

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 519
Counties of Stephenson, Ogle, Jo Daviess and Carroll

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A special meeting of the Board of Illinois Community College District No. 519 was called to order by Mr. Jim Endress, Chairperson, at 4:04 p.m. on April 30, 2020, in the Robert J. Rimington Board Room (room H-228) in the Highland Community College Student/Conference Center, 2998 West Pearl City Road, Freeport, Illinois in said district.

The following members were physically present: Mr. David Shockey, Mr. Doug Block, Mr. Jim Endress, Mr. Blake Musser (departed 6:30 p.m.), Ms. Pennie Groezinger, and Mr. Shawn Boldt

The following members attended virtually: Dr. Steve Jennings

The following members were absent: None

Also physically present: Ms. Chris Kuberski, Executive Vice President (departed 5:54 p.m.); Ms. Karen Brown, Director of Human Resources (departed 6:30 p.m.); Mr. Pete Fink, Director, ITS (departed 6:30 p.m.; returned 7:05 p.m.); and, Ms. Terri Grimes, Board Secretary

Also attending virtually: Mr. Dave Barton, Board President, HCC Foundation (departed 6:28 p.m.); Mr. Rex Blomberg, Custodial/Maintenance Union President (departed 6:30 p.m.); Ms. Tia Boss, Student (departed 6:28 p.m.); Ms. Sarah Goeke, Director, Columbia College Freeport Campus (departed 6:29 p.m.); Ms. Trinetta Holmes, Administrative Assistant, Upward Bound (departed 6:29 p.m.); Mr. Thedford Jackson, Student Advisor (departed 6:28 p.m.); Mr. Aaron Mercier, Regional Superintendent of Schools (departed 6:29 p.m.); Mr. Steve Mihina, Faculty (departed 6:30 p.m.); Ms. Kate Perkins, Faculty Senate President (departed 6:30 p.m.; returned 7:05 p.m.); Ms. Barb Price, Financial Aid Specialist I (departed 6:28 p.m.); Ms. Chrislyn Senneff, Nursing Instructor (departed 6:28 p.m.); Mr. Jim Yeager, Faculty (departed 4:27 p.m.); Dr. Chelsea Martinez, Faculty (departed 4:27 p.m.); Dr. Julie Hartman-Linck, Faculty (departed 4:27 p.m.); Dr. Andy Dvorak, Faculty (departed 4:27 p.m.); Mr. Sam Fiorenza, Faculty (departed 4:27 p.m.); Ms. Cristina Szterensus, Faculty (departed 4:27 p.m.; returned 7:05 p.m.; departed 7:08 p.m.); Dr. Kay Ostberg, Faculty (arrived 4:05 p.m.; departed 4:25 p.m.); Dr. Mike Sleezer, Retired Faculty (departed 4:24 p.m.); Ms. Sharon Koch, Retired Part-time Faculty and Member of the Executive Board of the Freeport League of Women Voters (departed 4:27 p.m.); Ms. Karen Brown, Director of Human Resources (departed 6:29 p.m.); Mr. Pete Norman, Director, Athletics and Physical Education (departed 4:27 p.m.; returned 7:05 p.m.); Mr. Dan Dick, HCC Foundation Major Gifts Officer (departed 4:27 p.m.); Mr. Jim Phillips, Dean, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Fine Arts (departed 4:27 p.m.; returned 7:05 p.m.); Ms. Leslie Schmidt, Director, Marketing & Community Relations (departed 4:27 p.m.; returned 7:05 p.m.); Deputy Erin Korte, Stephenson County Sheriff's Department (arrived 7:05 p.m.); Ms. Alyssa Stevens, Digital Media & Creative Specialist (departed 4:27 p.m.); Mr. David Esch, Faculty (departed 4:26 p.m.); Ms. Denise Johnson, Faculty (departed 4:27 p.m.); Mr. Evan Talbert, Faculty (departed 4:27 p.m.); Ms. Jane Lethlean, Communication Specialist (departed 4:27 p.m.); Ms. Juliet Moderow, Faculty (departed 4:26 p.m.); Mr. Kam Merryman

