

MINUTES OF THE FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHTH  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Board of Trustees Room Z-203  
La-Z-Boy Center  
6:00 p.m., March 28, 2016

Members present: Joseph N. Bellino Jr., James E. DeVries, Lynette M. Dowler, Edward R. Feldman, Marjorie A. Kreps, Aaron N. Mason, and Mary Kay Thayer

Also present: Josephine Austin, Debonique Barnes, Roosevelt Barnes, Jack Burns Jr., Christine Campbell, Shardae Campbell, Valerie Culler, Randy Daniels, Jamie DeLeeuw, Tanya Dickerson, Austin Eby, Andrew Fischer, Jean Ford, Mark Hall, Dan Hamman, Denise A. Gray, Donald E. Gray, Richard Gray, Reneae Hoskins, Rick Hubbert, Will Johnson, Nycole King, Barry Kinsey, Ashley Klug, Eugene Kutz, Brian Lay, Denice Lewis, Vinnie Maltese, Bill McCloskey, Jeremy McGarry, Cole McNew, Anthony Miscuk, Josh Myers, Pat Nedry, Kojo Quartey, Laticia Rankins, Linda Roberts, Jim Ross, Jessica Ryder, Kathy Shepherd, Molly Siedlecki, Robert Tarrant, Shanta Lamont Taylor, Joe Verkennes, Kellie Vining, Dannielle Watkins, Suzanne Wetzal, Lynne White, Grace Yackee, Marli Ziegler, and Penny Dorsey (recording secretary)

1. Chair Bellino called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- B. 1. a. (1) 2. Austin Eby, MCCC student, spoke regarding his petition supporting a student's choice of teaching format for MATH 090, 092, and 151 courses. Mr. Eby's intent was not to ask for the elimination of the current method, but to request that a traditional option be added to the regular schedule. Mr. Eby has collected 56 signatures from current and former MCCC students who support his petition. The current technology-based course can be confusing for some students. The structured format of a traditional class can be extremely beneficial for many students who struggle with the current format. Mr. Austin requested a written response from the Board regarding his petition.
- B. 1. a. (2) 3. Patrick Nedry, Professor of Business, read a letter on behalf of Professor of Business Emeritus, Robert Tarrant, regarding the financial inequities some MCCC math students face.

Mr. Tarrant addressed the Board at the November 2014 Board meeting. He argued that students enrolled in MATH 090, 092, and 151 were assessed course fees hundreds of dollars in excess of services and/or materials they received. "A \$315 course fee for each time one of these classes is taken or repeated is too high."

In his letter, Mr. Tarrant notes that several things have changed since his initial address to the Board. There are now two new Board members and the Math issue has "festered and grown to the point that financial inequity is no longer merely a departmental issue, but has grown to a negative, college-wide issue centering on math pre-requisites for non-math courses, majors, and certificates." In addition, developmental math is becoming a negative community issue that is affecting enrollment.

Mr. Tarrant wrote, "It is not an exaggeration to say that anything that impacts the community, good or bad, affects millages. MCCC cannot afford to damage its hard earned, favorable community reputation just because of one department's ill-advised goals."

Mr. Tarrant urged the Trustees to investigate the issue and institute changes to Math 090, 092, and 151.

- B. 2. a. (1) 4. Chair Bellino pulled the following items from the consent agenda:
  - B. 2. a. (6) Proposed Revision, Policy 3.05 – Tuition and Fees
  - B. 2. a. (8) Proposed Revision of Policy 2.22, Scheduled Paid Holidays and Paid Vacation Days
  - B. 2. a. (9) Michigan's Coordinator to ACCT

*It was moved by Mrs. Thayer and seconded by Mr. Mason that the following consent agenda items be approved as presented:*

- B. 2. a. (1) Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 22, 2016
- B. 2. a. (2) Resolution of Support – Monroe County Regional Enhancement Millage Renewal Proposal
- B. 2. a. (3) Resolution to Set College Millage Levy for 2016-17
- B. 2. a. (4) Authorization for the President to Execute a Probationary Administrative Contract
- B. 2. a. (5) Alumnus of the Year
- B. 2. a. (7) Proposed Revision of Policy 6.04, Designated Depositories

The motion carried.

- B. 2. a. (2) 5. Proposed Revision of Policy 6.04, Designated Depositories
- B. 3. a. (1) 6. There was no old business.
- B. 4. a. (1) 7. *It was moved by Mrs. Thayer and supported by Mr. Mason that Policy 3.05, Tuition and Fees, be tabled until a Special Board Meeting on April 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.*

The motion carried.

- B. 4. a. (2) 8. *It was moved by Mrs. Thayer and supported by Mrs. Dowler that Policy 2.22, Scheduled Paid Holidays and Paid Vacation Days, be approved as presented.*

President Quartey explained the changes to Policy 2.22, Scheduled Paid Holidays and Paid Vacations Days. The intention is to add Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr.'s birthday as a holiday for the institution. This day became a national holiday in 1983. MLK Jr. Day is the only national holiday that represents diversity. As the County's leader of diversity initiatives, it is important for MCCC to set the example and honor this day. The College will observe the holiday Monday, and then follow with a week of diversity activities on campus. This practice is in line with many other institutions in the state, including the federal government.

The following people from the community spoke to the Board in support of making MLK Jr. Day a holiday for MCCC.

Roosevelt Barnes – Mr. Barnes read a letter dated January 27, 1993 when he addressed the Monroe Public Schools regarding this same concern. Mr. Barnes has served on a diversity discussion panel at MCCC. He stated his definition of diversity as "Honoring and respecting the differences in others." He said we should honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and respect what he did for humanity because he has made America and the world a better place.

