

MINUTES OF THE SIX HUNDRED SEVENTH  
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., March 28, 2022

This meeting was a hybrid meeting.

Present: William T. Bruck (Teams, 6:18 p.m.), Florence M. Buchanan, Lynette M. Dowler, Steven Hill, Krista K. Lambrix, Aaron N. Mason, and Mary Kay Thayer

Also Present: Scott Behrens, Bruce Diven, Brian Lay, Kojo Quartey, Suzanne Wetzel, Grace Yackee, and Penny Dorcey (recording secretary)

Present Virtually: Jack Burns Jr., Parmeshwar Coomar, Kevin Cooper, Valerie Culler AJ Fischer, Alexia Greenwood (The Agora), Kelly Heinzerling, Barry Kinsey, Leon Letter, Kimberly Lindquist, Linda Marsh, Gerald McCarty II, Joshua Myers, Tracy Perry, Tina Pillarelli, Linda Torbet, Joe Verkennes, Tracy Vogt, Quri Wygonik

1. Chair Dowler called the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
2. There were no delegations present.
- B. 2. a. (1) 3. *It was moved by Mr. Hill and supported by Ms. Thayer that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:*

B. 2. a. (1) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of February 23, 2022

B. 2. a. (2) Resolution to set the College millage Levy for 2022-23

The Board moved that the following resolution to set the College millage levy for the 2022-23 fiscal year be adopted subject to Headlee rollback provisions

Operating 2.1794 mills  
Facilities/Infrastructure .85 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.

- B. 2. a. (3) Ratification of The Foundation Bylaws Amendment  
The Board moved that the Board ratify an amendment to ‘Article X – Indemnification’ of The Foundation at Monroe County Community College bylaws to be revised as follows:

Subject to the conditions set out below, each person now or heretofore or hereafter a Foundation director, officer or employee of The Foundation, whether or not such person continues to serve in any such capacity at the time of incurring the costs or expenses hereinafter indicated, shall—to the fullest extent now or hereinafter permitted by law, and in an amount not to exceed the limit of the coverage provided to The Foundation under its directors and officers (D&O) liability policy—be indemnified by The Foundation against all financial loss, damage, costs and expenses (including counsel fees) reasonably incurred by or imposed upon him/her in connection with or resulting from any civil or criminal . . . [continue as in original].

- B. 2. a. (4) Board Authorization for President to Execute a Probationary Administrative Contract – Tracy Perry
  - B. 2. a. (5) Board Authorization for President to Execute a Probationary Administrative Contract – Gerald McCarty II
  - B. 2. a. (6) Authorization for the President to Execute a Michigan New Jobs Training Program Agreement with Advanced Heat Treat, Monroe, MI
  - B. 2. a. (7) Authorization for the President to Execute a Michigan New Jobs Training Program Agreement with EOI Pioneer, Dundee, M
- The motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. New Business

- B. 4. a. (1) 4. *It was moved by Ms. Lambrix and supported by Ms. Thayer that Julie Beste-Walz be selected as the 2021-22 Alumnus of the Year.*

Trustee Lambrix noted that there were three candidates for Alumnus of the Year. All the candidates were amazing, but one candidate, Julie Beste-Walz, stood out. Julie graduated from MCCC in 2016 with a Nuclear Engineering Technology Degree. She is now a DTE Energy employee and a Licensing Analyst working on a number of projects that include the Fermi 2 Power Plant license renewal and the Fermi 3 Combined Operating License application, which resulted in a Combined Operating License.

Furthermore, Julie is the Records and Corrective Actions Coordinator for Major Enterprise Projects. She was the very first Nuclear Technology Student to have been hired at DTE Energy, and today more than 40 plus students have been employed at DTE Energy. Julie has been very active at Monroe County Community College both before and after she graduated, and served as a speaker at one of its State of the College addresses promoting the renewal of the MCCC maintenance and replacement millage. Both of Julie's sons have participated in MCCC's summer camp programs, and Julie, her husband, Brian, and two children Garrick and Graham earned the Advanced Welding Certification at MCCC.

In the greater Nuclear Community Julie has volunteered her time as Secretary of the Michigan-Ohio American Nuclear Society. She has also served as treasurer as well on the Executive Committee for multiple years. Julie is a member of the Women in Nuclear organization that is very active in educational math science outreach in Michigan schools. In addition, she actively volunteered with St. Patrick School and with the Ypsilanti Yankee Air Museum Rosie the Riveter Guinness Book of World Records Event. She has helped earn DTE Energy Foundation grants for these non-profit partners.

