

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, August 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., in Room 315/317 of the John Lewis Conference Center, South Campus, 14500 E. Twelve Mile Road, Warren, Michigan.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lorenzo at 6:03 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present:

Katherine Lorenzo, Chairperson
Frank Cusumano, Vice Chairperson/Acting Secretary
Kristi Dean, Secretary (virtual)
Shelley Vitale, Trustee

Absent:

Roseanne DiMaria, Treasurer
Joan Flynn, Trustee
Vincent Viviano, Trustee (Arrived at 7 p.m.)

Also present:

James Sawyer, President
Aimee Adamski, Registrar & Director of Enrollment Services
Kevin Chandler, Vice President, College Advancement & Community Relations
Joline Davis, Vice President, Human Resources
Carrie Jeffers, Vice President, Student Services
Leslie Kellogg, Provost, Vice President of Learning Unit
Sharon Kowal, Executive Assistant to the President & Board of Trustees
William Leavens, Chief of College Police
Lakshmi Malalahalli, ABLE Program Project Manager
Deb Mende, Executive Director, Office of the President
Jeffrey Steele, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel
Students: Ruth Johnson, Harsh Ajmera

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Vitale, supported by Cusumano, to approve the agenda as presented.

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: Vitale, Cusumano, Lorenzo

ABSENT: Dean, DiMaria, Flynn, Viviano

NAYS:

MOTION CARRIED.

4.0 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Lori Chapman, professor of mathematics and president of Macomb Community College Faculty Organization (MCCFO) spoke collectively for the union members present and shared their desire for a fair and reasonable contract. They have been negotiating with the college for many months and are disappointed to be heading into the academic year without a contract in place. They value their relationship with the board, the hardworking administrators, and other employees of Macomb Community College. We express our sincere hope to reach a contract agreement soon.

5.0 REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS AND MATERIALS

None.

6.0 ISSUES AND UPDATES

6.1 President's Report

Closed Session – Request to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to discuss collective bargaining. General Counsel Steele has verified that it is appropriate to do so with a majority vote of those present.

Enrollment Update – As of August 16, Fall 2023 credit hours are up four percent and headcount is up 2.3 percent. Enrollment had been on a steady decline for over ten years so this is great news. It is encouraging to see the credit hours exceeding headcount in terms of percentage because that indicates students are taking more credits as they move forward towards completion. Other reasons include the Michigan Achievement Scholarship and Macomb Tuition Advantage Program because both require a full-time load.

Student registration in the following programs, to date, for Fall:

- *Macomb Tuition Advantage Program* – The program was just announced on May 16 and there are 1,941 students registered
- *Futures for Frontliners* – 266 students
- *MI Reconnect* – 1,269 students
- *Michigan Achievement Scholarship* – New State Scholarship – over 500 students
- *Dual Enrollment* – year over year for Fall, enrollment is up 33 percent and ten percent for the Winter term

New Hires – Three full-time faculty are recommended to be hired to fill vacancies or reallocations.

Administrative – Action Item – In a mutual agreement with MCCFO, we are moving a sabbatical from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024.

Purchases – Annual library materials.

IDEA Update – Under Executive Director Tiffany Goliday's leadership we are making great progress. The IDEA link on Macomb.edu is complete. A presence on the student/staff portal is scheduled to be available by November. Both links are for IDEA-related resources available at the college.

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- T. Goliday spoke as a panelist at Oakland University's Conference on Race and Racism. The conference was focused on educators in K-12 and higher education to focus on strategies for best practices for conducting and facilitating discussions on race and racism in the classroom.
- A new procedure is forthcoming that will empower individuals to select the name and pronoun that aligns with their identify. Students and employees may use a first name other than their legal first name as well as personal pronouns to identify themselves. They can be used where possible, and faculty/employees will attempt to address the chosen first name/personal pronouns in the course of Macomb business and education. The last name (surname) will remain unchanged. The goal is to have the policy posted by November 10.

D3C3 Grant Update – Student success coaches are currently engaged in helping students through the registration process and onboarding.

- The Student Success and K12 clusters are finalizing timelines and developing implementation plans. They are also coordinating data requests with Institutional Research to ensure there is a monitoring system in place for assessing progress, which is important from a funder perspective.
- The Mobility Cluster held their first meeting in June. They are working on identifying the common knowledge and skills required for entry level positions to assist with curriculum development.

Lorenzo Cultural Center presents Front Row Center: Icons of Rock, Blues and Soul photo exhibit – The exhibit is a collection of more than 70 images, taken by concert photographer Larry Hulst, of legendary musicians and singers across the generations and genres. The exhibit is open now through September 27.

