

APPROVED MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Community College District of the County of Macomb was held Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 7:30 p.m., in Lecture Hall B, University Center, Center Campus, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, Michigan.

1.0 [CALL TO ORDER](#)

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lorenzo at 8:19 p.m.

2.0 [ROLL CALL](#)

Present:

Katherine Lorenzo, Chairperson
Frank Cusumano, Vice Chairperson
Kristi Dean, Secretary
Joan Flynn, Trustee
Shelley Vitale, Trustee
Vincent Viviano, Trustee

Absent:

Roseanne DiMaria, Treasurer

Also present:

James Sawyer, President
Sharon Kowal, Executive Assistant to the President & Board of Trustees
Jeffrey Steele, General Counsel

3.0 [APPROVAL OF AGENDA](#)

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Cusumano, Flynn, Dean, Vitale, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS:

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

4.0 [APPROVAL OF MINUTES](#)

4.1 [Information Session Minutes, October 18, 2023](#)

4.2 [Closed Session Minutes, October 18, 2023](#)

4.3 [Regular Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2023](#)

MOTION by Flynn, supported by Dean, to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2023 information session, closed session and regular meeting, as read.

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: Flynn, Dean, Vitale, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAY: Cusumano

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORTS (verbal)

5.1 Board of Trustees Reports

None.

5.2 2024 Calendar of Meetings

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Flynn, to approve the 2024 Calendar of Meetings as presented, commencing with the January 17, 2024 regular meeting at center campus, and to hold information sessions beginning at 6 p.m. immediately preceding the regular meeting each month as scheduled as a discussion and information session only.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Flynn noted that the president's report is important but there should only be one presenter at the information session because we are consistently late for the public meeting at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Sawyer responded that her comment is noted. He said it is difficult to share all the information with the board when there is only one presentation per month. Additionally, there are certain items that have to be presented at specific times, for example, in December the presentation is on the 2024 revised budget and that does not leave enough time for another presentation.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Cusumano, Flynn, Dean, Vitale, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS:

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

6.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT (verbal)

None.

7.0 FINANCIAL REPORTS

7.1 Financial Statement – October 31, 2023

MOTION by Flynn, supported by Dean, to receive and file the financial statements for the four months ended October 31, 2023.

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: Flynn, Dean, Cusumano, Vitale, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS:

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

7.2 Investment Report – October 31, 2023

MOTION by Flynn, supported by Dean, to receive and file the investment report of securities held as of October 31, 2023.

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: Flynn, Dean, Vitale, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS: Cusumano

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (verbal)

Ryan Kostanecki, Political Science Instructor at Macomb Community College expressed his concern about the increase in mental health issues with students and encouraged the Board to approve the agenda item for the Christie Campus Health contract.

9.0 PERSONNEL REPORTS

9.1 Personnel Report – (none)

9.2 Amendment to President Sawyer’s Employment Contract

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Flynn, that the Board of Trustees approve the amended employment contract for President Sawyer.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Cusumano stated for the record that he supports Jim Sawyer as the CEO and COO of this institution. Although they have occasional disagreements, for example, Trustee Cusumano believes drifting towards a remote learning model is not good for the students and is resulting in some of the mental health issues. Overall, he is a fine public servant as he indicated in Dr. Sawyer’s review.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Cusumano, Flynn, Dean, Vitale, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS:

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

10.0 REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION – INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

11.0 REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION – ACTION ITEMS

11.1 Donations – October 31, 2023

MOTION by Vitale, supported by Flynn, to accept the donations as presented and acknowledged by the College, with thanks.

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: Vitale, Flynn, Dean, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS: Cusumano

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

11.2 Change Orders (none)

11.3 [Authorization for Purchases](#)

11.3A [Perkins Grant Fund – Fire Training Flashover Simulator](#)

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Dean, to authorize Administration to approve the purchase of one (1) Flashover Simulator in the amount of \$130,000 with KFT Fire Trainer, LLC of Allendale, New Jersey from the Perkins Grant fund.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Cusumano, Dean, Flynn, Vitale, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS:

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

11.3B [Educational VR Automotive Mechanical Software \(MEDC Talent Action Team Grant Fund\)](#)

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Vitale, to authorize the purchase of thirty-five (35) zSpace Electric and Hybrid Automotive Mechanic VR software licenses, in the total amount of \$56,910 from Riverside Technologies, Inc., located in N. Sioux City, SD.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Cusumano, Vitale, Dean, Flynn, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS:

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

11.3C [Firewall Software License and Hardware Maintenance Renewal](#)

MOTION by Flynn, supported by Cusumano, to authorize Administration to issue a 12-month Palo Alto network firewall licensing and support contract to AmeriNet of Michigan, Inc., from Ann Arbor, Michigan in an amount not to exceed \$236,194.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Flynn, Cusumano, Vitale, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS:

