

MINUTES OF DACC ELECTORAL BOARD – DECEMBER 4, 2024

On December 4, 2024, the Electoral Board of 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 for an Electoral Board meeting in Vermilion Hall Room 302 at Danville Area Community College, 2000 East Main Street, Danville, Illinois.

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL

Roll was called. Trustees present: Tracy Cherry, Sandra Finch, and Greg Wolfe. Trustees absent: N/A.

Others present: President Stephen Nacco; Board Secretary Kerri Thurman, Jill Cranmore, Lara Conklin, Cliff Hegg, Nathan Howie, Jerry Davis, Lynn McLinden, and Mrs. McLinden.

Media present: Jennifer Bailey, *News-Gazette*; and Kaighla White, *Commercial-News*.

ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Ms. Finch, and a second by Ms. Cherry, the agenda was adopted. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote: 3 yeas, 0 nays.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ITEM 5: ADOPTION OF RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR HEARING

Upon motion by Ms. Cherry, and a second by Ms. Finch, the Board adopted the Rules and Procedures for Hearing. The motion passed by roll call vote: 3 yeas, 0 nays.

ITEM 6: OBJECTOR (LYNN MCLINDEN)

A. TAKE OATH

Oath given to Lynn McLinden by Chair Greg Wolfe.

B. OPENING STATEMENT

Mr. McLinden provided his opening statement regarding his filing of an objection to the paperwork submitted by Dr. Stephen Nacco. He is requesting his removal from the April 2025 ballot.

C. FINDINGS

Findings were presented by Mr. McLinden.

D. EVIDENCE

Mr. McLinden reviewed the Verified Objector's Petition document which was presented to the Electoral Board and Dr. Nacco in advance. He stated Petition Sheets #3 and #6 do not have the

College District listed in the petition heading (507); on Petition Sheet #5 the Circulator's state of residence is blank at the bottom in the notarized area; Petition Sheet #1, Line 5 is not a registered voter within Danville or Vermilion County; Petition Sheet #1, Line 7 is not a registered voter; Petition Sheet #2, Line 6 is not a registered voter; Petition Sheet #2, Line 10 lists a PO Box address; Petition Sheet #3, Lines 5 and 6 appear to be the same signer; Petition Sheet #4, Line 1 signature does not appear to match Voter Registration; Petition Sheet #5, Lines 8 and 9 appear to be the same signer; Petition Sheet #7, Line 1 is not a registered voter at the address provided; Petition Sheet #7, Lines, 5, 6 and 7 suspected prohibited personnel practice activity; Petition Sheet #7, Line 9 is a duplicate signature; Petition Sheet #8, Line 3 is not registered at the address provided; Petition Sheet #8, Line 6 is not a registered voter at the address provided; and Petition Sheet #8, Line 8 is not a registered voter at address provided.

Ms. Finch asked Mr. McLinden how he obtained the evidence he provided in which he stated by checking the voter registration cards. Ms. Finch asked if he reviewed the voter cards himself in which he replied he didn't actually see the signatures himself, he had assistance.

Ms. Cherry asked if Mr. McLinden or anyone who helped him review the paperwork of other candidates who filed. Mr. McLinden stated no.

E. CLOSING STATEMENT

Mr. McLinden stated that of the 72 lines offered by the nominee on the 9 sheets, he is objecting to 36 out of the 72. If those 36 are thrown out, it leaves just 36 valid signatures which is less than the required 50. He also noted that should the Board rule against his objection and the nomination goes forward, he plans to appeal.

ITEM 7: CANDIDATE (STEPHEN NACCO)

A. TAKE OATH

Oath given to Dr. Stephen Nacco by Chair Greg Wolfe.

B. OPENING STATEMENT

Dr. Nacco stated he has learned that he is the only one of the six candidates for the DACC Board who has had copies of his petitions requested from Local Election Official Kerri Thurman. The one who requested the copies was not the Objector Lynn McLinden. It was former DACC employee and competing candidate Laura Williams. In preparing for his defense, he spoke with Vermilion County Supervisor of Elections Carrie Wilson who shared her professional insights with him.

C. REBUTTAL

Dr. Nacco reviewed the Objector's specific criticisms of his petition: Petition Sheet #3: According to County Supervisor Wilson, ensuring that headings are properly filled in falls under the purview of the official who receives the petitions and inspects them to assure what's called "apparent conformity." He stated Kerri Thurman never required him to write in "507" on the

heading of Sheet #3 and that she issued and signed a receipt for filing of the petition. Petition Sheet #6 same response. Petition Sheet #5: Dr. Nacco submitted his petitions to the County Clerk's office and failed to see that he missed writing in the State's name in the bottom section of the sheet. He stated again that Ms. Thurman never required him to fill this in prior to accepting his filing and issuing a receipt.

Regarding items D through K and M through P on the "Verified Objector's Petition," Dr. Nacco explained each Line in detail regarding the validity of their signature.

Regarding Sheet #7, lines 5, 6 and 7: Dr. Nacco stated that Vermilion County Works is not a DACC facility.

D. EVIDENCE

Dr. Nacco stated based on past precedent and the expectation that the local election official, Kerri Thurman, was responsible for accepting receipt of his petitions. Had she seen any omissions in the headings or footer of the petition, she should have informed him and not issued a receipt to accept his petitions. Additionally, the Objector's request to eliminate all of the signatures on sheets that were not filled out in their entirety—namely, Sheets #3, #5, and #6—would bar 23 registered voters from their legal right to choose candidates for elections.

E. CLOSING STATEMENT

Dr. Nacco noted the petitions he submitted contain the signatures of 72 registered voters who support his right to run for the DACC Board. The Objector has not demonstrated any reason for this Election Board – or any Election Board – to throw out entire sheets of voters based on a missing word or number in the header or footer. The Objector has also adduced that 15 individual voters should be expunged from the petitions due to alleged irregularities. As he has shown, virtually all of the Objector's assertions are absurdly subjective—particularly when he contends that the signature is incorrect.

Even if the Election Board were to accede to all of the Objector's frivolous requests and eliminate all 15 of these voters, his petitions would still contain 58 names – which is more than enough for eligibility on the ballot.

Dr. Nacco requested the Electoral Board reject Mr. McLinden's request to disenfranchise the voters who have given their support of his right to run for the DACC Board.

ITEM 8: ELECTORAL BOARD

A. LOOK AT EVIDENCE

Ms. Finch stated she would like to see in writing where it states that it is the responsibility of the election official to make sure the forms are completed correctly by the petitioner. Ms. Cherry noted any lay person can look at a signature and say that the person signed or did not sign.

B. DISCUSS FINDINGS

There was discussion regarding address changes of voters. The Board also discussed reviewing the voter registration cards for signatures and addresses.

C. VOTE ON OBJECTION RAISED BY LYNN MCLINDEN TO REMOVE STEPHEN NACCO FROM THE CONSOLIDATED ELECTION BALLOT

Ms. Finch made a motion to continue the discussion at a later date so that the Board could obtain additional information before making a decision. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cherry. The motion passed by roll call vote: 3 yeas, 0 nays.

ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: _____