Additionally, you can find Julie volunteering for a number of worthy causes including outdoor floral landscape maintenance at St. Anne's Catholic Church, helping the Salvation Army prepare for Christmas, supporting Military Families of Monroe County, 5k Run/Walks, Monroe County Lake Erie Muskrat Run, Monroe Humane Society, Habitat for Humanity and the Habitat Women's Build and as a chaperone for the Villa Party for Jefferson High School.

Julie has achieved some significant professional development achievements including: representing DTE Energy at the 2012 UFSAR conference and as a speaker for the 2012-2016 NIRMA conferences representing DTE Energy and earning two awards for Performance Excellence at DTE Energy, a GM Outstanding Performer Award, and her Green and Yellow Belt certifications through continuous improvement training, and her Six Sigma Black Belt from the University of Michigan.

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (2) 4. *It was moved by Ms. Buchanan and supported by Mr. Hill that Victor Bellestri be selected as the 2021-22 College Supporter of the Year.*

Ms. Buchanan explained that her committee received one nomination. She said that Victor Bellestri exemplifies The Foundation and that behind every great man is a great

woman. That woman is his wife, Bonnie Bellestri. Mr. Bellestri and his wife have been donors to The Foundation since its inception. They have supported capital campaigns with major gifts recognized by the naming of the Main Entry Vestibule in the La-Z-Boy Center, Internet Café in the Career Technology Center and most recently the endowment of a scholarship dedicated to assist students facing a financial emergency.

Victor joined The Foundation in 1999 as one of its very first directors and was elected as the board's first treasurer. His financial acumen skillfully guided the finance committee and board through many complicated financial issues, including the creation of an investment strategy, development of investment policy statement and the bi-annual assessment of The Foundation's investment portfolio and wealth managers. The Foundation sits on very solid footing thanks in great part to Victor's leadership with a net position exceeding \$10,000,000.

In 2017, Victor was elected chair of The Foundation at MCCC, becoming only the second person to lead the board. Victor's stature, experience, calm demeanor and steady hand allowed for a smooth, effortless transition. He represents everything a chair should be: supportive, visionary and capable. His tenure included some of the most challenging moments in recent history, but through his empowering leadership The Foundation thrived and grew.

Victor S. Bellestri leads The Foundation at MCCC Board of Directors with grace, dignity, generosity, humility, empathy, skill, compassion and intelligence and we are incredibly fortunate to have him as a persuasive and passionate advocate for the mission of MCCC. His decades of service to the students and campus of MCCC make him an ideal candidate for MCCC Supporter of the Year.

Suzanne Wetzel, Vice President of Administration/Treasurer, and Joshua Myers, Executive Director of The Foundation nominated Mr. Bellestri. Ms. Wetzel and Mr. Myers put it well when they said that Victor Bellestri shows "exceptional commitment to advancing the mission of MCCC".

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (3) 5. *It was moved by Mr. Hill and supported by Mr. that the following resolution of commendation be adopted for Ms. Susan Byrnes.*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Susan Byrnes will retire from her position at Monroe County Community College, effective April 4, 2022, and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Byrnes has diligently served as Coordinator of Financial Aid for the past 7 years, and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Byrnes has actively served on the Diversity and Equity Center Task Force, presented regularly at Financial Aid High School Nights throughout the community, participated in professional development activities, and served on scholarship committees, and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Byrnes has helped counsel hundreds of students through the financial aid process, providing support to help make their educational goals possible, and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Byrnes regularly came to campus during COVID, when almost everyone was off campus, to help maintain essential operations that could not be done remotely, and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Byrnes has excelled in every aspect of her work and met every challenge with enthusiasm and drive, always maintaining a positive outlook, having embraced the constant regulatory changes within the financial aid profession, and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Byrnes did phenomenal work to help integrate new technology, improve processes, and provide training to co-workers within the Financial Aid Office, and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Byrnes is known for her dedication to the college and students, regularly going above and beyond to assist students in need.*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recognize Ms. Susan Byrnes for her 7 years of dedicated service to Monroe County Community College, and*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RECORDED that the Board of Trustees expresses its very best wishes for her continued success, well-being, and happiness on this Monday, March 28, 2022.*

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (4) 6. *It was moved by Mr. Hill and supported by Mr. Mason that Policy 3.05, Tuition and Fees, be revised as follows, effective Fall 2022:*

