

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH HUNDREDTH
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Via Microsoft Teams Meeting
and in the Board of Trustees Room
Z-203, La-Z-Boy Center
6:00 p.m., Apr 26, 2021

This meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams

Present: Florence M. Buchanan, Lynette M. Dowler, Steve Hill, Krista K. Lambrix, Aaron N. Mason, and Mary Kay Thayer

Not Present: William T. Bruck

Also Present: Ijaz Ahmed, Scott Behrens, Jack Burns Jr., Kevin Cooper, Valerie Culler, AJ Fischer, Kelly Heinzerling, Rick Hubbert, Barry Kinsey, Paul Knollman, Brian Lay (Board Room), Kimberly Lindquist, Joshua Myers, Tina Pillarelli, Kojo Quartey, Ryan Rafko, Jim Ross, Joe Verkennes, Tracy Vogt, Suzanne Wetzel (Board Room), Quri Wygonik, Grace Yackee, and Penny Dorsey (recording secretary)

1. Chair Dowler called the meeting at 6:01 p.m. and took attendance as follows:

Present: William T. Bruck – Home, Erie, MI (6:23 p.m.); Mary Kay Thayer – Home, Lambertville, MI; Aaron N. Mason – Home, Monroe Charter Township, MI; Steven Hill, Home, Dundee, MI; Florence M. Buchanan – Home, Monroe Charter Township, MI; Krista K. Lambrix – Home, Monroe, MI; Lynette Dowler – Home, Newport, MI

2. There were no delegations present.

- B. 2. a. (1) 3. *It was moved by Trustee Hill and supported by Trustee Thayer that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:*

B. 2. a. (1) Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 22, 2021

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes [6] Mary Kay Thayer, Aaron N. Mason, Steve Hill, Florence M. Buchanan, Krista K. Lambrix, and Lynette M. Dowler

No [0] None

The motion carried unanimously.

- C. 3. a. (5) 4. Joe Verkennes, Director of Marketing and Communications, presented the Winter 2021 Enriching Lives Award.

He explained that Monroe County Community College acknowledges the importance of its employees and welcomes the opportunity to recognize their extraordinary achievements. Each semester, the Employee Engagement Committee accepts nominations for the Enriching Lives Performance Award to recognize an employee based on his or her commitment, and examples of how he or she incorporates the Monroe County Community College mission, vision and values into daily work activity.

The Employee Engagement Committee is devoted to honoring an employee each semester whose actions create positive change on campus. Nominations are accepted during the midpoint of the semester and the individuals selected are recognized at the Board of Trustees meeting closest to the end of the semester.

The committee received two nominations for the Enriching Lives Performance Award for the Winter 2021 semester: Mike D’Haene, General Maintenance Worker, who is charged with the maintenance and upkeep of the Whitman Center located in Temperance; and Rachel Eagle, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mr. Verkennes announced that recipient of this semester’s Enriching lives Performance Award is Mike D’Haene. Mr. D’Haene’s nominator wrote that, “Mike

is the one constant at the Whitman Center. He treats that place like it is his own home...Mike not only keeps the inside impeccably clean and neat, he also makes suggestions for improvements and preventative maintenance. He also takes a real interest in the Center's future...Mike takes an interest in the ISD program that is currently leasing space from us, as well as Spring Arbor University. In addition to the maintenance of the building, he keeps the grounds in great shape. He goes above and beyond when trimming bushes and maintaining flower beds. This is more than a job for Mike, he has a real passion to keep the facility in top condition. Thank you, Mike for going above and beyond.” Congratulations to Mike!

Chair Dowler congratulated Mike on behalf of the Board of Trustees. To be nominated is amazing and to win is spectacular! Thank you for all that you do.

Mr. D’Haene stated that he is “very thankful and proud to be part of the Monroe County Community College Workforce.” He really enjoys his work and he thank the committee for the award.

5. Ms. Dowler reminded those present that there is a five to seven-minute target for presentations. If someone has an exception to that, they should let the President’s office know in advance.

