

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Illinois Community College District No. 519 was called to order by Mr. Jim Endress, Chairperson, at 4:00 p.m. on August 22, 2023, 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. Jim Endress, Ms. Pennie Groezinger, Mr. Shawn Boldt, Mr. James Rhyne Jr., Ms. Sarah Kuhlemeier, Ms. Mary Kaufman, and Ms. Allison Coon

The following members attended virtually: None

The following members was absent: Mr. Doug Block

Others physically present: Ms. Chris Kuberski, President; Mr. Pete Fink, Director, ITS; Mr. Steve Mihina, Faculty; Mr. Alan Nowicki, Faculty; and Ms. Terri Grimes, Board Secretary

Others virtually present: Ms. Jill Janssen, Vice President/CFO, Administrative Services, Board Treasurer; Mr. Sam Agdasi, Vice President/CAO, Academic Services; Mr. Scott Anderson, Vice President, Business, Technology, and Community Programs; Ms. Liz Gerber, Vice President/CSSO, Student Development & Support Services; Mr. Pete Norman, Director, Athletics & Physical Education; Dr. Andy Dvorak, Retired Faculty; Ms. Jodi Rogers, Office Coordinator, Athletics & Physical Education; Mr. Evan Eleff, Sports Facilities Companies; Mr. Dan Dick, Executive Director, HCC Foundation; Ms. Karla Giuffre, Faculty; Mr. Kurt Simpson, Director, Facilities & Safety; Ms. Stacy Green, Coach, Cross Country; Ms. Jeniece Smith, Director, Marketing & Community Relations; Ms. Mariah Studer, Coordinator, Upward Bound, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach; Dr. Brendan Dutmer, Dean, Natural Science and Mathematics; Mr. Rich Haight, Chief Executive Officer, Family YMCA of Northwest Illinois; Mr. Aaron Green, Membership & Development Director, Family YMCA of Northwest Illinois; Mr. Kirk Cabana, College Access Specialist, TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers; Mr. Luke Norman, Head Coach/Coordinator, Sports Information and Intramurals; and one unidentified attendee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Groezinger moved and Mr. Boldt seconded the motion to approve the agenda, as presented. The vote being unanimous, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Kuhlemeier moved and Ms. Groezinger seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2023, budget work session and regular meeting, as presented. The vote being unanimous, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Alan Nowicki, Faculty member, provided public comments in support of a potential athletics, learning, and event center. (See Mr. Nowicki's attached written statement.)

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL PRO FORMA FROM SPORTS FACILITIES REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF A POTENTIAL ATHLETICS, LEARNING, AND EVENT CENTER

Ms. Kuberski introduced Mr. Evan Eleff of Sports Facilities Companies. Mr. Eleff presented a modified pro forma for a potential athletics, learning, and event center, explaining the difference between this pro forma and the others that had previously been discussed. He also reviewed the projected revenue for the new facility, as well as the impact on enrollment. Mr. Boldt reported that he recently toured the facility at Joliet Junior College. In completing the feasibility study, Mr. Eleff also toured the Joliet facility, as well as facilities at Hononegah High School, Rock Valley College, and Waubensee Community College. Several trustees expressed concerns about the new pro forma, including not wanting to have regrets before the facility is built or in use and not wanting to get down the road with the same issues we currently have. Mr. Rhyne noted that this new option does not seem like what he was looking for. Mr. Pete Norman shared that this option would not allow the opportunity to grow the athletics program but would allow the opportunity to stabilize it, with the impact on enrollment being minimal. He noted that soccer and track fields are two big considerations, and students want a fitness and activity center. Ms. Groezinger asked if there was a way to get a pulse on the entire "team," noting that trustees represent a lot of people and she would like a lot of feedback. Ms. Kuberski reminded trustees that the College is approaching the end of the current contract with the YMCA, and the YMCA had requested to meet to start talking about tweaks to the contract. A task force has been assembled for this purpose, which includes Mr. Norman, Ms. Gerber, Ms. Janssen, Ms. Kuberski, Mr. Rhyne, Ms. Kuhlemeier, and Mr. Kurt Simpson. A premeeting will be held with the College's task force members, and that conversation will be parallel to this discussion. When Sports Facilities Companies began the feasibility study, they sought input from faculty, staff, students, and the community, which was included in the proposal that Mr. Eleff submitted. Mr. Endress stated that the College needs to know what the YMCA will cover, and Ms. Groezinger shared that the College needs to be fiscally responsible. Ms. Kaufman noted that it is not if we want to do this, but when, stating that we need to figure out what is important, what partnership we have in the YMCA, and what opportunities exist. She suggested that perhaps this could also be a secondary location for the Boys and Girls Club. Further discussion will take place at the September Board retreat, and additional information will be gathered before that time.

