

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2024

On November 21, 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 Wolfe called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Presidential Scholar Anistyn Coleman led the Board and those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3: ROLL CALL

The roll was called. Trustees present: Tracy Cherry, Sandra Finch, Terry Hill, Maruti Seth, Greg Wolfe, and Student Trustee Serena Butler. Trustees absent: Dylan Haun.

Others present: President Dr. Stephen Nacco, Board Secretary Kerri Thurman, Jill Cranmore, Tammy Betancourt, Dr. Penny McConnell, Lara Conklin, Doug Adams, Mark Barnes, Tonya Hill, Laura Hensgen, Terri Cummings, Dr. Michael Hepner, Nathan Howie, Whitney Yoder, Doug Hunter, Kathy Hunter, Dr. Jonathon Wade, Suzanne Aguirre, Lisa Martin, Bill Donahue, Laura Williams, Dave Kietzman, Anistyn Coleman, and Jerry Davis.

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

ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Wolfe asked if there were any changes requested to the agenda. With no changes requested, upon motion by Mr. Hill, and a second by Mr. Seth, the agenda was approved as presented. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote: 6 yeas, 0 nays.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Dr. Nacco introduced the following: Tammy Betancourt, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Jill Cranmore, Vice President, Human Resources and Labor Relations; Dr. Penny McConnell, Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs; Lara Conklin, Executive Director, College Relations; Doug Adams, Executive Director, Facilities; Mark Barnes, Director, Information Technology; Tonya Hill, Executive Director, DACC Foundation; Laura Hensgen, Assistant Vice President, Operations; Terri Cummings, Dean, Business & Technology; Dr. Michael Hepner, Dean, Arts and Sciences; Nathan Howie, Chief of Security; Whitney Yoder, Controller; Doug Hunter, Associate Professor, Mechatronics; Kathy Hunter, Professor, Information Systems; Dr. Jonathon Wade, Associate Professor, Behavioral Sciences; Suzanna Aguirre, Administrative Assistant, Arts and Sciences; Lisa Martin; Bill Donahue; Laura Williams; Dave Kietzman; Anistyn Coleman, Presidential Scholar; and Jerry Davis, Jerry Davis Law.

ITEM 6: UPDATE FROM DACC FACULTY AND CLASSIFIED STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

Representatives Kathy Hunter and Suzanna Aguirre provided an update on a rally they attended in Springfield last week. Professor Hunter explained the current difference between Tier I and Tier II employees. The group met with Representative Schweizer and Senator Faraci as there is current legislation regarding Tier I and Tier II differences in both the House and the Senate.

ITEM 7: INSIDE THE COLLEGE: MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING CONFERENCE

Dr. Penny McConnell introduced Professor Dr. Jonathon Wade. Dr. Wade shared his background and how the idea for his Coffee Connection initiative came about.

Dr. Wade noted that his first mental health presentation was in May 2022 through Corporate and Community Education. Since then, he has presented at 11 different events, with attendance ranging from 60 to 80.

In September, he partnered with several community organizations along with Corporate and Community Education to provide a two-day conference with great food, great coffee, and great education for \$20 for the conference. The two-day event also provided CEUs for those who needed them. The first day attendance was 102 and the second day was 115.

Dr. Wade noted that he will be presenting at the Higher Learning Commission conference in Chicago in April.

The Board and Dr. Nacco thanked Dr. Wade for his presentation.

ITEM 8: FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Financial Statement of Revenue and Expenditures ending October 31, 2024 was included in the Board agenda book.

ITEM 9: PRESIDENT'S REPORT & STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Nacco highlighted the events from the last month.

ITEM 10: PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ITEM 11: CONSENT AGENDA

- A. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2024; MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 11, 2024; MINUTES OF THE BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 23, 2024; MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF OCTOBER 24, 2024; AND THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 24, 2024**
- B. FINANCIAL REPORT**
- C. CLERY SECURITY REPORT**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, and a second by Ms. Finch, the Board approved the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by roll call vote: 6 yeas, 0 nays.

ITEM 12: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEM 13: 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. Seth, and second by Ms. Cherry, the Board approved the Human Resources Report. The motion passed by roll call vote: 6 yeas, 0 nays.

B. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF TRAVEL EXPENDITURES FOR TRUSTEES

Per Public Law 99-0604, known as the “Local Government Travel Expense Control Act,” travel expenses for members of the Board of Trustees must be approved at an open meeting of the Board.

A total of \$2,577.09 was expended for travel expenditures for trustees over the last month. The expenses were for the ACCT Leadership Congress in Seattle, Washington from October 21-25, 2024 for Mr. Greg Wolfe.

Upon motion by Ms. Finch, and a second by Mr. Hill, the Board approved travel expenditures for trustees over the last month. The motion passed by roll call vote: 6 yeas, 0 nays.

C. BOARD CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT THE ANNUAL POST-ISSUANCE TAX COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR DANVILLE AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 507, COUNTIES OF VERMILION, EDGAR, IROQUOIS, CHAMPAIGN, AND FORD COUNTIES, STATE OF ILLINOIS

When the District issued Tax Advantaged Obligations (e.g. Tax-Exempt Bonds and/or Debt Certificates), the District covenanted generally to take all action necessary to comply with the applicable federal tax rules and regulations relating to those obligations, including covenants necessary to preserve the excludability of interest in those obligations from gross income for federal income taxation purposes.