4. New Business

- B. 4. a. (1) 6. *It was moved by Ms. Thayer and supported by Mr. Mason that the following resolution of commendation for Mr. Paul Knollman be adopted:*

WHEREAS, Mr. Paul Knollman has decided to retire from his position as Dean of the Business Division at Monroe County Community College, effective May 7, 2021, following 25 years of dedicated service to the College, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Knollman has been considered an outstanding leader and administrator, first in the position of Director of Business Development and Employment Services followed by his current position, Dean of the Business Division, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Knollman has provided assistance and support for thousands of students, faculty, staff and the community at large by sharing knowledge and expertise in the areas of internship development, career advising, small business opportunity and growth, business management and related areas, computer information systems, and culinary skills and management programming, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Knollman has been a conscientious and essential member of the Instructional Area and larger administrative teams, leading and participating on dozens of college committees, and serving as a competent and knowledgeable representative of the college within the community, garnering trust and cooperation through his interactions with industry and educational partners, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Knollman spent countless hours recruiting, hiring, and mentoring outstanding full-time and adjunct faculty, and as an advisor, mentor, and confidant to his peers and colleagues, and

WHEREAS, a decade ago Mr. Knollman was a member of the HLC Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning team and played an integral role in the establishment of the College's inaugural assessment plan that laid the foundation for future MCCC learning assessment activities, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Knollman has been a steadfast advocate, leader, and engaged participant in many College initiatives, including the renovation of the recently completed Founders Hall, and

WHEREAS, by way of his leadership and guidance, the College has been able to offer the citizens of Monroe County high quality and innovative educational programs, such as the Agriculture Operations and Game Design and Development programs, and numerous transfer and articulation partnerships with other institutions of higher education, and

WHEREAS, Monroe County Community College faculty and staff, as well as, Monroe County and surrounding area residents have benefited immensely from Mr.

Knollman's forty-five plus years of experience in business management and postsecondary education, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recognizes Mr. Paul Knollman for his dedicated service to the College, and

BE IT DECIDED, that by the president's recommendation, Mr. Paul Knollman shall hereby be granted faculty emeritus status, and

BE IT RECORDED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its very best wishes for his continued success, good health and happiness on this Monday, April 26, 2021.

Trustee Thayer commented to Mr. Knollman, “We’ve know each for a very long time...You’ll be missed. Your face always has a bright smile and a welcoming attitude.”

Trustee Mason remarked, “I appreciate your contribution to the College and the community. Love your attitude and your energy that you bring to every conversation I’ve ever had with you...I wish I knew you longer.”

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes [6] Mary Kay Thayer, Aaron N. Mason, Steve Hill, Florence M. Buchanan, Krista K. Lambrix, and Lynette M. Dowler
No [0] None

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Dowler observed that Mr. Knollman always brings “a level of fun, pleasure, competency, and credibility to every room.”

Trustee Buchanan added Mr. Knollman started a very important part of the Monroe County Link Plan Pillars for small business and entrepreneurship development. She invited him to continue to be a part of the Monroe County Link Team.

Dr. Quartey thanked Mr. Knollman for his years of service and his work with TMACOG, the agricultural program, and the culinary program. He commended his great work.

Mr. Knollman thanked every one for their comments. He noted that having written a few retirement resolutions over the years “you never think it’s going to be you...It’s really interesting to sit on this side and I am humbled by everything everyone said. I never sought to be that kind f=of person and I always tried to help my division be the best the best division on campus...When you think about moving on there tons of people you would like to thank, and very few that you actually can...It’s been great, I’ve met fantastic people. I’ve had fantastic and wonderful opportunities from the day I started. The first week after I started, John Joy took me up to the Woodhaven Ford Motor Company Plant. It was the first time I had ever been in a large manufacturing facility. I’ve met lots of great people and have lots of fantastic memories, I’m not going to forget any of you. I’ll be around and I look forward to seeing you at events and activities down the road when we’re all allowed to get back together. Thank you Board and Kojo. I wish Grace was able to join us. I will talk to her personally and we’ll have quite a conversation, I’m sure. Again, Thanks to everybody and be healthy and get through the COVID. Chair Dowler commented “congratulations Paul, we wish you nothing but the best, long, healthy, enjoyable, retirement. Enjoy every second of it.”

