chacon stated that he provides legal assistance to the EDA on several boards and he was there to help set up the Commission, and that either he or DAG Elizabeth Tillou would cover the meetings.

Beth McGrath, VP & Chief of Staff, Stevens Institute, represents the Office of the President on all internal and external initiatives. Ms. McGrath stated that she's previously worked with Assemblyman Zwicker and she wants to get underrepresented minority students interested in STEM.

Kai Feder, Chief of Staff, at the Office of Innovation stated that Beth Noveck previously worked in the Obama Administration, and he's interested in advancing a number of initiatives across the state.

Dr. Joel Bloom, President, NJIT stated that he occasionally served as the K-12 DOE Commissioner's representative to the previous Commission. He added that STEM had just emerged as an acronym in K-12 education. From the DOE he went to NJIT as a VP & Dean of the newly formed Dorman Honors College. The Honors College was formed to keep high performing STEM students in NJ. He added that the former Commission aided NJIT to become a research university. This year it joined Rutgers and Princeton as NJ's "Research 1" Carnegie classified universities.

Senator Robert Singer stated that he is the fourth longest serving senator in the state and has served on a number of commissions. He apologized for not attending in person and added that he's looking forward to future meetings.

Debbie Hart, CEO, BioNJ stated that she has worked alongside industry leaders in the biotechnology industry for over 26 years. She added that New Jersey is at a tipping point, and we have to keep the tremendous talent that we have and build on it.

Diana Gonzalez, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Higher Education works to position New Jersey's institutions of higher education as engines of economic growth and innovation. Ms. Gonzalez added that New Jersey is a bit behind the technology curve, so the Commission is very timely.

David Pascrell, Co-Chair Government & Reg. Affairs, Gibbons, stated that he is an attorney and lobbyist. He worked for the McGreevey administration in 2003 and has extensive experience working with administrations of every New Jersey governor since the nineties, and with Republican and Democratic lawmakers.

Dr. Robert Barchi, President, Rutgers University, stated that he served as Provost at University Penn before heading to Rutgers. He represents over 70,000 students and 5,000 faculty. In addition, he guided the formation of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences research along with RWJ Barnabas Health, which is one of the largest in the nation. He also served as President of the Honors College at Rutgers–New Brunswick. He added that there is a wonderful partnership to be had between our institutions of higher learning.

EXPLANATION OF BILL AND BUDGET CLARIFICATION:

Chairman Gunjan thanked the legislators for passing a bill that expended the number of member institutions on the Commission. He stated that the new Commission now includes members from Higher Education, and the EDA.

During last year's budget, the State appropriated one million dollars to get the Commission off the ground. We need to hire an Executive Director to do the day-to-day work.

Whether \$1,000,000 is enough funding is up to us, but we need to decide quickly, as time is short, and we need fulltime staff.

Ms. Hart stated that on June 30, 2019, we'll lose the first million.

Chairman Gunjan said we must compete with Massachusetts. We need to steer policy, and we must deliver results.

Senator Singer agreed that the Commission needs an Executive Director to be a voice 24/7. He added that the Commission has always bipartisan and that he's held several hearings across the state.

Chairman Gunjan gave a "homework assignment" to the members of the Commission. He asked that the members work together in teams, and to consider the following questions:

1. How is the Commission set for success?
2. Are there any impending timelines regarding budget appropriations?
3. What are the mechanics of spending the \$1,000,000 in funding?
4. What is the overlap of the group?

Chairman Gunjan asked that two – three members work together on each question, get into decision making mode by the second or third meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL POINTS/LOGISTICS:

Chairman Gunjan asked Commission Members to assist as follows:

Chairman Gunjan asked Tim Sullivan, and Debbie Hart to provide recommendations for what the organizational structure should look like, so that the Commission continues to strive beyond two or four years.

Kai Feder agreed to take inventory of other commissions or groups.

Kai Feder and Diana Gonzalez agreed to draft a Commitment Statement.

Ms. Hart asked if someone could be a repository for ideas and send them out to the group.

DAG Gabriel Chacon cautioned the Members about inadvertently creating a quorum by corresponding via email, phone or in person, because a quorum for the Commission is five voting Members.

Mr. Pascrell agreed to be a repository to collect ideas from the Members.

NEXT STEPS:

The Members of the Commission agreed to the following:

- Hold meetings every six weeks on a Thursday at 3pm.
- An Executive Director should be hired before the next meeting.
- Proposed a calendar for the rest of the year.

Mr. Feder and Ms. Gonzalez agreed to take inventory of existing commissions and working groups.

DAG Chacon mentioned Ethics requirements and there was a vote on having the Department of the Treasurer Ethics Liaison Officer serve as the Ethics Liaison Officer for the Commission.

Ms. Hart asked who can vote. DAG Chacon stated it would be determined by the Statute.

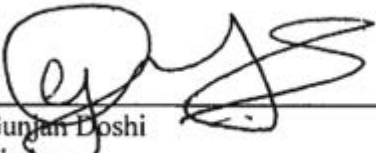
Motion to have the Department of the Treasurer Ethics Liaison Officer serve as the Ethics Liaison Officer for the Commission. Second. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2019, at 3pm. The meeting location will be 36 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625.

CERTIFICATION:

The foregoing and attachments represent a true and complete summary of the actions taken by the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology at its Meeting on March 28, 2019.


Gunjan Doshi
Chairman