

MINUTES OF THE INFORMATION SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB

An open information session of the Board of Trustees of the Community College District of the County of Macomb was held Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in Room 125 of the Professional Development Center, University Center, Center Campus, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, Michigan, pursuant to notice.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kelly at 6:27 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: James F. Kelly, Chairperson
Nancy Falcone, Treasurer
Connie Bolanowski, Secretary
Joseph DeSantis, Trustee
Charley Jackson, Trustee

Absent: Christine Bonkowski, Vice Chairperson (excused)
Roseanne DiMaria, Trustee (excused)

Also present: James Jacobs, President
Elizabeth Argiri, Vice President for Business
Jill M. Little, Vice President, Student Services
Patricia Martz, Executive Secretary to the President
Gerri Lynn Pavone, Executive Director, Research
and Planning
James Sawyer, Provost/Vice President, Learning Unit
Casandra Ulbrich, Vice President for College
Advancement and Community Relations
Hunter L. Wendt, General Counsel
Edie Woods, Professor of Psychology

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Falcone, supported by Bolanowski, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

4.0 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

5.0 REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS AND MATERIAL

None

6.0 ISSUES AND UPDATES

6.1 Unit Update – Student Services

Ms. Little distributed and reviewed a document outlining the various functions of the Student Services unit and responsibilities of the staff in those areas which include Enrollment Services, Counseling and Advising, Career Services, The Learning Center, Tutoring, Placement Testing, Student Life and Leadership, Conference and Food Services, and Athletics. She also provided an update on the Emergency Preparedness initiative which began in 2009 and reviewed current projects and future plans.

6.2 Achieving the Dream Update

In conjunction with student success, Dr. Woods provided an update on the Achieving the Dream initiative at the completion of its third year. She distributed a document outlining the progress of the past year, including a program which was developed with the college's K12 partners to help high school students improve their Math skills in preparation for college. She reviewed data regarding at-risk students who took the College Success Skills (CSSK 1200) class and on the successful outcomes of at-risk students in the learning community, compared to the non-learning community in English and Reading. She also provided data on student success concerning Math when classes met with greater frequency. Dr. Woods concluded by stating that her annual report was well received by both of the college's Achieving the Dream coaches. The Trustees thanked her for the update.

6.3 Tuition

Ms. Argiri referred to regular meeting agenda item 7.3, General Fund Planning and Tuition Rate for 2012-2013, and stated that administration is asking the Board to approve a 2% increase in tuition. She distributed additional information to the Board, including 2012-2013 in-district tuition rate increases for community colleges, which ranged from 2.4% to 7.5%. She noted that Macomb's proposed increase of 2% is modest in comparison. She reviewed a survey of cost of attendance at Michigan community colleges which indicates that Macomb is the third lowest in the state to attend. Ms. Argiri also provided information on taxable value and millage rates, showing Macomb as the third lowest in the state. Trustee Kelly thanked Ms. Argiri for the additional information.

There was a discussion on a proposal in Congress which would require students to attend college full-time in order to receive financial aid and/or Pell grants.

Dr. Jacobs informed the Trustees about a recent initiative by the Utica School District to award their students scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each to attend Macomb with a request that the college match that amount. The issue of matching the funds is being explored by the Foundation Office.

6.4 Lansing Update

Dr. Jacobs reviewed with the Trustees the proposed changes in MPSERS Reform Bill SB 1040, which, if passed, would be effective July 1, 2012. He commented that MPSERS is a significant benefit for college employees, but also has been beneficial in recruiting qualified and competent staff to the institution from the private sector. These proposed changes could increase the amount of money going into the pension plan and decrease the benefits of many of the staff at the college. He further stated that if the proposed pension changes occur, it will most likely have a significant impact on collective bargaining. Ms. Argiri stated that the legislature is attempting to reduce benefits and control costs for MPSERS, but the implementation date of July 1, 2012 is of great concern and will not give college employees sufficient time to appropriately determine their options.

Dr. Jacobs stated that, at this point, administration would like to go on record as opposing this bill. Trustee Kelly expressed his support in opposing the proposed bill, agreeing that the effective date is too soon, but commented that he does not believe the pension changes would hinder the college's ability to recruit staff. The Trustees who were present agreed to go along with President Jacobs' recommendation to oppose the proposed bill.

7.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Falcone, supported by Bolanowski, to move into executive session.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Falcone, Bolanowski, DeSantis, Jackson, Kelly

Nays: None

Absent: Bonkowski, DiMaria

Motion carried.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 7:37 p.m.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Motion carried.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Jackson, supported by Falcone, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Motion carried.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Secretary