(departed 4:27 p.m.); Ms. Karla Giuffre, Faculty (departed 4:25 p.m.); Ms. Laura Watson, Reference Librarian (departed 4:25 p.m.); Ms. Pam Dole, Administrative Assistant (departed 4:27 p.m.); Mr. Paul Rabideau, Faculty (departed 4:26 p.m.); Ms. Sam Schaible, Outreach, Dual Credit and Pathways Coordinator (arrived 4:15 p.m.; departed 4:23 p.m.); Ms. Sandy Johnson, HR Specialist (departed 4:27 p.m.); Mr. Tony Grahame, Faculty (departed 4:27 p.m.); and, several other attendees identified only by a number, first name, device name, or other name including 310715 (departed 4:27 p.m.); “canidate” (departed 4:25 p.m.); Carol (departed 4:25 p.m.); Karissa (departed 4:27 p.m.; returned 7:05 p.m.); Sammy (departed 4:27 p.m.); Jennifer (departed 4:25 p.m.); iPhone (arrived 4:16 p.m.; departed 4:26 p.m.); Robert (arrived 4:24 p.m.; departed 4:27 p.m.; returned 7:05 p.m.); and, Susie (departed 4:27 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jim Yeager, Dr. Chelsea Martinez, Dr. Julie Hartman-Link, Dr. Andy Dvorak, Mr. Sam Fiorenza, Ms. Cristina Sztrensus, Dr. Kay Ostberg, Dr. Mike Sleezer, and Ms. Sharon Koch made public comments expressing their beliefs and concerns about the process being used to select a new College President, the perceived lack of transparency about the process, and the need for a national search. Among the concerns raised by those making public comments were that the current process did not follow shared governance, the College’s core values of integrity, compassion, and respect, and principles of operation, including mutual respect, ethics, integrity, honesty, and shared responsibility; the community was excluded from the process; a national search would bring a diverse candidate pool; and, how the Higher Learning Commission would view the process.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Musser moved and Dr. Jennings seconded the motion to move into Closed Session for the purposes of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in an educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in an educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body, or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; and, collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, and to return to open session for possible action. The roll call on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Block, Endress, Jennings, Musser, Groezinger, Boldt, Shockey
NAYS: None

Mr. Endress explained that those participating in the interview would be moved virtually into a breakout room to conduct an interview with Ms. Chris Kuberski. Mr. Pete Fink would then turn off the video and sound for the public during the interview. Ms. Karen Brown, as chair of the interview committee, would proceed with introductions and interview questions, and trustees would be observers of the interview.

At 4:27 p.m., the Chairperson declared the motion carried and the meeting in Closed Session.

At 6:30 p.m., the Chairperson declared a recess; the meeting resumed at 6:37 p.m.

Mr. Boldt moved and Mr. Shockey seconded the motion to end the Closed Session. The roll call on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Endress, Jennings, Groezinger, Boldt, Shockey, Block
NAYS: None

At 7:04 p.m., the Chairperson declared the motion carried, the Closed Session ended, and a short recess; the meeting resumed at 7:05 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Next Regular Board Meeting Date

It was determined that a special meeting will be held on May 7, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. The next regular meeting date was not discussed.

Fee for Compliance with the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act

Mr. Endress reported that a new fee must be approved by July 1, 2020, in order to comply with the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act. Ms. Liz Gerber contacted Mr. Endress and suggested a range of between \$3 and \$5, although Mr. Endress would prefer a set number. This will be discussed during the special meeting on May 7.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shockey moved and Ms. Groezinger seconded the motion to adjourn the special meeting. At 7:10 p.m., there being no further business, the Chairperson declared the motion carried and the special meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Terri A. Grimes, Board Secretary
Illinois Community College District No. 519