<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Beginning Fall 2021</u>	<u>Beginning Fall 2022</u>
*Resident (per billable contact hour)	\$116.75	\$ 119.75
Non-Resident (per billable contact hour)	\$207.50	\$ 212.75
Out of State/International (per billable contact hour)	\$231.00	\$ 237.00
Non-Resident Student Apprentices (per billable contact hour)	Resident Rate	Resident Rate
Non-Credit Instruction, including Continuing Education Units (C.E.U. 's)	Rates vary	Rates vary

Miscellaneous Fees

Technology Fee (per billable contact hour).....	\$25.00
Registration (per student for each semester registering).....	\$40.00
Graduation – Expenses Cap, Gown, Tassel Cost .....	Varies
Laboratory Fees .....	Fees vary according to the class
Special Fees (Required costs for specific materials, rentals, testing, etc.) .....	Fees vary according to the class/program
Transcript, per copy .....	\$ 5.00
Credit by Exam Fee (Non-refundable) – 1 contact hour.....	\$35.00
2 or more contact hours	\$70.00.

Dr. Quartey explained that the proposed tuition recommendation is a 2.5 percent increase. Ms. Wetzel explained that the country is experiencing staggering inflation right now. MCCC holds its tuition very reasonable; however, in terms of the College’s revenues, she and her team are projecting that tuition and fees and property taxes, with the 2.5 percent increase, revenues will be up about 1.9 percent, which does not keep up with inflation. The increase in tuition is to help support College operations. The final assessment on property taxes will not be available from the county until next month. Currently, property tax revenue is projected to go up about 1.2 percent. There is also a decline coming out of the property revenue due to the Fermi settlement.

Additionally, the 1.9 percent increase in revenues is contingent upon whether or not the Governor’s budget gets approved. Also, when considering state funding we must keep in mind any “one-time” funding as we cannot count on that year after year and it is not considered operational funding.

Chair Dowler took a moment to address Trustee Bruck who had just entered the meeting via Microsoft Teams and she asked him to state his name and location for the record.

He responded, “I am William Bruck and I am in Fort Belvior, Virginia” (6:18 p.m.).

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (5) 7. *It was moved by Mr. Hill and supported by Ms. Thayer that that Policy 6.06, Policy for Reimbursement for Use of Private Motor Vehicles, be revised as presented.*

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes [7] Florence M. Buchanan, Steven Hill, Aaron N. Mason,  
Mary Kay Thayer, Krista K. Lambrix, William T. Bruck,  
Lynette M. Dowler

No [0] None

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (6) 8. *It was moved by Ms. Thayer and supported by Mr. Mason that that the following architectural firms be selected to assist the College in the performance of all architectural and engineering services for the design and construction for the renovation and new construction projects listed below:*

*Stantec Architecture Inc. – Whitman Center Renovations and New Construction  
The Collaborative – Welch Health Education Building Renovations and New Construction  
GMB and Workshop Architects, Inc. – Warrick Student Services/Administration Building Renovations.*

Ms. Wetzel reminded the Board that she had put an RFP out on the street for architects. She and Jack Burns, Jr. reviewed the RFPs. These are the last three big projects that will come over the next three or four years. These projects will take much design and development before they are ready to go into construction. It seemed prudent to bring them forward at this time.

Stantec Architecture is being recommended for the Whitman Center master plan. They are the architects who worked on Founders Hall. They have a lot of experience working with law enforcement educational facilities. One of their references is Schoolcraft College whose president had very high praise for the company.

The Collaborative is the architect the College is working with on the Campbell Learning Resource Center. They are another outstanding firm. They also worked for the College on other projects in the past and have a tremendous amount of experience in the healthcare arena, for both educational facilities and for healthcare providers. They are based out of Toledo and Ann Arbor.

