

MINUTES OF THE SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

The Board of Trustees Room  
The Board Room, Z-203  
5:30 p.m., September 23, 2024

Present: Lynette M. Dowler, Julie M. Edwards, Krista K. Lambrix, Aaron N. Mason,  
Joel A. Spotts

Present Virtually: Mary Kay Thayer from home in Lambertville, Michigan

Not Present: Nicole R. Goodman,

Also Present: Charles Abel, Scott Behrens, Thadeus Bowerman, Jack Burns, Kevin Cooper, Curtis Creagh, Candice Ferrell, Mike Gaynier, Wendy Gaynier, Samuel Gonzales, Melissa Grey, Tom Heck, Rick Hubbert, Jamie Hunt, Barry Kinsey, Edmund La Clair, Spencer Lyke, Mike LaHote, Giovanni Loveland, Michelle McDevitt, Joshua Meyers, Katie Navock, Jamie O'Brien, Brianna Pio, Kojo Quartey, Maggie Sandefur, Helen Stripling, Beverly Tomek, Linda Torbet, Mick Valentino, Joe Verkennes, Cindy Vincent, Quri Wygonik, John Wyrabkiewicz Grace Yackee, and Penny Dorcey (recording secretary)

A. Call to Order

Call to Order by Chair of the Board 5:33 p.m.

Trustee Mary Kay Thayer, was attending the meeting virtually, from home in Lambertville, Michigan.

B. Recommended Actions

1. Routine Matters

a. Polling of audience for delegation recognition

2. Consent Agenda

(All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Board of Trustees and will be approved by one motion unless a Trustee requests that an item be removed and acted upon as a separate agenda item.)

3. *It was moved by Ms. Edwards and supported by Ms. Dowler that the Board approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:*

B. 2. a. (1) Approval of minutes of the June 20, 2024 regular meeting and the July 15, 2024 special meeting.

B. 2. a. (2) Proposed Resolution for Adherence to Best Practices

*The Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees certifies that Monroe County Community College not only meets but exceeds the best practice standards required by the education omnibus appropriations act for fiscal year 2024, as the attached table demonstrates.*

B. 2. a. (3) Authorization for the President to Execute a Continuing Contract - Stripling

B. 2. a. (4) Authorization for the President to Execute an Administrative Contract - Wyrabkiewicz

B. 2. a. (5) Authorization for the President to Execute an Administrative Staff Contract - C. Gossett

B. 2. a. (6) Authorization for the President to Execute an Administrative Staff Contract - Hubbert

B. 2. a. (7) Authorization for the President to Execute a Professional Staff Contract - Estrada

B. 2. a. (8) Authorization for the President to Execute a Professional Staff Contract – Bowerman

- B. 2. a. (9) Authorization for the President to Execute a Professional Staff Contract – Molnar
- B. 2. a. (10) Authorization for the President to Execute a Faculty Contract – Kazan
- B. 2. a. (11) Authorization for the President to Execute a Faculty Contract – Ford
- B. 2. a. (12) Authorization for the President to Execute a Faculty Contract – Dobbs
- B. 2. a. (13) Proposed Resolution Proclaiming October, United Way Month

*The Board approved the following resolution proclaiming October, United Way Month be adopted:*

*WHEREAS, the United Way of Monroe County is entering its 2024-2025 campaign and will set another milestone goal that will see campaign pledges of over one million dollars, and*

*WHEREAS, the United Way is the largest single voluntary organization in Monroe County through which volunteers can channel their concern for people in need, and*

*WHEREAS, the United Way, largely because of the continued generosity and caring of employees of Monroe County Community College, can continue to grow and support a wider range of health and human care needs that directly benefit residents of Monroe County.*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees, that the College employees be encouraged to participate in the 2023-2024 United Way Campaign of Monroe County and receive the highest commendations and vote of thanks for their generous gifts to this vitally important cause, and*

*THAT IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees proclaims the month of October 2023 'United Way Month' throughout the College district to emphasize the value and positive contribution United Way of Monroe County offers to our community and its residents on this Monday, September 23, 2024.*