- B. 4. a. (2) 7. Trustee Mason explained that there was a lack of nominations this year for the College Supporter of the Year. Part of the discussions involved looking back at past nominations. Part of this year was a “very COVID year” where things were disrupted. The committee would like to take a little more time and bring its recommendation to the May 24th Board of Trustees meeting.
8. Trustee Bruck arrived to the meeting at 6:23 p.m.
- B. 4. a. (3) 9. *It was moved by Mr. Hill and supported by Ms. Thayer that Trustee Mason assume the office of Board Vice Chair and Ms. Lambrix assume the position of Board Secretary.*

Trustee Hill explained that after much discussion the Board Trustee Mason agreed to accept a nomination as Board Vice Chair and Trustee Lambrix agreed to accept a nomination as Board Secretary. Before moving forward with more discussion; however, Mr. Hill asked for any nominations from the floor to see if there was any other interest in serving as a Board officer. There were no further volunteers or nominations.

Trustee Mason explained that part rationale for the nominating committee's recommendation is for the sake of continuity. Part of the role of the vice-chair is to assume the duties of the chair when he or she is not available.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes [7] Mary Kay Thayer, Aaron N. Mason, Steve Hill, William T. Bruck,
Florence M. Buchanan, Krista K. Lambrix, Lynette M. Dowler
No [0] None

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Dowler expressed her heartfelt, grateful appreciation for Trustee Thayer's leadership and partnership as the vice-chair. She stated, "You are one of the most gracious professionals I have worked with in my career and I know that you will always continue to be a leader on the Board."

Ms. Thayer thanked Ms. Dowler for her comments and said, "The College means so much to me, and the Board has been blessed. The one part I will miss is our relationship. We have kind of 'tag-teamed' each other and have had each other's back. You can't ask for more than that. Thank you guys so much for even allowing me to stay as long as I did."

- C. 3. a. (1) 10. President Quartey reported the following staff appointment and resignation.

Staff Appointment:

Jennifer Golen, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Applied Science and Engineering Technology, effective April 19, 2021 (replacing Cameron Albring)

Resignation:

Thomas Adamich, Technical Services/Reference Librarian, effective May 6, 2021

- C. 3. a. (2) 11. The Board received a Statement of General Fund Revenues and Expenses for the period ending February 22, 2021.

Suzanne Wetzel, Vice President of Administration and Treasurer, noted that the Trustees received the March statement in the Board packet. The budget is on schedule. The HVAC payment was made in March so the \$1.4 million payment is made in full for this fiscal year. Budget work continues. The state budget is still unsettled. The Governor's budget is out and the Senate released their budget for the universities but has not yet released the budget for community colleges, so colleges are still waiting for the final numbers from the senate and house and Ms. Wetzel and her team is still using the Governor's budget to build the College's budget. The Tuition and Fees budget is even; however, with the news that Dr. Quartey shared regarding the Frontliners and Reconnect programs, if those changes happen the budget team will have to do a reevaluation on enrollment. For this moment we are sitting still at an even projection for enrollment net year as compared to this year. AJ Fischer, Director of Financial Services, has completed all of the transfers, which is reflected on the statement. Ms. Wetzel announced that the College has submitted the final invoice for Founder's Hall to the state, so the College can draw down the final remaining dollars of the state allocation. The project is basically completed now.

- C. 3. a. (3) 12. The Board received a note of thanks from Joshua Myers for the memorial sent at the passing of his father, William Myers (enclosure)

- C. 3. a. (4) 13. The Board received a note of thanks from former Trustee, Marjorie Kreps for the kind remembrance sent at the passing of her husband, Roger Kreps (enclosure)

- C. 3. a. (5) 14. This was discussed earlier in the agenda.
- C. 3. b. (6) 15. President Quartey presented his revised Goals and measurable Objectives to the Board.

Dr. Quartey commented that he sent the Trustees a revised version of his goals and measurable objectives. He added a commitment statement to the document. He asked the Board for approval of his goals, which includes recruitment, enrollment management, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. There are 10 goals all of which are measurable. Dr. Quartey's goal is to achieve these goals with the assistance of his vice presidents and others at the college. He will be discussing these goals with the vice presidents so that their goals will be dependent upon these goals. Dr. Quartey requested that the Board formally approved these goals. This essentially means that President Quartey has his "marching orders" and the Board's support to achieve these goals. Chair Dowler explained that the Board conducts a presidential review annually and one of the key inputs to his presidential review is performance of these goals against the objectives. Dr. Quartey always sets out and establishes very aggressive and robust goals. His priority is always the students and the college and community. This is our way to ensure that he knows what the Board expects of him and it give the Board something to gauge when having discussions about his performance. In the past, although the goals were presented to the board, they were not formally approved.