Veteran Friendly School – Macomb has once again been certified as a Veteran-Friendly School by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA), awarding the college gold-level recognition for the 2023-2024 school year. The eighth consecutive year. The veteran-friendly school program recognizes institutions that are committed to supporting the needs of veterans and military-connected students in utilizing their G.I. Bill®. Congratulations to Kara Fields and her team in the Veteran Services office who do a tremendous job.

Paramedic Grant Award – The college has received a second award from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for \$130,000 to afford 32 students accepted to the Fall 2023 cohort to complete the entire program free of charge.

Skilled Trades and Advanced Technology Center – The college held a great event on Friday, August 11 for the opening of the Skilled Trades and Advanced Technology Center. Dr. Sawyer thanked Chairperson Lorenzo for emceeing the ceremony and Trustees Cusumano, DiMaria and Flynn for attending. There was a lot of positive feedback about the ceremony and the building from those who attended. He expressed his appreciation to the many faculty and staff, who not only worked on the project, but through the two-year period of moving classes, equipment and adjusting programs to allow students to continue to make educational progress. It was no easy task, thank you for your help in making this so successful.

Macomb Hosting MCCA Board of Directors Meeting – The college will be hosting the Michigan Community College Association's Board of Directors and staff for their meeting on September 28 and 29. We will host them a center campus on Thursday with a reception, tour of the simulation lab and dinner. All trustees and PC are invited to attend. The reception begins at 4:30 p.m. The meeting on Friday will be held at

south campus. In addition to regular business, we will tour the Skilled Trades & Advanced Technology Center. The trustees do not attend the Friday meeting, just Chairperson Lorenzo and President Sawyer. S. Kowal will send out the details.

September Meeting Agenda – Anticipated items for the September meeting:

- A recommendation of auditors based upon proposals received from the issued RFP promised last year.

- Renovations for the Medical Assistant Program lab in CR building. The program is part of the Healthcare Apprenticeship grant. The grant will pay for some of the equipment but the college is going to convert two lecture rooms into labs as well. The estimated cost is about \$400,000 and anticipated construction is from May 2024 through September 2024.

6.2 ABLE (Academic Boost & Learning Experiences) Presentation

Dr. Sawyer stated that Macomb's ABLE program was developed as part of a statewide initiative administered by the Michigan Community College Association to help combat learning loss due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He thanked Aimee Adamski, registrar and director of enrollment services, Daniel Brengel, director of reading & writing studios and learning centers and Lakshmi Malalahalli, ABLE program, project manager, who did a great job leading the development of the program.

He also thanked the faculty who participated:

Math – Lori Chapman

English – Rianna Amolsh, Ludger Brinker, Mark Owen, Jenna Gerds

Student Support Events – Heather Mayernik

A. Adamski and L. Malalahalli presented an overview of the ABLE program to the board. D. Brengel was unable to be at the meeting tonight. Students Ruth Brown and Harsh Ajmera shared their experiences with the ABLE program.

Dr. Sawyer closed his comments by adding that he appreciates Professor Chapman's comments. The college is anxious to reach a quick agreement. Many faculty members have worked with Dr. Sawyer over the years and he has a deep respect and appreciation for them and the work they do, it is the life blood of the college.

7.0 CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Vitale seconded by _____ to go into closed session.

Trustee Cusumano said before seconding the motion he would like an opinion from Counsel Steele about the lack of a quorum and whether it is appropriate to go into closed session.

Counsel Steele said the Open Meetings Act (OMA) arguably does not apply to this session because there is no quorum. The OMA applies when there is a meeting of the board and there is a quorum present. Even if the OMA applied, it allows the board to go into closed session for several specific purposes. MCL 15.267, which governs the process of going into closed session, states 2/3 vote is required to go into closed session except for certain circumstances. The statute authorized us to

go into closed session without a 2/3 vote in certain circumstances, one of which is to discuss collective bargaining. Since the reason we are asking to go into closed session is to discuss collective bargaining, the 2/3 vote does not apply and so we can go into closed session with a simple majority of those present.

If we don't have a quorum at the regular meeting, we will have to postpone the closed session to a different meeting.

Trustee Cusumano said he is satisfied with the advice of counsel and disagrees with the conclusion. He will be voting no to go into closed session.

Trustee Cusumano suggested if the board has a quorum at the regular meeting that the agenda be amended to add in a closed session.

There was a motion made by Trustee Vitale, but no second, therefore the motion died.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Vitale, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Secretary