

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 24, 2024**

On October 24, 2024, the Board of Trustees of Community College District 507, in the Counties of Vermilion, Edgar, Iroquois, Champaign, and Ford in the State of Illinois, met in regular session in the Board Room, Vermilion Hall Room 302, at Danville Area Community College.

### **ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Harby called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Presidential Scholar Hannah Smith led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ITEM 3: ROLL CALL**

The roll was called. Trustees present: Sandra Finch, Dave Harby, Dylan Haun, Terry Hill, Maruti Seth, Greg Wolfe (via phone), and Student Trustee Serena Butler. Trustee absent: Tracy Cherry (arrived at 5:38 p.m.)

Others present: Acting President Dr. Carl Bridges; Board Secretary Kerri Thurman; Jill Cranmore; Tammy Betancourt; Lara Conklin; Doug Adams; Mark Barnes; Clifford Hegg; Doug Hunter; Kathy Hunter; Candice Milam; Rickey Williams, Sr.; Laura Williams; Rickey Williams, Jr.; Terry Harby; Hannah Smith; Alivia Brinkley; Tomarra Gray; Dayla Harper; Jerry Davis; Jerry Hawker; and Matthew Long.

Media present: Kaighla White, Commercial News; Jennifer Bailey, News-Gazette; Steve Brandy, WDAN-WDNL; Jack Krumm, WCIA.

### **ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Haun and the agenda was approved. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote: 8 yeas, 0 nays.

### **ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Dr. Bridges introduced the following: Jill Cranmore, Vice President, Human Resources and Labor Relations; Tammy Betancourt, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Lara Conklin, Executive Director, College Relations; Doug Adams, Executive Director, Facilities; Mark Barnes, Director, Information Technology; Clifford Hegg, Security; Doug Hunter, Associate Professor, Mechatronics; Kathy Hunter, Professor, Information Systems; Candice Milam, Associate Professor, Certified Medical Assistant; Rickey Williams, Sr., Professor, Criminal Justice; Laura Williams, Host of DACC Radio Show; Rickey Williams, Jr., City of Danville Mayor; Mrs. Terry Harby; Hannah Smith, Presidential Scholar; Alivia Brinkley, Tomarra Gray, and Dayla Harper, CMA Students; Jerry Davis, Jerry Davis Law; Jerry Hawker, District 8 Representative; and Matthew Long, Vermilion County Supervisor of Assessments.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, and a second by Ms. Finch, the regular Board meeting was recessed at 5:33 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing on Truth in Taxation. The motion passed by roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays.

**RECONVENE**

Mr. Hill, upon completion of the Public Hearing, moved that the Board reconvene in regular session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Seth and passed by roll call vote: 8 yeas, 0 nays.

**ITEM 6: INSIDE THE COLLEGE: CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Associate Professor Milam provided an update on the Certified Medical Assistant program. She shared the mission statement of the program and noted that the program has been in existence for 12 years of which 11 of those years she has been the leader. The CMA Certificate program is now fully accredited through the Spring of 2027 with the CAHIIM and the MAERB.

Professor Milam noted a new CMA website was launched this month. Students can go to the site to learn about the profession including information about the program, curriculum and contact information. Currently 27 students are participating in one part of the program. Students can continue on to receive an associate degree after four semesters as well as earn stackable credentials.

In the last two years the sequencing of the courses has been updated to meet student need and hybrid or online courses have been widely accepted by students, especially those with jobs and busy families.

Since 2016, the CMA test rate is 80% with the national average being 75.5%. Students experience a high job placement with many accepted by their practicum sites. Since 2020 there have been over 50 graduates of the program and from 2022 to today, there are 8 students in the degree program.

The CMA students introduced themselves and shared their educational journal with the Board members.

The Board and Dr. Bridges thanked Ms. Milam for her presentation and wished the students well in their futures.

**ITEM 7: FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The Financial Statement of Revenue and Expenditures ending September 30, 2024 was included in the Board agenda book.

**ITEM 8: PRESIDENT'S REPORT & STRATEGIC PLAN**

Dr. Bridges highlighted the events from the last month.

**ITEM 9: PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ITEM 10: CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2024; THE SPECIAL**

**BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2024; THE PUBLIC HEARING OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2024; AND THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**

**B. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**C. CLERY SECURITY REPORT**

Upon motion by Mr. Haun, and a second by Mr. Hill, the Board approved the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by roll call vote: 8 yeas, 0 nays.

**ITEM 11: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**ITEM 12: NEW BUSINESS**

**A. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT**

Recommendations of Employment are conditional upon all Human Resources processes being met.

Upon motion by Mr. Haun, and second by Mr. Seth, the Board approved the Human Resources Report. The motion passed by roll call vote: 8 yeas, 0 nays.

**B. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUE OF \$5,000,000 TAXABLE GENERAL OBLIGATION COMMUNITY COLLEGE BONDS, SERIES 2024, OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE WORKING CASH FUND OF THE DISTRICT, PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF A DIRECT ANNUAL TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS, AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID BONDS TO THE PURCHASERS THEREOF**

Illinois Public Act 103-0278 authorizes community colleges to use monies in the Working Cash Fund for any and all community college purposes. Funds may be permanently transferred from the restricted Working Cash Fund to other funds and may be subsequently replenished through the issuance of working cash bonds or a tax levy. This provides an opportunity for the College to secure funds for future College needs for technology and instructional equipment needs, deferred maintenance, or any corporate purpose the Board deems appropriate. The current balance in the Working Cash Fund is \$5,429,723.