It was moved by Ms. Thayer and supported by Mr. Hill that the Board approve the President's Revised Goals and Measurable Objectives as presented.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes [7]	Mary Kay Thayer, Aaron N. Mason, Steve Hill, William T. Bruck, Florence M. Buchanan, Krista K. Lambrix, Lynette M. Dowler
No [0]	None

The motion carried unanimously.

- C. 3. b. (1) 16. President Quartey summarized his reports to the Trustees, which he sends every other week.

There is no money in the state budget for Frontliners or Reconnect beyond October 2021. MCCC's enrollment increased from fall to winter for the first time in the College's history, Thanks to Dr. Scott Behrens and his team. Now the state is saying there is no money in the budget for Frontliners come October and they currently have no funding budgeted for the Reconnect program, which the College has been successfully promoting. He asked that the Board please contact our legislators, Representative Bellino, Representative Clements, and Senator Zorn, and talk with them to determine exactly what is happening with these programs. The House Appropriations Subcommittee did not include any money in the budget for these two programs. The Board agreed to authorize President Quartey to draft a letter of concern to the senator and our representatives. Once the Trustees have a chance to review and approve the draft, the Trustees and President Quartey will sign the letter.

Concerns were expressed about student who have already begun the program and are currently taking classes and how they will receive notice that these programs are not going to continue. President Quartey responded that nothing is set in stone yet, so we keep going as we have been. There is still time for negotiation and still a chance that this issue might be reconciled. Concerns were expressed because the College has been promoting these programs and people's hope and dreams have been pinned on receiving these program benefits from the state. There are moments in time that are catalysts for change in people's lives. For example, College enrollment goes up when unemployment rises. This whole last year people have been reevaluating where they are in their lives and they are seeing opportunities. They are in a pivotal moment right now of deciding how to move forward. We need to find the resources and have them in place for them so that the cost of education is the least of their worries.

Dr. Quartey announced that he had an op-ed in the Monroe news this past week that talked about the value of the institution, the Frontliners and MI Reconnect programs. Dr. Behrens and Dr. Quartey have reached out to companies and over 300 churches, and reaching out to different communities and now this issue has presented itself. The state still has time to resolve this issue so we need to wait and see how the

budget plays out. A comment was made that MCCC's enrollment should not be staked upon a program from the state. Chair Dowler said that, from a planning perspective, the College can not plan its future based upon this assumption that this program is in place long-term. However, for students who were on the frontline in the midst of COVID and enrolled in good faith assuming that these programs were in place for them, to change the texture of the plan now that they have taken this step is what we are trying to get in front of. Does anyone take issue with having Dr. Quartey write a letter with full support of the Board? Of course, the Trustees would want to review the letter before it goes out. Dr. Quartey added the MCCC's enrollment is not solely based on Frontliners and MI Reconnect. The College has an entire enrollment management plan and is constantly recruiting. Frontliners and MI Reconnect are giving people opportunity to make our community a better place at little or no cost to individuals who choose to seize these opportunities at little or no cost to them. This is not about not about enrollment so much as it is about it making a difference to the people in our community who have been underserved for a long time. This is a very small part of the enrollment equation. Trustee Thayer noted that the College has made a promise these people based on these programs that the state ensured. When you make a promise to students it is poor form to pull the rug out from under those students. Our local population and workforce needs these programs. Trustee Lambrix noted that unfortunately this would reflect poorly on the College even though it is out of the College's control. Trustee Buchanan believes this is just the first go round at the state level and that these programs will eventually be funded at some level. Dr. Quartey will draft a letter and send it to the Trustees for review until they are satisfied with the content.

In closing, Dr. Quartey mentioned that there is some talk at the state level about funding the institutions. If the state were to change the formula, there are some institutions that would, for example, Grand Rapids and Washtenaw that could gain up to 21 percent additional funding. MCCC would be somewhere around 1.3 percent and there are others that would lose close to 20 percent. Again, this is just conversation at this point in time.

- C. 3. b. (2) 17. James Ross, Director of Data Processing and Chair of the Administrator Council. Membership of the Administrator Council includes full-time and part-time administrators and professional staff. Membership changes this year include Dr. Scott Behrens who joined at the October 2021 meeting. Dean Paul Knollman will be retiring following the April 2021 meeting.

Officers of the group includes Mr. Ross (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021) and Lori Biggs, Nursing Program Coordinator July 1, 2020-June 30, 2022). Terms of the chair and secretary overlap to ensure continuity.

