

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, February 8, 2023

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 Pat Stack on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in of the Wojcik Conference Center, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Greg Dowell, Diane Hill, Herb Johnson, Bill Kelley, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, and Student Member Maricarmen Gonzalez. Walt Mundt left at 6:02 p.m.

Absent: none

Also present:

Mike Barzacchini, Director of Marketing Services; Laura Brown, Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer; Michael Bates, Associate Provost, Curriculum and Instruction; Tony Butler, Director of Risk Management; Orlando Cabrera, Tech Support Specialist; Scott Cashman, Senior Manager, Community, Career and Corporate Education; Tom Cassell, Senior Director, Business Development; Meg Coney, Administrative Coordinator; Dr. Maria Coons, Vice President and Board Liaison; Dr. Kathy Coy, Director, Institutional Research; Amanda Duval, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Diane Duin, Interim Dean, Health Careers; Rob Galick, EVP Finance and Administrative Services; Bob Grapenthien, Controller; Travaris Harris, Associate Provost; Erika Hartman, Administrative Coordinator; Mary Kay Harton, Dean of Students; Dr. Joanne Ivory, Dean, Career and Technical Programs; Dr. MaryAnn Janosik, Provost; Jeff Julian, Chief of Staff; Rick Kellerman, Network Specialist; Nancy Medina, Executive Director Facilities Management; Steve Petersen, Campus Architect; Kim Pohl, Director, Communications; Kimberley Polly, Dean, Math and Science; Dr. Avis Proctor, President; Darlene Schlenbecker, Vice President of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Michelé Smith, Vice President Workforce Solutions; Darice Trout, Interim Dean, Business and Social Science; Riaz Yusuff, Chief Information Officer; Heather Zoldak, Associate Executive Director-Foundation and Major Gifts.

Guests: FGM Architects: David Yandel, Andy Jasek
Fire Departments from Arlington Heights: David Strojny, Lance Harris;
Barrington: John Christian; Elk Grove: Nathan Gac, John Lodewyck;
Hoffman Estates: Alan Wax, Daniel Pearson, David Ganziano, Patrick Clark; Inverness: Richard Kurka, Chris Anneduo;
Palatine: Norm Bemis, Scott Mackeben, Matthew Nagy, and Patrick Gratianna Chris Farnsworth, Jeb Kaiser, Rob Kluzek, Shane Koeneman, Anthony Lavacchi, Joe Mueller, Keith VonderHeide, Chuck Zimmerman; Rolling Meadows Fire Department: Pete Sutter;

Schaumburg: Fabio Puccini.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fire Chief Alan Wax from the Hoffman Estates Fire Department offered appreciation for the collaboration and partnership experienced with Harper College on the emergency services training facility project. He mentioned the new curriculum is more successful than imagined. Chief Wax stressed the importance of the dedication to education and training that Harper and the fire departments share, thanking the Board for sharing the vision of emergency responder training for the future. Training individuals to make fire fighters ready to handle situations they will encounter is the highest priority for fire departments. He mentioned ongoing challenges with travel costs and time out of service for training at other facilities. The chief was confident that this facility could become a destination training site for the greater fire service and would provide future collaborations and opportunities with police officers and other responders. The benefit to the greater community would be enhanced.

He provided the Board with letters of commitment and support for the project from ten local fire departments.

DISCUSSION OF FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Dr. Maria Coons and Dr. Joanne Ivory, along with David Yandel from FGM Architects, presented an overview of the Emergency Services Training Center (ESTC) Feasibility Study. Dr. Coons reminded the Board that they will consider both the approval of the budget and the approval for design architectural services at the February 15 meeting.

