MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Board of Trustees Room, #203
La-Z-Boy Center
December 18, 2010; 12:00 noon


Members absent: None

Also present: Chief Negotiator, Robert Boonin, Attorney at Law, Butzel Long; Randell Daniels, Vice President of Student Services; Daniel Schwab, Business Manager and Treasurer; Suzanne Wetzel, Vice President of Administration; President David Nixon (via phone); and Victoria McIntyre (recording secretary)

1. Chair Bacarella called the open session of the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was for the board to go into closed session for consideration of ratification of the tentative agreement between the Community College District of Monroe County, Michigan and the Monroe County Community College Faculty Association.

2. There were no delegations present.

3. It was moved by Mrs. Thayer and seconded by Mrs. Kreps that the board go into closed session in accordance with Section 8 (c) of the Open Meetings Act regarding strategies relating to MCCCFA negotiations.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes: Bellino, Braunlich, Kreps, Lauer, Meyer, Thayer, Bacarella
No: None

The motion carried and the meeting was closed at 12:05 p.m.

4. Open session resumed at 12:31 p.m.

5. It was moved by Mrs. Thayer and seconded by Mr. Bellino that the 2010-2012 Master Agreement between the Community College District of Monroe County, Michigan and the Monroe County Community College Faculty Association be ratified as presented.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes: Bellino, Braunlich, Kreps, Lauer, Meyer, Thayer, Bacarella
6. Vice Chair Braunlich stated that the College had been well-served by Mr. Boonin.

7. Vice Chair Braunlich read a statement which expressed his personal appreciation for the efforts of the faculty, staff, and administration in reaching an agreement in negotiations. Also included in the statement were concerns regarding defamatory remarks being made about select board members via the internet. Mr. Braunlich asked a copy of the following statement be attached to the minutes as a part of permanent records:

“First, I would like to express my personal appreciation for the outstanding faculty of Monroe County Community College and their dedicated efforts to reach an agreement which is in the best interest of both our students, our staff and our community stakeholders. I salute you, as well as the staff and administration of this exceptional community college. I am glad that we could finalize a two year agreement this afternoon.

Unfortunately, during the last several months, several of us on the board have been the subject of a vicious, anonymous and defamatory internet blog written by an individual who identifies himself as a Monroe County Community College faculty member. This blog clearly seeks to damage reputations, interfere with professional and community relationships, and invade personal privacy. This blog is a classic example of what certain people will try and do behind the veil of anonymity afforded by the internet.

This blog, in my opinion, is sad. This blog, in my opinion, is pathetic. This blog contains multiple grounds for a defamation lawsuit---- if the author or authors could be identified through the use of consultants that utilize computer-based, forensic techniques which help identify who is posting this libelous material and from where.

My most important point this afternoon, however, is that this blog is also unethical according to the very terms and conditions of the Master Agreement we ratified today. There is a provision in the Master Agreement which has been included in every Master agreement since the beginning of the contractual relationship with the Faculty union. This paragraph provides as follows:

“Written communications, discussions of personal petitions and grievances by faculty with individual Board members shall be discouraged and shall be considered unethical” (page 3, emphasis added)

This blog is written on the internet. This blog, which contains numerous statements made with reckless disregard for the truth and actual knowledge of their falsity, explicitly invites, promotes, fosters and encourages communication of personal grievances against individual board members. I submit that this blog is totally and completely unethical as defined by the Master Agreement. Thus, I call on the faculty of Monroe County Community College to honor the philosophy and the spirit and the terms of the Master Agreement and call for the immediate cessation, elimination and removal of this blog authored and maintained by a faculty member or faculty members of MCCC.”
8. Via telephone, President Nixon acknowledged with appreciation the work of Robert Boonin, Dr. Grace Yackee, Molly McCutchan, Daniel Schwab, Randell Daniels, and Suzanne Wetzel in getting the contract ratified.

9. Mrs. Thayer reported that a $1,000,000 multi-year grant was awarded to the Michigan Community College Association to launch the new Center for Student Success to improve student degree completion at community colleges.

10. It was moved by Mr. Bellino and seconded by Mr. Meyer that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Bacarella Jr.
Chair

Mary Kay Thayer
Secretary

/vdm

These minutes were approved at the January 24, 2011 Board of Trustees meeting.