The charge of the Administrator Council is to initiate, develop, comment on, modify, and sometimes vote on proposals concerning issues surrounding management and organization issues. Additionally, the council will discuss other issues related to College matter as appropriate (Governance Model handbook, v.8).

In keeping with management issues, there have been a number of operational activities that have been both initiated and reported on by council members, including the campus wide print technology solution project, and the online bookstore project (Kelly Heinzerling, Director of Auxiliary Services and Purchasing); Human Resources updates, and the roll out of the online, web-based applicant tracking system (Linda Torbet, Director of Human Resources); security and networking initiatives (Jason Young, System and Security Administrator), the CLRC renovations and additions project and staff relocation plan review (Jack Burns, Jr. Director of Planning and Facilities); and the strategic plan tactic, timelines and responsibility. The plan is now a five-year plan (Joe Verkennes, Director of Marketing and Communications).

The Administrator Council is also concerned with student success. Information items heard by the council include Project Persist (Joshua Myers, Executive Director of The Foundation). This project provides food and health resources help to students; Student Success Academy (Ryan Rafko, Director of Admissions) This is a three-year project with the Higher Learning Commission; the Fall 2020 Realizing Institutional Strengths and Challenges (RISC) Survey Summary (Quri Wygonik, Director of Institutional Research, Planning and Accreditation); Procedure 3.10(a) Academic Dishonesty Statement and Procedure (Tracy Giacomini, Associate Professor of Nursing; and Michelle Schwartz, Associate Professor of Nursing).

Requests for Information are simply presenting a proposal for information gathering purposes and further development of an action item. The council gave input on Procedure 3.10(a), Academic Dishonesty Procedure (Dr. Valerie Culler, Director of Financial Aid; and Tracy Giacomini); Enhancement Grants Program Restructure (Joshua Myers); and Faculty and Staff Supporting Students in Trouble (FASSST) (Joshua Myers).

The Council considered two Requests for Action: Transition of the Strategic Planning Task Force to Full Standing Committee Status (Joe Verkennes and Quri Wygonik); and the Creation of a Data Governance Task Force (Quri Wygonik). The motion carried for both items.

Mr. Ross's recommendations for the council include, the development of an electronic proposal form. He is also calling for a dropdown box to help link agenda items with strategic plan goals and objectives to ensure that the strategic plan is always at the forefront of all council activities. In all, he says this has been an extraordinary year of great things with more planned for the future. It truly takes a village to take prospective students, make them applicants, and turn them into actual students. That same village continues to engage students to become active learners critical thinkers, and successful graduates.

Chair Dowler thanked Mr. Ross for his concise, informative report out. Many of the things in his report are things that the Board has been hearing about and improving. It is always great to hear the totality of the work the council is doing to make a difference in the life of students.

- C. 3. b. (3) 18. Dr. Philip Wahr, Professor of Biology and Faculty Council Chair, gave an update on the activities of the Faculty Council. Matt Bird-Meyer, Professor of Humanities and Journalism, is the current secretary. Membership of the Faculty Council includes all full- and part-time faculty. The charge of the council Faculty Council is to give faculty a means of presenting ideas and facilitating comments. Additionally, the council will initiate, develop, comment on, modify, and discuss other issues related to student learning and teaching as appropriate, such as student services, curricular issues, as well as teaching. The faculty Council has considered essentially same proposals as Mr. Ross mentioned, plus an additional Request for Input regarding syllabi elements for online and blended course sections (Instructional Technology Committee). In addition to the action items already discussed by Mr. Ross, the council also approved the formation of a study group to review degrees. This study group was initially requested by the Science Mathematics faculty, but was eventually expanded to review all degrees beyond general education.

Dr. Wahr stated that the big project faculty have been looking at this year is the assessment of courses and course section-level assessments in preparation for the January Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visit. Most of the Faculty Council meeting time is spent getting ready for the HLC visit. Chair Dowler thanked Dr. Wahr for the important work he does leading the Faculty Council and for teaching Anatomy and Physiology.

- C. 3. b. (4) 19. Wendy Wysocki, Professor of Business and Economics, and Chair of the, the Governance Evaluation Committee (GEC) presented a committee update to the Board.

