

MINUTES OF THE FIVE HUNDRED THIRTIETH MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Board of Trustees Room, Z203
La-Z-Boy Center
7:30 p.m., November 19, 2012

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

Also present: David Nixon, Sue Wetzel, Grace Yackee, Randy Daniels, Deb Beagle, Molly McCutchan, Peter Coomar, Brian Lay, Barbara McNamee, Paul Knollman, Mark Hall, Jim Blumberg, Jim Ross, Joe Verkennes, Josh Myers, John Joy, Barry Kinsey, Pat Nedry, Valerie Culler, Jamie DeLeeuw, Paul Hedeem, Kim Lindquist, David Waggoner, Jim DeVries, Matt Hehl, Dan Hamman, Mark Spenoso, Tom Ryder, Debbie Ryder, Members of Student Government, Judith Hamburg, Victoria McIntyre (recording secretary)

1. Chair Bacarella called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. *It was moved by Mr. Bellino and seconded by Mr. Meyer that the minutes of the regular meeting of October 22, 2012 be approved as presented.*

The motion carried.

3. James DeVries read the following document dated November 19, 2012 to the board:

“Dear Board of Trustees: Yesterday I received from William Braunlich an e-mail, which outlined a process to commence a search for a new President. As a Trustee elect, whose term of office begins in January 2013, I can see no compelling or urgent need to proceed with deliberations in this regard until then. Arguably, the selection of our next President will be the most important decision the new Board will make. I favor a completely open and transparent process in which all ‘stakeholders’ would play a role. This would include the initial step of selecting a consultant. The current Board has an unusual opportunity with this very instance to begin to reconcile – i.e. bring into harmony and collaboration – the various elements of our college community. To be sure, the New Board will have the right to make the final decision; why not the initial one? Tonight, you will set the tone for the entire process.”

4. Judith Hamburg spoke to the board in support of the Whitman Center.
5. Members of the Audit Committee (Bacarella, Bellino, Kreps) met with Matt Hehl, representative of Cooley Hehl Wohlgamuth & Carlton, on November

14, 2012. Mr. Hehl provided an overview of the audit process and findings for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 at the November 19, 2012 Board of Trustees meeting. The auditors issued an unqualified opinion. As a component unit of the College, a report on Foundation financial statements was also included in the audit document. (A copy of the audit document is filed with the Board minutes.)

- B. 3. a. (1) 6. *It was moved by Mrs. Kreps and seconded by Mr. Braunlich that the following Resolution of Tribute for Michael R. Meyer be adopted:*

WHEREAS, Michael R. Meyer has served three consecutive six-year terms as an elected trustee of Monroe County Community College, spanning the years 1994 to 2012, and has also served as vice chairman of the MCCC Board of Trustees from 1996-2003;

WHEREAS, Trustee Michael R. Meyer has been a passionate, sterling, steadfast champion of MCCC and departs the governing Board of Trustees with a distinguished and exceptional record of leadership, service and accomplishment;

WHEREAS, Trustee Michael R. Meyer provided the transformational vision, advocacy and leadership which resulted in the creation of The Foundation at Monroe County Community College in 1998, a non-profit organization fully and perpetually dedicated to the educational, cultural and financial enhancement of MCCC;

WHEREAS, two months after its incorporation in 1998, Mrs. Shirley A. Meyer, joined and supported by her son, Michael R. Meyer, extended an inaugural gift of \$1 million to The Foundation at MCCC and dedicated this unprecedented donation to achieving the long-standing dream of building a state-of-the-art corporate training center and performing arts venue on the Main Campus of MCCC;

WHEREAS, the \$1 million gift from the Richard M. and Shirley A. Meyer family, coupled with the leadership of Trustee Michael R. Meyer as a community-wide champion for the cause, immediately provided the high-profile visibility, credibility and momentum for the successful launch of MCCC's first capital campaign entitled "Realizing the Vision," ultimately securing a \$6 million commitment from the State of Michigan and raising a combined total of \$13.3 million toward the \$12 million construction project;

WHEREAS, the proud and beautiful signature facility now known throughout the community and region as the La-Z-Boy Center and Meyer Theater of Monroe County Community College has been instrumental in advancing the comprehensive mission of MCCC and enriching the lives of

students and citizens through a broad spectrum of educational, cultural and community-based programs and activities;

WHEREAS, Michael R. Meyer, in addition to his considerable responsibilities as trustee of MCCC, has also served, generously and tirelessly, as board chairman of The Foundation at MCCC since its incorporation and has announced his intention to continue to serve in that leadership capacity and devote his energies to continuing an outstanding record of success, achieving current campaign goals for the Career Technology Center and taking The Foundation at MCCC to the next level of community and institutional advancement;

WHEREAS, Trustee Michael R. Meyer has built a powerful, dedicated and cohesive 29-member Board of Directors, each sharing a passion to position The Foundation at MCCC as the premier philanthropic organization for improving the educational and cultural quality of life for the citizens of Monroe County;

WHEREAS, Trustee Michael R. Meyer was appointed to the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement Board by Michigan Governor John Engler in March of 1998 and continued to serve in that capacity until March of 2005, sitting as a designated representative of Michigan's community college administrators and trustees;