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 3. b. (2) 14. Item C. 3. B. (2) Enriching Lives Award, was moved forward in the agenda by unanimous consent.
- C. 3. b. (3) 15. Barry Kinsey, Director of Workforce Development, presented the Summer 2024 Enriching Lives Awards. Mr. Kinsey gave a brief background on the award as well as a list of desired qualities in the recipients. Anyone can nominate an employee. This year's nominees included Matt Bird-Meyer, Professor of Humanities; Gerald McCarty, Dean of Student Services; Brianna Pio, Retention and Completion Analyst; and Tom Scheer, Manager of Desktop Computing. The Summer 2024 recipient of the Enriching Lives Award is Brianna Pio.

#### 4. New Business

- B. 4. a. (1) 16. *It was moved by Ms. Lambrix and supported by Ms. Edwards that the following resolution of Commendation for Mrs. Mary Lyons be adopted:*

*WHEREAS, Mary Lyons has decided to retire from her position as coordinator of events and facilities reservations with Monroe County Community College, effective October 8, 2024, and*

*WHEREAS, she has given 14 years of dedicated service to the college, first as The administrative assistant for rooms and reservations, which later became the coordinator of events and facilities reservations, and*

*WHEREAS, as a very public and frontline employee for the college, she has always provided excellent customer service with an endless supply of kindness, understanding and warm smiles, and*

*WHEREAS, she has over the years always gone consistently above and beyond to assist both internal and external customers by guiding them through the reservation process and volunteering at their events as needed, and*

*WHEREAS, she has worked diligently using the college's electronic room management system to ensure building logistics needs are met by coordinating with employees in the Facilities, Information Technology and Safety Services departments, and*

*WHEREAS, she has served in many leadership roles during her tenure at the college, including serving on numerous committees and task forces such as Community Outreach, Mentorship, Campus Catering, and One Book, One Community of Monroe County, and*

*WHEREAS, she served MCCC students as the Volleyball Club advisor for three years, and*

*WHEREAS, she represented MCCC and successfully completed the Leadership Monroe Program through the Monroe County Business Alliance in 2015-16, and*

*WHEREAS, everyone associated with MCCC has benefited from the diligence and commitment she has put into her work on behalf of the college and its mission, and*

*WHEREAS, she will be remembered as an admired co-worker and outstanding employee who demonstrated an impeccable work ethic, love of learning, and commitment to the college and its students.*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recognize Mary Lyons for her dedicated service and contributions to the college, our students and the community, and*

*THAT IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its very best wishes for her continued success, well-being and happiness on this Monday, September 23, 2024.*

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (2) 17. *It was moved by Ms. Dowler and supported by Mr. Spotts that the Board decrease the technology fee from \$29 to \$27.25, per billable credit hour, retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year 7/1/24, for Fall 2024.*

The College was informed by the State that the "tuition restraint" language goes beyond tuition and also includes fees. MCCC raised tuition 4 percent: however,

our computer and enrollment fees put us over the threshold of 4.5 percent. In order to be in compliance with the tuition restraint a recommendation to reduce the computer fee to a level that will allow us to be compliant. This will trigger refunds to students who paid these fees. The refund amount will be \$1.75 a credit hour.

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (3) 18. *"It was moved by Ms. Edwards and supported by Ms. Lambrix that the Board approval the revision of Policy 2.28, Acceptable Use of Instructional Technology as presented.*

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (4) 19. *It was moved by Ms. Dowler and supported by Mr. Spotts that the Board approve Policy 6.15, Information Security Plan as presented.*

John Wyrabkiewicz, Chief Information Officer, commented that he made a few title changes to the policy as well as changes to verbiage to align with current practices.

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (5) 20. *It was moved by Ms. Lambrix and supported by Ms. Edwards that the Board adopt the Computer and User Policy as presented.*

Mr. Wyrabkiewicz explained that the policy number is yet to be determined.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Information and Proposals

1. Delegations

- C. 1. a. (1) 21. Spencer Lyke, announced that they are a new graduate of MCCC and an active of the GSA since January. Spencer thanked President Quartey and the MCCC leadership for standing firm on their support for the students at the College. Dr. Quartey showed his support in a recent article in the Monroe News titled “Restroom Use is a Human Right not a Political Issue.” Spencer also thanked the MCCC Agora, the campus newspaper, for its editorial about “the sign” and for their continued support of the LGBTQ students.