The GEC is a standing committee established and charged with continuously evaluating and updating the council model of shared governance. Voting members of the committee include all three council chairs and secretaries; two at large members from each council; the Director of Institutional Research Planning and Accreditation; and the recorder (Penny Dorsey, Executive Assistant the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees). Non-voting members include the Vice President of Administration, the Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success, and the Vice President of Instruction. The President is an ex-officio member of the committee.

This year the committee met twice and discussed and approved the transition of the strategic planning task force to full standing committee status after the three councils approved it. The group continues to develop strategies to address top issues that were prioritized last year from the results of 2019 Council Model of Shared Governance

(CMSG) survey. The goal is to focus on how to improve the governance model.

At its last meeting, the committee finalized the framework requested by the Strategic Planning Committee by developing timelines and strategies for the framework. The group also completed its check in process with Strategic Planning Committee. Professor Wysocki looks forward to guiding the committee in future as it continues to work on these tasks next year.

Dr. Quartey explained that the reason these groups report regularly to the Board is because some years ago there were concerns that the faculty, staff, and students not having any interaction with the Board. Now there is interaction and communication at least once a year, sometimes more often.

Chair Dowler stated that she loves the opportunity to hear what is happening in these groups. Previously, the Board did not have these touch points. She acknowledged that this a lot of work on behalf of the organization; however, summarizing their work also give the councils an opportunity to pause and consider what they accomplished, how they are doing, and what they need to do moving forward.

- C. 3. b. (5) 20. Joshua Myers, Executive Director of the Foundation, mentioned that at The Foundation board meeting he started by sharing with the Board that the upgrade to their planned giving website had recently been completed. This is important because he knows the Trustees are connected in the community and there is a wealth of resources included on the website. The Foundation contract out this portion of the website because the tax laws are constantly and there is a great deal of information for anyone looking to plan an estate and consider our student and the College in that estate. Even if they are just doing their regular due diligence in the early stages, fell free to direct people to the website as they can access helpful information free of charge.

Dr. Myers reported that the last board meeting was very active. The board authorized three new programs, two were mentioned earlier in the Administrator Council update. They authorized two programs will substantially replace the enhancement grants program, which for twenty years has served the College well but had used up its usefulness. The Foundation redesigned a pilot replacement called the Strategic Innovation Fund for which the Board set aside \$20,000. The difference between the Enhancement Grant and the Strategic Innovation Fund it is no longer a grants program, but is intimately connected with the strategic planning process. The Strategic Planning Leadership Team has a consulting role. They provide a request for items that are within the strategic plan to the grants program committee, and then that committee makes a funding decision. This pilot will run for a year and then be reevaluated. The board felt this was the best way to direct the funds to the highest priority projects for the institution. Something that was lost with this new program was the opportunity to recognize the best and brightest of MCCC's staff and its community members.

Dr. Myers reported that the board also created the Excellence in Innovation Award, which is intended to recognize one individual on campus who has done something exceptional to advance our students or our College. Twenty-five hundred dollars is set aside for to be awarded as a stipend to that individual to either fund a project they are already involved in or to start a new project on campus that they are passionate about.

Dr. Myers announce that the final item approved by the board was the new scholarship under the Project Persist Program called FASSST—Faculty and Staff Supporting Students Together Scholarship. The Foundation is empowering staff members with the authority and resources to make targeted awards to students when they see a need. Instead of funneling funds jus through the Financial Aid office, this gives budget dollars to staff members who are on the on the front line in an effort to try to make money more accessible to those students who may not take the initiative and walk through financial aid. The Foundation will be launching those programs in the upcoming academic year.

Dr. Myers shared that The Foundation has two new endowed scholarships. Board chair, Victor Bellestri and his wife Bonnie, completed a multi-year pledge to complete their endowed scholarship. Kurt and Renee Darrow also completed their endowed scholarship. The exciting thing about both of these scholarships is that they establish emergency scholarships for students. Dr. Myers will share a larger

presentation at a later date. The program is having a large impact on the affordability of education for MCCC students and their ability to stay in class.

Dr. Myers closed with the news that, thanks to a booming market and generous giving, The Foundation is current exceeding \$2 million in revenues for this fiscal year and on pace to break an all-time record that was set last year, \$2.25 million. The net position of The Foundation currently exceeds \$9 million. This is partially due to the market but also directly correlated to the generosity of donors.