A Bond Record-Keeping Policy was adopted by the Board of Trustees on December 14, 2010 and amended on July 23, 2013 as part of the resolution process for the issuance of certain Tax Advantaged Obligations. This Bond-Record Keeping Policy designated the Treasurer as the

Compliance Officer for Tax Advantaged Obligations compliance purposes. Our bond counsel, Chapman and Cutler, LLP has recommended that the Compliance Officer prepare and submit an Annual Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Report to ensure that the Board of Trustees is aware of the District’s compliance with Tax Advantaged Obligation covenants.

Included in the Board packet is the Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Report which sets forth a summary demonstrating the District's compliance with applicable covenants and expectations.

Also included are expenditures for the fiscal year 2024 from the various bond issuances. All of the expenditures were previously approved by the Board either through the bid process when required or via the normal monthly disbursement approval process.

Upon motion by Mr. Seth, and a second by Mr. Hill, the Board accepted the annual Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Report for Danville Area Community College District No. 507, Counties of Vermilion, Edgar, Iroquois, Champaign, and For and the State of Illinois. The motion passed by signature vote: 6 yeas, 0 nays.

D. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF NON-BINDING LETTER OF INTENT WITH VERDE SOLUTIONS FOR POTENTIAL SOLAR PROJECT

Electricity rates have continued to rise over the last few years and in fact have almost doubled in the last two years. 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. By offsetting around 50% of the College's current energy consumption, it could potentially save the College over \$300,000 in the first year of operation alone and over \$13M over a 25-year period.

The next step in this process would be to enter into a non-binding letter of intent (LOI) with Verde Solutions. This documents the commitment between both parties to continue negotiations with respect to the potential solar project. Specifically, this LOI provides Verde the authorization to submit an interconnectivity application with Ameren. This step is typically the longest and most complicated step in the development of a solar project. As indicated, this is non-binding and there will be no cost to the College other than costs incurred at our discretion and direction (e.g., attorney fees, etc.) A binding contract with respect to the project will not exist between Verde and the College unless and until board approved at a future date.

Upon motion by Ms. Finch, and a second by Mr. Hill, the Board approved a non-binding letter of intent with Verde Solutions for a potential solar project. The motion passed by roll call vote: 6 yeas, 0 nays.

E. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF FY2024 COLLEGE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT

The Board of Trustees Audit Committee (Mr. Harby, Ms. Cherry, and Mr. Hill) met on October 23, 2024 with Auditors Chris Suda and Justin Knorr of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. Also in attendance from the DACC Staff were Dr. Carl Bridges, Tammy Betancourt, Whitney Yoder, and Kerri Thurman.

All audit opinions were “unmodified” or “clean”. Ms. Betancourt explained there were four audit findings and solutions are already in place to address the findings.

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, and a second by Ms. Finch, the Board accepted the FY2024 College Annual Comprehensive Financial Audit Report. The motion passed by roll call vote: 6 yeas, 0 nays.

F. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE FOR 2025

Worker’s Compensation insurance is determined by our estimated annual payroll, experience mod rate, Foreign and Domestic Terrorism coverage and catastrophe coverage. The January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 premium for Worker’s Compensation insurance was \$46,618, including coverage for all states. Having coverage in all states provides the College the flexibility to hire part-time employees from any state to work from home (specifically part-time instructors). This coverage was obtained through Zenith Insurance.

The proposed premium from Zenith Insurance for 2025 is \$53,562. While this increase of \$6,944 is approximately 15% from 2024 it is important to note that worker’s compensation premiums are based on estimated payroll, as well as experience mod rates. Even with an increase of estimated payroll of \$1.3M, the premium was virtually unchanged. However, the experience mod rate increased from .75 to .83. It’s also important to note that the worker’s compensation payroll is audited in January or February of each year and the premium is adjusted based on that actual payroll.

Zenith was our carrier from 2018 to 2021 and again in 2024. We have had excellent service and response times.

Worker’s Compensation insurance premiums are paid using Liability, Protection, Settlement (Tort) Funds.

Upon motion by Ms. Finch, and a second by Mr. Seth, the Board approved the premium of \$53,562 to Zenith Insurance for Worker’s Compensation insurance coverage from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. The motion passed by roll call vote: 6 yeas, 0 nays.

G. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF SABBATICAL LEAVE PROPOSAL/AGREEMENT

Included in the Board packet is a request for sabbatical leave for Dr. Charles Hantz, Political Science Professor for Spring Semester 2025 (January 21, 2025 through May 23, 2025). During the term of the requested sabbatical leave, Dr. Hantz will be compensated at 100% of his regular salary for the requested leave

Upon signing the Sabbatical Leave Agreement, Dr. Hantz also consents to return to DACC after completing the leave.

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, and a second by Mr. Seth, the Board approved the Sabbatical agreement for Dr. Charles Hantz. The motion passed by roll call vote: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 2 abstain.

H. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY; THE SELECTION OF A PERSON TO FILL A PUBLIC OFFICE WHEN THE PUBLIC BODY IS GIVEN THE POWER TO APPOINT UNDER LAW OR ORDINANCE; AND THE APPROVAL OF THE WRITTEN CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2024; OCTOBER 11, 2024; AND OCTOBER 24, 2024

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:05 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

I. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM PRESIDENT

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, and a second by Ms. Finch, the Board appointed Dr. Randall Fletcher as Interim President effective December 16, 2024.

ITEM 14: INFORMATION

A. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

There were no Trustee comments.

B. COMMUNICATIONS

ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: _____