

**NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

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**A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held  
on November 17, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the  
V. James Renda Faculty Resource Center for Academic Excellence (FRCAE)  
and live streaming**

**Board Members Present**

Ms. Gina Virtuoso, Chairperson  
Mr. Jason Cafarella, Financial Secretary (via ZOOM)  
Ms. Katherine Alexander  
Mr. Kevin Clark  
Ms. Sheila Smith (via ZOOM)  
Mr. Jerald Wolfgang  
Mr. Maurice Jackson, Student Trustee

**Board Members Excused**

Mr. William Ross, Vice Chairperson  
Ms. Bonnie Sloma, Secretary

**Administration Present**

William J. Murabito, Ph.D., President  
Ms. Catherine Brown, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources  
Ms. Alissa Cummings, Director, Career and Transitional Services  
Ms. Barbara DeSimone, Director, Public Relations  
Mr. Wayne Lynch, Interim Vice President of Administration  
Mr. Robert McKeown, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management  
Mr. Jesse Goldberg, Interim Chief Information Officer  
Ms. Julia Pitman, Vice President of Student Services  
Ms. Lydia Ulatowski, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Mr. Bradley Wingert, Interim Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Ms. Barbara Walck, Assistant to the President

**Invited Guests**

Dr. Katherine Johnson, Professor

Chairperson Virtuoso called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and asked Trustee Clark 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. Also, a moment of silence on the passing of former Trustee Barbara Williams, who served two terms, and was the Chair of the Board, and the first African American Trustee for NCCC.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **PRESENTATION**

Sabbatical – “A Space for Place: The Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, Niagara Falls, NY”. Professor Katherine Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation on her studies while on sabbatical.

Branch Campus Update: Lydia Ulatowski, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs provided a handout, showing comparison of “off-campus locations” definitions for credit-bearing instruction, along with an update of our branch campus – Niagara Falls Culinary Institute. A resolution will be drafted to bring to the next full board meeting.

Business and Finance Update: Wayne Lynch, Interim Vice President of Administration provided a handout, along with an update of our finances.

SUNY Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) Accessibility Policy and Campus Plan: Alissa Cummings, Director, Career and Transitional Services, provided a handout and explained the different plans for services that are accessible to persons with disabilities.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Virtuoso asked if Board members wanted any item removed from the Consent Agenda. It was moved by Trustee Clark and seconded by Trustee Alexander that the Board approve the minutes from the October 20, 2020 board meeting, Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and Grant Activities. Motion carried unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chairperson Virtuoso 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 Enrollment Update.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Virtuoso thanked the speakers for their earlier presentations and to Lydia Ulatowski providing the branch campus update. Chairperson Virtuoso asked for an update on the Culinary Institute. President Murabito stated the NFCl was paused with instruction moving to all online, and the building was cleaned/sanitized. Yesterday was the first day to open for in person classes. Wayne Lynch and Catherine Brown performed pool testing at NFCl.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Murabito discussed the following:

- Dr. Murabito provided an update on COVID. Wayne Lynch, Catherine Brown and Julia Pitman are doing a good job which has been consuming much of their time. Wayne Lynch is our main contact with SUNY, providing reports, screening updates, etc. Athletics has been paused for two weeks.
- An Open House for the EOP program was held prior to this meeting. The EOP office has been relocated to A building.
- At the end of October, Chris Jacobs and Nate McMurray were here on campus separately, each toured the campus, and discussed program development.
- Stavatti project is ongoing with their purchase of the former U.S. Army Reserve Center in Niagara County. We have taken a leadership role in the education portion. On Monday, Dr. Murabito met with ECC Interim President Reuter and John Simon, Bob Sugarman from Stavatti to discuss programs and economic development. Many jobs will be created from this endeavor. Early in December, Dr. Murabito has arranged a summit for other colleges to assist and be part of this

project.

- The SUNY Presidents continue to meet virtually, providing updates from their campus. The Chancellor stated that he must now be focused on the development of next year's budget. The SUNY advocacy plan was sent to board members today for their review.
- Monday a virtual meeting with WNY Consortium Community College Presidents is scheduled to discuss the Stavatti summit.
- Pandemic Regulation Plan needs to be written, showing lessons learned from this pandemic.
- Campus Works – five campuses writing a charter for the consortium. NCCC, Onondaga CC, Herkimer CC, Adirondack CC and Cayuga CC are involved in developing the consortium. Assessment of early outcomes, cost effectiveness will be discussed and help determine our involvement.
- The second Employee Town Hall will be held on Thursday; many topics will be discussed, and questions have been submitted. The dialogue will be via ZOOM.
- Thank you to all trustees for completing the Safe Colleges training.
- Meetings are still ongoing with the Niagara County Sheriffs Dept, Niagara University and other representatives, discussing minority hiring in the sheriff's department.

#### **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

The Student Trustee Report was provided by Maurice Jackson. Dr. Murabito stated the students built a Halloween haunted house and it was spectacular. Nice work by all the students involved.

Trustee Wolfgang asked about the basketball schedule. Vice President Pitman stated official practice will start closer to February 1. We are working with other colleges determining who will be building a team, and hoping to play other teams.

#### **FACULTY OBSERVER REPORT**

No report was provided.

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 a contract process at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Trustee Clark and seconded by Trustee Alexander that the Board come out of Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Wayne Lynch, Interim Vice President of Administration stated that Jesse Goldberg has taken on the interim responsibilities from the retirement of Dennis Michaels.

#### **ACADEMIC/STUDENT LIFE and FISCAL COMMITTEE**

Trustee Clark, Vice Chairperson of the Fiscal Committee read the following resolution:

#### **BOARD RESOLUTION**

## **SUPPORT OF NCCC CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST TO NEW YORK STATE**

WHEREAS, the Niagara County Board of Trustees has consistently recognized the importance of Niagara County Community College as an invaluable asset to Niagara County, and

WHEREAS, the administration of Niagara County Community College has identified several areas of need to remain competitive within the Western New York higher education arena, and

WHEREAS, the proposed capital funding total of \$690,068 which includes replacement and purchasing of equipment in Business, Culinary Arts, Fine Arts, Nursing, Rad Tech, and STEM departments, along with technology enhancements for Allied Health and the entire student population on Niagara County Community College; and

WHEREAS, the NCCC Foundation has pledged the amount of \$345,034 as the local sponsor share in support of this funding contingent on a SUNY match, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Niagara County Community College Board of Trustees, as governing board of the college, does hereby support the proposed capital funding for equipment and technology upgrades; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Niagara County Community College is requesting SUNY to provide a 50% match of the total capital amount of \$690,068. The amount requested from SUNY is \$345,034.

Signed:

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Gina I. Virtuoso  
Board Chairperson  
November 17, 2020

BOT 20-09

It was moved by Trustee Clark and seconded by Trustee Wolfgang that the board approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **GOOD & WELFARE**

There was no good & welfare.

It was moved by Trustee Clark and seconded by Trustee Wolfgang to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Barbara A. Walck  
Assistant to the President