In the past year, spencer has heard a community member called them a pedophile for existing; heard speeches saying that their biological sex does not exist; and has have been screamed at for trying to use the restroom. Spencer said that the friend they have made through the GSA have stood by them and spoken out with them against the people coming to the campus and lashing out.

Spencer is excited to see the College can continue to support its students with acceptance. They encouraged the College to continue to standing up for students and they continue to hope the support will not cease.

- C. 1. a. (1) 22. Robert Brooks spoke in support of the new restroom policy and of transgender students. Black people make individuals uncomfortable; Muslims make individuals uncomfortable, gay people and other marginalized identities make individuals uncomfortable. This so-called discomfort doesn’t stem from any actual inappropriate behavior, but merely seeing people they view as inferior existing alongside them as the equals they are. So why is this weaponized comfort being given any consideration when it comes to trans people? Black people, Muslims, and marginalized identities have been and continue to be labeled by some people as inherently dangerous; dangerous to children, dangerous to public safety, and dangerous to civilization itself. Even though there is no statistical evidence that trans people pose any more danger than anyone else in society. There is however, growing statistical evidence that because of this transphobic rhetoric, trans people are far more likely to be harassed and assaulted in public spaces. On top of that, cisgender people who don’t look feminine or masculine enough, are also being attacked because of this rhetoric. This rhetoric against trans people stems from irrational fear, and willful ignorance, oppressive hate. None of this has any positive role in this or any other educational institution. It would be completely unacceptable for members of the community to stand before you [the Board] and demanding you invalidate, dehumanize, and segregate some of your students and staff. So why is it being continuously allowed at these meetings when it comes to trans people? Mr. Brooks stated that he is here tonight to remind the Board that any benefit of doubt given to people who hate, will be at the very least, a validation of their hate, and at the very worst, an extension of their oppressive power.

- C. 1. a. (1) 23. Steven Meyer explained that he attended MCCC from 2010-2012 and it changed his life. He met Dr. Quartey while attending the recent Comicon Convention, which is a great place for people with open minds. Mr. Meyer was concerned that Monroe would not look very good or welcoming with all the signs posted about the College and hat the convention may not want to come back to such a place. He also took note of the College logo on the signs and wondered if the College had tried for a copyright or infringement upon the parties using their logo on these signs. Mr. Meyer would encourage that because he knows it disturbs faculty and staff at the College and Dr. Kojo has spoken to the County Commission to try to dispel misinformation and say that the College is abiding by the law. Mr. Meyer appreciates those efforts and encourages the College to look into enforcing an infringement on the use of their logo on the awful signs.

