

MINUTES OF THE FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SECOND  
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., October 23, 2017

Members Present: William T. Bruck, James E. DeVries, Lynette M. Dowler, Steven Hill, Marjorie A. Kreps, Aaron Mason, and Mary Kay Thayer

Also Present: Wayne Asher, Jack Burns Jr., Parmeshwar Coomar, Kevin Cooper, Lori Jo Couch, Valerie Culler, Randy Daniels, AJ Fischer, Nicole Garner, Mark Hall, Paul Hedeem, Barry Kinsey, Paul Knollman, Bryan Lamour (candidate for Monroe City Council), Brian Lay, Kimberly Lindquist, Laura Manley, Josh Myers, Tina Pillarelli, Kojo Quartey, Vanessa Ray (The Agora Staff), Denise Robinson, Jim Ross, Joe Verkennes, Suzanne Wetzel, Grace Yackee, and Penny Dorcey (recording secretary)

1. Chair Dowler opened meeting at 6:00 p.m.
2. Community residents, Brian Lamour and Wayne Asher turned in delegation slips.
- B. 2. a. (1) 3. *It was moved by Mr. Mason and supported by Mr. Hill that the following items on the consent agenda items be approved:*

B. 2. a. (1) Approval of the minutes for the September 18, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees

B. 2. a. (2) Capital Outlay Plan Approval

B. 2. a. (3) Recommendation of Group Three Directors Appointment of Group Three Directors (Directors at Large) to The Foundation at Monroe County Community College Board of Directors

Section 5.4 Election, Classification and Terms

(C) Group Three Directors (Directors at Large) are recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval, by vote of The Foundation's directors, and shall serve three (3) year terms following the initial staggered terms.

*The Board moved that the following individuals be appointed Group Three Directors on The Foundation at Monroe County Community College Board of Directors for a three-year term expiring as indicated:*

Three-Year Terms Expiring December 31, 2020

*Jean Guyor*

*Richard Sieb.*"

B. 2. a. (4) Sabbatical Request – Nicole Garner

*The Board moved that Nicole Garner be granted a sabbatical from January 2, 2018 to May 3, 2018 to complete dissertation research required to achieve a doctorate degree in Nursing.”*

The motion to approve the consent agenda carried.

- C. 1. a. (1) 4. Brian Lamour, lifelong Monroe County and City of Monroe resident, spoke to the topic of bringing sports back to Monroe County Community College. Mr. Lamour graduated from “Monroe Catholic Central” in 1985 and moved on to the University of Toledo.

When ready to make a college choice, he chose University of Toledo for his education and because he could continue playing baseball for their school team. At that time, MCCC did not offer sports.

Prior to his college career, MCCC offered sports. Several of Mr. Lamour’s family members attended MCCC during this time. His sister played tennis for MCCC. Mr. Lamour’s college choice would have been different had MCCC offered sports when he was ready for college.

Since the cancellation of sports teams, many things have changed on the MCCC campus. The building and classes offered are first class. The Health Education Building is nice, and in some cases better than some other college sports facilities.

The property at MCCC offers many other possibilities and the community of Monroe would be on board to offer its facilities to MCCC for its sports programs. They have done this in the past when MCCC did have sports programs.

Mr. Lamour stated, “I come here tonight on behalf of the community of Monroe to ask you to consider opening up a collegiate sports program again.”

Mr. Lamour suggested that his daughter and nephew at St. Mary Catholic Central, would also like to attend MCCC if they had a sports program. “Many of their classmates have mentioned the same.” Mr. Lamour says that he is aware that there have been surveys taken which suggest current MCCC student would like a sports program as well.

Mr. Wayne Asher also spoke. Mr. Asher is the current tennis and golf coach at St. Mary Catholic Central, and the Director of the Community Tennis Association and of the Asher School of Tennis. His goal for the last several years has been to grow the sport of tennis in Monroe to the extent that it was years ago when Vic Braden was an icon in the world of tennis. Braden was the first and only three-time champion in Monroe.

