

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of McHenry County College was held on Thursday, May 27, 2021, as a Virtual Meeting as authorized by Executive Order 2020-7, and as permitted by Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/7(e) to be held without the physical presence of a quorum of trustees at the regular meeting location. Members of the public were able to provide public comment and access all open portions of the meeting via the link and accompanying information located on the Board of Trustees page of MCC's website, located at: <https://www.mchenry.edu/board>
Chair Siddons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

When Secretary Hoban called the roll, the following were present:

Ms. Hoban
Ms. Siddons
Ms. Speros
Ms. Walsh
Mr. Morton
Mr. Allen
Ms. Evertsen
Ms. Sanchez

Dr. Gabbard was also present. Attorney Samuel Cavnar was present as legal counsel.

COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Student Trustee Sanchez recited the College Mission Statement.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of the three board meetings held on April 22, 2021 – The Final Meeting of the Retiring Board, the Organizational Meeting, and the First Meeting of the Newly Organized Board – as well as the Special Meeting of the Board held on April 28, 2021 were accepted as presented.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Gabbard acknowledged retired Board Chair Mike Smith's service to the board. Due to those years of exemplary service, Mr. Smith has been conferred Trustee Emeritus Status.

OPEN FOR RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments submitted to the Board.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gabbard gave a COVID-19 update, noting that Illinois has entered the Bridge Phase of its reopening plan, a final step before a full state reopening of Phase 5 anticipated on June 11.

On June 1, the College will implement a new protocol allowing fully-vaccinated employees, students, and visitors to enter campus buildings without a mask/face covering if they desire. The College's summer work schedule of four ten-hour days, Monday through Thursday begins on Monday, June 7, and on July 12, the College will have all employees present on campus to resume fully in-person operations.

Dr. Gabbard reported that summer enrollment is up significantly and early fall numbers appear in line with previous years.

Dr. Gabbard provided a brief history of the beginning of the Center for Agrarian Learning (CAL), noting that three years ago MCC received funding to do a needs assessment with existing entrepreneurial farmers. The assessment revealed there was a need for support – for skills, education, training and fellowship among other entrepreneurs. There was interest in education related to the business side of small farm production, including marketing and legal aspects, as well as for growing ideas. This then led the College to seek grant funding, and Chicago Trust invested at the beginning for both the Center and its Entrepreneurial Agriculture Program.

Dr. Gabbard then introduced Ms. Sheri Doyel, MCC Director of Center for Agrarian Learning, who in turn introduced both Emily Zack, Farm Practicum Director and Kim Sowinski, their Student Farm Assistant. Trustees were provided some freshly-grown produce along with handouts outlining the history of CAL and updates regarding the Entrepreneurial Agriculture Program. After highlighting the Center's goings-on, expansion plans for the MCC Student Farm, and programming for fall, Ms. Doyel then showed a four-minute video clip that was part of a professionally produced 20-minute video about the center. The video touched on both the business and food production aspects of entrepreneurial farming. She was pleased to report on enrollment for the degree program and certificate offerings, noting outreach continues to reach others interested in CAL's educational offerings.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Faculty Report

No report.

B. Adjunct Faculty Report

No report

C. Staff Council Report

Ms. Tawnja Trimble spoke to the importance of this night, at which the Board of Trustees will be asked to approve the agreement between the Trustees and the McHenry County College Staff Council. Ms. Trimble noted that the three-year agreement is focused both on employees and fiscal responsibility, and thanked the board and all involved in the process.

D. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Sanchez prepared a written report that recapped student activities of this past month, including Finals Week, Graduation Week, and the Student Awards Celebration.

E. Attorney Report

Attorney Cavnar reported his office is closely monitoring the Executive Order issued by the Governor's office, which during the coronavirus pandemic has allowed the board to meet virtually without a physical presence of a quorum of trustees at the regular meeting location for many months. He will advise whether this may change. Mr. Cavnar then went on to share his thoughts on how impactful the

Center for Agrarian Learning presentation was tonight. He feels programs like this encapsulate everything that makes a community college what it should be.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Siddons asked whether there were any board reports to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Evertsen asked that agenda item C, #4 – Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion (DEBI) Assessment Consultants, Board Report 21-61 be removed. Ms. Walsh then asked for clarification about the projected \$1 million in surplus at the upcoming fiscal year end, and how the budget will show that surplus being used to carry over for capital projects that had begun in 2021 and would be finished in 2022. Dr. Gabbard answered that yes, in 2022 we will show a deficit budget but that deficit will be covered by the FY21 surplus. Chair Siddons then asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Mr. Allen motioned; Ms. Walsh seconded. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor of approving the amended Consent Agenda.

