

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
DISTRICT NO. 537  
RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ONE COLLEGE PARK – DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62521**

**December 20, 2011**

**CONVENING OF THE MEETING**

Call to Order The regular meeting was called to order on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 5:34 p.m. in Conference Room A/B of the College by Chairman Colee. Chairman Colee also recited the College Vision, Mission, and Core Values.

Roll Call

Members present: Amy Bliefnick, Bruce Campbell, Dale Colee, Rev. Wayne Dunning, Dr. Larry Osborne, Randy Prince, Emmett Sefton, and Paula Wood

Also present: Dr. Gayle Saunders and other staff members

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 15, 2011, had been distributed to the Board prior to this meeting.

**Osborne moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 15, 2011. Dunning seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

**APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Correspondence from Geoffrey Obrzut, President and CEO, Illinois Community College Board, approving the Workforce Development Institute construction project.

Correspondence from Raymond Mucha, Director, Illinois State University Motorcycle Safety Program, thanking Jennifer Peterson for her help in supporting the Motorcycle Safety Program at Richland.

Correspondence from Paul Rowland, Executive Director, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, commending Richland Community College on completing the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System

(STARS) reporting process and earning a STARS Bronze Rating.

Correspondence from G. W. Reid, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education, thanking Dr. Saunders for her hospitality while hosting the IBHE Performance Funding Steering Committee on November 30.

College Activities Report:

- The College will be closed December 24-January 2, 2012. The College will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.
- Eighth Grade Career Fair will be held on January 5, 6, 9, and 10, 2012. The event is sponsored by Richland Community College, Heartland Region, Partners in Education, and University of Illinois Extension.
- Spring classes begin on January 17.
- The Board will hold its winter retreat on January 27-28, 2012, in Bloomington, Illinois.

Progress City and Special Events Report:

- A summary of activity related to the Progress City outdoor exposition center and special events hosted by Richland during calendar year 2011 is included in the board book.

Personnel Update:

Full-Time Employee Retirement, Resignations, and Terminations

- Maranda Gagnon, Literacy Specialist, Project READ, effective November 17, 2011.
- James Hess, Dean, Business and Technology, effective December 8, 2011.

New Employees

- Andrea Ohl, Administrative Assistant, Part-time, Project READ, effective December 5, 2011.
- Benjamin Newton, Sustainability Program Coordinator, Continuing and Professional Education, effective January 3, 2012.

Construction Projects Status

- Current construction projects are listed in the board book.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

**\$1 Million Gift** – A press conference with Busey Bank and the trustees of the Ullrich Foundation was held on December 14 to announce a \$1 million gift to Richland

Community College to benefit the expansion of the Heartland Technical Academy on Richland's campus. Richland Community College and the John Ullrich Foundation share a common mission in the advancement of educational opportunities.

**Nurse Pinning** – Twenty-five students received pins on December 16.

**Early College Charter School Update** – Richland Community College learned today that the final school district vote with regard to authorizing the Early College Charter School will not take place until Monday, January 9, 2012. No school board has voted to authorize an ECCS. Charter Pros submitted a letter to the Charter School Commission requesting the consolidation of the school districts in the proposal should they decide to appeal the decision of the school districts. The Commission approved the request and Charter Pros has 30 days after January 9 to file, if they choose. The Richland board has no further action to take. Without school district authorization, there is no school. Many of the superintendents have expressed an interest to work closely and collaboratively with Richland to enhance the dual credit partnership. Superintendents have been invited to a breakfast in January to begin those conversations.

**DCEO** – DCEO met with College administration to explore opportunities to engage with Richland on the carbon capture, utilization, and storage educational outreach programming. DCEO is motivated to have a State-sponsored connection to the National Sequestration Education Center and the College.

**Legislative Update** – Congress approved a final FY2012 appropriations legislation that impacts community colleges. The Pell Grant shortfall this year was \$1.3 billion and in an effort to offset this shortfall, Congress eliminated eligibility to new students entering college who do not have a high school diploma or GED and limited students to 12 full-time semesters of Pell eligibility. All other federally funded educational programs will see an across-the-board cut of 0.189%, except the TRiO program, which received a slight increase from last year's funding level.

**President's Council** – The President's Council will be working on the legislative agenda for spring session. Topics include the new funding formula, the Performance Based Funding initiative, and a \$20 million set-aside in the MAP program for late enrolling community college students. President's Council will continue to work with IBHE and ICCB on the IBHE process to eliminate rejection of community college courses for students transferring into particular majors at public universities and to monitor the nursing BSN in 10 initiative.

**Year-End Reflection** – The College had a record number of graduates in May. The Foundation grew scholarship awards from 105 in 2001 to 650 in 2011 and increased its assets by almost \$2 million over last year. The College achieved the first platinum LEED certification in the county for the CSI building and the first on an Illinois Community

College campus. The College received a Bronze rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

**College Spotlight** – Dr. Doug Brauer, Vice President, Economic Development and Innovative Workforce Solutions, presented to the Board. The PowerPoint focused on Sustainability and Outreach in Our College, Community, and Region. Dr. Brauer's presentation included the site plan for the National Sequestration Education Center.

