

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Board of Trustees Room, Z-203
La-Z-Boy Center
5:00 p.m., August 7, 2014

Members present: William J. Bacarella Jr., Joseph N. Bellino Jr., William H. Braunlich, James DeVries, Marjorie A. Kreps, Mary Kay Thayer

Members absent: Linda S. Lauer

Also present: Jack Burns, Randy Daniels, Dan Hamman, Josh Myers, Joe Verkennes, Sue Wetzell, and Penny Dorsey (recording secretary)

1. Chair Bacarella called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review and adopt recommended ballot language for the November 4, 2014 general election ballot, a presidential contract amendment, and a proposed meeting date change for the September Board of Trustees meeting.
2. No delegations were present.
3. Resolution to Adopt Ballot Language

It was moved by Mr. Bellino and seconded by Mrs. Thayer that the Board authorizes that the following ballot language be placed on the November 4, 2014, general election ballot:

“WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that, in its exercise of its statutory duties and in order to best serve the need of the College, an additional 1 (one) mill be levied by the Monroe County Community College in perpetuity to be used for general operating purposes.

WHEREAS, the Proposed Ballot Language will read as follows:

ADDITIONAL MILLAGE PROPOSAL

The millage proposal would allow the Community College District of Monroe County to levy an additional 1 (one) mill in perpetuity, for general operating purposes of Monroe County Community College.

Shall the total limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all taxable property in the Community College District of Monroe County, County of Monroe, Michigan, except property exempted by law, be increased by 1 (one) mill (\$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied in perpetuity, to provide funds for operating expenses of Monroe County Community College? If approved, this millage would raise an estimated \$5.5 million for the College/District in 2014.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this ballot language be submitted to the County Clerk of Monroe County, Michigan, for submission to the electorate of the Community College District of Monroe County at the general election to be held on November 4, 2014.

THAT IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as the same conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.”

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

[6] Yes: M. Kreps, M. Thayer, W. Braunlich, W. Bacarella,
J. DeVries, J. Bellino

[0] No: None

The motion carried.

4. Proposed Presidential Contract Amendment

It was moved by Mr. Braunlich and seconded by Mrs. Kreps that the following Presidential Contract Amendment be approved:

ARTICLE III – Fringe Benefits

C. Expense Account – The College shall provide the President an annual expense account of Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000) to be used at his discretion, for purposes of enhancing College and community relations. Beginning with the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the amount will be divided equally over the remaining pays. The President shall be solely responsible for the tax consequences of this payment.”

The motion carried.

6. *It was moved by Mrs. Thayer and seconded by Mrs. Kreps that the schedule of meetings of the Board of Trustees for the fiscal year 2014-15 be amended as follows:*

*Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Board of Trustees Room, Z203*
La-Z-Boy Center*

**The April 27, 2015 meeting will be held at the MCCC Whitman Center, 7777 Lewis Avenue, Temperance, Michigan.*

*Monday, September 29, 2014
Monday, October 27, 2014
Monday, November 24, 2014
Monday, January 26, 2015*

*Monday, February 23, 2015
Monday, March 23, 2015
Monday, April 27, 2015 (Whitman)
Monday, May 18, 2015
Monday, June 22, 2015.”*

7. Joe Verkennes handed out a one-page, two-sided sheet summarizing the key information on MCCC’s Millage Request to the voters in November. All the items listed were validated by recent polling as most important to the residents of Monroe County. Verkennes covered the points, gave rationale, and answered questions for the Trustees.

Some main points discussed included:

- Efforts have been underway at Monroe County Community College since 2008 to offset critical decreases to its funding streams. These efforts continue today due to basically flat revenues from property taxes and state appropriations following years of declines. The college has been treading water financially for 7-8 years to continue to meet the changing needs of its constituents. Even though cost containment efforts have produced substantial savings and efficiencies, MCCC still faces numerous challenges to its ability to continue to offer high-quality higher education at an affordable price. The college is asking Monroe County voters to approve an additional 1 mill property tax levy in November. MCCC currently levies 2.1794 mills. If passed, the levy would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$4 per month.
- The increased tax revenue be used to keep MCCC affordable and student debt low; maintain existing, high-quality academic programs and offer much-needed additional programming; maintain and expand student success services, update information technology infrastructure to be in line with the requirements of today’s jobs; and address critical facility needs.
- MCCC is critical to Monroe County because it offers high-quality higher education at an affordable price and contributes greatly to the success of our students, businesses and the community-at-large. More than 30

percent of all high school graduates in Monroe County start their college education at MCCC. Two-thirds of MCCC graduates stay in Monroe County and contribute to the local economy, and 7 in 10 Monroe County residents or their immediate family members have taken classes at MCCC.

- If the millage does not pass, the college will become less affordable for students; programs and services will be at risk; computer technology and equipment at the college will lag behind the requirements of today's jobs; and critical areas of the physical plant will begin to fail and will not be able to be addressed unless the college borrows money. The college has no debt and that has been part of the Board's philosophy since 1980.

Dr. Kojo Quartey will hold a special Board study meeting after he returns to campus on August 19 to further discuss the talking points of this key summary information. More detailed talking points will be provided on the college website within the next few weeks.

8. *It was moved by Mrs. Thayer and seconded by Mrs. DeVries that the meeting be adjourned.*

The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Bacarella Jr.
Chair

Linda S. Lauer
Secretary

prd

These minutes were approved at the September 29, 2014 board of Trustees meeting.