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

Board of Trustees Room Z-203
La-Z-Boy Center
7:00 p.m., March 23, 2015


Also present: Frank Beaker (Ventower), Bonnie Boggs, Jack Burns, Terry Cole, Peter Coomar, Valerie Culler, Ryan Dagen (Baker’s Gas), Randell Daniels, Jamie DeLeeuw, Glover Donohoe (Ventower), Andrew Grow (Baker’s Gas), Jean Ford, Paul Hedeen, Barry Kinsey, Gary Klemz (Baker’s Gas), Brian Lay, Kim Lindquist, Vinnie Maltese, Molly McCutchen, Michael Meyer, Ken Mohney, Josh Myers, Ross Oskui, Tina Pillarelli, Kojo Quartey, Jim Ross, Lisa Scarpelli, Mariah Tevepaugh (The Agora staff), Joe Verkennes, Suzanne Wetzel, Wendy Wysocki, Grace Yackee, and Penny Dorcey (recording secretary)

1. Chair Bellino called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Dr. Quartey requested that items C. 3. b. (2) Faculty Council Report and C. 3. b. (2) Governance Evaluation Committee Report be moved to the beginning of the agenda. He explained that as part of the shared governance process, each Council and Student Government will update the Board at least twice a year. The request to move the items was approved by unanimous consent.

3. It was moved by Mr. Bacarella and seconded by Mrs. Thayer that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 23, 2015 be approved as presented.

The motion carried.

4. There were no delegations present.

B. 2. a. (1) 5. Chair Bellino reported that the formal written response regarding concerns over lab fees for the Math redesign courses had been mailed.

B. 3. a. (1) 6. It was moved by Mr. Braunlich and seconded by Mr. Bacarella that the following resolution to set the College millage levy for the 2015-16 fiscal year be adopted subject to Headlee rollback provisions

   Operating                       2.1794 mills

   THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the clerks of the cities and townships of Monroe County be given written notice of this action. Each clerk shall be requested to forward such notice to the appropriate assessing officers of the cities and townships.

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that taxes to be raised against property within any city, any portion of which lies within the community college district boundaries, may be levied and collected in the same manner and at the same time as the city taxes.

   Sue Wetzel, Vice President of Administration, reported that this was a routine matter and the Board’s formal notification to the City and Townships to assess our millage rate of 2.1794 mills. This is subject to the Headlee rollback provisions.

The motion carried.

B. 3. a. (2) 7. It was moved by Dr. DeVries and seconded by Mrs. Kreps that the Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees hereby authorizes Mary Kay Thayer to serve in a voluntary role as Michigan’s Coordinator to the Association of Community College Trustees.

The motion carried.

B. 3. a. (3) 8. Mrs. Thayer noted that the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) had recruited her to be a Board Member at Large. All expenses are covered by the ACCT. Mrs. Thayer asked for an endorsement from the College Board of Trustees.

   It was move by Mr. Braunlich and seconded by Mrs. Kreps that the
Board of Trustees and Monroe County Community College endorses and recommends Mary Kay Thayer as a Board Member at Large of ACCT.

The motion carried.

B. 3. a. (4) 9. It was moved by Dr. DeVries and seconded by Mrs. Thayer that Dr. Carrie E. Nartker be selected as the recipient of the 2015 Alumnus of the Year Award.

The motion carried.

B. 3. a. (5) 10. It was moved by Mrs. Thayer and seconded by Mr. Braunlich that Policy 3.12, General Requirements for graduation, be revised as presented.

The motion carried.

B. 3. a. (6) 11. It was moved by Mr. Bacarella and seconded by Mr. Braunlich that the Proposed Revision, Policy 3.05, Tuition and Fees, be tabled until a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees scheduled for April 7, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Trustees Room, Z-203.

The motion carried.

