

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

Decennial Committee Meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Decennial Committee meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 was held in conjunction with the Committee Meeting of the Whole on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in of the Wojcik Conference Center, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois. This portion of the meeting began at 5:47 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Martha Bell, Greg Dowell, Herb Johnson, Bill Kelley, Lane Moyer, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack and Student Member Kei Smith.

Absent: Member Diane Hill

Also present:

Dr. Yolonda Barnes, Dean, Business Social Sciences; Dr. Mike Bates, Associate Provost Curriculum and Instruction; Laura Brown, Chief Advancement Officer; Tony Butler, Director of Risk Management; Orlando Cabrera, Tech Support Specialist; Dr. Scott Cashman, Senior Manager, Community, Career and Corporate Education; Meg Coney, Administrative Coordinator; Dr. Maria Coons, Vice President and Board Liaison; Dr. Kathy Coy, Director, Institutional Research; Megan Dallianis, Interim Associate Provost-Student Success; Amanda Duval, Chief Human Resources Officer; Rob Galick, EVP Finance and Administrative Services; Bob Grapenthien, Controller; Rita Gura, Interim Dean of Health Careers; Erika Hartman, Administrative Coordinator; Dr. Joanne Ivory, Dean, Career and Technical Programs; Jeff Julian, Chief of Staff; Rick Kellerman, Specialist Network; Christopher Maxwell, Associate Dean of Students; Nancy Medina, Executive Director Facilities Management; Bob Parzy, Associate Provost, Enrollment Services; Kim Pohl, Director of Communications; Kimberley Polly, Dean of Math and Science; Dr. Avis Proctor, President; Sharon Rainbolt, Manager Dual Credit; Jaime Riewerts, Dean, Liberal Arts; Dr. Ruth Williams, Provost; Heather Zoldak, Associate Executive Director-Foundation and Major Gifts.

Guests: Norm Bemis, Palatine Fire Department; Shahara Byford, Byford Construction; Jim Creath, Pepper Construction; Donelda Danz, Palatine Park District; Olivia Gould, Student; Kimberly Perez, Student; Larry Schroth, Village of Palatine; Eric Schwab, Pepper Construction; Maximo Perez, citizen.

INTRODUCTION

Chair Kelley explained that Public Act 102-1088 each governmental unit in the State, with some exceptions, must convene a meeting at least three times every 10 years. The purpose is to study local efficiencies and report recommendations regarding efficiencies and increased accountability to the counties. Martha Bell and Lane Moyer have graciously agreed to join the Board of Trustees and Dr. Proctor as members of the Decennial Committee. Ms. Bell and Mr. Moyer were provided with many documents, also available on the college's website, to prepare for this evening's meeting.

To address the purpose of this committee, four strategic partnerships that the college has engaged in to leverage resources - which include time, money, and talent - will be reviewed. Afterward, feedback will be solicited from those in attendance. A QR code and hard copies of the survey are available for participants and committee members.

DISCUSSION OF  
LEVERAGING  
RESOURCES:  
DISCUSSION OF  
PARTNERSHIPS

**Northwest Educational Council for Students Success (NECSS)** partnership was reviewed by Drs. Ruth Williams and Michael Bates. They explained that this partnership was formed in 2011 and represents the 23 communities served by Harper and aligns with the 12 high school districts. The overarching vision of NECSS is to partner with sender schools to help students complete college. The specific mission is to develop programs, share talent and data and leverage resources to ensure every elementary, high school and college graduate is prepared for a global society, 21<sup>st</sup> century careers and postsecondary readiness and success.

They reviewed the organizing structure of NECSS and how it has evolved over the years to address the current environment. The 2024 focus areas for NECSS are to ensure equity for all, regional alignment and transitioning dual credit students into post-secondary completion. The Power of 15 initiative promotes the completion of 15 college credits (one semester) while students are still in high school through dual credit, ensuring college readiness and other means such as AP and CLEP.

Last year 5,298 students were involved in dual credit classes. The race/ethnic breakdowns of these students mirror the overall high school population in the district. Completing 15 hours of college coursework while in high school saves students money (approximately \$2,000 per student) and increases the likelihood of completion. The three-year graduation rate is 45% for dual credit students and 24% for non-dual credit students. In addition, 400 credentials (certificates) were awarded to high school graduates in 2023.

Questions/comments from the Decennial Committee:

When are high school students eligible for dual credit? Response: When the high schools deem they can handle the rigor. Typically, this is in their junior year.

How do students qualify for dual credit? Response: When the high schools deem they are able to handle the rigor AND if the student meets the pre-requisites and of the course.

