

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, July 15, 2014 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 5:52 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

Absent: Connie Bolanowski, Secretary (excused)  
Nancy Falcone, 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 Bonkowski, 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 Maritime Technology Baccalaureate Program Analysis

Dr. Sawyer provided information relating to Maritime technology. He stated that there are currently six Maritime academies in the country, two of which are on the Great Lakes, one at Northwestern Michigan College (Great Lakes Maritime Academy) in Traverse City and SUNY in New York. Federal aid is provided to the six academies, but not more than one academy can be funded per state according to Federal regulations. Therefore, Macomb would not be eligible for federal funding and licensure would be a challenge. Dr. Sawyer stated that Northwestern offers a program for deck officers and engineering officers. Last year was the first year that the Great Lakes Maritime Academy reached full enrollment with 60 cadets, but they have struggled to reach that capacity over the years. Currently, Northwestern has articulation agreements with St. Clair Community College, Muskegon Community College and Delta College and to date, no students have taken advantage of those agreements. In the current program at Northwestern, there are cadets from 24 states and one cadet from Macomb County.

Dr. Sawyer further explained that in looking at the job data, the majority of these workers have less than an associate's degree. He also noted that there is some national growth for ship engineers, but the data was not segregated as to Michigan. In terms of obtaining information through Burning Glass, no postings were found for deck officers or ship engineers in Michigan, but there were some on the national level. He also noted that if the college was to offer a baccalaureate degree, it would require HLC accreditation. In this case, not only would state and federal approval for financial aid be needed, but also approval from the Maritime Association. The college would also need a harbor location and a ship at an estimated cost of \$20 million. Dr. Sawyer also cautioned that offering baccalaureate degrees could compromise the relationships with Macomb's four-year partners. He concluded by stating that there is not an overabundance of student demand as evidenced by Northwestern not being able to fill their program until just recently, and there does not appear to be a demand that the college has been made aware of from an employer perspective.

Trustee Cusumano inquired as to Dr. Sawyer's previous comment about the potential impact to the college's relationship with the four-year university partners. Dr. Sawyer responded that when legislation was first being discussed, there was pushback from the public universities and the program with the greatest pushback related to nursing, which was later removed from the legislation. Dr. Jacobs stated that the university presidents made it known at that time that they were not in support of community colleges offering baccalaureate degrees. Trustee Cusumano

inquired as to where students were being trained before Northwestern offered the baccalaureate program. Dr. Sawyer responded that Northwestern offered the program in conjunction with Ferris State University. Trustee Cusumano then followed up with a question as to whether administration ever looked into Macomb partnering with Ferris State University through an articulation agreement for purposes of this program. Dr. Sawyer responded that since Macomb's general education courses already transfer and Macomb does not offer any of the Maritime technical courses, it is questionable whether an articulation agreement would be of value. There was then a discussion regarding water transportation industry employment trends and wages.

Dr. Jacobs stated that we must be conscious of strategy and need to look at the risks versus the benefits and that the risks would far outweigh the benefits. He further stated that it isn't a question of what the data indicates, it is a question of the college's resources. Trustee Cusumano stated that he would like to at least explore whether Northwestern would be willing to enter into some type of agreement to offer part of their Maritime program at the University Center. Dr. Sawyer advised that as the chief academic officer, he would not be in favor of doing that, explaining that all of the equipment and infrastructure is in Traverse City and he does not see an advantage in offering sporadic courses hundreds of miles away. Trustee Cusumano commented that he believes this would be worthwhile to explore. Trustee Kelly stated that it is administration's recommendation not to pursue this and he does not believe there would be support from the other Trustees, but if he would like to put forth a motion or proposal to pursue this we could place it on the agenda for a vote at the August meeting. Trustee Cusumano indicated that he would follow up with Trustee Kelly on this matter.

#### 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 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Acting Secretary