BUDGET REPORT

Ms. Janssen reported that last week the State released their FY24 estimates for Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT). This funding had been expected to return to more historic levels in FY24, which she had included in the FY24 budget; however, she learned that the College will receive \$340,000 more than what was anticipated, which could balance the Operating Funds. The State unrestricted grants are still unknown because the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) found there were statewide variances in the reporting of dual credit. As a result, all colleges had to review their credit hour reporting for the past three years and make updates by August 15. At Highland, 1,400 credit hours were overreported over the course of the last three years, but this does

not affect students. These are still credit hours, but they are not categorized as reimbursable for the purposes of calculating college annual allocations. [Note: This only affects dual credit for those under the age of 16.] Ms. Janssen explained that many community colleges are in the same situation, so it is possible that our State allocations will not be heavily impacted. The Illinois Community College Board is currently working on the calculations, and Ms. Janssen should know more later this month.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Mr. Dick reported that the Foundation's Legacy Campaign is coming to a successful conclusion. The campaign, which took place during a transition of both College and Foundation leadership, as well as the pandemic, raised funds to support Highland initiatives, including the Mildred F. Ferguson Simulation Hospital, the new welding space, and improvements in agriculture and fine arts. He explained that some of the gifts to the Legacy Campaign will go through FY26. The corporate partnership program continues with a few new partners this year. The Foundation's first major annual fundraising event will be the golf outing on September 8 at The Freeport Club. Mr. Dick thanked faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, and Foundation board members for being hole sponsors, including Mr. Endress, Ms. Groezinger, and Ms. Kaufman. Nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Awards are due September 8. Nominees for the awards do not need to be graduates, but it is preferred. The Scholarship Awards Ceremony is scheduled for October 1, and trustees should let Ms. Grimes know if they plan to attend. The Foundation board will meet this Thursday and approve the FY24 budget, which includes nearly \$900,000 for specific College projects, scholarships, and other items. The Foundation board will also discuss the strategic plan and the Highland Ag building project, which is being funded in part by an award from Senator Andrew Chesney. Mr. Dick concluded his report by announcing that a major bequest gift has been realized in memory of Mr. Steve Switzer.

CONSENT ITEMS

A. Academic (None)

B. Administration

1. Appointment: Voting Delegate to the Association of Community College Trustees 2023 Leadership Congress

Recommendation: That the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Trustee Pennie Groezinger to serve as the voting delegate for the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) 2023 Leadership Congress in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 9 – 12, 2023. It is further recommended that Trustee Shawn Boldt serve as the alternate delegate, if Ms. Groezinger is unable to fulfill her responsibilities at the meeting.

C. Personnel

1. Part-time Instructors, Overload, and Other Assignments

Recommendation: That the Board of Trustees approves the list of part-time instructors, overload, and other assignments, as presented.

D. Financial (None)

Mr. Boldt moved and Ms. Groezinger seconded the motion to approve the consent items, as presented. The roll call on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Endress, Groezinger, Boldt, Rhyne, Kuhlemeier, Kaufman, Coon
NAYS: None

Whereupon the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

MAIN MOTIONS

A. Academic (None)

B. Administration (None)

C. Personnel (None)

D. Financial

1. Acceptance of Proposal: Purchase of Two (2) 2024 Chevrolet Silverado WT2500HD Cab and Chassis

Ms. Kaufman moved and Mr. Boldt seconded the motion that the Board of Trustees authorizes acceptance of the proposal, as presented, from The Bocker Group of Freeport, IL for the purchase of two (2) 2024 Chevrolet Silverado WT 2500HD cab and chassis at a total cost of \$90,032.18 (\$45,016.09 each). This purchase was approved for 2020 bond funding and is included in the FY24 budget. The roll call on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Groezinger, Boldt, Rhyne, Kuhlemeier, Kaufman, Endress, Coon
NAYS: None