- C. 4. a. (1) 21. Chair Dowler announced that the Board Study meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2nd at 5:30 p.m., via Teams.
- C. 4. a. (2) 22. Trustee Buchanan updated the Board on the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Virtual Governance Leadership Institute, that she and Dr. Quartey attended on March 30-April 1, 2021.

Trustee Buchanan remarked that she excited to attend this conference, which was a three-day commitment. She thought she would have to be multitasking and listening at the same time, but the event was so engaging that she found herself listening more than multitasking. It would have been quite beneficial to attend this in person so she could have spoken face-to-face the other trustees, chancellors, and presidents who were from all over the country. She said the event was just unbelievable.

Ms. Buchanan commented that community colleges across the country are all facing the same thing. Topics included student enrollment issues, policy government, and more. She remarked that everybody was so gracious about sharing best practices, and the encouraged participants to go back and share what they learn with their own board members.

Trustee Buchanan said that even though all community colleges are facing the same issues, every board is finding its own way, which is fine. There was discussion on the importance of retreats. Once President talked about how he and his board use retreat time to review their Board self-evaluations. There was much discussion on policy government. Participants were encouraged to make a statement on their policy government. The ACCT has a wonderful bookstore with resources that can be purchased through their website. Leaders talked about how everything colleges do, benefit the students. Discussions were held on work sessions and committee work, and how some boards have active committees. Often times they meet with the president and administrators for oversight only. The MCCC Board has bi weekly updates from the president, but some boards have meetings with their presidents and their committees—no micromanaging, just oversight.

Ms. Buchanan said that she had the opportunity to meet with the president of the ACCT, J. Noah Brown. He shared what the ACCT strategies and priorities would be for next year. Ms. Buchanan shared a few of these priorities.

High-level priorities:

- Develop op-ed(s) arguing a need to galvanize understanding of the value of community colleges; disseminate nationwide through local newspaper/news site placements.
- Update and promote best practices for CEO searches including lessons learned from the pandemic.
- Identify new innovations or developments that are being implemented by community colleges to improve access, persistence, and completion.
- Promote awareness of enrollment disparities for minority male students and recommendations to improve disparities.

Medium priority strategies:

- Create and promote new trustee onboarding template/toolkit
- Synthesize and round out ACCT materials that address specific priority issues such as workforce needs, online learning, CEO searches, new versus advanced governance practices
- Prepare boards for new market opportunities created by pandemic

Overall, Trustee Buchanan said she found the whole experience to be invaluable. Even virtually people did connect in the chat rooms. Ms. Buchanan asked a couple of

questions and several individuals made comments and connected. She commented that she had no idea of the number of resources that are available on the website.

Dr. Quartey added that in the past, MCCC has used Dr. Pamela Fischer from the ACCT to lead a Board retreat. In terms of best practices, one is the review of the review and approval of the president goals and measurable objectives. In terms of the policies, MCCC's Board is a "policy board" and should occasionally review those policies. Another best practice was that even the board should probably also have their own sets of goals and update them each year. Another notable best practice is Diversity Inclusion and Equity (DEI). The ACCT has a whole DEI plan that MCCC's consultants are utilizing. Although MCCC cannot do everything, there are some worthy ideas to be gleaned from them.

- C. 4. b. (3) 23. Chair Dowler reported that there has been no change to the Board Retreat information since the last Board meeting. The retreat will likely take place in September.

- C. 4. b. (4) 24. Chair Dowler noted the upcoming events.

Dr. Scott Behrens reported that a drive through graduation was planned for April 30th; however, only 40 students wanted to participate, so the event was canceled. The College will be moving forward with something similar to last year. The Registrar's office is collecting graduates' pictures and messages and plans to post them on the College website. There will be no formal ceremony. Dr. Behrens mentioned that students were surveyed about the drive through graduation and showed little interest. The consensus was that students tired of COVID events and do not want to participate in them.

Chair Dowler welcome Trustee William Bruck back home and said the Board was grateful, honored, and excited to have him back and have thought of him often and prayed for him and his family while he was away.

- C. 4. b. (5) 25. *It was moved by Ms. Thayer and supported by Mr. Mason that the meeting be adjourned.*

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes [6]	Mary Kay Thayer, Aaron N. Mason, Steve Hill, William T. Bruck, Florence M. Buchanan, Krista K. Lambrix, and Lynette M. Dowler
No [0]	None

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette M. Dowler
Chair

Aaron N. Mason
Secretary