GMB and The Workshop is a little different grouping. The College has worked with GMB in the past when they worked on the geothermal project with Ameresco. They also just completed the indoor air quality study and upgrades that will happen at the Whitman Center. These projects will be funded with HEERF money. They have partnered with a group called The Workshop Architects out of Milwaukee. They are a firm that is nationally known for designing student life facilities and will be working on the student services/administration building.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes [7] Florence M. Buchanan, Steven Hill, Aaron n. Mason,  
Mary Kay Thayer, Krista K. Lambrix, William T. Bruck,  
Lynette M. Dowler

No [0] None

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (7) 9. *It was moved Mr. Hill and supported by Mr. Mason that the Board approves the transaction as stipulated in the Purchase and Sale Agreement and authorizes the President to proceed with the acquisition of Vacant Land consisting of approximately 3.36 acres on the west side of Lewis Avenue, being parcel 02-27-059-41, Bedford Township, Michigan, utilizing the funds acquired from the proceeds of the sale of the Hurd Road property before using any other funds.*

Ms. Wetzel reminded the Trustees that at the February meeting, they talked about the fact that we had contracted with Mannik and Smith to do a phase one environmental on the property. They have completed that. It came back clean and nothing has ever been built on the property, it was an orchard back in the 1930s. Mannik and Smith feel that it

is a clean piece of property. One thing that they did recommend today, is that we might move forward with a limited phase two, as a kind of an insurance policy for us because of Whitman Ford and Northtown Chevrolet were located across the street and there could be some groundwater transfer of something onto the property. They do not think that is the case, but given there are two other sites within such close proximity they are recommending it. The limited phase two environmental can be completed before closing.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes (5) Steven Hill, Aaron N. Mason, Mary Kay Thayer,  
William T. Bruck, Lynette M. Dowler

No (2) Florence M. Buchanan, Krista K. Lambrix

The motion carried.

- B. 4. a. (8) 10. It was moved by Ms. Dowler and supported by Mr. Mason 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.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes (7) Florence M. Buchanan, Steven Hill, Aaron n. Mason,  
Mary Kay Thayer, Krista K. Lambrix, William T. Bruck,  
Lynette M. Dowler

No (0) None

The motion carried unanimously.

- C. 3. a. (1) 11. President Quartey announced the following staff appointments, probationary administrative contracts, retirements, etc.

Staff Appointments

Andrew Munguia, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, effective  
March 28, 2022 (replacing Susan Byrnes)

Valerie Culler, Director of Financial Aid, said that Mr. Munguia comes to MCCC with 13 years of Financial Aid experience. He has worked for the University of Michigan. During that time, he spent several years at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor before transferring over to the University of Michigan – Dearborn. He has an extensive background and expertise in Federal Regulations, state rule regarding state funds, and tremendous experience with systems. Ms. Culler said she is thrilled to have him join the team.

2<sup>nd</sup> Year Probationary Administrative Contracts (effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)

Gerald McCarty II, Director of Student Success  
Tracy Perry, Director of Enrollment Management

Retirement

Susan Byrnes, Coordinator of Financial Aid, effective April 4, 2022

- C. 3. a. (2) 12. Suzanne Wetzel, Vice President of Administration/Treasurer, gave the board an update on the General Fund Revenues and Expenses for the period ending February 28, 2022.

Suzanne Wetzel, Vice President of Administration/Treasurer, gave the Board a brief overview of the General Fund revenues and expenses. She noted we are three quarter so the way though the budget year. The transfers the Board approved have been completed. Everything is running on schedule. The second HVAC payment was made on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The principal balance on the HVAC project is about \$10.9 million.

Work continues on the 22/23 budget. All of the requests have been submitted and the vice presidents are reviewing and Cabinet begins reviewing everything tomorrow. Construction on the Campbell Learning Resources Center is on schedule for the

College to take possession this summer open in the Fall. The furniture was ordered last week. The signage for Founders Hall has been installed. Today the Founders sign went up and Boulevard sign went up.

- C. 3. b. (1) 13. Dr. Joshua Myers, Executive Director of The Foundation, gave the Board an update on the activities of The Foundation.

Dr. Myers noted that the College is in the final stages of its scholarship application window for general scholarship. This year 352 applications were received, but Dr. Myers would like to see that number increase to over 400.

Dr. Myers followed up with a couple of programmatic updates. The Foundation is in the final process of finalizing the rules of the strategic innovation fund. The Foundation Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow to review the rules. This is the program that used to be called the Enhancement Grants Program. The new program will fund unexpected projects that advance the strategic plan so it is a partnership between the Strategic Planning Committee and The Foundation.

Dr. Myers added that The Foundation is also getting ready to formalize the launch of the Innovation and Excellence Award. This is not only an award to recognize a faculty or staff member on campus who has worked to push innovative projects at the College, but it also grants them a \$2500 discretionary grant that they will be able to use for any program initiative that they are affiliated with.