PRESENT: Dean

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

11.3D [Managed Detection and Response Service Provider](#)

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Vitale, to authorize Administration to execute a 36-month contract with New Push, LLC of Baltimore, Maryland for Managed Detection and Response services in an amount not to exceed \$381,973 upon contract approval of General Counsel.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Cusumano, Vitale, Flynn, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS:

PRESENT: Dean

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

11.3E [Christie Campus Health](#)

MOTION by Viviano, supported by Vitale, to authorize Administration to enter into a contract with Christie Campus Health of Lexington, Massachusetts, pursuant to review by General Counsel, to provide mental health and wellness services to the college's students in an amount not to exceed \$207,000.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE: Trustee Cusumano said to Ryan Kostanecki, Political Science Instructor, he should never have to apologize for taking time to address this trustee. He thinks he speaks for the rest of the board; we appreciate you coming out and taking the time to share your thoughts on this issue

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Viviano, Vitale, Cusumano, Flynn, Lorenzo

NAYS:

PRESENT: Dean

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

11.4 [Construction Management Services Contract](#)

MOTION by Flynn, supported by Viviano, that the Board of Trustees authorize Administration to extend the contract with Barton Malow Builders, upon the review and approval of General Counsel, for construction management services for a one-year period beginning January 1, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$873,754.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Cusumano has concerns about the utilization of buildings and the renovations. His concern, specifically, is that we may be renovating buildings and doing improvements which are ultimately going to be mothballed or sold off to third parties down the road and that is not a good use of the assets and certainly not a fulfillment of our fiduciary duties. He is not opposed to maintaining the buildings and the assets which are community assets but he is opposed to that not being done in conjunction with an organized and methodical examination and usage of our properties.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Flynn, Viviano, Vitale, Lorenzo

NAYS: Cusumano

PRESENT: Dean

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

11.5 [Architectural and Engineering Services for the 2024 – 2025 Renovation Program](#)

MOTION by Flynn, supported by Vitale, that the Board of Trustees authorize Administration to extend the contract with Integrated Design Solutions (IDS) for Phase 4 of the multi-year renovation program years 2024-2025 with fees not to exceed \$1,161,700 subject to review and approval by General Counsel.

It is further recommended that the Administration be authorized to engage and contract for the services of IDS on an as-needed basis for other projects. All contracts are subject to the review and approval of General Counsel, and will be presented to the Board of Trustees, if the amount exceeds the Purchasing Policy guideline.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Flynn, Vitale, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS: Cusumano

PRESENT: Dean

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

11.6 [Resolution for Summer Property Tax Levy](#)

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Vitale, that the Board of Trustees adopt the resolution for the levy of summer property taxes as presented.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB
(Macomb Community College)
Resolution for the Levy of Summer Property Taxes

WHEREAS, Act No. 331 of the Public Acts of 1966, provides that taxes for the Community College may be levied and collected in the same manner and at the same time as City, or Township, or School District or Intermediate School District taxes are levied and collected, and

WHEREAS, many cities, townships, school districts and intermediate school districts presently collect such taxes at various times throughout the year, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Macomb Community College to request of the cities and townships to levy and collect its ad valorem tax at the same time and in the same manner as it does for the City, Township, School District or Intermediate School District.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Community College District of the County of Macomb, hereby directs Administration to review the manner and time by which the various cities and townships collect ad valorem taxes for the City, Township, School District and Intermediate School District, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event such review discloses it to be in the best interest for the Community College to collect its ad valorem taxes in the same manner and at the same time as is being done for the City or Township or School District or the Intermediate School District, Administration is directed to seek collection of its ad valorem property tax for the upcoming tax years in such City/Cities and/or such Township/Townships, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be deemed by the Board of Trustees as a binding resolution upon itself as to any City/Cities or Township/Townships to which an administrative request to levy and collect ad valorem taxes is formally made on behalf of the Board of Trustees, and as such, this resolution is intended to comply with the requirements of Act 79 of the Acts of 1984.

This resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Community College District of the County of Macomb, acted upon the 15th day of November 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Cusumano, Vitale, Flynn, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS:

PRESENT: Dean

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

Through the Chair, Trustee Flynn commented that the last couple agenda items were for companies from Southfield, Michigan but there were four proposals approved for out of state companies. She is against that, but she has to vote in order to get anything done. She believes in Michigan and wishes we could get everything made in Michigan.

12.0 [POLICY ACTIONS \(none\)](#)

13.0 [ADJOURNMENT](#)

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

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: Cusumano, Flynn, Dean, Vitale, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS:

ABSENT: DiMaria

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Secretary