Whereupon the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

2. Resolution Identifying Work Contracts to an Installment Purchase Agreement Heretofore Entered Into by Community College District No. 519, Counties of Stephenson, Ogle, Jo Daviess and Carroll and State of Illinois – 2014 Bond Issuance
Mr. Rhyne moved and Mr. Boldt seconded the motion that the Highland Community College Board approves the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION identifying work contracts to an Installment Purchase Agreement heretofore entered into by Community College District No. 519, Counties of Stephenson, Ogle, Jo Daviess and Carroll and State of Illinois.

The roll call on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Boldt, Rhyne, Kuhlemeier, Kaufman, Endress, Groezinger,
Coon
NAYS: None

Whereupon the Chairperson declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted.

3. Resolution Identifying Work Contracts to an Installment Purchase Agreement Heretofore Entered Into by Community College District No. 519, Counties of Stephenson, Ogle, Jo Daviess and Carroll and State of Illinois – 2020 Bond Issuance
Ms. Kaufman moved and Mr. Rhyne seconded the motion that the Highland Community College Board approve the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION identifying work contracts to an Installment Purchase Agreement heretofore entered into by Community College District No. 519, Counties of Stephenson, Ogle, Jo Daviess and Carroll and State of Illinois.

The roll call on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Rhyne, Kuhlemeier, Kaufman, Endress, Groezinger, Boldt,
Coon
NAYS: None

Whereupon the Chairperson declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted.

4. Resolution Identifying Work Contracts to an Installment Purchase Agreement Heretofore Entered Into by Community College District No. 519, Counties of Stephenson, Ogle, Jo Daviess and Carroll and State of Illinois – 2023 Bond Issuance
Ms. Kuhlemeier moved and Mr. Boldt seconded the motion that the Highland Community College Board approve the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION identifying work contracts to an Installment Purchase Agreement heretofore entered into by Community College District No. 519, Counties of Stephenson, Ogle, Jo Daviess and Carroll and State of Illinois.

The roll call on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Kuhlemeier, Kaufman, Endress, Groezinger, Boldt, Rhyne,
Coon
NAYS: None

Whereupon the Chairperson declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted.

5. Payment of Bills and Agency Fund Report – July 2023

Ms. Kaufman moved and Ms. Groezinger seconded the motion to approve the Resolution authorizing and directing Ms. Jill Janssen, Treasurer, to make payments or transfers of funds for the July 2023 bills, including Board Travel, amounting to \$1,673,617.27, Automated Clearing House (ACH) debits W0000645 amounting to \$43,950.09, and Electronic Refunds of \$44,224.12, with 3 adjustments of \$2,227.60, such warrants amounting to \$1,759,563.88. Transfers of funds for payroll amounted to \$665,924.59. The roll call on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Kaufman, Endress, Groezinger, Boldt, Rhyne, Kuhlemeier,
Coon
NAYS: None

Whereupon the Chairperson declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted.

REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report: Statements of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – FY23 and FY24

There was no additional report.

Student Trustee

Ms. Coon reported that classes have begun, and an event was held for new students, which included food, games, and tee-shirts. Student Senate will also be meeting soon.

Audit & Finance Committee

The Audit & Finance Committee will meet in October.

Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) Representative

Mr. Boldt reported that ICCTA’s planning retreat was held this past weekend, and the biggest priority will be baccalaureate degrees at community colleges. Equitable restrooms are now law, and if alterations to existing restrooms exceed 50 percent, there are now additional requirements.

Mr. Boldt also provided an overview of a demographic survey of the makeup of ICCTA members and discussions on expanding the diversity of the district.

Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

The past ICCTA president had been nominated for ACCT treasurer, but she was not elected. Two Illinois trustees are running for the ACCT board, including one at-large and one regional position. Ms. Groezinger also reported that ACCT’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee will meet prior to the start of the ACCT Annual Leadership Congress in October.