WHEREAS, Trustee Michael R. Meyer has selflessly and courageously faced the challenges of downturns in traditional revenue streams for MCCC by a steadfast commitment to the best interests of the college and by creating, nurturing and supporting new relationships with external stakeholders and new partnerships that infuse the institution with new ideas, talents and resources;

WHEREAS, Trustee Michael R. Meyer's leadership role on The Foundation at MCCC has been instrumental in achieving impressive milestones in securing new resources dedicated to students and the community, namely scholarship endowments of \$2 million; a cultural enrichment endowment of \$1.3 million; and securing multiple grants in an amount exceeding \$8.3 million;

WHEREAS, Trustee Michael R. Meyer is well-known for his personal warmth, humility, contagious good cheer, outgoing demeanor and for repeatedly asserting that he graduated from the real U of M, namely the University of Miami located in Coral Gables, Florida;

WHEREAS, the totality of the contributions of Trustee Michael R. Meyer to the mission and advancement of Monroe County Community College has resulted in a remarkable legacy to this college and this community of extraordinary proportions and significance;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this Monday, November 19th, 2012, the MCCC Board of Trustees, on behalf of the college and the entire community of Monroe County, expresses its profound and continuing appreciation for the exceptional service, contributions, achievements and leadership of Trustee Michael Richard Meyer.

Trustee Meyer said it had been an honor to work with the board and the college and plans to continue working with The Foundation.

The motion carried.

- B. 3. a. (2) 7. *It was moved by Mrs. Thayer and seconded by Ms. Lauer that the Board authorizes the president to execute a contract for the following faculty member:*

*Dr. Philip Wahr – Associate Professor of Biology
First-year probationary contract
Effective January 7, 2013.*

The motion carried.

- B. 3. a. (3) 8. Chair Bacarella read a letter of resignation from Dr. David E. Nixon, President of Monroe County Community College as follows:

November 12, 2012
William J. Bacarella, Jr.
Board Chair
Monroe County Community College

As we discussed in April 2012, I am writing this letter as a formal notice of resignation at the conclusion of my current employment contract when it expires July 31, 2013.

It will be 10 years since you and the Board of Trustees selected me as the fourth president of Monroe County Community College (MCCC). I will be forever grateful to have been given the opportunity to play a lead role at MCCC through a decade of change and growth. When I arrived, MCCC Trustees had already laid the foundation for growth by creating a legally incorporated non-profit fund raising Foundation (MCCC 2000), similar to those at most colleges and universities.

It has been arguably the most dynamic period in MCCC's history which saw record enrollment, program expansion, increasing endowments, scholarships, competitive grants, start-ups of new programs and new business partnerships.

Challenged by dwindling resources and Michigan's longest recession, MCCC's faculty and staff persisted in academic excellence, developing new jobs and career programs, expanding community partnerships that reach beyond geographic boundaries.

I am especially grateful for the extra effort made by the many MCCC staffers who persevered while seeing their wages frozen as a result of the Michigan recession. All the while those same MCCC colleagues expanded college-wide strategic planning initiatives that resulted in the creation of a new contemporary Mission for the college.

As the end of the decade neared, MCCC's shared governance-communication model was emerging; more inclusive, more transparent, and more participatory.

Finally, this letter is submitted with a profound appreciation for giving me the opportunity to lead, learn and grow—in a community of hard working people and generous donors who helped build campus landmarks like the La-Z-Boy Center/Meyer Theater and the new state-of-the-art Career Technology Center for the job seekers of the 21st Century.

Thank you, Trustees, for letting Judy and me be a part of a community rich in history and a community rich in academic opportunities; producing outcomes that will continue to “enrich us the rest of our lives.”

Sincerely,
David E. Nixon
President

It was moved by Mr. Meyer and seconded by Mr. Braunlich that on the recommendation of Chair Bacarella and Vice Chair Braunlich, the Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees accept the resignation notice of MCCC President David E. Nixon and begin the process to find a replacement for the position.

The motion carried.

9. *It was moved by Mr. Braunlich that the Board hire The Clements Group consultants to begin the search process for a new president.*

It was suggested to begin the process with a request for proposals (RFP) to various search agencies who wish to bid on the project.

The motion was amended by Mr. Braunlich and seconded by Mrs. Thayer which states that the college create an appropriate request for proposals (RFP) by January 2013 to seek out consultants with Michigan community college expertise to begin the search for a new president.

The motion carried.

- B. 3. a. (4) 10. *It was moved by Mr. Bellino and seconded by Mrs. Kreps that in anticipation of and contingent upon appropriate and consistent action and recommendations by the Executive Committee and The Foundation Board of Directors, the MCCC Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Michael R. Meyer as Group Three Director of The Foundation effective January 1, 2013 (three-year term expiring December 31, 2015).*

The motion carried. Trustee Meyer abstained.

