

APPROVED 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 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., in Room K307, John Lewis Student Community Center, South Campus, 14500 Twelve Mile Road, Warren, Michigan.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kelly at 6:32 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: James F. Kelly, Chairperson
Vincent Viviano, Vice Chairperson
Jennifer Haase, Secretary
Roseanne DiMaria, Treasurer
Frank Cusumano, Trustee
Elizabeth Lucido, Trustee

Absent: Joseph DeSantis, Trustee

Also present: James Jacobs, President
Elizabeth Argiri, Vice President for Business
Sharon Kowal, Executive Administrative Assistant to the President
Jill Thomas-Little, Vice President, Student Services
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 DiMaria, supported by Haase, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

4.0 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

5.0 REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS AND MATERIAL

Trustee Cusumano said he will be making a motion to amend the agenda to include the Minutes from the Special Meeting held on May 10, 2016.

6.0 ISSUES AND UPDATES

Dr. Jacobs said commencement went great and was well attended by both students and staff. It was the largest turnout he has seen.

Dr. Jacobs said the Early College graduation was great as well. There were 161 graduates who had earned over \$2.4 million in scholarships. Macomb's Early College program is the largest in the state.

6.1 HLC Update

Dr. Sawyer provided an overview of the ongoing preparations for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visit on September 26 and 27, 2016. He outlined the five criteria and the areas of concern from previous HLC visits, the actions the College has taken to improve those concerns and the progress the College has made and presented to HLC.

Ms. Pavone provided an overview on the status of where the College stands with the HLC process. Progress has been made on the Assurance Argument, a crucial piece of documentation. She also covered other parts and pieces required for the HLC assessment; Federal Compliance Report; Student Opinion Survey, and Third-Party Comments. Ms. Pavone provided background information on the Peer Review Team. She also said Board members will likely be asked to meet with the team. President Council members, Academic Deans and other staff the HLC chair wants to meet with should plan to be available during the visit.

Dr. Sawyer invited questions. Trustee Cusumano said there were issues about diversity in 1997 and it was approved in 2007, was any aspect of that involved with the academic success of the minority students - do they look at that and is it a challenge for Macomb. Dr. Sawyer said the gap in success, particularly in African American male students, is a national problem and the College is experiencing it as well. And in 2007, the issue wasn't about student success, but demographics.

Trustee Cusumano asked if the student survey plays a part in the accreditation process and if so, how much. Dr. Sawyer said the survey is used by the team to help prepare them for their visit – for example, if 100 students respond that they are having a problem with something, the team would definitely take a closer look at that issue. The survey is generated by HLC, given to the College and then the College emails it to the students. Ms. Pavone said in October the College did a mirror survey and it came back very positive. One month before the visit, Macomb will receive the same report as the reviewers.

Dr. Jacobs stated that there is an issue with one Board member who has not attended any meetings in the past fifteen months. Discussion followed amongst the Board members on how to handle this situation. Trustee Kelly will meet with Mr. Wendt to draft a letter from the Board inclusively to send to the Board member in an effort to demonstrate a good faith effort to invite him to return to the meetings or resign from his position.

Trustee Kelly said another issue HLC may have with the Board is that one member regularly and consistently votes no on specific agenda items.

6.2 Lansing Update

Dr. Jacobs stated that tonight the Board is getting the first look at the budget for the 2017 fiscal year and you will note that the forecast for revenue from the State is correct. At this point in Lansing, the Legislature has, in the budget, an increase in money for all community colleges, however, the House's proposal is an increase of 3.4% and the Senate's increase is for 2.0%. However the revenue forecast indicates a least a \$400 million shortfall from what had been predicted and there is still no clear resolution of the state aid for the Detroit Public Schools or the Flint Water crisis. Though it could happen, he thinks it is wise not to adopt any increase, at this point, and that is what the budget is based on. Ms. Argiri stated that once action is taken this summer, any state support for the college will be factored in and presented to the Board in December.

6.3 Upcoming Potential Projects

Dr. Jacobs stated that there are several projects the College is involved in and may potentially pursue. They do raise policy issues, so if a decision is made to follow through with any of the projects they will be brought to the Board.

A) Early College: Utica Community Schools (UCS) has decided to no longer participate in the Early College program. They will allow current students to complete the program but will not be adding any new students. However, to counter that, other school districts in the county have increased the number of students they are enrolling and literally a day after UCS made their announcement, three Oakland County school districts asked if they could participate. If the MISD strongly objects to this request then the College will not do it – because the MISD is the fiscal manager of the program and the College needs to keep a close relationship with them. If it looks like this may happen he will bring it back to the Board.