Several great players that have come out of Monroe. All have gone on to play sports at different universities. There have been a couple of girls from SMCC, who have gone on to play for colleges and universities. One in Florida, is a former state champion in Michigan. The other is playing in Adrian. The goal is to bring the level of sports up in Monroe. Mr. Asher stated that, “In the long run, sports at MCCC will be a better thing for the community. Monroe a hot bed for sports: tennis, wrestling, volleyball, and softball. Sports a big this in this town.”

Dr. Quartey announced that this conversation will continue with his cabinet and that they will report back to Mr. Lamour and Mr. Asher.

- C. 3. a. (1) 5. President Quartey reported the following position upgrade:

Position Upgrade:

Cheryl Prenkert, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Upward Bound (grant position), effective September 25, 2017 (Transfer from part-time to full-time status due to Upward Bound Grant for Jefferson High School)

- C. 3. a. (2) 6. The Board received a Statement of General Fund Revenues and Expenses for the period ending September 30, 2017.

Suzanne Wetzel, Vice President of Administration/Treasurer, reported that the auditors (Cooley, Hehl, Wolgamuth and Carlton) are still on campus and should be done by the end of the week. Plant Moran is working on the A133 audit and the draft audit is expected by the end of next week. Mrs. Wetzel will schedule a meeting with the Board audit committee at that time, as the audit must be submitted by November 15, 2017.

The end of the year revenues over expenses for the 2016/2017 fiscal year are a little over \$1.6 million. The college made the HVAC payment (\$718,000) is due by September 30, but will be paid ahead of schedule. There is just over \$15 million remaining to be paid on the loan. All other accounts are running on schedule for this time of year.

There was an article in yesterday's paper about the DTE's proposal to cut taxes in half. DTE has been meeting with various entities throughout the county of Monroe to negotiate its property tax valuation for the coal plant located on Front Street in Monroe. Mrs. Wetzel stated that, if there were to be a 50 percent reduction that would mean a \$1.44 million dollar cut to the college's General Fund Revenues and a \$563,000 to the 5-year Maintenance and Improvement Millage funds. The total cost to the College would be just over \$2 million dollars. Property tax revenues would decline by 11.4 percent. The assessment will not necessarily be a 50 percent cut, but this is a possibility. President Quartey and AJ Fischer, Director of Financial Services, met with DTE and other entities a little over a week ago. The group decided the City Assessors would do a seminar or presentation for the respective governing boards. The date has not yet been set. The second step will be for the city to assess Fermi. More discussions will take place before a final decision is made.

- C. 3. a. (3) 7. The Board received a note of appreciation from Penny Bodell for the gift sent in honor of her retirement

- C. 3. b. (1) 8. President Quartey summarized his reports to the Trustees, which he sends every other week.

The next State of the College Address is scheduled for October 30, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. on MCCC's main campus. This event is usually held in downtown Monroe; however this one will be held at MCCC to give the community a chance to see the work in progress as a result of the 5-year Maintenance and Improvement Millage.

Mrs. Wetzel and her team are still working on the plans for the East West Technology renovations. In reference to the Agriculture program, the College has set aside some land between the College here and the ISD for cover crops. Additionally, a community farm will be placed on campus. The College will also be working with the IHM sisters, and also with individuals on the East side of town.

Cyber Security conversations continue. On September 27, at the Whitman Center, there will be a ribbon cutting for the Cyber Security program. The College is working on establishing some dual enrollment classes at the Whitman Center as well for Bedford High School students. Direct College will so be offered at the high school. The goal is to draw dual enrollment students from Bedford. More conversations will be held regarding this topic.

