

APPROVED MINUTES OF 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 Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., in Room 146 of the East Campus, 21901 Dunham Road, Clinton Township, Michigan.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Haase at 6:18 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: Jennifer Haase, Chair
Frank Cusumano, Vice Chair
Katherine Lorenzo, Secretary
Roseanne DiMaria, Treasurer
Kristi Dean, Trustee
Joseph DeSantis, Trustee
Vincent Viviano, Trustee

Also present: James Jacobs, President
Elizabeth Argiri, Vice President, 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 & 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 Lorenzo, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

4.0 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

5.0 REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS AND MATERIAL

Trustee Haase thanked Ms. Kowal and everyone at the administration level who contributed to getting the Board packet out early. She asked that it be sent out early was because she wanted trustees to have more time to look through it. Especially with having two new Board members she hoped those extra three days were helpful. Trustee Haase said that last month the meeting ran quite a bit over so she thought if they had more time with the packet questions or concerns could be sent to the Chair ahead of time. She could then request the appropriate people be in attendance at the meeting or have the appropriate information available to answer questions and the meeting would be conducted in a timely

fashion. She told the Trustees to feel free to contact her at any time if they have questions or concerns and the right people will be contacted to answer them.

6.0 ISSUE AND UPDATES

Dr. Jacobs stated that for the first time the College is having a wedding on campus. It will be at the Gazebo on June 21 at 6 p.m. The couple are two students who met at the Gazebo. The College doesn't normally approve of this, but under the circumstances it is being permitted as a one-time thing.

Mr. Wendt, General Council, Executive Director, College Police, gave an update to the vandalism perpetrated on B building, Center Campus on Monday, February 13. The building was closed for cleaning and the Learning Unit cancelled or moved classes on February 14 and 15. Two warrants have been served to the individual who committed the vandalism.

The MCCA Summer Conference will be held July 25–28, 2017 at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. Please respond to Ms. Kowal by March 1 if you plan on attending.

Dr. Jacobs stated that he will be the senior advisor to the president of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation starting in August.

6.1 Use of College Property

There was discussion about the use and charges associated with the College property located at 15 Mile and Hayes Rd. Dr. Jacobs stated that through contact with Candace Miller, Macomb County Public Works Commissioner, she has proposed the County's use and restoration of the property, once they are done using it, for free or a nominal fee. He said this is a decision for the Board.

Trustee DiMaria asked what it costs the College per day, i.e. taxes, etc. for the property. Mr. Wendt said the College is tax exempt. The history behind the property is that it was purchased many years ago with the intention of building a Human Resource Center, but the purchase of the MAC building turned out to be a better deal. The land is not being used at this point and in the short run there are no plans for it. Trustee DiMaria said the Board should be gracious and let Ms. Miller carry on – the College should not gain anything – the people who live in the devastated area will bear the cost. Trustee Viviano said the difference between using the property this time and the previous two times is that the County is bearing the cost of rent for the displaced families and will have to buy two or three homes for \$1 million. These are costs the County didn't have to absorb in the past.

The College has suggested a lease for \$3,000 per month. In the previous usage of the property the agreements for lease with fees were made with the contractors. This time Ms. Miller is more involved and wants to be the signatory of the agreement.

Trustee DeSantis asked if the Board is being asked to make a decision that was never put before the Board. Mr. Wendt said he is asking for a consensus of the Board to give him direction for writing an agreement. Dr. Jacobs received the call on Christmas Eve and made the decision to allow the contractors and County to use the land as a staging area. That was deemed appropriate as it was a state of emergency. In this case, the issue happened in December and there was no meeting until January. At the January meeting the situation was discussed and the Board gave the spoken word to continue the practice to charge for the usage. Mr. Wendt continued that practice and contacted the attorney. Candace Miller contacted the president, the Chair and others and asked the Administration and the Board to consider waiving any fees

on their agreement to restore the land upon cessation of activities. So Mr. Wendt is asking the Board for direction.

Trustee DeSantis asked if there was any instrument signed. Mr. Wendt stated it was a verbal agreement, but he insisted the Drain District get an indemnity agreement and insurance, which happened right away. So while they have been using the land the College was protected. Trustee DeSantis said the Board wasn't notified and he doesn't have a problem with any of this. He does have a problem with notification and timeliness. Necessity, yes, they needed to use it – if someone wanted to bid on that property they couldn't - we are being denied the ability to get value of that property for we don't know how long.

Trustee Haase said when she spoke to Ms. Miller it was their hope to be done by the end of the year. It was an appropriate timeline - it was an emergency situation, Administration took action and brought it to the Board in January. Mr. Wendt said there will be a license agreement in writing. Mr. Wendt said the length of time they use the property is unknown, to be realistic the property needs to be restored visually and he is going to insist that appropriate environmental testing be performed.

Dr. Jacobs stated that this is being done because these are citizens of Macomb County and the College is always committed to working on issues affecting the County. He would also like to call to your attention that very soon the College is going out for the renewal of a millage. He thinks being good neighbors is worthwhile.

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by DiMaria, to authorize general counsel to negotiate a contract license agreement for one year with terms and conditions to include the reconstitution or reclamation of the property at a rental rate of \$1 per month and any other terms which counsel deems appropriate including insurance.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Cusumano, DiMaria, Dean, DeSantis, Lorenzo, Haase

Nays: None.

Abstain: Viviano

Absent: None.

6.2 Diversity Statement

Dr. Jacobs advised that the diversity statement discussed at the last meeting is included in the packet. This statement is taken from Macomb's Vision Statement, which was passed by the Board, including the College's positions on diversity and inclusiveness. He suggests that the Board simply put the statement on the website or use it in some fashion. Trustee Cusumano said the College should publish a restatement of diversity and inclusion restating what has been written. He asked if inclusiveness is included as part of the core values the way that it includes diversity. Ms. Pavone, Executive Director, Research and Planning said inclusiveness is part of the organizational philosophy and diversity is part of the core values.