During the FY24 budgeting process, it was apparent that funds were not sufficient to meet the technology and instructional equipment needs. The funds from the 2022 Technology/Equipment Bonds will be exhausted as planned over the two-year period. There still remains some outdated technology and instructional equipment that needs updated and replaced. With the rapid changes in technology, our college needs to provide sufficient funds for updating equipment on a three-to-four-year cycle.

The College's list of deferred maintenance projects is approximately \$7,000,000. In addition, with the funding by the State of Illinois for the Clocktower/Ornamental Horticulture project, the College's Facility, Construction and Renovation Reserve has been reduced by \$1,088,600.

By transferring \$3,500,000 of working cash funds to the Board Restricted Fund for future use as determined by the Board and transferring \$1,500,000 to the Restricted Purposes Fund for the purchase of technological and instructional equipment the College would be in a better financial position to quickly pivot to the ever-changing academic landscape. In addition, it would provide additional reserves to weather unplanned and unknown situations, for example, the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as fund needed deferred maintenance and capital projects.

The College's current bond and interest tax rate is 6.22 cents. The issuance of \$5,000,000 in Working Cash Fund Bonds would potentially only increase the tax rate to 8 cents, depending on the final Equalized Assessed Valuations (EAV) in future years. The College has maintained a bond and interest tax rate of approximately 8 cents since 2001. In addition, it may not impact the College's overall tax rate which also depends on the EAV in future years. The College always strives to maintain a tax rate of 61 cents and has maintained the rate with minor fluctuations also since 2001.

Upon motion by Ms. Finch, and a second by Mr. Hill, the Board approved the Resolution providing for the issue of \$5,000,000 Taxable General Obligation Community College Bonds, Series 2024, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest of said Bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchasers thereof. The motion passed by roll call vote: 8 yeas, 0 nays.

### **C. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TAX LEVY**

On September 26, 2024, the Board of Trustees approved an intent to levy 2024 taxes. Because the intended tax levy increased more than 105% of the 2023 tax extensions, the required truth-in-taxation public hearing was held and proper notice was provided in accordance with 35 ILCS 200/18-20. Therefore, all truth-in-taxation compliance requirements have been met.

Utilizing an estimated 10% increase in the Equalized Assessed Valuation, the tax levy rate is anticipated to be approximately 56.20 cents. However, upon the closing of the issuance of \$5,000,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds, the estimated rate would be approximately 61.12. While the current tax rate is 57.50 cents, it typically fluctuates between 60 and 63 cents.

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, and a second by Ms. Cherry, the Board approved the Resolution to approve the 2024 Tax Levy. The motion passed by signature vote: 8 yeas, 0 nays.

### **D. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TIMING OF RECOGNITION OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUE**

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement #33 addresses accounting and financial reporting for nonexchange transactions. Revenue from property tax levies fall into this category. Since property tax levies are approved for a calendar year and the actual receipt of funds occurs in more than one fiscal year, this GASB Statement #33 requires certain recognition guidelines to be followed, unless a resolution is approved by the Board stating what fiscal year the revenue should be allocated.

This Resolution is asking the Board to recognize 100% of the 2024 levy revenue in Fiscal Year 2025. If approved, this action will formally allocate property tax revenue that is consistent with our past practice.

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, and a second by Mr. Seth, the Board approved the Resolution recognizing 100% of the 2024 levy revenue in Fiscal Year 2025. The motion passed by signature vote: 8 yeas, 0 nays.

#### **E. BOARD DISCUSSION OF SOLAR PROJECT**

Electricity rates have continued to rise over the last few years and in fact have almost doubled in the last two years. In December of 2021, Ameren Illinois approved a large rate hike and unfortunately it was at the time the College was negotiating our rate with our energy supplier, Constellation. As a result of the untimely rate hike by Ameren our electricity costs skyrocketed from \$520,439 in FY22 to \$917,794 in FY24. However, and concurrently, under the Future Energy Jobs Act (Public Act 99-0906 or FEJA) the State of Illinois has been offering various solar incentive programs to help Illinois meet its renewable energy goals and to bring the expansion of solar energy.

Given electricity represents almost \$1.0 million of the College's operating budget and our academic initiative in sustainable energy, a solar project would not only reduce our overall electricity expense, but provide an avenue to increase learning in our sustainable energy program.

This is not only an exciting opportunity for the College to increase our commitment to sustainability and enhance our sustainability academic programs, but by offsetting around 50% of the College's current energy consumption, it will potentially save the College over \$300,000 in the first year of operation alone and over \$13M over a 25-year period.

Discussion only.

#### **F. CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY**

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m.

#### **OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:45 p.m.

#### **G. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION AGREEMENT WITH COLLEGE PRESIDENT AND RETURN FROM ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE**

Upon motion by Mr. Seth, and a second by Mr. Hill, the Board approved the resignation agreement with College President and return from administrative leave. The motion passed by roll call vote: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 2 abstain (Haun and Harby).

**ITEM 14: INFORMATION**

**A. TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

- Mr. Haun expressed appreciation for the CMA program as it is a vital part of the community.
- Mr. Seth is happy the barber school has been approved.
- Mr. Harby read a letter regarding his resignation as a Board member effective October 25, 2024.

**B. COMMUNICATIONS**

**ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Harby adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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Chairperson, Board of Trustees

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Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_