

**NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

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**A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held  
on November 16, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.  
in person, via ZOOM, and live streaming**

**Board Members Present**

Mr. Jason Cafarella, Chairperson  
Ms. Gina Virtuoso, Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Kevin Clark, Financial Secretary  
Ms. Katherine Alexander  
Mr. William Ross  
Mr. Jerald Wolfgang  
Mr. Maurice Jackson, Student Trustee

**Board Members Present via ZOOM**

Ms. Bonnie Sloma, Secretary

**Board Members Excused**

Ms. Sheila Smith

**Administration Present**

William J. Murabito, Ph.D., President  
Ms. Deborah Brewer, Director of Foundation  
Ms. Catherine Brown, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources  
Ms. Barbara DeSimone, Director of Public Relations  
Mr. John Eichner, Director of Business Services  
Dr. Fabio Escobar, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Mr. Jesse Goldberg, Chief Information Officer  
Mr. Wayne Lynch, Vice President of Administration  
Ms. Julia Pitman, Vice President of Student Services  
Ms. Lydia Ulatowski, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Ms. Barbara Walck, Assistant to the President

Chairperson Cafarella called the meeting to order at 4:35p.m. and asked Trustee Clark to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the military.

Chairperson Cafarella stated that the meeting is being recorded and live streamed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no Public Comments.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Chairperson Cafarella introduced Paul Reid of Reid Petroleum. NCCC Board nominated Reid Petroleum for the NYCCT Benefactor Vision for Tomorrow Award. The Board is presenting Mr. Reid with this award as he was unable to attend the awards banquet in early November. Mr. Reid provided a few words of thanks. Congratulations to Reid Petroleum!

IRC Grant Presentations –

- Dr. Julie Woodworth provided the following two (2) presentations: “Escape Room”  
“360 Degree Experience”
- Dr. Suman Baral provided the following presentation: “Thomas Fermi Statistical Quark Model  
in Search of Exotic Particles”

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Carafella asked if Board members wanted any item removed from the Consent Agenda. It was moved

by Chairperson Cafarella and seconded by Trustee Wolfgang that the Board approve the minutes from the

October 19, 2021 board meeting, Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, and Grant Activities. Motion carried unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chairperson Cafarella 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, Donation, and Prospective Request for Bids.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Cafarella stated the NYCCT Conference was held in Saratoga Springs on November 5 and 6. He thanked Trustees Ross and Wolfgang for attending. Trustees Ross and Wolfgang provided information from the conference.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Murabito discussed the following:

- The end of October, Dr. Murabito walked through the student built haunted house which the students worked on; they did a great job and it showed all the time and effort put into this event. He suggests this should be a multi-day viewing event.
- Dr. Murabito recently held a meeting to discuss an aviation charter school, which would be a long-term project, with an emphasis of STEM.
- Dr. Murabito continues to meet with regional community college presidents. This is being used as a sounding board as more and more questions are developed.
- Dr. Murabito attended the NYCCAP meeting held the day prior to the NYCCT conference in early November. Main topics were executive budget and workforce training.
- Dr. Murabito attended the New York State Governors Commission of National Service meeting.
- Today, Dr. Murabito and Vice President Pitman met with the Student Government Association for “Pizza with the President”; many ideas were discussed and to possibly expand the group.
- Tomorrow is the press conference at 3:00 p.m. to be held in the Learning Commons for the Niagara Falls Flight Academy. Members of the press will be in attendance along with other dignitaries. All board members are encouraged to attend.
- Yesterday, Dr. Murabito and Vice President Lynch toured the Bell Aerospace facility as a possible training facility for our students. Stavatti Group has a purchase offer for this facility.

- Tomorrow, Dr. Murabito and administrators will be serving the annual Thanksgiving luncheon to students. All board members are invited to participate. On Friday, the luncheon will also be offered at NFCI as takeout.
- The Annual Day of Giving will be held on November 30. Foundation Director Deb Brewer provided a few details.
- Savor Restaurant continues to be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday through December 17 for lunch and dinner. They will reopen at the end of January or early February.
- The annual holiday board dinner/meeting will be held on Monday, December 6 at Savor Restaurant.
- On November 10, we held our annual Veterans Day ceremony. Dr. Murabito wanted to share with everyone the speech which Vice Chairperson Virtuoso provided as a speaker for this event. The video presentation was viewed on the monitors. Vice Chairperson Virtuoso thanked all the veterans and she was honored to be asked to speak at the ceremony. Dr. Murabito stated next year we will be at our new Veterans Memorial location, kicking off our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

The Student Trustee Report was provided by Maurice Jackson.

#### **FACULTY OBSERVER REPORT**

The Faculty Observer Report was provided by Dr. Julie Woodworth.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **ACADEMIC/STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**

Catherine Brown provided information on the new title of Assistant Director of Grants. It was moved by Trustee Ross and seconded by Trustee Clark to approve the new title of Assistant Director of Grants as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

John D Strong provided information on the Resolution – Native American Heritage Day. Chairperson Cafarella read the Resolution:

Niagara County Community College (NCCC) borders the recognized lands of the Haudenosaunee people of both Seneca and Tuscarora Nations. Therefore, it is in the collective best interests of these Native American Peoples, and the institution of NCCC to live and work in harmony, and in observance of each other's role in the true American story. To that end, the following resolution is proposed.