Trustee Cusumano would like to make a motion to adopt the resolution restating these principles to be published on the College website and to any media outlets that would be interested in that type of press release. Mr. Wendt recommended adding the statement to the regular meeting agenda. Trustee Cusumano withdrew his motion.

Ms. Pavone said that the statement was taken from the Guiding Principles document and there are other statements that go along with those which may not make the statement flow. She recommends the Board should consider crafting a more fluent and formal statement if it is going to be used publically. The Board agreed to have Administration put together a formal statement consistent with the mission, strategic objectives and institutional priorities.

6.3 Impact of Immigration Decision

Dr. Jacobs stated he was going to report on this topic but it is actually moot because of the court challenge ruling the executive order on immigration as not valid. But when the original executive order came out it was found that there are three Macomb students who may be affected by it. Those students were apprised of the original order and cautioned about leaving the country. Since the order is moot at this point, there isn't much to discuss. But one thing the Board members should realize is that the College, with the exception of students on a particular visa, does not collect information on citizenship of individuals. That was a Board decision made a couple of years ago

6.4 Naming Recognition Policy

Dr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions about the Naming Recognition Policy. Trustee Lorenzo said she will be voting no on the policy. She continued that it may be fine on paper but from a practical aspect it is just a bad idea. She is 100 percent opposed to this because it puts the Board at risk, the College at risk and it importantly puts the donor at risk. If a donor should fall on hard times and is unable to continue their donation it would be embarrassing to them and to the College to have to remove the name. The second reason she is voting no is the policy itself has inconsistencies – one paragraph says one thing and two paragraphs later it says the same thing differently. Trustee Lorenzo said she is going to vote no and anytime a donor is brought before this Board she will vote no.

Trustee Cusumano said this vote is to amend the policy, because the policy was already passed. Mr. Wendt confirmed that the original policy provides that all the money be paid before the name goes on. Dr. Ulbrich stated that the reason for the change was a specific donor wanted to name a conference room and it was \$100,000. They wanted to put \$20,000 down and pay \$20,000 for the next four years, and the Administration didn't want to wait five years to recognize their gift. That is why the amendment for the policy was brought to the Board.

Dr. Ulbrich said the naming is based on negotiations that come before the Board. At any time the Board can say they are not comfortable with this. Trustee Viviano agreed.

Trustee Haase said there is a very specific motivation for that change in language. Dr. Ulbrich doesn't think that this will be a one-time thing – this is an issue that can certainly arise again in the future. Particularly, because the role of the Foundation has greatly expanded and has increased giving by 300, almost 400 percent, over the last five years. The Foundation is getting an increasing number of donors who are interested in more of the benefits that can be offered. Only one sentence is being changed that would elongate the installment payments.

Mr. Wendt said that what is being asked for is another marketing tool -- if an agreement is reached, he reviews it and if it is agreed that it is in the College's best interest then it comes to the Board for approval. Dr. Ulbrich said if the Board is not comfortable with an agreement then they would provide direction to renegotiate with the donor and look at something else.

K. Lorenzo said then maybe the policy could be added to an agenda to look at the inconsistencies. Trustee Haase said she would look at a future agendas and have the policy reviewed at a later time

6.5 Review of College Financial Situation

Dr. Jacobs and Dr. Sawyer gave a presentation providing an introduction to the process used to review the financial situation of the College.

Trustee Haase stated that in the interest of time for the Trustees to write down any questions and they can be discussed in March.

To summarize; first, two main sources of income, state funding and property taxes, have declined and there appears to be no long-term increase in either of those. Second, enrollment and tuition are not related directly - at least in community college cost factors - the traditional issues of enrollment have much more to do with demographics, size of high school graduation classes, the College's ability to market the institution and the quality of what Macomb does – how the College gets students successfully through the programs and the investments that the institution makes.

Finally enrollment is declining and that is the prediction for the future. Administration sees a need to review the tuition and fees and would like to increase tuition. The data indicates that Administration has tried to do as much as possible to cut costs, be productive, etc. In this case there would also be a reallocation, that would also cut some individual positions of staff, as well as expenditures that the College makes. But at the same time there will be reallocation of some of that money to other things that Administration believes are essential for student success.

This is the proposal Administration wants to work on and bring to the Board in March. It is really threefold: try to increase revenue source from tuition; also decrease some expenditures; and reallocate some money to things that are important for student success.

Trustee Cusumano said he would like to see a pullback through attrition or retirement as a long-term strategy with the idea if things improve credit hours and head count and enrollment goes up. The other thing he sees is students taking one less course during the winter semester than the fall and how to encourage students to take those classes. Dr. Jacobs said there is work ongoing on how to figure out a way to offer a discount to students who increase their credits from 12 to 15. The issue is how to actually do that.

Trustee Haase stated that the proposal will be ready for the Board in March. She would like the Board packet out by Wednesday, March 8 and the Info Session agenda to be limited to a few items so enough time can be spent on the proposal.

Trustee Haase stated that student success has to be our number one focus. It is what is going to be best for our students for that particular scenario.

7.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by DiMaria, supported by Lorenzo to move into Executive Session to discuss a contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: DiMaria, Lorenzo, Cusumano, Dean, DeSantis, Viviano, Haase

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 7:50 p.m.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

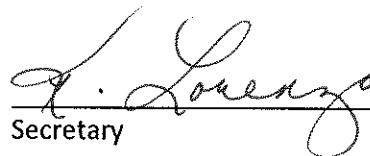
8.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB BOARD OF TRUSTEES


Secretary