DISCUSSION OF THE  
EDUCATION AND WORK  
CENTER IN HANOVER  
PARK

**The Education and Work Center (EWC)** partnership was reviewed by Dr. Joanne Ivory. This partnership was established in 2012 and includes Harper College, Elgin Community College, Village of Hanover Park and the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership. The mission of the EWC is to improve the lives of residents who live in Hanover Park and surrounding communities by offering adult basic skills, job search and career readiness assistance. Hanover Park is uniquely situated in an area that is served by many counties, schools, townships and community colleges. The challenges in the community include high unemployment, limited transportation, and low basic skills.

EWC usage includes 4,165 individuals who visit the facility for services. The majority of the courses offered (88%) are to learn English as a Second Language (ESL); 8% of the courses assist with high school equivalency prep; the balance is for computer, citizenship and other courses. Students are not only from Hanover Park, but also other far-reaching areas such as Bellwood, Carpentersville, Itasca, and Union.

Questions/comments from the Decennial Committee:

How do we market programs? Response: Signage and word of mouth are the two main ways the EWC is marketed. Many individuals see the signs on the store front and walk in. Others learn from individuals who have used EWC services.

How are students tracked? Response: All visitors sign in when they enter EWC. Harper tracks students via its student information system.

Comments from the Decennial Committee: This partnership reflects the college's commitment to the community and beyond. The population served at EWC relies on these services to help improve their lives. Word of mouth is an effective marketing strategy as individuals in this community rely on one another for trusted information. Strong leadership makes these partnerships work.

DISCUSSION OF THE  
PALATINE PARK  
DISTRICT: HEALTH AND  
RECREATION CENTER

**Harper's Health and Recreation Center** partnership with the Palatine Park District was reviewed by Dr. Scott Cashman and Donelda Danz, Palatine Park District Superintendent of Recreation. The partnership formed over a failing pool and limited funding. The vision was for a multi-purpose building that could house academic

programs, community activities, athletics and wellness. Northwest Community Healthcare was also a partner but constructed their own attached facility as an urgent care center.

The Palatine Park District assessed its community which indicated a need for indoor aquatics, fitness, and space for group fitness. The Palatine Park District provided funding to the project so their residents would have access to these services. The facility opened in FY 2019.

Usage of the facility was reviewed and indicated that pre-pandemic levels in total check-ins to the facility and memberships have been surpassed.

Without this partnership and Palatine Park District's willingness to financially support the project, the complete renovation of Building M into the Health and Recreation Center would not have been possible.

Questions/comments from the Decennial Committee:

How much did the Palatine Park District contribute to the project:

Response: The Park District contributed \$9 million to the renovation project and contributes annually to deferred maintenance and capital replacement.

DISCUSSION OF THE  
EMERGENCY SERVICES  
TRAINING CENTER:  
TRAINING LOCAL  
FIREFIGHTERS AND  
OTHER FIRST  
RESPONDERS

**The Emergency Services Training Center** partnership was reviewed by Dr. Maria Coons and Norm Bemis, Division Chief from the Palatine Fire Department. This is the newest partnership for the college. Leaders from local fire departments met with executives from the college in May of 2022 to explain that a fire training lab is needed for the Fire Science program, just like nursing or dental hygiene labs are needed for those programs. As Harper did not have a fire lab the key issues presented was that the lack of this facility impacted our program and local firefighters did not have a facility for continuing education requirements. In addition, courses were not offered in a format that fit into the fire departments' schedules.

Other similar facilities were toured, and a business plan was developed. As a result, the Board approved the construction of a \$7 million facility. Local fire departments will be providing equipment to support the facility such as a fire engine and other required apparatus. The facility will also serve as a Regional Fire Academy.

The course schedule was also modified. As a result, enrollment has increased by 56% in FTE and 47% in headcount in the credit program. Local fire departments have committed to spending their professional development budgets to send their firefighters to Harper.

Questions/comments from the Decennial Committee:

When will the facility be ready for use? Response: Construction is scheduled from June 2024 – December 2024 and occupancy is expected in Spring 2025.

Concluding Comments

Decennial Committee members asked what makes these partnerships compelling? The response was that Harper is presented with opportunities to enter into many partnerships but chooses those that provide value to the college, as well as to the partnering agency or organization. Harper understands the commitment to the community to provide services in the most cost-effective way possible and select partnerships that provide that opportunity.

Committee members and audience participants were then asked to complete a survey:

1. What suggestions do you have for additional local efficiencies?
2. What other suggestions do you have for further accountability for Harper?

The survey was provided in paper form, as well as via a QR code.

Results of the survey will be reviewed and addressed at the February 14, 2024 Decennial Committee meeting.

FORMAL ACTIONS

None

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Chair

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Secretary