- C. 1. a. (1) 24. Mike LaHote commented that his granddaughter is a student at the College and she is doing extremely well. She loves every thing about the school. Because of some of the things Mr. LaHote has picked up on social media and in the community, he wanted speak to the Board. In 1998, twenty-six years ago, Mr. LaHote founded the Bedford Ed. The first and only charter school in Monroe County to be founded by somebody who lived here. He served two terms on the State of Michigan Department of Education on the special education advisory council representing MASA. He bought the land to build the school and in building the school he learned a great deal about what goes into keeping the children safe. His passion is to make sure the community of children is safe and that they have a good education. He dedicated his money and time to do that. Mr. LaHote offered his experience and knowledge that he has learned from being someone who built a school, to help mediate the restroom situation and help people to learn and understand what goes into the running of a school, the education children, the safety of the school, and the concerns of the parents
- C. 1. a. (1) 25. Giovanni Loveland stated that he is a thirteenth grader at the College and has been an active member of the GSA since August. He is tired of seeing the signs saying that” MCCC Allows Men in Girls Bathrooms” every day on his way to school. He is reminded that there are people around him that who don’t let policies stand in the way of his human rights and the rights of his community. Giovanni is thankful for the support of the College support and the support of the GSA community. It’s sad that when it comes to people, some folks don’t have that drive to learn like I do.
- C. 1. a. (1) 26. Michael Gaynier and his wife, Wendy, were born and raised in Monroe. They graduated from Monroe High Schools, and then completed their freshmen year at MCCC before transferring to CMU in Alma. After graduation they returned to Monroe to get married, work, and raise their family. They have supported every millage for the public schools, the ISD and the Community College religiously. They are pro-education at all levels. Mr. Gaynier shared this information so that people know the value they place on their educational systems for Monroe kids. Mr. Gaynier also expressed their concern over the chaos over the decision made for implementation of MCCC’s bathroom policy has placed on the community. Mr. Gaynier explained that per his request, President Quartey provided him all the material that was used to make the decision. Mr. Gaynier stated that for the record, he is in total agreement. The Board’s action was in order to comply with the newly revised law. Mr. Gaynier said that he understands what the law and is also in agreement that all individuals, students, should not be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity expression, height, weight, or veteran status. However, he is disappointed with the choice that the College has implemented to satisfy the requirement placed on the College by the revised law. Allowing discrimination of any kind contradicts the Michigan moral value that we each grew up with and should not make any group or individual sacrifice their comfort for that of other groups or other individuals. Mr. Gaynier has researched how other public organizations have tried to comply with the new law. He provided the Board with handouts that contained pictures of bathrooms at the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital, and the Monroe Eye Surgeons Office of Monroe. It appears that each of these groups have tried to satisfy the change in the law governing this matter, but chose a different path. Your decision was to have individual bathrooms with signs that read, “You are welcome to use the bathroom that best aligns with your gender identity.” As long as these are single-use bathrooms and not community bathrooms, Mr. Gaynier is comfortable with this. The choice was wise. However, when the same signs are posted on a on a girls’ locker room, he is not so comfortable seems to lack common sense. Mr. Gaynier respectfully ask that the Board and the administration reevaluate the choice they made. You have to comply and he agrees with the students.
- C. 1. a. (1) 27. Sydney Godfrey (they/them), she has been an active member of GSA since February 2024; however, they have been a student on campus since 2018. Despite the short amount of tie Sydney has been in the GSA, needless to say the amount hate the group receives, the false accusations and disinformation spread, has been absurd, and getting louder and more prevalent as the election draws closer. It is already difficult to be a queer person in America, even with the hate Sydney receives in their everyday personal life, comments they hear at work

and the looks they receive in the store, Sydney know what they look like, they are visibly queer, and they are proud of that. But it is a privilege to go to school where they can be visible and welcome. It may not be perfect but every day that Sydney walks on campus and exists as a queer person just trying to get an education, the better Sydney can make it for themselves and everyone else. It was difficult to face all hate and personal attacks, like the giant red signs across the street this past year, but Sydney did not do it alone. Sydney's fellow GSA members and faculty advisors of the GSA, their friend and their family have carried some of the burdens hanging on Sydney's shoulders, and the College has taken steps to protect LGBT students on campus as well. Sydney thanked the College for installing signs by the bathrooms. That was just one more step towards an inclusive and safe campus for students. Sydney thanked President Quarley for his statement in the Monroe News and the article on campus safety, and for his comments in the most recent edition of the Agora. It means a lot to Sydney that their school is willing to support students when needed. Sydney sent out a huge thank you to the Agora Staff who model how to support students on college campuses. The most recent edition of the Agora, released on September 18<sup>th</sup>, highlights the active attacks on students like them, queer and transgender students, such as the giant red signs across the street and how they are spreading bigotry and misinformation. If there is one thing that the lawn signs, and Facebook posts, and the people will accomplish their misinformation is that Sydney will be louder, dress queerer, and speak up for herself. They will not be erased.