For Approval

- A. Executive Summary and Financial Statements
 - 1. Executive Summary, Board Report ##21-54
 - 2. Treasurer's Report, Board Report #21-55
 - 3. Ratification for Accounts Payable Check Register, Board Report #21-56
- B. Destruction of Closed Session Recordings, Board Report #21-57
- C. Request to Approve/Implement/Lease/Purchase/Renew/Replace/Upgrade
 - 1. Augusoft Lumens Integrated Professional (iPRO) and Lumens Contract Training – Premium Module Licenses, Board Report #21-58
 - 2. Business Intelligence Design and Support Services, Board Report #21-59
 - 3. Desktop and Laptop Computers, Board Report #21-60
 - 4. Annual Ellucian ERP, CROA and Self-Service Financial Aid Software Maintenance, Board Report #21-62
- D. Personnel
 - 1. Appointment of Administrative and Faculty Positions, Board Report #21-63
 - 2. Salary Adjustment, Board Report #21-64

ACTION ON ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, BELONGING AND INCLUSION (DEBI) ASSESSMENT CONSULTANTS, Board Rpt. #21-61

Discussion took place regarding Board Report #21-61, with Ms. Evertsen taking exception to the hiring of a consultant for purposes of assessing, evaluating and making suggestions regarding the College's practices in diversity, equity, belonging and inclusion. Ms. Evertsen was attending the board meeting remotely, and her audio cut out as she was stating reasons why does not support this action, when the college Mission Statement places focus on learning. Ms. Sanchez shared her belief that diversity is important and our focus is learning, but that diversity is important for learning. She believes this action would impact students' learning in a positive way. Mr. Allen agreed with Ms. Sanchez, and feels this would be money well spent. Ms. Walsh voiced support of this proposed action, saying that focus in this area is needed. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor with the exception of Ms. Evertsen who voted no. Motion carried.

BOARD TRAVEL REQUESTS AND ESTIMATED COSTS, Board Report #21-65

Before opening the floor for discussion, Chair Siddons asked for a motion and a second to approve this action. Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Ms. Evertsen. There was no discussion needed. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO GRANT HONORARY LEGACY STATUS, Board Report #21-66

Before opening the floor for discussion, Chair Siddons asked for a motion and a second to approve this action. Ms. Speros moved, seconded by Ms. Walsh. There was no discussion needed. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MCHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE AND THE MCHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE STAFF COUNCIL, Board Report #21-67

Chair Siddons asked for a motion and second to approve this board action, then opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Allen moved and Mr. Morton seconded. During discussion, Ms. Evertsen stated that as elected people, the Trustees may have a difference of opinion on who each feel they are representing. Ms. Evertsen does not support a contract with a nearly 10% raise over three years noting taxpayers have not seen such raises. She went on to state that such increases can be built into the budget, but given Illinois' current economic climate, this is the type of reason causing people to leave the state. Chair Siddons shared her opinion that in this case she was impressed with the balanced approach to the contract negotiations. She applauds the College, noting it is important to retain employees given the current employment environment. On a roll call vote, all voted yes with the exception of Ms. Evertsen who voted no. Motion carried.

FOR INFORMATION

1. New Employees
2. Employee Resignations and Retirement Notifications
3. May Committee Meeting Summary
4. Center for Agrarian Learning Update
5. Friends of McHenry County College Foundation Update
6. Office of Marketing and Public Relations Update
7. Grants Office Update
8. Sustainability Center Update
9. Workforce Development Update
10. Center for Agrarian learning Update

Chair Siddons mentioned each of the Information Reports provided in the board packets.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SUMMARY COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Morton had no future agenda items to add, but asked about the plaques given out to students at graduation. Dr. Koronkiewicz relayed that they were to recognize students related to the student award celebration, not just graduates.

Ms. Speros enjoyed the Center for Agrarian Learning (CAL) presentation tonight. She also looks forward to attending the ICCTA Annual Convention, and the budget discussions in June.

Ms. Evertsen asked whether the Sustainability Center could use donated reusable office supplies.

Mr. Allen thanked Dr. Gabbard and Ms. Doyel for the Center for Agrarian (CAL) presentation.

Ms. Hoban stated she would be interested in a brief refresher course from Attorney Cavnar, that would touch on the five most critical tasks and responsibilities of a community college board. She remarked

that two years ago she received a great orientation through ICCTA, but would like to stay updated and current.

Ms. Walsh congratulated staff and administration on the summer enrollment numbers. She feels it would be helpful to all Trustees if they could be provided the next steps and timeline for the Foglia CATI project, specifically what it entails and what role the board plays in the process.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session held.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Mary Cornett, Recording Secretary

Suzanne Hoban, Board Secretary