- C. 2. a. (1) 11. The Board received a letter of thanks from River Raisin Institute for college support of RRI “Gathering” which included a CD with photos of the event.
- C. 3. a. (1) 12. There were no staff appointments to report.
- C. 3. a. (2) 13. The statement of General Fund Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending October 31, 2012 was presented by Deb Beagle, Director of Financial Services. At the end of October, general fund revenues were at \$7.7 million and expenditures were at \$7.1 million. Revenue from tuition and fees are up about \$3 million over this time last year. A transfer of \$215,000 was made from the auxiliary to the general fund, in accordance with the budget, and \$2.3 million was transferred from the general fund to the unexpended fund for construction costs. Vice President Randy Daniels added that registration for classes began October 8 this year rather than November 15 last year, producing an earlier income stream from tuition. Vice President, Suzanne Wetzel, reported that as of November 2012, the college will have met the \$8.5 million financial obligation for the Career Technology Center. Disbursements from the state should begin in January 2013. A \$6 million tax anticipation note received from the Department of Treasury will come due June 30, 2013.
- C. 3. a. (3) 14. The audit report was given at start of the meeting.
- C. 3. a. (4) 15. Joe Verkennes presented an overview of the electronic version of the MCCC Annual Report. The 2011-2012 “Practical, Personal & Responsive Higher Education” report was viewed electronically as Mr. Verkennes navigated the report for the board. Links to video clips, articles, and pictures provided a comprehensive overview of college activities. The presentation was well received. About 1,500 hard copies of the report were printed for distribution to those without access to the Internet and/or wishing a hard copy. Printed copies will be distributed to college donors. Electronic distribution and smaller sized printed copy has resulted in substantial savings.
- C. 3. b. (1) 16. Jim Blumberg, Director of Physical Plant, gave an update on the Career Technology Center. About 40 tradesmen are on site every day making

progress on the interior including lighting, drywall, and painting. Dr. Nixon thanked Jim for helping to coordinate tours of the building for potential donors.

- C. 3. b. (2) 17. Dr. Nixon reported on the progress of the council model of shared governance which is in its first semester of a trial year. The council model, as recommended by CLARUS Corporation in response to the HLC, allows for input and encourages full participation by three committees - faculty, staff, and administrators. All employees have a vote on matters going through the councils. The process is all about communication, and it is going well. Feedback is always welcome.
- C. 3. b. (3) 18. Members of student government presented a report on the MCCC Spirit Rock. The purpose of the rock was to encourage students to get involved with college activities by promoting student events. The Student Government has developed a set of rules for use of the rock and will be responsible for its upkeep if needed. Stoneco donated the rock and facilitated the delivery. The rock is from an Ottawa Lake quarry.
- C. 3. b. (4) 19. Randy Daniels, Vice President of Student and Information Services, presented a report on Winter 2013 enrollment projections. Dr. Jamie DeLeeuw projected enrollment to be 3,828, which is down from a high of 4,562 in Winter 2010 and the lowest since Winter 2004 at 3,810. Projected credit hours is expected to be 31,611, which is down from a high of 40,565 in Winter 2010 and the lowest since Winter 2003 at 29,868. Compared to Winter 2012, there is a projected 8 percent decrease in enrollment and 9 percent decrease in credit hours.
- C. 4. b. (1) 20. Trustees Thayer and Kreps reported on the MCCA Autumn Board of Directors Meeting held October 4-5. Pending legislation such as MPSERS Reform, GASB Proposed Rule on Pensions, and House Bill 5317 Military Status on Applications were addressed. Reports were given from two taskforces – the Virtual Learning Collaborative for the Next Generation and Principles for New and Varied Ways of Delivering, Providing, and Awarding Credit. William Rustem, Director of Strategy for Governor Snyder, spoke to the elimination of the personal property tax and the effect on community college funding. The strategic direction of the MCCA was discussed. Online enrollment has risen by 35 percent since 2003.
- C. 4. b. (2) 21. Trustee Thayer reported on the 2012 ACCT Congress held October 10-13 in Boston. Colleges have begun implementing early intervention for student success. It is estimated that by 2018, there will be a shortfall of three million college-educated workers. However, job placement criteria are changing. Vinnie Maltese presented MCCC's math redesign utilizing the Emporium model. The presentation was well received.

- C. 4. b. (3) 22. Trustees Meyer and Braunlich reported on the Council for Resource Development (CRD) Conference held November 8-10 in Washington, D.C. Fundraising efforts include the importance of board participation for annual and capital campaigns. A new paradigm for hiring community college presidents indicates the need for social entrepreneurs and full-fledged partners in economic development within the community.
- C. 4. b. (4) 23. Chair Bacarella appointed Joseph Bellino as Group One Foundation Director for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2015.
- C. 4. b. (5) 24. Chair Bacarella appointed Trustees Braunlich, Kreps, and Lauer to serve on a nominating committee for Board Officers.
- C. 4. b. (6) 25. Upcoming events were noted.
26. *It was moved by Mr. Meyer and seconded by Mrs. Thayer that the meeting be adjourned.*

The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Bacarella Jr.
Chair

Mary Kay Thayer
Secretary

vdm

These minutes were approved at the January 28, 2013 Board of Trustees meeting.