Board Chair

Mr. Endress serves as a representative of the Board on the Foundation board, and he reported that Mr. Dick shared the news of reaching the Legacy Campaign goal with his board. The Foundation will continue to cultivate donors. Mr. Endress attended the August 8 retiree open house, noting that retirees had a great time seeing each other. He provided welcome remarks at both the open house and Opening Days, noting that the energy in the room at Opening Days was “amazing.”

President

In response to Mr. Boldt's report on legislation regarding restroom renovations, Ms. Kuberski reported that the President's Direct Reports (PDR) have reviewed the list of new legislation and discussed the impact on the College. At Opening Days, Ms. Kuberski reported that credit hours were up 11.2 percent and head count was up 13 percent. This week, credit hours are up 9.1 percent and head count up 10.8 percent from the first day of classes last Fall. Tenth day numbers will be available on September 1, so staff are getting dual credit enrollment in before then. Ms. Kaufman said that the feeling in the room at Opening Days was amazing, and she is glad she had the opportunity to attend. Mr. Endress also noted that Mr. Agdasi's opening remarks were very well done, and Mr. Agdasi did a good job emceeding the event. Ms. Janssen also did a nice job presenting without sides (when the technology did not work).

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Groezinger moved and Mr. Boldt seconded the motion to move into Closed Session for the purposes of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body under Open Meetings Act exception 2-C-1; and, collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives under exception 2-C-2, 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: Endress, Groezinger, Boldt, Rhyne, Kuhlemeier, Kaufman, Coon
NAYS: None

Whereupon the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Endress explained that the public attendees through Zoom would remain in the meeting, with the video and audio muted, while the Board was in Closed Session. The video stream and meeting would resume after the Closed Session.

At 5:35 p.m., the Chairperson declared the meeting in Closed Session.

Ms. Kaufman moved and Ms. Kuhlemeier seconded the motion to end the Closed Session. The roll call on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Groezinger, Boldt, Rhyne, Kuhlemeier, Kaufman, Endress, Coon
NAYS: None

At 5:48 p.m., the Chairperson declared the motion carried and the Closed Session ended.

ACTION, IF NECESSARY

No action was necessary following Closed Session.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Retreat Dates and Times

This will be discussed at the upcoming Board retreat.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.


DATES OF IMPORTANCE

The quarterly Board retreat will be held on September 13, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the Robert J. Rimington Board room. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. and will be preceded by a budget work session at 3:00 p.m. The ICCTA Northwest Region meeting will be held at Kishwaukee College on September 19, with reservations due by September 5. The topic of discussion will be shared services. It was noted that Mr. Boldt and Ms. Groezinger are unable to attend the September ICCTA meeting. The Foundation Scholarship Awards Ceremony will be held on October 1, and the next meeting of the Decennial Committee is scheduled for November 28 at 3:00 p.m. Trustees noted that there are several upcoming Lifelong Learning classes, including pickleball, welding, and using an iPhone.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Groezinger moved and Ms. Kaufman seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. At 5:54 p.m., the vote being unanimous and there being no further business, the Chairperson declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Statement to HCC Board

Aug. 22, 2023

My details

1. Biology faculty 31st year
2. SEM, PH&S committees
3. Taxpayer
4. Parent of an alumni

Topic Sports facility

Observations

1. Fewer students come to HCC
2. Shrinking district – K-12 students
3. Well known since early 2000s
4. Strong student interest in athletics & physical education
 - a. Despite poor facilities and minimum staffing
 - b. Growing part of the college
 - c. Student choose colleges based on athletics
5. Other colleges invest in athletics and recreation
6. Consultant support

Conclusion

Let me reframe our increase enrollment numbers from this year. Yes enrollment is up ~10% from last year, but this year is the second worst enrollment in the last 40 years. We still predict long term declines in K-12 enrollment Further declines in enrollment threaten the viability of the college. Failure to act hurts students and the district.

More evidence supports investment in athletics & recreation than the amount of evidence used to make recent spending decisions (capital bonds PH&S). Plans that don't provide attractive new opportunities for students may seem sensible in the short term, but have much more limited benefits. Most upper HCC administrator have been too risk-averse and too slow to find ways to address enrollment declines. To date they college have proposed no viable path for forward the college.