

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2013**

The Board of Trustees of Community College District 509, Counties of Kane, Cook, DuPage, McHenry and DeKalb, State of Illinois, held a meeting of the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 22, in Building E (Fox Valley and University Business Center), Room 100.01, located at Spartan Drive Campus, Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, Illinois.

1. Call to Order by Presiding Officer

Chair McBride called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and asked Ms. Kerruish to call roll.

Trustees present: Mr. Duffy, Mr. Getz, Dr. Jones, Ms. MacKinney, Dr. McBride, Dr. Redmer, Dr. Ollayos, and Student Trustee Mr. Ulbert

Trustees absent: None

ECC Staff and others present: Dr. Sam, President; Ms. Kerruish, acting recorder; Ms. Konny, Ms. DiGerlando, Mr. Julian, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Lucca, Ms. Sawyer, Ms. Bucek, Dr. McGee, Dr. Cowles

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Committee of the Whole, December 10, 2012

Dr. McBride requested approval of the minutes of December 10, 2012.

Motion: Trustee Duffy moved to approve the minutes of December 10, 2012.

Second: Trustee Ollayos seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

3. College Reports

A. Construction / Remodel Update

A written report was submitted under separate cover.

B. College Initiatives

1. *Achieving the Dream/Student Success* – No report submitted.

2. *Alliance for College Readiness* – No submission needed, imminent meeting..

3. *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* – No report submitted.

4. Presentation

Speer Financial – Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Raphaliata McKenzie)

Ms. Konny stated that the college is ready to sell the bonds for the remaining \$48 million of referendum funds for the final projects. Ms. McKenzie was introduced and provided a review of the college's current financial picture. She provided a copy of the current debt schedule that includes principal and interest of all outstanding bonds, and she reviewed the information provided. Due to the economy, there is a decrease in the current equalized assessed value (EAV), which translates to an increase in the District 509 tax rate. Everything presented is subject to change, based on interest rates. It is possible to refinance the debt at a lower rate; restructuring existing bonds should not affect the college's financial rating. Trustees offered several scenarios relating to how restructuring the debt could impact our

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taxpayers and our financial rating. Trustee Getz suggested that we negotiate the lowest interest rate possible without delaying the payment of principal, taking into account the total overall cost to taxpayers. Trustee Ollayos suggested that Speer Financial provide a recommendation, as they have done a very good job for the college in the past. Dr. Sam summarized the discussion stating that this is a very complex issue with many variables and he recommends that Speer provide their best recommendation. Ms. McKenzie will take into account the board members' suggestions and provide the best recommendation for the district while maintaining a high financial rating.

Peggy Heinrich provided an overview of the 50 Plus Grant in the amount of \$15,000 that the college recently received. Over a three-year period, these funds, which cannot be used for tuition, will be used to enhance the unemployment resource area and soft skills, such as resumé writing.

Ms. Heinrich also mentioned that a small staff from KCDE is looking into renting space on campus to provide better access to students eligible for WIA support, which pays full tuition and book costs for eligible students. This is being done at Lake County and works very well for the students.

The board recessed at 3:42 p.m. and reconvened at 3:48 p.m.

5. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

6. New Business

A. Items of Professional Growth

1. Goals Review

Information was provided in the board packets which will be used to discuss progress regarding the board's goals at the March committee of the whole meeting.

2. ICCTA Seminar / Board Meeting, March 8-9, Lombard, IL

Planning to attend: Trustees Duffy, MacKinney, McBride, Ollayos, and Redmer.

3. Miscellaneous / Additional Information

Trustee Ollayos mentioned an article in the Wall Street Journal regarding the definition of adjunct faculty, health costs and pensions. Dr. Sam mentioned that community college HR chiefs and presidents will be meeting on this topic at the state level in March. Trustee Redmer inquired about how adjunct faculty hours are tracked since they may work at several colleges. Dr. Sam mentioned that the board has the authority to make the decision as to whether a retiree can return as an employee in another capacity. This has a financial impact on the college and should not be allowed.

Trustee Ollayos mentioned that no one had applied for two openings on the ACCT board and suggested that Trustee MacKinney put her name forward for the diversity committee. The deadline for submitting the application is January 31. The board supports this recommendation. Full details regarding the submission are on the ACCT website. Trustee MacKinney will put together her submission.

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B. Current Areas of Observation or Concern

Trustee Getz raised a concern about two-person sub-committees and the *Open Meetings Act* and the need to publish agendas and minutes. The recently received legal update from Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton & Taylor states that a public body committee **can** consist of two or three members. He stated his concerns about being in compliance with the law. Trustees provided input regarding the definition of a committee. After a lengthy discussion, Trustee Ollayos requested that the actual scenario of the chair asking two trustees to meet and discuss an issue be reviewed for compliance and a formal response provided so that this discussion does not need to occur at subsequent meetings.

Trustee Getz suggested that the *Open Meetings Act* was violated when board members met prior to a meeting in Burlington. If public business is discussed, a meeting needs to be posted and minutes need to be taken. Trustee Redmer stated that she was at the dinner and nothing was discussed. Dr. Sam commented that the information provided was about what to expect procedurally regarding the Burlington meeting.

Trustee Getz stated his concerns regarding the 48-hour requirement to post a change to an agenda as it pertained to a recent meeting and did not receive the back-up documents that he was to have received that explained this. Dr. Sam reviewed the circumstances regarding the mentioned meeting, and explained that we were in compliance. Chair McBride will provide clarification on the focus-group issue and the 48-hour posting requirements.

Trustee Jones requested that vendor history with ECC be provided in the background information for future purchases.

Trustee MacKinney requested clarification on Action Page 29, Item 5, regarding the purchase of janitorial supplies. Clarification: there is no cost to install dispensers.

Dr. Sam mentioned the college received a thank you letter from Senator Durbin following his visit on January 11, praising the financial-aid work done on campus. Trustees suggested our financial aid program be considered for future presentation opportunities.

Dr. Sam suggested offering six credit hours of ECC summer scholarships to high school seniors graduating with recognized achievement (top 10% of their class), designating them as "summer scholars." They may come and sample what we have to offer before beginning the fall semester at another college. Board consensus was to support this initiative.

Mentioning the recent shooting on a campus in Texas, Dr. Sam said he will address the importance of security training with faculty members.

Trustee Getz mentioned that, at the Burlington board meeting, an ECC trustee's personal comment was implied to be the feeling of the full board. He reminded board members that they have agreed not to do this and it should be made clear when a personal opinion is expressed.

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C. Other

Trustee Mentor to Student Trustee at Legislative Summit

Trustee Redmer reviewed the plans for the legislative summit. Ten people will attend and will be broken into two groups. Each group will have a specific role. Student Success will be highlighted, including our honors programs. A one-page executive summary of talking points will be provided for the legislative meetings.

Adjournment

Motion: Trustee Ollayos moved to adjourn the meeting.
Second: Trustee Redmer seconded the motion.
Voice Vote: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 4:56 p.m.

Eleanor MacKinney, CAS, Board Secretary

Diane Kerruish, Acting Board Recorder