

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, October 15, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., in Room 125 of the Professional Development Center, University Center, Center Campus, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, Michigan.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kelly at 6:40 p.m. Trustee Bonkowski was appointed Acting Secretary.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: James F. Kelly, Chairperson
Christine Bonkowski, Vice Chairperson
Roseanne DiMaria, Treasurer
Frank Cusumano, Trustee
Joseph DeSantis, Trustee
Nancy Falcone, Trustee

Absent: Connie Bolanowski, Secretary (excused)

Also present: James Jacobs, President
Elizabeth Argiri, Vice President, Business
Jill M. Little, Vice President, Student Services
Patricia Martz, Secretary to the President
Gerri Lynn Pavone, Executive Director, Research
and Planning
James Sawyer, Provost/Senior Vice President,
Learning Unit
Hunter L. Wendt, General Counsel/Executive
Director of College Police
Denise Williams, Vice President, Human Resources
Robert Stevens, Director of Governmental Relations and
Grant Support Services

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Falcone, 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

Dr. Jacobs provided information to the Trustees, including a report that the surgical technician program had a 94% pass rate on the certification exam (the national pass rate is 71%); an event entitled "Breakfast of Nations" was held at Center Campus on new immigrants in the community with approximately 170 people in attendance; and a retiree breakfast was held at Center Campus with over 100 retirees in attendance who will play a positive role for the college.

He also referred to the Grant Closeout Report, an informational item included in this month's board packet, which describes the activities and what was accomplished concerning the grants which were awarded to the college. He noted that this report includes the closeout of a Department of Labor grant which allowed training for veterans, unemployed, and displaced workers for jobs in aerospace, defense and manufacturing. The average wage earned as a result of the training was \$15.78 per hour.

Dr. Jacobs also informed the Trustees that the state legislators passed a budget for community colleges, and the sum of \$150,000 was set aside which will be awarded to community colleges that prepare a series of reports of their best practices in the community, part of a growing trend of accountability measures initiated by state legislators. This shows what the college is doing in the community with employers, school districts and community-based organizations. This resolution must be voted on at the regular meeting.

6.1 TAA Grant

Dr. Jacobs reminded the Board that on September 18, the college received a call from Sander Levin's office that the college was successful in winning a Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) grant from the Department of Labor in the amount of \$24.9 million, the largest single competitive grant received by the college to work with other community colleges in the state.

Ms. Pavone stated that Robert Stevens, Director of Governmental Affairs and Grant Support Services, is present at the meeting tonight to answer any questions they may have and noted that he was very helpful in compiling information in putting together the proposal. She distributed a copy of a news release on the grant award as well as a document providing highlights on the grant. Ms. Pavone reviewed the highlights of the four-year grant which targets training for displaced workers, veterans and those in need of upgrading skills. Eight

community colleges worked together on the proposal, and this is the largest amount of money awarded to the State of Michigan through the TAACCCT grant program. An extensive labor market analysis was conducted in the service areas of the eight community college partners to determine the needs of employers, using labor market intelligence software. One of the requirements was that the college needed to make sure there are jobs to employ the people being trained. As a result, several employers have committed to participate on this project, including assisting the college in updating a curriculum so that it is in line with their needs and also interviewing graduates who go through this program.

6.2 Goldman Sachs Initiative

Dr. Jacobs stated that approximately three years ago, Goldman Sachs initiated a challenge that they refer to as “10,000 Small Businesses.” Their goal is to help businesses in cities throughout the United States and they do this through working with community colleges. He stated that in 2010, Goldman Sachs approached Macomb wanting to target the Detroit Metropolitan area and was looking for a partner that could operate within the city of Detroit. The college was willing to work with Goldman Sachs, but they decided not to pursue the project in Detroit. However, two months ago Goldman Sachs returned to this area indicating they wanted to work through Wayne State University and Macomb Community College.

