

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

Board of Trustees Room, #Z-203  
La-Z-Boy Center  
5:00 p.m., February 25, 2013

Members present: William J. Bacarella Jr., Joseph N. Bellino Jr., William H. Braunlich, James DeVries, Marjorie A. Kreps, Linda S. Lauer, Mary Kay Thayer

Members absent: None

Also present: Note – video conferencing with ACCT officials in Washington, D.C. David Nixon, Randy Daniels, Suzanne Wetzel, Grace Yackee, Molly McCutchan, Rebecca Libstorff, Bryan Rorke, Valerie Culler, Terry Cole, Mark Naber, Tracy Rayl, Cindy Yonovich, Tom Scheer, Penny Dorcey-Naber, Denice Lewis, Dan Hamman, Jennifer Yarger, Jim Ross, Michael Meyer, Jim Blumberg, Joe Verkennes, Pat Nedry, Brian Lay, Agora staff reporter Katie Mullin, member of the public, and Victoria McIntyre (recording secretary)

1. Chair Bacarella called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a virtual meeting with Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) to discuss presidential search methods.
2. There were no delegations present.
3. The video conference with ACCT and the board commenced at 5:02 p.m. ACCT members in attendance were Narcisa Polonio, Executive Vice President for Research, Education, and Board Leadership; Laurie Savona, Operations Officer, Search Services; and Julie Golder Alion, Search Services Coordinator.

Narcisa Polonio began the meeting by referencing a set of hand outs meant to organize the discussion. They included an agenda, a series of questions to be considered by the trustees, and recommendations for a successful presidential search. Dr. Polonio explained keys to a successful search process. They include being organized, transparent, inclusive, and up-to-date with current practices and the law. She also stressed the importance of the board working together with respect in order choose a candidate who is right for the college since the final decision lies with the board.

Suggestions as to who would best serve on the search committee were discussed. They included both internal stakeholders, external stakeholders, and 2-3 trustees. A trustee typically serves as the chair of the committee, and the board makes the final decision as to the composition of the committee.

Julie Golder Alion provided information regarding the coordination of reference and background reports. ACCT has the right to a full investigation of candidates. Individual candidates waive rights of privacy so an investigation can take place.

Laurie Sovona explained how ACCT connects with the best candidates by identifying and selecting the best match for individual colleges. To help facilitate this identification, ACCT would identify chief challenges of the college in search of a president. Dr. Sovona asked the board to identify three top challenges of MCCC. Some responses included a fiscal plan so the new technology center operates well, declining student enrollment, and budget constraints.

Dr. Polonio asked the board to identify specific skill sets the board is looking for in a new president. Some responses included a collaborative leader, someone who is entrepreneurial both internally and externally, and someone who can delegate well.

Dr. Polonio explained that the process needs to be transparent and thorough although the board ultimately makes the final decision. Once a decision is made, even though it may not be unanimous, the majority will rule and the board needs to move on. True boardsmanship calls for each individual to act as a whole and has the responsibility to support the decision.

Chair Bacarella asked about a timeline if MCCC were to use ACCT's services to help guide the presidential search. Dr. Polonio said there was still a window of opportunity. The college could start recruiting immediately. She recommended allowing five to six weeks for recruitment. If the college were to hire ACCT to assist in the search, the cost would be \$30,000 rather than \$35,000 since MCCC used ACCT in the last presidential search.

The audience was invited to ask questions of the ACCT representatives. College newspaper staff reporter Katie Mullins asked what kind of involvement the ACCT had in the past presidential search. Tracy Rayl, faculty member, asked about parameters of the search.

{Addition to minutes – per Trustee Lauer:

“There was a question by Professor Tracy Rayl who asked Dr. Polonio if she would recommend that a representative from the faculty bargaining unit be on the Presidential search committee. Dr. Polonio said, “Yes.”}

3. *It was moved by Mrs. Thayer and seconded by Mr. Braunlich that the meeting be adjourned.*

The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Bacarella Jr.  
Chair

Linda Lauer  
Secretary

vdm

These minutes were approved as corrected at the March 25, 2013 Board of Trustees meeting.