The House recently passed legislation for HB 4735, Dual Enrollment Across Borders. The College submitted a letter of opposition to its state legislators, and Dr. Quartey and Trustee Thayer opposed it at the recent Michigan Community College Board of Directors meeting, but bill passed 64/43. The bill must now go to the senate. HB 4735 allows students in border counties in the state of Michigan to dual enroll in neighboring states at the expense of Michigan taxpayers. High School students in Bedford, Whiteford and Erie would be able to dual enroll at University of Toledo (UT) and Owens Community College at the expense of Michigan taxpayers. Other border counties would be able to dual enroll in Indiana, Wisconsin. There is no reciprocity, so Ohio students cannot dual enroll in Michigan colleges. Essentially, the bill takes Michigan dollars and gives it to other states. Legislators say that it is good for the students because it gives them more choices and, in some cases, they may have less travel. There have been several changes to the bill already, including that the cost for the course at the institution must be lower than the home state college's cost. The College continues to fight in hopes that the bill will incur further change. The bill will, hopefully, not affect the College much.

Dr. Daniels, Vice President of Student and Information Services, stated that there is a limit to how a school or the state can spend on a course. Dr. Daniels gave accost comparison between MCCC and the University of Toledo. When looking at the cost per credit hour for an in-district student, the cost at MCCC is \$107, not including fees, at UT the cost is \$335, also not including fees. The law says that if a high school has a seven period day, the state can pay up to \$500 per course, including books. If the school has a six period day, they can pay up to \$640, including books. An English Comp I (three credit hours) class at MCCC costs \$321 for tuition only. The equivalent at UT is ENG 1130 (three credit hours) course costs \$1,005. If the high school has a seven period day, the English at Monroe leaves a balance of \$229. The balance at UT for the English class is \$-455, which the parents must pay. This does not include fees, including parking fees, which students have to pay at UT, plus the cost to drive there. The amount the parent must pay would be closer to \$700 out of pocket.

- C. 3. b. (2) 9. Joshua Myers, Executive Director presented a summary of the annual report of The Foundation. Mr. Myers read the purpose of The Foundation as written in its bylaws, "The Foundation is organized as an instrumentality exclusively for the benefit of the educational, literary, and scientific activities of Monroe County

Community College” (Article III, Foundation Bylaws). Every penny raised by The Foundation goes directly to the College. Has to have explicit link with the College.

The past year has been a big year in terms of transition. Chair, Mike Meyer turned the gavel over to treasurer, Victor Bellestri. This was the first transfer of leadership in history of The Foundation. Mr. Bellestri has been treasurer of The Foundation since its inception. He is now transitioning to the position of President. The foundation also received a new look with updated fonts and a different logo design.

The most important project this year was the creation of the Student Emergency Fund. To date, this fund has been able to help a student who suffered a devastating house fire, a student whose books were stolen from her car, and a victim of domestic abuse that left her homeless. The fund, which was established in 2016, assists students facing unforeseen, one-time emergency expenses.

The Foundation sponsors several special events throughout the year, three of which are fundraisers: The Cuisine fundraiser, Strikes, Spares and Scholarships, and the Alumni Golf Outing.

The past year has been an extraordinary year for scholarships in The Foundation, with three new endowed scholarships being added to the list; the Michael E. Newman Memorial Scholarship, the Perry Scholarship, and the Bryan W. Smith Memorial Scholarship. An endowed scholarship requires a minimum of \$20,000, which moves into the endowed scholarship account where the funds are pooled to provide scholarship support in perpetuity. In all, there are 53 endowed scholarships, and 50 plus annual scholarships. For the first time ever, The Foundation exceeded \$200,000 in total donor scholarships this year. Over the last few years, the College has transitioned to a completely online application process. In 2017, The Foundation received 400 applications, a 57 percent increase in the last two years. Recipients are now required to write a thank you note to the donor.

Since 2012, there has been a 67 percent growth in scholarships. The Enhancement Grant program is the most noticeable program on campus. In 2016, \$15,000 was awarded to 12 projects. Since 2002, The foundation has awarded \$250,000 for a total of 216 projects.