On November 26, the Governor, along with the Chair of Goldman Sachs, will be announcing the beginning of this five-year project. The project is to provide educational assistance (through the college) and financial assistance (through Goldman Sachs’ financial partners) to small businesses to be selected by Goldman Sachs. Dr. Jacobs explained that the business targets are: (1) owner-operated businesses; (2) businesses in operation for at least two years; (3) businesses with revenues of more than \$100,000; and (4) businesses with a minimum of two employees. The companies selected must go through an 11 week program, and as part of the program develop a business plan, figure out specific needs the business has, and then they would be able to apply for financial assistance through the financial partners. Dr. Jacobs stated that this is an interesting program that is targeted to many businesses that exist in Macomb County. Macomb will be working with Wayne State, which will be the lead partner, and Macomb’s responsibilities will be to develop the teachers for the program working with Oakland Community College. The training of Macomb faculty and the coursework will be paid by Goldman Sachs. If a company is selected and accepted, there will be loans and grants available of approximately one million dollars for each company.

Trustee Cusumano inquired about the success rate of this program in other areas. Dr. Jacobs responded that up to 2,000 businesses have been served, so they have met 20% of their goal of 10,000 businesses. He stated that the program was initiated in New York at LaGuardia Community College, and the program is taking place in other areas such as Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, Philadelphia and Seattle. Trustee Cusumano also asked if Goldman Sachs

intends to have these businesses focused in Detroit. Dr. Jacobs responded that they are looking for metropolitan area based companies and they see this program as part of the recovery of the Detroit metropolitan area. Dr. Jacobs stated that it is Macomb's task to get companies from Macomb County, and a meeting is scheduled this week to determine if we have some targeted companies. When Goldman Sachs makes the announcement in November, their goal is to have ten companies prepared to go through the training and education. Trustee DeSantis suggested reviewing the website on the Goldman Sachs initiative for a more detailed explanation of their targeted companies.

6.3 Board Proposals

Trustee Kelly stated that at the September board meeting, Trustee Cusumano made the Board aware of three proposals he had for consideration concerning (1) electronic packages (2) providing caps and gowns to students and (3) an amendment to the Bylaws concerning the order of agenda items. Trustee Kelly stated that he would like to have a discussion of these proposals prior to voting on them at the regular meeting. Trustee Cusumano began the discussion concerning the first proposal of posting electronic packages by stating the importance of transparency and the public being entitled to knowledge of the business of the college. He asked for the Board's support as to his proposal under agenda item 5.1.

Trustee Falcone asked for clarification on what board material he would like to have posted. Trustee Cusumano responded that he would like to see everything the board receives posted, with the exception of the matters reserved for executive session, including all supporting documentation. There was a discussion on whether the minutes of the meetings should be posted before or after they are approved. It was suggested that this subject be revisited in two months after Boardbook is fully implemented and so research can be done on the practices of other colleges as to posting of board material. Trustee Cusumano stated he would not be opposed to revisiting this issue at the next meeting and suggested a study session to go through issues or concerns. Trustee Kelly suggested that administration identify any concerns and bring them back to the next meeting for direction from the Board and it can then be placed on the December meeting agenda for a vote.

Trustee DeSantis made reference to a proposal that was made more than twenty years ago for an opportunity to have the meetings videotaped and shown on the cable networks county-wide, but the Board at that time decided against it. Trustee DeSantis suggested that the college's meetings be taped for public access to each of the communities. Trustee Cusumano stated that even if the meetings were taped, he would still want the packets available to the public so that they have access to the material being referenced at the meetings. Dr. Jacobs stated that the Trustees should send to him any concerns about this proposal and administration will address any legal or other issues. It can then be discussed at the next board meeting information session. Trustee Cusumano stated that his overall goal would be to have the meetings available online on the college website. Mr. Wendt stated that

these are two different concepts the Board would need to address. Trustee Kelly stated that he would like to address the original proposal and table the matter until the November board meeting and vote on it no later than the December board meeting.

Trustee Kelly referred to Trustee Cusumano's second proposal of providing caps and gowns for commencement. Trustee Cusumano stated that he believes this would be a nice gesture to students with the rising cost of tuition and the economy. He stated that he believes it would be a minimal cost to the college at approximately \$37 per student. Trustee Falcone proposed that this matter also be tabled since she would like to have time to weigh the pros and cons. She further commented that there are many ways that the college shows its appreciation to students by providing great programs and keeping tuition costs low.