## **REPORT OF ICCTA**

Trustee Campbell reported the next ICCTA meeting will be held on February 13, 2012, in Washington, DC.

## **REPORT OF STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Student Trustee Paula Wood presented updates from Campus Life, Clubs, Honor Societies, and Organizations. Paula will attend the ACCT Legislative Summit in February.

## **AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS AUTHORIZED BY PRESIDENT SAUNDERS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2011**

During the month of November, Dr. Saunders signed the Articulation Agreement between Eastern Illinois University and Richland Community College for admission to the baccalaureate Africana Studies BA and Nursing BS programs; the Subcontractor Agreement between Southwestern Illinois College District 522 and Richland Community College as part of the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network; and the Articulation Agreement and Financial Addendum with Franklin University.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Sefton moved that the Board enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing individual employments, as specified in Section 2 (c) (1); for the purpose of discussing collective negotiating matters, as specified in Section 2 (c) (2); for discussion of purchase or lease of real property, as specified in Section 2 (c) (5); for discussion of pending or probable litigation, as specified in Section 2 (c) (11); and for self-evaluation, as specified in Section 2 (c) (16) of the Open Meetings Act. Campbell seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

Meeting convened into closed session at 6:11 p.m.

Meeting reconvened into open session at 6:43 p.m.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Purchase Recommendation and Bid**

A recommendation to approve the purchase of an Accelerated Continuous Food Waste Composter from NATH Sustainable Solutions, LLC, for \$21,800, was presented to the Board.

### **Full-Time Employment**

A recommendation to employ Ryan Rogiers, Instructor, Culinary Arts, Economic Development and Innovative Workforce Solutions, effective January 9, 2012, was presented to the Board.

### **Authorization in Compliance with 5 Illinois Compiled Statutes**

A recommendation to authorize the destruction of the verbatim record of the May 18, 2010, and June 15, 2010, closed sessions was presented to the Board.

**Bliefnick moved to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Osborne seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **2011 Tax Levy – Resolution No. 12-5**

A recommendation to adopt Resolution No. 12-5, Resolution for Fiscal Year 2011 Tax Levy for the Counties of Macon, Christian, DeWitt, Logan, Moultrie, Piatt, Sangamon, and Shelby was presented to the Board.

**Bliefnick moved to adopt Resolution No. 12-5, Resolution for Fiscal Year 2011 Tax Levy for the Counties of Macon, Christian, DeWitt, Logan, Moultrie, Piatt, Sangamon, and Shelby, as presented. Osborne seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval of a Capital Renewal Project to Renovate the South Wing**

A recommendation to approve a Capital Renewal Project to renovate the South Wing classrooms, laboratories, corridors, and office spaces, to authorize the College

administration to submit an application for approval to the Illinois Community College Board, and to recommend BLDD Architects as the architects for this project was presented to the Board.

**Sefton moved to approve the Capital Renewal Project to renovate the South Wing classrooms, laboratories, corridors, and office spaces, to authorize the College administration to submit an application for approval to the Illinois Community College Board, and to recommend BLDD Architects as the architects for this project as presented. Bliefnick seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

## **BOARD POLICIES, PROPOSALS, AND CHANGES**

### **Academic Standards Policy**

The recommended policy changes provide flexibility in determining Withdraw and Drop dates. The revised language is in line with recent efforts to place processes at the appropriate Division and participative committee level.

Recommended policy revisions have been reviewed by the Academic Standards Committee, the Policy and Communications Committee, President's Cabinet, and the Institutional Effectiveness Group.

The policies are presented for second reading, and no action is needed at this time.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement**

The November 2011 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement were presented to and discussed with the Board.

A list of bills for payment and ratification in the amount of \$3,593,830 for November 2011 was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.

**Bliefnick moved to ratify the November 2011 bills paid and approve the Financial Statement to be filed for audit. Campbell seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

### **Review of Minutes of Previous Closed Sessions**

Minutes of closed sessions conducted between September 18, 1990, and March 24, 2004, and June 20, 2006, and May 17, 2011, were re-examined.

**Sefton moved to approve the recommendation for continued confidentiality of previous executive sessions as presented. Prince seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

### **ITEMS FROM THE BOARD**

Trustee Sefton was impressed with the nurse pinning ceremony held last Friday evening.

Trustee Prince distributed information from E-Cubed Ventures, LLC, a company specializing in agri-research and technology park development.

Trustee Prince applauded Dr. Saunders' efforts to work with district superintendents to increase dual credit opportunities in the future.

Chairman Colee wished Professor Klugman well in his recovery.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Bliefnick moved and Campbell seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.**

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Emmett Sefton, Secretary