Trustee Haase asked why UCS pulled out. Dr. Jacobs said because their students aren't completing the thirteenth year of the program and it is costing them money. Trustee Haase asked if other districts are concerned. Dr. Jacobs said all the districts are concerned but they weigh concern with how many students benefit by the scholarships, the publicity, etc. The UCS students are still able to attend the College through Dual Enrollment.

Syrian Refugees: The College has a close relationship with the Chaldean community and there is going to be an effort, not only with them but with others, to encourage more refugees from Syria to move into the County. OneMacomb, led by Pam Lavers, is going to be playing a role and Macomb has been asked to play a role as well. It isn't clear where this will go because it is uncertain whether there are federal funds for occupational education and training for Chaldean refugees. Dr. Jacobs thinks it is a good thing. The only "negative" issue is whether people in the community feel this is somehow related to national security.

- B) Cybersecurity: The College has been asked by the County to apply for a cybersecurity range because they are focused on and want to make a mark on the cybersecurity sector. It was decided not to apply for a range because Wayne State already has one built in the Atec building. The College does have experience with cybersecurity. Dr. Sawyer stated there is current faculty member with cybersecurity expertise teaching courses now. Dr. Jacobs said Macomb and Wayne would push it forward under the direction of the County Planning Commission. Trustee Lucido asked if the College would offer more courses. Dr. Jacobs stated Macomb would offer more classes and programs and lead the region in cybersecurity.
- C) American Axle: American Axle Manufacturing (AAM) is building a large training center in their facility located in Detroit and is considering inviting the College to participate. Dr. Jacobs, Dr. Sawyer, and Mr. Petrosky have met with them once and will be meeting with them again. The College is going into this with the assumption, if any agreement is worked out, the Board would know about it and be supportive. No current programming would be eliminated from this campus but some may increase and be delivered at this new training center. Dr. Sawyer said the College has done this type of training before through the workforce development program. Dr. Jacobs said this would involve the Detroit Workforce, the mayor, and a couple partners, i.e. Focus Hope. The College will only do this by invitation from AAM.

The question the Board may hear is -- why is Macomb doing this in another county. This is a good opportunity and it is in addition to -- nothing will be taken away from these campuses. Trustee Haase asked if this training would focus on trade skills. Dr. Jacobs said yes, manufacturing skills, apprenticeships, etc. They are very interested in getting high school youth into apprenticeship programs. Dr. Sawyer said the long-term vision is to create a skilled workforce which would bring other plants to build facilities in the area. The whole premise is to create a pool of skilled workers which could provide opportunities for Macomb students as well.

Trustee Cusumano asked if they are going to do the type of work (skilled trades) that they did there originally. Dr. Jacobs said they are going to develop a training center to get other companies to move into the area. Trustee Cusumano asked what AAM's involvement is in this. Dr. Jacobs said they want to build a training facility (paid for by AAM) and Macomb would offer programs in that facility.

Global Corporate College (GCC) and Chinese Delegate: Dr. Jacobs will be going to Clearwater, FL for a meeting with GCC and a Chinese delegation about a training and education program. There would be two phases to this program: Phase 1 - Macomb staff would go to China to perform training and educate faculty and staff from six or seven large Chinese Applied Universities and Phase 2 -- Chinese students and staff would come here and have onsite training with the College's partner, Wayne State University. This would in effect be a train the trainer program. The Chinese are very interested in a relationship with Wayne State and Wayne is familiar with a couple of the Chinese universities and has experience working with them. This project would be an add-on and not be at the expense of any current program. They are interested in the welding and CNC training.

Dr. Jacobs said he made it clear that it is very doubtful the College would go to China but we would consider it if the Chinese sent people here. Dr. Jacobs said this project is being sold as a way of increasing revenue, but politically if the Board feels uncomfortable or has any reservations this is a good time to talk about it. Trustee DiMaria stated that she personally does not feel comfortable with the idea. Trustee Cusumano said it would increase the revenue stream, they would need housing, goods and services and it's a global economy, why not. Trustee Kelly agreed and said if it isn't Macomb then it will be another community college. Trustee Haase asked if the program would be a similar model like the one with American Axle. She also stated she would be more comfortable if they paid in advance. Dr. Jacobs said they aren't that far into the process but that is one of the reasons for partnering with Wayne State. Trustee Viviano asked if anyone from Wayne was going with him to Florida. Dr. Jacobs said no, but Mr. George Xia, from Institutional Research, who is originally from China, will be attending.

Trustee Cusumano said it is his opinion that the selection committee for the presidential search cannot cull an applicant that would be done as a Board. They also cannot have the authority to bring an abbreviated list of candidates to the Board.

Trustee Cusumano would like a report about on the amount of traffic the Military and Veterans Services Department is receiving.

Trustee Cusumano asked if the Oakland County school districts interested in the Early College program would pay out of county tuition. It was confirmed that they would.

7.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was determined that it was not necessary to go into executive session.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

/s/
Secretary