

**NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**JANUARY 14, 2020**

\* \* \* \* \*

**A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held  
on January 14, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.  
in the Robert Michael Sdao Memorial Board Room  
at Niagara County Community College**

**Board Members Present**

Mr. William Ross, Chairperson  
Ms. Gina Virtuoso, Financial Secretary  
Ms. Katherine Alexander  
Mr. Kevin Clark  
Ms. Sheila Smith  
Mr. Jerald Wolfgang

**Board Members Absent**

Mr. Jason Cafarella, Vice Chairperson  
Ms. Bonnie Sloma, Secretary  
Mr. Eric Lipps, Student Trustee

**Administration Present**

William J. Murabito, Ph.D., President  
Ms. Deborah Brewer, Director of Foundation  
Ms. Catherine Brown, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. John Eichner, Director, Business Services  
Ms. Patrice Elnicki, Interim Vice President of Finance and Information Technology  
Ms. Sara Harvey, Assistant Director of Public Relations  
Mr. Wayne Lynch, Vice President of Operations  
Mr. Robert McKeown, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management  
Mr. Dennis Michaels, Chief Information Officer  
Mr. Brian Michel, Director of Grants  
Ms. Julia Pitman, Vice President of Student Services  
Ms. Lydia Ulatowski, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Ms. Barbara Walck, Assistant to the President  
Mr. Bradley Wingert, Interim Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs

**Invited Guests Present**

Mr. Robert McCarthy, ESPA Union President  
Dr. Julie Woodworth, Faculty Senate President

Chairperson Ross called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and asked Trustee Wolfgang to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in respect for the men and women who are serving our country.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **PRESENTATION**

Robert Morris, Professor of English, provided a handout of the "draft" Strategic Plan 2019-2022. Professor Morris briefly reviewed the plan, as asked that the board review it, and contact him with any questions they may have. Barb Walck will provide board members with the email address for Professor Morris.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Ross asked if Board members wanted any item removed from the Consent Agenda. It was moved by Trustee Wolfgang and seconded by Trustee Clark that the Board approve the minutes from the November 26, 2019 board meeting, along with the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, and Grant Activities. Motion carried unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chairperson Ross asked Board members if there were questions regarding the Information Items. The following items were received and filed: Grant Tracking Chart, Personnel Status Chart, Foundation Report, Facilities Update, and In Kind Donation (3). Foundation Director Deb Brewer clarified that the In-Kind Donation of an Organ donated in April 2019 was never received by NCCC; the owner reneged his donation.

Vice President Wayne Lynch provided an update on the progress of the upstairs cafeteria.

## **ACADEMIC / STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Trustee Wolfgang and seconded by Trustee Virtuoso that the Board approve the Academic Calendar 2021-2022 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **FISCAL COMMITTEE**

President Murabito discussed the Resolution which is part of a SUNY advocacy program. The resolution was reviewed by the board.

## **BOARD RESOLUTION**

### **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A PERMANENT FUNDING FLOOR FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE BASE STATE AID FORMULA FISCAL YEAR 2020**

WHEREAS, community colleges serve as economic engines that provide a trained workforce and educated citizenry for the State of New York and the local communities in which they're located;

AND WHEREAS, community colleges are anchor institutions that help keep their communities strong and vibrant by serving as major employers, community hubs, and social centers;

AND WHEREAS, community colleges are the primary catalyst to the middle class by serving more low-income students than any other sector of higher education;

AND WHEREAS, community colleges anticipate and respond to the emerging needs of their local communities and remain the most adaptable sector of higher education;

AND WHEREAS, community colleges serve nearly half of all undergraduates enrolled in the SUNY System along with nearly as many life-long learners through non-credit classes;

AND WHEREAS, a level of predictability in State funding is essential to provide community colleges the ability to plan and budget accordingly and recognizes each college's annual fixed costs;

AND WHEREAS, the 98% of the previous year or \$100 increase per FTE, whichever is greater, language added to the community college funding model for fiscal year 2019 was a step in the right in the direction and appreciated;

AND WHEREAS, the funding floor should be set in State statute at 100% of the previous year or \$100 increase per FTE, whichever is greater;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Niagara County Community College Board of Trustees fully supports the proposal that New York State change the base state aid formula allocation for each community college to be permanently set at 100% of the previous year or \$100 increase per FTE, whichever is more.

Signed,

---

William L. Ross  
Board Chairperson  
December 17, 2019

BOT 19-14

It was moved by Trustee Virtuoso and seconded by Trustee Clark that the Board approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.  
Trustee Wolfgang asked that this resolution be sent to our three state legislators.

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Ross stated that the Gingerbread Wonderland has been well received again this year, one more weekend of activities.

Thank you to everyone who attended the successful holiday boards' meeting/dinner on December 9. The NCCC women's and men's basketball teams are doing well this year. The women's team is rated seventh in the nation, and the men's team is rated second in the nation.

Wishing everyone a Happy, Holy, Healthy, and safe Holiday season.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Murabito discussed the following:

- This summer we will extend the four-day workweek, as it was done last year. The college will be closed on Fridays through July.
- Foundation Director Deb Brewer provided an update on their first National "Day of Giving" on December 3.
- All SUNY presidents had a meeting scheduled, which turned into a conference call (due to weather). Items discussed were advocacy, etc.
- December 5, President Murabito met with the Bridge District Steering Committee at Niagara University; discussion of revitalization of properties in downtown Niagara Falls.
- President Murabito and his wife Mary attended a NCCC basketball tournament at Genesee Community College.
- Thank you to all who attended the December 9 holiday boards' meeting/dinner; everyone seemed to enjoy the evening.

- On December 11, NCCC hosted a volleyball tournament, with a press release in our main gym; as we have received a major grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation.
- On December 12, Chairperson Ross and President Murabito attended a meeting with the Niagara Region Construction Alliance (formerly the Niagara County Builders Assoc.); discussed the need for construction programs for the area, etc. We need to explore more options in construction technology.
- Reminder that the college will be closed from Christmas Day to New Year's Day.
- President Murabito introduced Patrice Elnicki, as the new Interim Vice President of Finance and Information Technology. Patrice has been with the college for 15 years.

### **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

Student Trustee Eric Lipps provided his report.

### **FACULTY OBSERVER REPORT**

Faculty Senate President Julie Woodworth provided the Faculty Observer report.

It was moved by Trustee Clark and seconded by Trustee Alexander that the Board go into Executive Session under the provisions of Section 105 of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law to discuss contract negotiations at 5:50p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Trustee Virtuoso and seconded by Trustee Alexander that the Board come out of Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **GOOD & WELFARE**

There was no good and welfare.

It was moved by Trustee Virtuoso and seconded by Trustee Wolfgang to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Barbara A. Walck  
Secretary to the Board