This was also a good year for the annual fund. Five mailers were sent out for this year’s campaign. The annual fund goes from November to October of the following year. The main mailer goes out to about 13,000 people in the county and beyond. Last year, the main mailer raised \$53,492. The major donor and annual report insert brought in \$5,710, employee solicitation raised \$8,560, social media: giving Tuesday (first Tuesday after Thanksgiving) raised \$1,590, and the SYBUNT (Donors who give some years but unfortunately not this year) mailing brought in \$1,170. The goal for the 2017 annual fund drive was \$30,000, with just under \$70,000 actually raised.

The Foundation also manages money. There is \$4.8 million dollars in the endowment fund. There are three different discreet endowments and one sub-endowment.

A complete copy of The Foundation Annual Report can requested from the office of The Foundation or the President’s office.

- C. 3. b. (3) 14. Chair Dowler called for a break at 7:03 p.m.
- C. 3. b. (4) 16. The meeting resumed at 7:15 p.m.
- C. 3. b. (3) 15. Suzanne Wetzel, Vice President of Administration/Treasure reported that the college is continuing to close out the HVAC project. There have been some issues with the ventilation portion of the system and some program issues. Substantial completion of the project is expected by the end of November. The system; however, is working.

All the work is on schedule for the Life Science building project. The completion of and ribbon cutting for the renovated building is anticipated for January 2018. A student design competition is planned for the Student Commons area, located where the building addition meets the existing building. The graphics will represent the six major subjects taught in the Division, which will be laser-etched into the glass. A jury consisting of Kevin Cooper, Dean of Science/Mathematics, Bradley Hesser, Assistant Professor Graphic Design, Douglas Richter, Graphic Designer, and Jack Burns Jr., Director of Planning and Facilities will narrow down the submissions down to three entries and then the general population will vote on the winner. The winner's name will be mounted on a plaque in the new Student Commons area.

Mrs. Wetzel has held multiple meetings with staff regarding the East and West Technology buildings. People appear to have bought into the whole process and are excited about their involvement. The architect is working on the submittal, which is due by October 31, 2017. The hope is that the project will move through the review and then get into the state's funding bill by the end of the year.

Bids were opened for construction management services on October 18. Those are being reviewed and a selection will be made by November 10.

While looking at the space in the East and West Technology buildings, it became apparent that the Student Services Administration building needed to be the next planned millage renovation project. Mrs. Wetzel and her team have been working on extending the contract with Stantec the program statement and design base for those renovations.

There are a number of other overarching initiatives that have been identified in the millage project such as, the phone systems, security cameras, door hardware, a key card system, fiber optics, generators, and several other projects. Meeting have been started with the departments responsible for those items to discuss the most productive way to proceed with those projects and to begin writing RFPs for that work. The goal is to figure out the plan campus-wide and then install the equipment when the space is under renovation. This work is ongoing.

- C. 4. b. (1) 15. Vice-chair, Mary Kay Thayer and Dr. Quartey gave an update on the 2017 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Dr. Quartey attended 12 sessions over a three-day stay at the conference. One was "Making a diploma matter: Why Remedial Reforms Aren't enough to Improve Graduation Rates." Warren County Community College in New Jersey described how they analyzed data and discovered that their remedial math

students were not completing. They have done away with remedial classes and place students directly in college level classes, with extra help – success rates are significantly higher. They have had most faculty and trustees take the Accuplacer, their scores indicate that they are “not college ready”. They also no longer hire faculty, they hire administrators who teach.

Mrs. Thayer added that the speaker, President William Austin gave a dynamic presentation. He and his wife demonstrated the ineffectiveness of contemporary reforms to improve student success. By changing a number of practices they reached a 50% graduation rate. Mrs. Thayer will forward a video of the presentation to the Board.