Denise Gray – It makes sense for the College to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a holiday. Diversity is important today because we have so much diversity in the world and we should honor those differences.

Kellie Vining – I am in support of closing the college for Martin Luther King Day. The King Foundation, which facilitates a lot of programming, calls this a "day on," not a day off. She encouraged people to use the day as a day of service as advocated by the King Foundation.

The motion carried.

- B. 4. a. (3) 9. *It was moved by Dr. DeVries and supported by Mrs. Kreps 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."*

The motion carried.

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

Staff Appointment

Joshua Myers, Executive Director of The Foundation, third-year probationary contract, effective July 1, 2016 – June 30 2017

Retirements

Alex Babycz, Assistant Professor of Construction, effective May 5, 2016

Gregory Leinbach, Professor of Computer Information Systems, effective June 18, 2016

Barbara McNamee, Director of Learning Resources, effective March 31, 2016

C. Gary Wilson, Associate Professor of Art, effective May 5, 2016

- C. 3. a. (2) 11. The Board received a Statement of General Fund Revenues and Expenses for the period ending February 29, 2016.

Suzanne Wetzel, Vice President of Administration and Treasurer, reported that revenues and expenses for the 2015-2016 budget are on schedule and consistent with the previous year in regard to percentages to date. Property tax revenues are at 92 percent of budget as of March 28, with \$1.7 million collected in March. The College paid the Tax Anticipation Note off on March 18. Interest paid on the loan was \$5,733.33. Ms. Wetzel reported that the first HVAC payment was made today. The payment was an interest only payment of \$143,348.66. It was reported that work continues on the development of the 2016-2017 budget.

- C. 3. b. (1) 12. President Quartey summarized his reports to the Trustees, which he sendsevery other week. Work on the HVAC system continues. College administration received the mid-cycle review report from the Higher Learning Commission on Good Friday. Dr. Grace Yackee, vice President of Instruction added that the report was positive and the college met all five accreditation criteria. MCCC's last full accreditation was in 2009. At that time, the college received a 10-year accreditation with a focused visit in the areas of Institutional Governance, Assessment of Student Learning, and Institutional Effectiveness. A comprehensive review is scheduled in 2019. Dr. Yackee says the College is very well positioned to enter into the 2019 accreditation. Next Steps include a review of the assurance argument and the team report.

Spring Arbor University is very close to signing an agreement to use space at the Whitman Center for evening and weekend classes. They are currently reviewing the latest draft of the agreement.

Major initiatives include scholarships and adult recruitment. On March 17, President Quartey and Paul Knollman, Dean of Business, gave a Lunch & Learn presentation to the employees of Monroe Bank and Trust, which focused on adult recruitment for degree completion and further education.

- C. 3. b. (2) 13. President Quartey presented a draft millage plan. This millage focuses on buildings, infrastructures, and facilities. Campaign volunteers will visit each township, city, and village in the county, leaving no community untouched.

MCCC needs a millage to offset decreases in its funding streams, to meet the challenges of a drastically changing world and student populations, and to update critical facility and technology needs to ensure safety, accessibility, and efficiency.

Since the last millage effort, President Quartey has held several meetings, which included members of the community, faculty, staff, administrators and students. Input was obtained and considered from each of these meetings. College staff have also taken inventory of the college's most critical needs.

If the millage does not pass, the College will continue to fall further behind competitively and technologically. These critical needs will not go away and will dramatically affect the way the college is able to meet the needs of its community.

Dr. Quartey's presentation included a timeline that runs from January 15, 2015 through September 30, 2016, as well as a "Campaign Organization" chart.

President Quartey will present a final millage proposal to the Board at the April 25, 2015 meeting.

Jack Burns, Director of Facilities and Planning, presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the proposed projects for the 2016 millage.

Mr. Burns showed slides of proposed renovations to the Life Sciences, East and West Technology, Administration, Campbell Learning Resource Center, and Health Education buildings, as well as to the Whitman Center.

- C. 3. b. (3) 14. As part of the shared governance process, the Councils and Student Government update the Board at least twice a year. These updates give the Board a chance to hear from the student and employee groups and they promote improved communication.

Jessica Ryder, President, Cole McNew, Vice-President, and Molly Siedlecki, Liaison, gave an update on Student Government activities for the winter 2016 semester.

- C. 3. b. (4) 15. Dr. Quartey asked the Board for permission to proceed with negotiations of the sale of the Hurd Road property. The Board granted his request.

- C. 4. b. (1) 16. Chair Bellino asked Board members to review the current Board Self-evaluation instrument and to bring their input to the April Board of Trustees meeting.

- C. 4. b. (2) 17. Chair Bellino reminded the Trustees that the Board has received suite tickets for the June 7, 2016 Tiger's game at 7:08 p.m. The tickets are compliments of Muchmore Harrington and Smalley and Associates, LLC.

- C. 4. b. (2) 18. The College Supporter of the Year Committee recommended Baker's Gas and Welding Supplies as the recipient of the 2016 College Supporter of the Year award.

*It was moved by Mrs. Kreps and supported by Mrs. Thayer that Baker's Gas and Welding Supplies, Inc. be selected as the recipient of the 2016 College supporter of the Year Award.*

The motion carried

- C. 4. b. (4) 19. Chair Bellino noted the upcoming events.

20. *It was moved by Dr. DeVries and supported by Mr. Mason that the meeting be adjourned.*

The motion carried and the meeting ended at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph N. Bellino  
Chair

James E. DeVries  
Secretary

/prd

These minutes were approved at the April 25, 2016 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.