Dr. Jacobs stated that every student should have the opportunity to participate in commencement and if the issue is the lack of funds to purchase a cap and gown, the college has in place opportunities for assistance for those students. He further commented he does not believe a vote by the Board is necessary concerning this matter. He noted that in reviewing the practices of other colleges, caps and gowns are not provided to students at the college's expense unless the cost is built into a student activities fee or a separate fee. Trustee Cusumano commented that he feels this has now been reframed as a poverty issue and that was not the intent of his proposal. He then made reference to the Board recently voting on \$34 million in renovations to buildings at South Campus. He proceeded to describe how he believes the administration arrived at the \$34 million renovation estimate from renovations that were done at G building in 2005 (sic) and by taking that total number and dividing it by the square footage of G building, measuring the buildings done at South Campus and multiplying those square footages by that number. He stated that this information came from the two individuals who toured the facilities with him. He added that the work that needed to be done on C building at South Campus was from a report generated by IDS in 2009 and those numbers are not consistent with the \$34 million. He stated this was the reason for his motion to separate those agenda items at the September board meeting rather than bundle them together. When Trustee Falcone asked how the renovation costs relate to the issue of caps and gowns, he responded that the expense of the caps and gowns would be minimal in comparison and there seems to be a lot of resistance to give back to students.

Ms. Argiri responded to Trustee Cusumano's statement regarding the renovations reiterating that at the August information session she spent a significant amount of time explaining how the administration arrived at the renovation costs. She explained that the use of the studies conducted in 2009 was to assist in determining needs, as well as relying upon our own expertise, and what was presented to the Board was the best information that the administration had.

Trustee Kelly stated that it does not appear that there is an agreement on the issue of caps and gowns, so a vote will be taken on it at the regular meeting.

Trustee Kelly referred to proposal 5.3 concerning the request to amend the Bylaws as to the order of the regular meeting agenda. Trustee Cusumano stated that the public should be able to comment prior to the Board voting on expenditures and other college business and he would like to move the Audience Participation agenda item prior to agenda items which require a vote. Trustee Kelly commented that the only item prior to Audience Participation is 8.0 – Personnel Reports. Trustee Cusumano stated that the collective bargaining contracts are under 8.0 and that involves the largest expenditure of the college. He asked for the Board's consideration to move Audience Participation prior to agenda item 8.0. Trustee Kelly commented that he does not see a reason to change the Bylaws at this time but will take the vote on this at the regular meeting.

Trustee DeSantis inquired whether there has been any consideration of a baccalaureate degree concerning culinary arts. Dr. Sawyer responded that this has been discussed at President's Council meetings and it is administration's belief that it is best to try to align programs with our partners. The college is fortunate to have a number of partners locally. Dr. Sawyer further stated that the college considers baccalaureate degrees from a broader perspective and chose not to go in that direction. Trustee DeSantis commented that it is something to think about in regard to duplication of classes and services.

Trustee Cusumano commented that there has been discussion on this in the past and that he plans to propose at the regular meeting that the college pursue four-year baccalaureate programs. He stated that he believes this is the appropriate direction for this college and he would like that decided by a vote of the Board as well. Trustee Falcone commented that this has been discussed in the past that she suggested that Trustee Cusumano be provided a copy of the Commission on Higher Education report for his review to help him understand why the administration and the Board make certain decisions. There was a discussion on the appropriate way to request that items be placed on the agenda. Trustee Bonkowski commented that the purpose of Board retreats is to share thoughts and ideas which can be discussed at length. Trustee DeSantis stated that trustees have always had the opportunity to place something on the agenda under Board of Trustees Requests/Proposals.

Trustee Kelly asked if it was necessary to move into executive session. Mr. Wendt stated that he would like to move into executive session to discuss a matter of litigation, which requires four votes.

7.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Falcone, DiMaria, DeSantis, Bonkowski, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: Cusumano

Absent: Bolanowski

Motion carried.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 8:02 p.m.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 8:18 p.m.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Acting Secretary