- C. 1. a. (1) 28. Jamie O'Brien stated that she is running for one of the trustee positions. Ms. O'Brien thank President Quarley for allowing her to help work on the signs, when the issue of LGBTQ rights and the sign situation began, and for how the College has been so supportive for the rights of every human being who walks across the threshold of one of any College building. Ms. O'Brien defines the threat differently than others have expressed. A threat is when four years ago, somebody decided to beat her up. That is frightening. If somebody is trying to share their concerns about any person, with thoughts or any belief system, they are going to put it on a sign. Ms. O'Brien does not perceive that as a threat. That is the person or group sharing their beliefs passionately with her; she finds no danger in that. She related that she did prepare a very uplifting conversation and tried to go into details and have a conversation about this issue, which unfortunately had to be canceled due to an actual threat to her wellbeing. In recent history schools have shut down and kids are being taken to jail because just prank calls. She asked the Board and the College was a crime committed when such a threat was made against her on this property? That needs to be investigated. Was that threat only while she was on this campus or is that threat anywhere they happen to be if they find me? Ms. O'Brien says she does not know the answer to that question but believes she has a right to know whether she is safe or not.

Ms. O'Brien went on to say that as far as bathrooms, it used to be that a transgender person went to a therapist to prove they were not having a mental issue, and once it was proven there were no mental issues they moved onto transition. Everything was done respectful of the community and to self. Ms. O'Brien never went into women's restrooms prior to transitioning because she did not want to see what she thought was a birth defect seen by anybody; however, she is not saying her beliefs have to be everyone else's. She tried to open a cordial conversation with the College community but the campus LGBTQ community shut her down. She respectfully asked the Board to look into the issue further.

- C. 1. a. (1) 29. Melissa Grey announced that she a licensed, practicing psychologist in the state of Michigan, and an educator. She is speaking as an individual, private citizen, and her comments do not reflect or represent the views or opinions of any institution or organization.

Ms. Grey first thanked the College leadership for affirming with her through the signs in the restrooms, emails, the August column in the Monroe News and in the Agora, that every individual is free to use the public restrooms, period. Secondly, that people of all backgrounds and gender are accepted at MCCC. There is an organized and pervasive disinformation information campaign that focuses on gender and our public restrooms, including the yard signs. According to documented evidence the first sign on Raisinville Road included the statement "Paid for the Monroe County Republican

Party.” Although the signs’ message represents only a vocal minority of the mostly supportive community, this campaign has significant political backing. When there are threats and someone has something to lose that is when it is most important to speak out.

The College’s clarity is even more important in the context of disinformation and social panic. Ms. Grey is grateful to each leader who has upheld the law and our community values of truthfulness and inclusion. The gender panic spreads a pervasive fear that transgender and other gender diverse people pose a threat to our communities. This fear is related to the social change that has brought more awareness of gender diversity, disrupting the status quo, but the fear is misplaced. Societal change can be uncomfortable, but trans and gender diverse people are no threat. Accepting them poses no danger. Instead they have been positive members of our community throughout human history and throughout the world. The reason this wasn’t an issue before is because they take other people’s feelings into consideration when they are moving through public space. A gender panic is dangerous in a few ways. First it puts a target on the backs of transgender and gender diverse people who already endure more bullying, harassment, and violence. Second, it takes attention and resources away from real possible dangers that are often among people and places where they’ll likely be familiar with and feel comfortable with. Third, it puts a target on those who might confront this disinformation.

Marginalized groups have been at the center of advocacy to strengthen protective policies and procedures that the College, but policies are tools that can be used for many purposes. Otherwise good policies, can be recognized. Ms. Grey urged the College leadership to continue showing courage in the face of false information and real threats. She asked the College to administer policy effectively with the integrity of the experiences from the policies content in the first place.

- C. 1. a. (1) 30. Katie Beth Davis is an MCCC Alumni. She is here as a private citizen, but also to remind everyone who is responsible for the signs, that is the Republican Party.

Ms. Davis continued to comment, Chair Mason interrupted her to remind everyone that this is public comment time and that he does want to maintain decorum in the meeting. He asked that delegates be cautious when referring to people who are in the room.

Ms. Davis went on that for an entire year there has been a cheerleading coach having a relationship with a 15-year-old minor. There were three investigations and that has never been addressed with the community. So, when all the students and faculty see these signs, know everything these signs represent.