C. 3. a. (1) 12. Dr. Quartey reported the following staff appointments and retirement:

Staff Appointment
Janel Boss, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of the Foundation/Director of Marketing Communications, effective February 17, 2015 (replacing Connie Zarb)
Abigail Anteau, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Purchasing and Auxiliary Services, effective March 16, 2015 (replacing Kelli Plumb)

Retirement
Bonnie Boggs, Director of Respiratory Therapy, effective July 1, 2015

C. 3. a. (2) 13. The Board received a Statement of General Fund Revenues and Expenses for the period ending February 28, 2015. Suzanne Wetzel, Vice President of Administration, reported that College revenues are on schedule for this time of the year. Tuition and fees revenues are projected to be about $750,000 under budget. Expenses have been reduced to help cover the shortfall. Property tax revenues are coming in as expected and the College is on schedule to repay the Tax Anticipation Notes in early April.

C. 3. a. (3) 14. Sue Wetzel, Vice President of Administration presented updates to Procedure 6.01, Purchasing Procedures. The changes are in response to the suggestions from the auditors that more procedures be added for college business, such as credit cards.

C. 3. b. (1) 15. President Quartey summarized his reports to the Trustees which he sends every other week. The budget process continues and the administration is gathering information to ensure that the best decisions are made for a balanced budget. The Performance Contracting Program has begun, a report is forthcoming. The first countywide millage discussion has taken place with input from all stakeholders. Numerous events celebrating Women’s History Month have been scheduled. Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Accreditation preparation continues. An HLC team of five will be on campus October 19 and 21. Review of the Mission/Vision Statement and the Strategic Plan is ongoing. Episodes of Education Matters are ongoing—Chair Bellino was the featured guest on the latest show. Dr. Quartey thanked Joe and Molly for putting together the Women’s History Month events.

C. 3. b. (2) 16. Lisa Scarpelli, Associate Professor of Geoscience and Chair of Faculty Council, updated the Board on the Faculty Council activities. Mrs. Scarpelli gave a brief history of the Council Model and the Proposals that have gone through the model from April 2012 to the present. A total of 61 proposals have gone through the Council Model.

C. 3. b. (3) 17. Dr. Ken Mohney, Professor of Archeology and Sociology, reported on the Governance Evaluation Committee (GEC). He gave some background on the reasons for changing from a Standing Committee Model to the Council Model of Shared Governance (CMSG). The campus is currently in the midst of a second survey. The GEC will meet to review the results and then take a Request for Action back to the Councils so they can vote on whether or not to formally adopt the CMSG. The GEC meets at least
once a semester and more often if necessary to make changes and adjustments to the model.

C. 3. b. (4) 18. Peter Coomar, Dean of Associate of Science, Engineering and Technology Division (ASET), and Ross Oskui, Automotive Service Program Coordinator, gave updates on the Automotive Service and the Welding Programs.

Cameron Albring, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the ASET Division, reported the office receives at least three to five phone inquiries per week about welding. This does not include walk-ins, transfer calls from the Admissions office, or on and off-campus recruiting events.

Representatives from Ventower, Plant Manager, Glover Donohoe and Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) Manager, Frank Beaker, spoke about the positive job outlook for welders today. Currently, Ventower employs 180 people at the plant, 160 of who are welders.

Representatives from Baker’s Gas, Andrew Grow, Technical Sales Engineer Gary Klemz, President, Ryan Dagen, and, also spoke about to the many job opportunities for welders today and stated their strong support for the College and its technical programs. Mr. Grow, graduated from MCCC’s welding program in 2011. He went on to earn his Bachelor’s degree in Engineering Technology from Ferris State University. Mr. Grow now works for Baker’s Gas in Monroe. Mr. Klemz praised the Career Technical Education (CTE) program because it introduces high school students to the technical area and shows them the potential careers available. He commended Mr. Coomar and his team for the program they are building at MCCC. Dr. Quartey thanked Mr. Klemz for his financial contributions to the college.

Mr. Coomar showed a video of a submerged arc welding taken during a visit to Ventower. Submerged arc welding is a process the College is trying to add to its welding program. The video featured former MCCC student, Don Horney of Monroe.

C. 4. b. (1) 19. The Strategic Finance Committee will give an update at a special board meeting scheduled for April 7, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, Z-203.