**WHEREAS**, the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees passed resolution to establish a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy on September 10, 2015; and,

**WHEREAS**, many of our SUNY campuses reside on land once inhabited by the Haudenosaunee And Wenro people; and,

**WHEREAS**, SUNY is committed to creating campus communities that are inclusive, diverse and representative of all people system-wide.

**WHEREAS**, the NCCC Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee was created in September 2016. It

serves as an initiative to actively engage the whole college community in recognizing the importance of diversity for assuring the success of all members of our college community, including students, staff, faculty, and administration, in an ever-increasingly global environment; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that** the NCCC Board of Trustees approve the recommendation of the EDI Committee requesting the Friday prior to Thanksgiving as *Native American Heritage Day* from this day forward and that a sustained and meaningful week-long series of events and activities to be scheduled to educate and celebrate Indigenous Peoples' histories and cultures. *Native American Heritage Day* will be listed in the College Academic Calendar.

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

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Jason J. Cafarella  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
BOT 21-06

It was moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Student Trustee Jackson to approve the Resolution - Native American Heritage Day as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **FISCAL COMMITTEE**

Committee Chairperson Sloma asked Wayne Lynch to discuss the resolutions. Vice Chairperson Virtuoso read the Resolution – Support for NCCC Capital Funding – Student Hub:

**WHEREAS**, the Niagara County Community College (NCCC) Board of Trustees recognizes a critical need to promote 21<sup>st</sup> century educational opportunities in the Niagara Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Capital Funding for renovating the Student Hub is proposed to be new lighting, ceilings, LED lighting, and creation of new collaborative conference and Club activity rooms; and

**WHEREAS**, the Capital Funding for renovating, purchasing furniture, and updating technology for the Student Hub on the Sanborn campus to ensure student recruitment, retention, and success; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical that NCCC remains competitive within the Western New York area as well as continuing to be an excellent choice for education, particularly for our Niagara County residents; and

**WHEREAS, it is important to concentrate on upgrading NCCC's technology so the students have a competitive advantage for future employment.**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCCC Board of Trustees supports the College's Capital funding request for a total of \$500,000 contingent on the SUNY match.

Signed:

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Jason J. Cafarella  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
November 16, 2021  
BOT 21-09

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Virtuoso and seconded by Student Trustee Jackson to approve the Resolution – Support for NCCC Capital Funding – Student Hub as presented. Motion carried

unanimously.

Vice Chairperson Virtuoso read the following Resolution – Support for NCCC Police Academy and Criminal Justice Facility:

**WHEREAS**, the Niagara County Community College (NCCC) Board of Trustees recognizes a critical need to promote 21<sup>st</sup> century educational opportunities and investments into the Criminal Justice programs in the Niagara Region; and

**WHEREAS**, NCCC is committed to the excellence and support required for investments into law enforcement training and Criminal Justice degree programs and

**WHEREAS**, the Capital Funding for this will include but is not limited to: Design and construction of a new 14,000 square foot Police Academy Facility to support the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy (NCLEA) and integrate our existing Criminal Justice Program and resurface Parking Lot #4 adjacent to the proposed facility location and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical that NCCC remains competitive within the Western New York area as well as continuing to be an excellent choice for education, particularly for our Niagara County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to concentrate on upgrading NCCC's infrastructure and program delivery environment, so the students have a competitive advantage for future employment.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCCC Board of Trustees supports the College's Capital funding request for **a total of \$4,940,000** contingent on the SUNY match.

Signed:

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Jason J. Cafarella  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
November 16, 2021  
BOT 21-10

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Virtuoso and seconded by Trustee Clark to approve the Resolution – Support for NCCC Police Academy and Criminal Justice Facility as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Trustee Jackson read the following Resolution – Support for NCCC Capital Funding – Welding and Technology Investments:

**WHEREAS**, the Niagara County Community College (NCCC) Board of Trustees recognizes a critical need to promote 21<sup>st</sup> century educational opportunities and skilled trades in the Niagara Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Capital Funding for renovating the C-Annex with the purpose of installing new welding, mechanical and electrical equipment and technologies is proposed and

**WHEREAS**, the Capital Funding for this will include but is not limited to: Installation of \$300k in welding and metal working equipment secured through a grant provided by the National Science Foundation, new electrical distribution to support said equipment, installation of new HVAC systems for ventilation and fume extraction, piped gases for welding, general renovations and life safety code compliance and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical that NCCC remains competitive within the Western New York area as well as continuing to be an excellent choice for education, particularly for our Niagara County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to concentrate on upgrading NCCC's technology so the students have a competitive advantage for future employment.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCCC Board of Trustees supports the College's Capital funding request for **a total of \$2,000,000** contingent on the SUNY match.

Signed:

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Jason J. Cafarella  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
November 16, 2021  
BOT 21-11

It was moved by Student Trustee Jackson and seconded by Trustee Alexander to approve the Resolution – Support for NCCC Capital Funding – Welding and Technology Investments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Lynch provided the business and finance updates.

It was moved by Trustee Wolfgang and seconded by Trustee Clark 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 6:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Trustee Ross and seconded by Trustee Alexander that the Board come out of Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Wolfgang discussed how the state can possibly help provide training for electricians, etc., and funding for workforce. There is a great need in the unions for training in math and reading programs. Dr. Murabito provided more information.

#### **GOOD & WELFARE**

There was no Good & Welfare.

It was moved by Trustee Clark and seconded by Student Trustee Jackson to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Bonnie Sloma  
Secretary