- C. 1. a. (1) 31. President Quartey stated that, as president of Monroe County Community College, he supports every single student that attends the institution regardless of their color, their race, gender or gender identity. He mentioned that he had done some research on couple of other institutions in the state and they have similar policies to MCCC’s in terms of restroom policies. Michigan University’s policy says that “in the State of Michigan all individuals have the legal right to use restrooms, locker rooms. and changing rooms consistent with their gender identity in all public educational institutions.” No questions asked. This is posted on their website. No one is out there protesting their football games. Michigan State University’s policy says, “At Michigan State University (MSU), students, employees, and visitors at MSU are all allowed to use restrooms that correspond with their gender identity.” There is a third institution, Monroe County Community College. The College supports the option of individuals to use the restroom that corresponds with their gender identity. Of the three institutions there is controversy only at one. No controversy in Ann Arbor, no controversy in Lansing, but there is controversy here. The policy is a state-wide law and we do have gender neutral restrooms just as they have on all the other campuses, but the only place there is controversy, like the signs you see across the street, is here. The place where the protest needs to be is in Lansing. Those who passed the law, perhaps you can go there and protest them, but stop protesting here. We are only abiding by the law as an institution. Thank you.

- C. 1. a. (1) 32. Chair Mason commented on the pictures the Board received from Mike Gaynier. The distinction is that in a 60-year-old building there are gendered bathrooms so when the law passed the gendered bathrooms existed with multi-

stalls that were labeled Men's and Women's. So, however you interpret that doesn't really matter as far as gender identity once the state law is passed. The law went into effect this year so it is still extremely new and took a lot of the gray area out. If you go by the Michigan code of laws it includes every institution even down to the nursery and elementary schools' public accommodations. We have references to the laws if you want to point towards them, follow up with Dr. Quartey on the policies of the College. The College's policies follow the law and then to administer the College, we have policies to follow the law as a public institution. There were some complaints of potential incidences that happened earlier in the year where the understanding of what it meant to be a gendered restroom, Men or Women, was not consistent with the people around, and there were instances that were happening, so people who had different views of what that meant in that space. There is a lack of information on what the laws really did to existing buildings and restrooms. With this disparity in what those spaces really meant, you have the risk of confrontation within those spaces. It can be very unsafe, not just for transgender and gender diverse individuals, but also for students who come from a very traditional upbringing. They can come in and react inappropriately, now unlawfully, to the one using the restroom lawfully. That person would be guilty of violating the lawful person rights, which could have negative academic implications and other consequences. So, the signage is to let all people know that when they go into that space who it accommodates. We have additional single-use restrooms that are available, and are adding more as is possible, but to have some once go to the other end of the campus to use another restroom rather than the one that is most convenient, accessible, and close to your classroom is not the solution, although it does offer another choice for people. Mr. Mason encouraged people to talk to their legislators about what the law means and try to get an understanding and maybe give them some feedback on it.

- C. 3. a. (1) 33. President Quartey announced the following staff appointment, probationary professional staff contracts, position upgrade, third -year probationary administrative contract, third-year faculty contracts, resignations, and the passing of an employee.

Appointment:

Liam Laird, General Maintenance Worker, effective September 16, 2024 (replacing George Welter who transferred to Power systems Trainee)

One-year Probationary Professional Staff Contracts:

Jennifer Estrada, ERP Systems Administrator, effective July 22, 2024 through July 21, 2025

Thadeus Bowerman, Educational Advocate, Science and Mathematics effective August 12, 2024 through August 11, 2024

Brain Molnar, Supervisor of Custodial Operations, effective August 28, 2024 through August 17, 2025 (replacing Bryan Rorke)

Position Upgrade:

Garrett Lawson, Power Systems Operator, effective September 16, 2024 (Upgrade from Maintenance Trainee to Power Systems Operator (passed licensure)

Continuing Administrative Contract:

Helen Stripling, Director of Respiratory Therapy, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

2<sup>nd</sup> Year Probationary Administrative Contract – July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025:

