

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT #512
COUNTIES OF COOK, KANE, LAKE, AND McHENRY, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Wednesday, October 9, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 was called to order by Chair Bill Kelley on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Wojcik Conference Center, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Greg Dowell, Diane Hill, Bill Kelley, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack and Student Member Liman Lei (arrived at 5:45 p.m.).

Absent: Member Herb Johnson

Also present:

Mike Barzacchini, Director of Marketing Services; Dr. Dennis Baskin, Associate Provost of Student Affairs; Dr. Susanne Brock, Senior Director, Innovation and Development; Tony Butler, Director of Risk Management; Orlando Cabrera, Tech Support Specialist; Dr. Scott Cashman, Senior Manager Community, Career and Corporate Education; Tom Cassell, Senior Director Business Development and Event Operations; Meg Coney, Administrative Coordinator; Amanda Duval-Norwood, Chief Human Resources Officer; Rob Galick, EVP Finance and Administrative Services; Bob Grapenthien, Controller; Erika Hartman, Administrative Coordinator; Bob Hayley, Assistant Controller; Dr. Joanne Ivory, Dean of Career and Technical Programs; Dr. Tamara Johnson, Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Jeff Julian, Chief of Staff/Vice President of External Affairs; Rick Kellerman, Network Specialist; Dr. Derek Leiter, Dean of Health Careers; Matt McLaughlin, Director of Insights, Planning and Decision Support; Nancy Medina, Executive Director Facilities Management; Kristyn Meyer, Associate Executive Director Foundation; Bob Parzy, Associate Provost, Enrollment Services; Steve Petersen, Campus Architect; Kim Pohl, Director of Communications; Jamie Riewerts, Dean of Liberal Arts; Darlene Schlenbecker, Vice President of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Michelé Smith, Vice President, Business Solutions; Deann Surdo, Director of Outcomes Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Mark Wahlers, Interim Associate Provost Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Ruth Williams, Provost; Riaz Yusuff, Chief Information Officer; Heather Zoldak, Chief Advancement Officer.

Guests: Phil Gerner, Robbins-Schwartz

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION OF
FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Bob Grapenthien reviewed the proposed Harper 2024 Levy, reminding the Board of the limitations imposed by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), which restricts levy increases to the previous year's Consumer Price Index for Urban consumers (CPI-U). He provided an analysis of PTELL versus CPI-U over the last 11 years. Additionally, he discussed a comparison of community colleges' 2022 tax levies, including a focus on Harper College's position relative to its peer group as identified by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). Trustee Dowell emphasized the importance of focusing on Harper College's revenue needs rather than just the allowable limits under the law. He encouraged the Board to prioritize what the college requires financially, rather than being solely constrained by the legal levy limits.

Mr. Grapenthien reviewed the General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds for 2025, the biannual non-referendum bonds, which are limited by Harper College's Debt Service Extension Base. He also outlined the key proposed dates related to the bond issuance. The Board will vote on the Adoption of Debt Certificates Resolution at the October 16 meeting.

Mr. Grapenthien gave an update on the FY25 Budget, including a forecast of tax-capped funds and revenue variances that affect the surplus. He mentioned that more accurate projections will be available in January 2025.

Rob Galick, Nancy Medina and Steve Petersen provided updates on three major construction projects: the Canning Student Center/University Center (Building N), the Business and Social Sciences Building (Building I) and the Emergency Services Training Center (Building Q).

Galick reported that Canning Student Center bids received came in under budget. This allows for the implementation of up to four additional projects: a bridge connection to building M, a vegetated roof, enhanced internal finishes and enhanced landscaping. Ms. Medina provided the schedule for each project from groundbreaking to building opening.

The Board inquired about the maintenance and weight of the vegetated roof. Petersen explained that the structure is designed to support the weight, and the plants will require minimal upkeep, such as no watering or weeding. Additionally, a standard roof is installed beneath the vegetation for added protection. Trustee Hill inquired whether the options for Building A, including complete demolition or remodeling, were still being considered. Dr. Proctor confirmed that both options remain under review. The Board is excited to see these projects get underway.

Darlene Schlenbecker provided an update on the outcomes of the September 13 Dialogue Session 2, titled "The Changing Landscape of Work," which had 145 employees and community members in attendance. The main themes from attendees in response to the question: what should Harper focus on?

- Comprehensive Education: Many respondents talked about the need to develop the "whole person", "life-long learning" and a developing a "growth mindset" when it comes to a student's education.
- Industry Partnerships and Relevant Programming: Respondents emphasized the importance of building stronger relationships and collaborating with local industries to ensure the curriculum aligns with employer needs.
- Embracing Change (Technology/AI): Adaptability, flexibility, resilience, and agility were common words used throughout many responses related to technology, AI and changing workforce needs.

The Board also participated by watching the panel video and responding to related questions. Their input reflected the following focus areas:

- How can we help our students be more prepared for current and future jobs given the rapidly changing nature of work?
- Education as life-long learning, improving capacity to create opportunities to pivot to new careers throughout a person's career.
- AI and its impact on all areas of learning.

The Board commented on the energy and diversity of perspectives of the panel with their discussion. Ms. Schlenbecker said the next Dialogue Session is the Changing Landscape of the Community, and three Data Summits will be held in November.

Jeff Julian reviewed the October Board packet and reminded the Board of the Hanover Park Education and Work Center 10-year anniversary celebration program begins at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, October 10.

Trustee Mundt asked about Exhibit X-A.3.a, the snow removal contract for HPC and LCC, specifically whether Harper's current provider had bid on the project. There was concern about the lowest bidder being from Wisconsin, including questions about their local equipment and whether Harper had vetted other clients of the company. Dr. Proctor will provide that information when gathered.

FORMAL ACTIONS

Member Mundt moved; Member Johnson seconded to enter closed session to discuss OMA section 2(c)(1): The appointment,

employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body..., and OMA section 2(c)(11): Litigation.

Member Robb motioned, Member Dowell seconded to adjourn the closed session and re-enter the regular meeting at 6:26 p.m. In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Hill moved, Member Dowell seconded, adjournment at 6:26 p.m.

In a voice vote, motion carried.

Chair

Secretary