

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, May 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in Room K315 of the John Lewis Student Community Center, South Campus, 14500 Twelve Mile Road, Warren, Michigan, pursuant to notice.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kelly at 6:31 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: James F. Kelly, Chairperson
Connie Bolanowski, Secretary
Roseanne DiMaria, Treasurer
Nancy Falcone, Trustee
Frank Cusumano, Trustee

Absent: Christine Bonkowski, Vice Chairperson (excused)
Joseph DeSantis, Trustee (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
Casandra Ulbrich, Vice President, College Advancement
and Community Relations
Hunter L. Wendt, General Counsel/Executive
Director, College Police
Denise Williams, Vice President, Human Resources

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Falcone, supported by DiMaria, 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 Institutional Development Day 2014 – Year in Review

Dr. Jacobs informed the Trustees that he wanted to share with them the video that was shown at the April 15, 2014 Institutional Development Day which highlighted the successful accomplishments and activities throughout the past year.

6.2 Initial 2014/2015 General Fund Budget

Ms. Argiri informed the Trustees that the budget is consistent with the budget projections reviewed with them at the March board meeting with the exception of the property tax revenue since certain information was not available at that time. She explained that the equalization department had indicated to expect property values to increase .7%. However, on May 5, the college received certification from the County of an increase of 1.9%, better than anticipated. This will provide an additional \$660,000 to the budget. She further reviewed that a 3% decline in credit hours has been projected in the budget, as discussed in March, but she will continue to monitor that closely as fall registration begins. The Governor's proposed budget includes a 2.4% increase in state aid. In regard to tuition and fees, she is projecting a decline of approximately \$200,000, which is a combination of a 3% decline in credit hours, partially offset by the 2.9% increase in tuition rates. Ms. Argiri then reviewed the increase in expenditures in the amount of \$1.5 million dollars explaining that the changes in expenditures include a \$1.5 million increase in wages based on contract settlements that the Board approved previously and partially offsetting that is the \$2.4 million estimated reduction in health care costs due to the restructuring of the college's health care program and the implementation of Public Act 152. That is also partially offset by an additional increase in the MPSERS employer contribution rate which the college cannot control. She concluded by stating that she expects a near break-even budget, with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$40,000. She then inquired if there were any questions about the budget.

Trustee Cusumano inquired about the expenditures regarding the law firm of Clark Hill, while acknowledging that he was responsible for a portion of that related to litigation he filed. Mr. Wendt responded that the money is allocated under the category of institutional expenses and under the operational manner of the college, he, as general counsel, is empowered to bring in other outside counsel as needed. Mr. Wendt noted that approximately \$60,000 was expended as a result of Trustee Cusumano's lawsuit. Mr. Wendt further responded that the college utilizes Clark Hill's services for a variety of reasons, usually having to do with specialized areas of the law, including matters such as claims of civil rights violations and EEOC issues.

Trustee Cusumano referred to an email he sent to the Board requesting that two proposals be placed on the agenda to explore a Culinary Arts bachelor degree program and a Maritime technology bachelor degree program at Macomb. He inquired as to why this was not placed on the agenda at this month's board meeting. Mr. Wendt responded that in the past when a board member had a particular issue they wanted to explore, they would bring it up during the information session of the board meeting which would give the administration an opportunity to obtain information on the matter so it can be further discussed with the Board. Trustee Cusumano made reference to the recent Culinary Arts graduation commencement he attended at which Chef Baldwin of J. Baldwin's Restaurant spoke about the growing number of bachelor degree programs offered in Culinary Arts compared to several years ago. Trustee Cusumano stated that he believes it would be beneficial for Macomb to move forward in this direction in light of the authority to do so under the recently passed legislation.

He further stated that on the issue of a Maritime technology program, he believes Macomb should at least consider an articulation agreement with the college in northern Michigan. Trustee Cusumano stated that it is his understanding that the average starting pay for a graduate is \$10,000 per month. Trustee Kelly commented that we would need to explore the demand for this type of work, what resources are required, and identify any accreditation and/or staffing issues. He further stated he is not opposed to discussing new ideas, however, the Trustees need to rely on the administration's expertise. Trustee Cusumano commented that he is looking for direction on how to proceed with proposals. Mr. Wendt stated that the process is to bring matters to the information session to get a consensus from the Board on whether an idea should be explored.

Dr. Jacobs stated that these matters will be placed on the information session agenda at a future board meeting. Dr. Sawyer commented that there are ramifications institutionally with the Higher Learning Commission when going in the direction of a baccalaureate granting institution. He stated that the college has a number of articulation agreements with regard to hospitality management which was the approach taken to provide students with the management and operations education that compliments the Culinary Arts program. Feedback from employers and what they are looking for was a consideration in establishing those agreements. Dr. Sawyer further stated that to explore the demand for a four-year Culinary Arts program and any issues will take some time. He stated that he would also need to look at the infrastructure, i.e., expanding kitchens, etc. Trustee Kelly stated that we can begin a discussion after more information is obtained.

7.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was determined that there was no need to hold an executive session.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Secretary