Christopher Gossett, Manager of Enterprise Data Services

Rick Hubbert, Manager of Network, Systems, and Security Architect

John Wyrabkiewicz, Chief Information Officer

Continuing Faculty Contract – August 19, 2024:

Emrah Ezra Kazan, Automotive Technology Instructor

3<sup>rd</sup> Year Probationary Faculty Contract – July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025:

Elizabeth Hartig, Faculty Reference Librarian



3<sup>rd</sup> Year Probationary Faculty Contracts – January 8, 2024 –  
December 13, 2024

Kayla Ford, Instructor of Respiratory Therapy  
Kerwyn Dobbs, Automotive Technology Instructor

Retirements:

Janice Hylinski, Circulation/ Digital Services Assistant, effective  
October 31, 2024  
Mary Lyons, Coordinator of Events and Facility Reservations, October  
8, 2024

Resignation:

Jacob Johnson, Power Systems Trainee, effective September 18, 2024  
Madelyn Outen, Financial Aid Assistant, effective September 18, 2024  
Hazel McPherson, Educational Advocate – Business Division, effective,  
October 1, 2024

Deceased:

Beth Waldvogel, Coordinator of Web Services, effective August 4, 2024

- C. 3. a. (2) 34. Curtis Creagh, Vice President of Finance and Administration, presented Statements of General Fund Revenues and Expenses for the Periods Ending July 31, 2024, and August 31, 2024 (enclosures)

Mr. Creagh reported that the College budget is at \$31.2 million for both Revenues and Expenses. In addition to that for this fiscal year, the Board approved two transfers of \$1.4 million. Comparing August revenues year-to-year, we have \$5.2 million compared to 4.9 last year. The budget team has been planning for higher line-item budgets as they went through the budget process. Last Year's budget was \$28.2 million, an increase of \$3 million. Moving down the list, shows the College has recorded 16 percent of Revenues to date compared to 17 percent last year at the same time.

Mr. Creagh stated that the College has recorded Expenses of \$3.2 million compared to \$3 million year over year. That reflects about 11 percent of the total Expense budget for this year compared to 10.6 percent year-over-year. In terms of transfers the College has \$1.4 million, which is to pay the HVAC debt at the end of the month.

- C. 3. b. (1) 35. President Quartey summarized his reports to the Board, which he sends every other week.

Dr. Quartey reported that enrollment is down 2 percent, but up in billable contact hours. Several short-term classes are being offered at Whitman this semester. We have our first small business tenant, a full-time coordinator has been hired, and I heard from one of the ISD Transition Center teachers that "the Whitman Center is coming alive!"

Additionally, the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program has been State approved and will be offered primarily to Bedford High School students at the Center. The class has started and has four students from Bedford and two outside students. This is just the beginning of the revitalization effort. There is also 15 non-credit courses being offered at the Whitman Center.

There are several community events coming, the launching of the history book the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary (October 23<sup>rd</sup>) and the groundbreaking for the Welch Health Education Building (October 2<sup>nd</sup>). The College is hosting series of candidate forums on October 7th, 8th, and 9th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. each day in the Meyer Theater. Candidates will answer questions but these are interactions not debates. Candidates are also welcome to set up tables in the atrium before and after the forums. Several employees participated in this year's YMCA Corporate Cup Challenge. The College also participated in the Bed Race, with President Quartey running twice. The MCCC Golf Outing was held September 13<sup>th</sup>. The leadership grilled hotdogs to welcome back students. The Employee Recognition was held Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Quartey noted that the last page of his report includes information on the restroom policies of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

C. 3. b. (2) 36. Summer 2024 Enriching Lives Award was addressed earlier in the agenda

C. 3. b. (3) 37. Dr. Joshua Meyers, Executive Director of The Foundation gave the Board an update on the Husky Comeback Program and the Trustee Success Scholarship.