C. 4. b. (2) 20. Chair Bellino noted that all Board Self-evaluations have been completed and Penny Dorcely, Executive Assistant to the President, will forward the compiled results to Board members tomorrow.

C. 4. b. (3) 21. Chair Bellino asked the Trustees if they had all had a chance to respond about the upcoming Tiger’s baseball game. The Trustees answered in the affirmative.

C. 4. b. (4) 22. Mrs. Thayer reported on the March 12 through 13 Michigan Community College (MCCA) Spring Board of Director’s meeting at Oakland Community College that she and Dr. Quartey attended. Stephanie Comai spoke about the blending of numerous Michigan talent and workforce programs. Career Jump Start is a program that focuses on educating students about shorter term credentials, associate degrees, and apprenticeships. Michigan Budget Director, John Roberts, gave an overview of the State budget. Michigan is enjoying the lowest unemployment since 2012 and home sales values are rising. In 2015 Governor Snyder issued an Executive Order protecting K-12 through higher education schools from severe budget cuts. Discussion was held about Transfer Pathways, which creates shorter pathways for students to get jobs or a college education. Between a 3.1 percent appropriation and the MPSERS allocation, community colleges will receive and 8 percent increase in funds coming from the State.

The MCCA Summer Workshop is scheduled for July 23 and 24, 2015, at the Grand Traverse Resort. Those planning to attend the Trustee Institute should arrive by 9:00 a.m. on July 23.

C. 4. b. (5) 23. Chair Bellino noted the upcoming events.

C. 4. b. (6) 24. Barry Kinsey, Director of Workforce Development add that the 5th Annual Career and Opportunity Expo is scheduled for this Friday, March 27, 2015 in the Gerald Welch health Education Building, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

C. 4. b. (7) 25. It was moved by Mr. Braunlich and seconded by Mr. Bacarella to refer four high priority matters to the Strategic Financial Planning Committee for consideration, advice and recommendations to be later reported to the full Board of Trustees:
• Whitman Center: The committee should specifically identify the per semester revenue/expense/loss ratio of operations, both historically and projected. Further, and in light of our significant budgetary issues, the committee should specifically address the advisability of proceeding immediately to notice of full and continuing closure of Whitman starting in fall of 2015;

• Retention of Millage Campaign Expert: In light of the fact that a millage campaign and all millage request parameters (timing, amount, duration, etc.) are exclusively the decision of the board, I think it is imperative that the MCCC Board of Trustees retain a firm with a proven track record of success, superb referrals and the requisite expertise. I think it would be a tremendous mistake to proceed without detailed professional guidance for such a highly specialized campaign and election. Also, I think that allowance of sufficient time for preparation and testing of a case statement is critical and may require a full year of preparation or more;

• Retention of Expert to address potential reorganization and cost efficiencies: While examination of our sister community colleges is instructive, I believe that this data, standing alone, may fail to identify the creative and substantial changes to produce the large cost reductions which are essential. I believe an independent firm with the requisite expertise is highly advisable;

• La-Z-Boy Center and Meyer Theater Facility Fees/ Programming designed to create net positive revenue stream to benefit The Foundation at MCCC:

I believe that the depth and breadth of MCCC’s financial challenges require us to revisit our policies on waiver of facility rental fees, and specifically, eliminate the presidential discretion to waive rental fees (with the exception of our major donors LZB and DTE). Based on past discussions on this topic, I believe that approximately $50,000 to $60,000 in fees are waived each year as a courtesy to various Monroe County non-profit organizations. I think this was entirely appropriate in the past and an important facet of MCCC’s community partnerships and community support. However, in light of MCCC’s continuing financial constraints and lack of sufficient operational revenues to continue the status quo, I believe that this change is both necessary and appropriate. Further, I believe that the committee should consider a policy change in programming and ticket pricing of the Meyer Theater such that theater programming is designed to generate an annual net positive revenue to specifically benefit the scholarship program of The Foundation at MCCC.


The motion carried.

26. It was moved by Mr. Bacarella and seconded by Mrs. Thayer that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph N. Bellino Jr.
Chair

James E. DeVries
Secretary

/prd

These minutes were approved at the April 27, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.