

APPROVED MINUTES OF INFORMATION SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB

An open information session of the Board of Trustees of the Community College District of the County of Macomb was held Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., in Room 109 of the University Center, Center Campus, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, Michigan.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lorenzo at 6:00 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present:

Katherine Lorenzo, Chairperson
Frank Cusumano, Vice Chairperson
Kristi Dean, Secretary
Joan Flynn, Trustee
Shelley Vitale, Trustee
Vincent Viviano, Trustee (arrived at 7 p.m.)

Absent:

Roseanne DiMaria, Treasurer

Also present:

James Sawyer, President
Elizabeth Argiri, Executive Vice President, Business
Kevin Chandler, Vice President, College Advancement & Community Relations
Joline Davis, Vice President, Human Resources
Tiffany Goliday, Executive Director, IDEA/Title IX
Leslie Kellogg, Provost, Vice President of Learning Unit
Sharon Kowal, Assistant to the President
William Leavens, Chief of College Police
Scott Sheets, Lieutenant, College Police
Bill Simonson, Executive Director, Facilities and Operations
Jeffrey Steele, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel
Jill Thomas-Little, Vice President, Student Success

3.0 A

Trustee Flynn asked for additional information about the Perkins grant fund. Dr. Sawyer said the Perkins fund is a national program named after Congressman Carl Perkins who put the fund in place many years ago. This is money that is dedicated by the federal government and passed down to the states. The college uses Perkins funds to support career and technical education programs and special service students. Trustee Flynn said if the grant comes from Michigan shouldn't we try to find vendors in Michigan? Dr. Sawyer said we follow the board's purchasing policy which binds us to use the lowest cost provider that meets the college's specifications. There is no stipulation in the board purchasing policy to consider where suppliers are located. Trustee Flynn asked if the Perkins grant fund has any stipulations? Dr. Sawyer said no it doesn't, but it is a very valuable program for the college because that money is used for purchasing equipment, supporting special services in counseling and professional development for faculty.

Trustee Dean asked if Item 11.3E, Gartner IT Research Service Agreement, is a new proposal authorization? EVP Argiri said the agreement is a renewal with a pricing package for three years. Trustee Dean asked if she knew how many students, faculty, and staff have used this in the past, because the board write-up says the service level includes campus-wide reference library access for all students, faculty and staff. EVP Argiri said CIO Mike Zimmerman will be available at the regular meeting to respond to any questions. But IT uses Gartner extensively for their verification that we have chosen specifications to industry standards in our very technical request for proposals. They have been helpful when we receive proposals in response to our RFP's and helping us draft policies and procedures, primarily in the IT and Business areas.

Trustee Vitale said as she was watching the documentary "Age of Easy Money" on (March 14, 2023) about the economic uncertainty and bank failure she noted that the college is doing everything right. Basically, the college turns those public monies over towards an ongoing onslaught onto the infrastructure that is directly listed. We do that right by putting all the money back into the professors and making everything better, we aren't hanging on to it and reinvesting it. It is a worthwhile program to watch.

Trustee Flynn said she took the MCCA's Trustee training and it was very good. But she comes back with a question for General Counsel, are the trustees insured if they get sued? Mr. Steele said yes. EVP Argiri said the board of trustees is covered under the college's standard MCCRMA policy with a liability limit of \$1 million per occurrence and \$15 million aggregate. Trustee Flynn said she voted for the raise so somebody might sue her. Mr. Steele said there are some difficulties in trying to sue a board of trustee member, but you are covered up to the liability limit. Trustee Flynn was glad to know about the coverage. Chairperson Lorenzo added that Trustee Flynn's point is well taken, because the trustees could be named along with a group in a lawsuit. Mr. Steele said there is a higher bar sometimes to sue a public official than it is to sue a non-public official, you are protected to some degree in that regard, so you can take some comfort in that as well.

Trustee Cusumano said with the recent tumult in the financial markets based on the inflationary pressures, can someone give him direction on what the exposure is for the college's investment portfolio?

Chief said he will go to any department anywhere on campus and sit down and discuss safety. He does these two or three times a week. Chairperson Lorenzo commended Chief and his department. She thinks they are stellar, and her concern is not about the police in any way, her concern is, for example, if something were to happen right now, would we know what to do? She suggests inviting Chief or one of his staff to the envisioning session to delve into this training a little further.

6.3 Renovations

Bill Simonson provided an update on renovations – what has been done, what is currently happening and the requests on the agenda tonight.

EVP Argiri added that we track every project, as a project, so we will know exactly how much we've spent and if we are on budget. If the \$3 million we are seeking tonight goes over budget, we would have to come back to the board with a change order. That is one more check and balance we have in place.

7.0 CLOSED SESSION

There was no need for a closed session.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Vitale, supported by Flynn, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.