Dr. Meyers noted that a couple of months ago the administration brought forth a policy change request to change the Trustee Merit scholarships to change to the Trustee Success Scholarships. There are two primary reasons for the change. The first is that the Community College Guarantee Scholarship has changed the landscape of how traditional aged students who are enrolling are having their tuition and fees paid for. Without the change, a full-time traditional student would get the Trustee Merit Scholarship then their tuition and fees were actually covered by the State. The State would then reduce the amount of money they paid by the amount of the Trustee merit scholarship awarded, which did not make a lot of sense. The Board allowed the administration to change the scope of those scholarships and then the administration pulled together a cross-disciplinary team to create the Husky Comeback Program. This program is the mechanism that the College will funnel the money from those scholarships through. Essential this program offers a lifeline for students who have a debt on their account and cannot register with us. It gives them a one-time opportunity where we will lift the hold on their account and then, allow them to register, and as long as they reach certain benchmarks and then complete with certificate, a credit certificate, a degree, or a successful transfer to a four-year institution, the College will forgive their debt. The program gives students very incentive we can to take a non-completer, remove whatever barrier caused them to incur that debt, and give them a pathway to a degree. The program started with a limited cohort to see how it would work and so far. it is going well. Cabinet will be reviewing other scholarship programs in light of the new Community College Guarantee and making adjustments as necessary.

Dr. Myers also briefed the Board on the Husky Shuttle program. The program focuses on the most vulnerable students, whose schedules can be unpredictable. There were 17 students enrolled the first day, many of whom did not get on the bus or register for college. The College is working with Lake Erie Transit (LET) to make the program more accessible, to more students. LET is a great partner. The College is renting a bus from LET for them to do one route. Currently it takes about 3 hours a day from the Orchard East neighborhood to campus for class and then back home. The longest ride on the Husky Shuttle takes about 40 minutes. The College pays LET by the mile, which can be expensive. For the students in Frenchtown, they use their own service, which is a smaller bus that takes them to the Husky Shuttle at Meijer. This has been a work in progress and the administration is hopeful that they will see it growing. Putting the program together was a great team effort. In recognizing that we have a great concentration of low attainment adult and traditional aged students in the Orchard area neighborhood, Joe Verkennes, Director of Marketing and Communications brought back the idea of localized service within disenfranchised neighborhoods, from a conference. We were fortunate enough to get a grant from the 60 by 30 program and the state awarded us \$700,000 plus to put adult education services in the Orchard East neighborhood. The College is partnering with MCOP and the Learning Bank in Monroe, and we are going to deliver services in that neighborhood to bring those students up to college readiness, and then bring those students to the College campus to earn their certificate.

C. 3. c. (4) 38. The Board received an update on the Michigan Reconnect program from Dr. Scott Behrens.

Dr. Behrens reported that the Michigan Reconnect Grant has been extended for ages 21-25. As long as students apply by December 20th, they can use it for the winter semester. Dr. Behrens asked for everyone's assistance to spread the word to current and potential students because their last chance to enroll is the summer semester.

The biggest challenge is finding out where the funding from the State is needed when it keeps changing. Students required to take a minimum of six credits twice in order to stay eligible for the grant. The key is that they have to pass the classes not just

take them.

3. Board Member and Committee Reports

- C. 4. b. (1) 39. Ms. Thayer noted that he attended the MCCA 2024 Summer Conference, Mackinac, July 31- August 2, 2024. Ms. Thayer Noted that she sent out a report to the Board earlier in the week. President Quartey mentioned that there is a focus now on post completion success. MCCC focuses on student success here, but what happens when they complete and go to work or transfer to a four-year institution? Colleges need to be tracking them and then measure that as part of our success. There was a seminar presentation on that. Dr. Quartey also presented at the conference on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives in a conservative community. His talk went well.
- C. 4.b. (2) 40. Ms. Thayer attended the MCCA Fall Board of Directors Meeting, Manistee, on May 19-20, 2024. Dr. Quartey attended virtually. They will both update the Board on this conference at a later date.
- C. 4. b. (3) Chair Mason noted the upcoming events.

D. Adjournment

- C. 4. b. (3) It was moved by Ms. Lambrix and supported by Ms. Dowler that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:54. p.m.

Aaron N. Mason  
Board Chair

Nicole R. Goodman  
Board Secretary

prd\

These minutes were approved at the October 23, 2024 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.