Mrs. Thayer sat in on an invitation only symposium on student success the day before the congress started. One of the biggest thing is suggestions was taking care of students and making them feel welcome and let them know that college staff will help them through the system. Faculty need to mentor students so that they feel connected. The conversation moved into pathways to prosperity and how colleges can change the way they do things. Discussion were had on how the cycle of poverty can be broken by making a consolidated effort to recruit and retain the male students, and how peer to peer efforts are solid pathways to success. The presentation “Michigan and NJ Moving the Needle on Student Success: Trustees Playing a Key Role in Statewide Efforts” was a great presentation, which emphasized the need for trustee leadership and support for successful and innovative college remedial courses. The State of Michigan appears to be ahead of other states when it comes to student success. This session was followed by “Opening a Portal to the Future: Effective Partnership between K-12 and Higher Education.” Some of the suggestions included: Guided Pathways, Bridge Programs, Summer Programs and both the high schools, the ISDs and local colleges. There is a great need for effective partnerships. Because Mrs. Thayer is an ACCT delegate, she was able to vote for the delegate at large. Mott Community College presented “Building a Pipeline to Promise for Mid-Michigan Youth,” which discussed the multiple programs they have to uplift local disadvantaged and underserved youth, along with success stories.

Dr. Quartey added that Northern Virginia Community College presented “Colleges and the Exploding Cybersecurity Talent Challenge” in which they and their industry partners described how they are preparing students for the cybersecurity future. This industry is exploding and wages are high. The College also sponsors the NSA National Resource Center for Academic Excellence. They are providing certifications as well as degrees. This was followed by a session on “NJCAA Athletics: A Reliable Pathway to Student Success.” The Executive Director of the NJCAA and three college presidents espoused the virtues of athletics. It has improved enrollment, and retention, and the athletes’ graduation rates are documented to be much higher than non-athletes. They explained that there are different levels of participation for NJCAA.

Edison State College in Ohio described how it has transformed its branch campus (which had been slated for closure prior to a new president arriving) by assigning a full-time dean to the campus and more than tripled enrollment by creating programs on the credit and non-credit side along with numerous community partnerships, similar to what we are doing at the Whitman Center.

Dr. Quartey and Mrs. Thayer co-presented “Against All Odds: Winning a Millage in an Uncertain Environment.” They presented on the strategies and techniques that helped win the millage in November 2016. The presentation was well received.

Following, Muskegon Community College presented on their recent millage victory. They went in a different direction than MCCC. They hired a consultant who knew the community and engaged community stakeholders to ensure success. Their consultant was a co-presenter.

San Diego Community College District presented “Service and Growth Beyond Traditional Campus Boundaries” in which they described how they have improved enrollment through high school partnerships for dual enrollment, online programs, and bachelor’s degrees.

Mrs. Thayer added that in their “Millage” presentation they were able to describe the millage that they lost and then compare it to what they did differently in the millage that they won. Jackson College was especially interested in the presentation, as they have been trying for some time to get a millage passed. They asked for a copy of MCCC’s materials.

- C. 4. b. (1) 16. Vice-chair, Mary Kay Thayer and Dr. Quartey gave an update on the 2017 Michigan Community College Association Fall board of Directors meeting, held in Alpena, Michigan. Alpena Community College has a drone training program. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow regarding first steps to creating a drone program. Both credentialed and non-credentialed programs are available.

Mrs. Thayer added that Mary Ann Cleary, Director of the House Fiscal Agency, gave an update on the state budget and a revenue forecast. As always the budget is a moving target. The group also reviewed the strategic plan. More discussion needs to take place before a final plan is approved. A discussion was had on free speech. The most distressing outcome was the neutrality of the board to HB 4735. The revenues going to another state and the loss of local control are concerns. Dr. Quartey and Mrs. Thayer also attended the SEMCOG General Assembly on October 19, 2017.

- C. 4. b. (2) 16. Chair Dowler noted the upcoming events. Additionally, there is a “Meet the Candidates” night scheduled for November 1, at 5:30 p.m. in the La-Z-Boy Center, Atrium.
18. *It was moved by Mrs. Thayer and supported by Mr. Hill that the meeting be adjourned.*

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette M. Dowler  
Chair

Aaron N. Mason  
Secretary

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These minutes were approved at the November 27, 2017 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.