Mr. Myers concluded by thanking the Board for selecting Victor Bellestri as the College Supporter of the Year. He is an extraordinary man who does so much good, yet is an unheralded hero. Mr. Bellestri had often commented that his affiliation with the College is one of the most meaningful things he's ever done in his life. Mr. Myers said that it was his honor and Ms. Wetzel's honor to put the nomination forward.

- C. 3. b. (1) 15. President Quartey summarized his reports to the Trustees, which he sends every other week.

Dr. Quartey said that he testified in Lansing last week before the senate appropriations subcommittee. He testified in Lansing before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee. He also spoke to MCCC's success with Reconnect and Frontliners, its challenge with Proposal 11 that allowed students from Michigan to take classes in Ohio at Taxpayers' expense, and the importance of MCCC's Criminal Justice and Health Education programs. This testimony was to support our \$6.5 million capital outlay request for the Welch Health Education Building, and an additional \$3.25 million request for the Whitman Center. Senator Dale Zorn, who voted against the legislation initially, also mentioned the hardships MCCC has faced due to the passing of Proposal 11. Hopefully, there will be funding available for the renovations to the Gerald Welch Health Education Building.

Masking on campus is now optional. Attorney General Dana Nessel's recent visit on campus was arranged by the Monroe County Mental Health Authority and Randy Richardville. These are a series of meetings around the state to discuss the opioid crises and mental health issues. There were several expert speakers, and the Attorney General only provided commentary and announced \$6.1 million funding to much of Monroe County for the opioid settlement.

Faculty union negotiations will begin soon. The administration has not yet heard from the support staff. MCCC is attempting to bring back the Local College Access Network (LCAN) and held a meeting on campus inviting several community leaders and Michigan College Access Network (MCAN). This event was arranged by Dr. Scott Behrens, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success. The next step is to apply for a \$20,000 planning grant.

Work with the Ralph F. Wilson Foundation continues, with several key individuals on campus involved. There was an in person meeting this past Wednesday in which 10 MCCC people were involved. The proposals written by Dr. Yackee, Dr. Behrens, Dr. Quartey and several other key MCCC individuals were finalists. The next drafts are due on March 31<sup>st</sup> for all three areas. The vice presidents are working on the new drafts. The areas of focus are student success, K12 partnerships, and mobility. These grants have the potential to provide significant funding.

Ralph F. Wilson, was the owner of the Buffalo Bills. He left \$200 billion to be spent within a certain period of time (seven years). It appears that they have not been able to send the money fast enough. They worked with several organizations including the Detroit Chamber. This regional group is called Detroit Drives Degrees Community College Collaborative (D3C3). There are seven colleges that are members in the region. D3C3 is helping the colleges by walking them through the process.

Senator Gary Peters' office has earmarked \$350,000 to go toward the development of MCCC's Criminal Justice simulation training at the Whitman Center. Dr. Quartey thanked Ms. Wetzel and Dr. Myers for moving this request forward. The Criminal Justice classed will also be moved to the Whitman Center.

COVID testing through LynxDx continues on a daily basis on our campus. Testing is free to all community members.

Dr. Pamela Fisher with ACCT will serve as the consultant for the Board retreat on April 22, 2022. She will be meeting with Board Chair Lynette Dowler to review the proposed agenda.

- C. 3. b. (3) 16. Dr. Quartey announced that the Board would review the President's Goals and Measurable Objectives with the consultant at the upcoming Board retreat.
- C. 4. a. (1) 17. Chair Dowler announced that penny Dorcey, Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees will work with Mr. Wetzel to select some possible dates for the Board Study meeting, and then send a Doodle Poll out to the Trustees to select a date and time for the meeting.
- C. 4. b. (2) 18. President Quartey announced that the Board retreat date is set for Friday, April 22, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There is a robust agenda for the day. Snacks and dinner will be provided throughout the meeting. The Trustees are also invited to join the Local College Access Network (LCAN) meeting at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at the College. Trustees are asked to please let Ms. Dorcey know if they can attend the luncheon.
- C. 4. b. (2) 19. Chair Dowler explained to the Trustees that their self-evaluations are due to Ms. Dorcey on the President's office by April 8, 2022. The Board will review the evaluations at the Board retreat with the consultant.
- C. 4. b. (4) 20. Chair Dowler noted the upcoming events.
- C. 4. b. (5) 21. *It was moved by Mr. Hill and supported by Ms. Lambrix that the meeting be adjourned.*

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette M. Dowler  
Chair

Krista K. Lambrix  
Secretary

pd/

These minutes were approved the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.