

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT #528**

January 21, 2025
Committee of the Whole



MCC Board Room A217
8900 U.S. Highway 14
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Morton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Morton asked Secretary Kueffner to take a roll call.

Trustees Present

Elizabeth Speros
Dale Morton
Suzanne Hoban
Alyssa Kueffner
Tess Reinhard
Adonia Fulk
Molly Walsh

Also Present

Dr. Clinton Gabbard - College President
Ken Florey - Legal Counsel

3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Agenda was accepted as presented.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Motion: Move that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes from Committee of the Whole Meeting, November 12, 2024, as amended. Trustee Reinhard motioned; seconded by Chair Hoban. Motion approved.

5. OPEN FOR RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

No public comments.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: DR. CLINTON GABBARD

Enrollment

Dr. Gabbard reported our enrollment is up significantly from last year; as well as from two years ago in credit hour and headcount.

Strategic Plan

After this meeting, trustees will receive a draft copy of the Strategic Plan, with input welcome over these next few weeks. The high points will be discussed during the February COTW, with a finalized Strategic Plan being brought for approval at the February 24 Board meeting. Dr. Gabbard explained that there was a lot of input in creating the draft, adding it is an effective document to guide the next five years. Strategies are missing which is because we want an approved plan of action first, then we commit to coming back to the Board with actual strategies connected to the plan and outcomes as indicators in the next few months.

Salary Equalization Rollout

After an amazing effort by HR, and much thanks for the Board of Trustees for their support, this effort has been rolled out. The cost impact is \$1.589 million, with half of that spent in this fiscal year. We consider this a great use of equalization funds.

Luecht Historical Collection

Mike Luecht has brought his collection to the College; housed in the former Center for Agrarian Learning space, A229. A donor had paid for the College to turn that room into a space to showcase the collection for students, employees and community members. The amazing collection is displayed museum-style, and the space will not be open by reservation. The Trustees are invited to arrive at 5:30 p.m. on January 30 for a preview before the BOT meeting.

SIU Visit Friday, January 23

Leadership from SIU is coming to MCC to talk about collaboration with MCC on further efforts related to the University Center; they want to expand SIU's footprint in northern Illinois. Dr. Daniela Broderick reported that MCC, for the University Center was awarded \$265,000 through the Illinois (ICCB) Innovative Bridge and Transfer Grant. Disbursement of funds will be through Friends of MCC Foundation with the goal of funding as many students as possible.

People in Need Forum

The annual People in Need Forum is Saturday, January 25, 2025, and Dr. Gabbard emphasized to our employees the importance of attending this event to experience how MCC connects to the community. All are encouraged to stop by.

Facilities Update

Dave Dammon has left MCC to pursue a great advancement in his career at Moraine Valley Community College. He provided great leadership and will be missed. Pat Sullivan is very knowledgeable and will step in while we search for a new director. After Trustee Hoban asked whether we have any concerns about projects in the works, Dr. Gabbard indicated no concerns; that those are in good shape.

Foglia CATI Art Installation

The new art installation has been completed and hangs above the main lobby in the CATI Building. It is a combination of natural elements and turned out the way we had hoped.

Foglia CATI Classrooms

Foglia CATI classrooms are nearly completed, with much work happening during the winter break in the HVAC area, and welding booths have been brought in with classroom work starting this week. Trustee Walsh asked about our CATI enrollment, and Dr. Gabbard responded that it is strong.

Makerspace and FabLab

Everything is in place and completed in the Makerspace in the CATI building. The next step is to bring in people from the community and start training.

Other Construction/Renovation Updates

Hallways C and D are being taken down to concrete to refresh flooring to the standard of other hallways. D167 will be the new EMS lab. The Learning Commons (formerly library) will have underutilized space being reconfigured. The book stacks are staying in place right now because that portion of space hasn't yet been renovated.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Gabbard highlighted the planetarium grand re-opening in February, and some upcoming concerts in February.

7. PRESENTATION

High Impact Faculty Practices was presented by Ms. Sarah Ruthven, Instructor of Art History

8. PRELIMINARY DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Tenuta provided a recap of the December financial statements. Questions and discussion followed.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SUMMARY COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHERS

Trustee Speros remarked she had extra time before tonight's meeting and stopped in Foglia CATI and saw the art installation. She also saw Tom McGee from whom she learned more about equipment and labs. She went on to share that Winter Commencement is always so special and meaningful for her to have a small part in these efforts. Trustee Speros was impressed by the student speaker at Winter Commencement who talked about challenging and tough times, finding direction, meaning and inspiration through it all.

Trustee Walsh was impressed by Sarah Ruthven's presentation and is excited by faculty and the work they do outside of classroom, noting that is what makes MCC great. She asked whether we are still doing pre-budget presentation in February for the FY 2026 Budget. Dr. Gabbard responded that Cabinet will first meet in February to determine where we're at with revenue and expenses. He noted we will hire up before accepting students for the new programs, and though not exactly part of budget process, this limits the possibilities to generate new funding ideas. Dr. Gabbard's thought is there will likely be a budget meeting in March.

Trustee Kueffner liked Sarah Ruthven's presentation, then asked whether we could market the auto/engine starting machine to other colleges and high schools. She felt that undergraduate research was a turning point in her own career so this type of offering can be lifechanging.

Trustee Reinhard reported she met with Megan Lombardi and Dr. Gabbard to review metrics on our dashboard and would recommend having some data shared with all Board. She appreciated the meeting and what she learned. She feels, related to the President's Report, that pride came through from all comments, which is impressive. She voiced that a future agenda item may cover major immigration, DEI, DoE, executive actions post-election; perhaps a presentation or meeting around projecting the impact on our community and how it could affect the College in the coming year. Dr. Gabbard interjected, briefly talking about the "You're Not Alone" campaign during which MCC leaders will be going into classrooms in a few weeks to reach out to students who are undocumented or have undocumented families to let them know with whom they can talk and get support.

Chair Hoban mentioned she went on one of the public Foglia CATI tours and took her son, a high school teacher. She remarked how great a way it was to introduce to all the things going on in that space and urges any who haven't toured to do so.

Chair Hoban and Trustee Reinhard both mentioned they will not be at the February COTW meeting.

Vice Chair Morton toured Foglia CATI in December with both of his visiting sons - both engineers - noting they were blown away and impressed.

Trustee Walsh had a question of Ken Florey, legal counsel, asking how the new Presidential administration's policies may impact our student population. Mr. Florey responded his firm is monitoring closely and compiling information. He indicated he would hand out a summary during his attorney report at the January BOT, stating that some impact of executive orders will come into play. Dr. Gabbard interjected to say MCC is currently allowed to protect student information at this time under FERPA protection.

10. CLOSED SESSION – there was no closed session called.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:22 PM, hearing no further business Trustee Walsh motioned to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Reinhard. All were in favor.

Christina Haggerty, Recording Secretary

Alyssa Kueffner, Board Secretary