Dr. Ivory stated it was a privilege to work with the fire departments and without their input Harper would not have achieved this goal. She shared that as a result of this recent partnership, Harper is offering three new courses with current enrollment of 69 students. Courses offered must have the approval of the State Fire Marshal. Spring enrollment is underway so there is an expected increase. Thus far, Harper has received \$14,250 in revenues, which is 200% above the business plan's initial projection for this timeframe. These courses can also be linked to Harper's credit programs. Dr. Ivory reported that with the training facility, there would be an increase in the number of certificate classes requiring hands-on training, continuous enrollment of firefighters for annual training and new recruit training, and the facility would be in close proximity to local fire departments – which makes for considerable growth potential. She is exploring all options with other programs.

David Yandel reviewed the preliminary program analysis, potential site recommendations and plans, and the conceptual project budget including construction and project delivery costs. He stated the project goals are 1) Facility that functions at a high level for fire

training, 2) Programs that leverage relationships to enhance enrollment, 3) Aesthetically pleasing and keeping with the main campus, and 4) Minimize disruption to neighbors. The building must meet the requirements of the ISO (Insurance Services Office). He reviewed the pros and cons of the three identified campus site options, stating that the northwest site 2 is optimum because it includes an underutilized parking lot, is the furthest site from residential neighbors, will accommodate various configurations of the facility, and is in proximity to Euclid Avenue for utilities with room to grow for future expansion(s).

Dr. Coons reviewed the financials for each site. A request for \$7 million in total would be put forth at next week's Board meeting for site 2: funding of \$5 million to come from the small bond issue and \$2 million to come from the FY2023 surplus. She also reviewed the project timeline, if approved, with construction to begin in January 2024 and completion in December 2024.

The Board thanked the team for a comprehensive study. Trustee Mundt stated this project will support our community. Trustee Hill stated this project would provide growth opportunities that meet Harper's mission.

The Board asked if Harper is pursuing other funding and Dr. Proctor mentioned seeking ongoing opportunities like state grants.

The Board asked about the environmental impact. Mr. Yandel stated the facility would host a clean burn of propane, no wood burning, and non-toxic theatrical smoke is used. It would provide a safe environment for the students and instructors. Water would drain into Harper's storm water management system.

The Board asked about anticipated numbers of users, classes, and the number of times the building would be used on an annual basis. Dr. Ivory said that without the training facility Harper can only offer the courses that do not require hands-on experiences. Palatine Division Chief of Training Norm Bemis answered that Palatine alone has 94 firefighters that they run through training annually, in addition to career training and new recruit training. Local fire departments have roughly the same number of personnel. He mentioned there is training over three weeks per month, with 120 registrations that the fire department pays for. The MABUS district includes 16 fire departments. Currently, some firefighters must attend training in Champaign, which includes hotel stays for the week, or Romeoville – both which increases time out of service.

The Board asked if there is adequate capacity for growth at the site and if the facility can be utilized when there is down time from training. Mr. Yandel said site 2 does have room for growth. Dr. Ivory said they can work around the College's hours to minimize down

time, in addition to exploring other opportunities for other first responders to utilize the facility.

Rob Galick presented the recommendation to raise tuition by \$2.00 per credit hour, and differential tuition to 150% (rather than the previous 200%); the College would fund the extra 50% for one year. He explained that Harper has not increased tuition over the past three years due to the pandemic. Differential tuition was funded by HEERF dollars during that time. Student Trustee Maricarmen Gonzalez said that students supported the increase. Trustee Nancy Robb said the proposal was measured and reasonable.

Dr. Coons reviewed the February Board Packet. She mentioned a start time change for Commencement – to begin at 2:30 pm instead of 3:00 p.m. Robing would be at 2:00 pm.

FORMAL ACTIONS

Member Dowell motioned, Member Mundt seconded to enter closed session to discuss collective negotiation, property, and litigation at 6:19 p.m. In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Member Dowel motioned, Member Gonzalez seconded to adjourn the closed session and re-enter the regular meeting at 7:31 p.m. In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Robb moved, Member Dowell seconded, adjournment at 7:32 p.m.

In a voice vote, motion carried.

Chair

Secretary