

GOGEBIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Ironwood, Michigan

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District of Gogebic County was held on Tuesday evening, September 29, 2020, in the Upper Level of the Lindquist Student and Conference Center, on the campus of Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, Michigan.

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Chairman Lupino called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present: Mrs. Beals, Mr. Brown, Mr. Burchell, Mr. Kolesar, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Malloy
Absent: Mr. Fitting

Also present: President Dr. George McNulty, Vice President of Business Services Erik Guenard, Vice President of Student Services Jeanne Graham, Vice President of Academic Services David Darrow, Kelly Marczak, Charity Smith, and Kari Klemme.

Report of Secretary

Moved by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Malloy, and carried, to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2020 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

Conflict of Interest

Mr. Lupino informed the Board that Eric Fitting was planning to join the meeting later due to a scheduling conflict, and will not be voting on the Mt. Zion rates for 2020-2021 due to a conflict of interest.

Enrollment Report

President McNulty presented the 2020 enrollment report for the College, which was submitted by Miranda Heglund, Institutional Researcher. The total number of incoming freshmen indicated a positive difference from the year prior, to which Dr. McNulty complimented enrollment efforts. COVID-19 impacted retention rates for the College. While GCC is higher than the national average, the difference is still substantial from the year prior. Research will be conducted on the possible influencers that led to decreased retention rates.

Mr. Kolesar and Mr. Malloy spoke to students they had recent conversations with, and all were deterred from enrolling due to the possibility of the shift to entirely online classes as a result of COVID.

Foundation Update

Foundation Executive Director Kelly Marczak updated the Board of the sudden passing of Foundation President, Charlene Newhouse. Ms. Marczak expressed how Ms. Newhouse was a strong force leading the Foundation and will be greatly missed. Jim Milakovich has volunteered to take over the role of Foundation President, as he has previously served in this capacity, and John Siira will remain Vice President. The Foundation is currently recruiting new members, including representation from the Houghton area.

The Foundation continues work with Eaton Cummings regarding fundraising efforts and to build a culture of philanthropy at the College. The donor and alumni base are currently being built, and will be used for future capital campaigns.

Ms. Marczak reported the Foundation will again be offering the mini-grant program to faculty and staff, with a current award total of \$12,650. She also reminded the Board to participate in the AmazonSmile program, which donates .5% of every purchase to the Foundation, another step toward supporting students.

Houghton Update

Houghton Student Success Coordinator Glen Guilbault highlighted the recent transition to virtual learning for the Copper Country Center through October 12, 2020. The transition was seamless, and information went out to students, staff, and faculty quickly. Mr. Guilbault mentioned that the decision to move to virtual learning demonstrates the commitment GCC has to student and staff health and safety. He and Patty Polakowski remain in the Copper

Country Center office to continue servicing the needs of students. Mr. Lupino complimented the faculty and staff on the transition.

President's Update

Dr. McNulty represented GCC in Houghton today as part of a discussion panel held with Governor Whitmer and Janet Metsa. Dr. McNulty was invited by Ms. Metsa's office, along with area business owners and public service entities, to this intimate gathering where he was able to thank the Governor for her focus on the education budget and investments in programs like MI Reconnect and Future for Frontliners.

Dr. McNulty reported that GCC is a recipient of a COVID-19 Response Grant through MCAN (Michigan College Access Network). This grant fits within the MI Sixty by 30 initiative. The primary purpose is to implement activities to help improve the percentage of seniors completing the FAFSA. Dr. McNulty expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with MCAN and the State of Michigan to improve student access and success. He thanked Vice President of Student Services Jeanne Graham and Financial Aid Director Marc Madigan for their work done on this. The amount of the grant is \$9,916.00.

Public Comment on Agenda

None

New Business - Financial Reports

Vice President of Business Services Guenard presented the financial reports for August of 2020. He reported the charges for fall tuition have not yet been applied due to the high volume of financial aid activity at this time. Revenues are tracking well in the General Fund compared to the previous year. It is anticipated that the budget will not decrease or increase going forward. The deficit on the Balance Sheet will clean up in the month of October with tuition and fees added. The Auxiliary fund continue to work, as they have been affected by COVID. The College is working on plans to boost revenues.

Mr. Guenard suggested a budget workshop be scheduled with the Board in the upcoming weeks. The Board agreed and would like to look at scenarios and information to settle contracts. Ms. Klemme will reach out to Board members to set up the workshop.

Moved by Mr. Brown, supported by Mrs. Beals, and carried, to approve the August 2020 financial statements as presented.

New Business – Consent Agenda Items – Local Strategic Value Best Practices Resolution

Mr. Guenard explained the Governor requires this report annually, and many categories have been updated. This report gives the College the opportunity to share assets with the community. The College exceeds in all categories.

Moved by Mr. Kolesar, supported by Mr. Malloy, and carried, to approve the Local Strategic Value Best Practices resolution as presented.

New Business – Consent Agenda Items – Mt. Zion 2020-2021 Rates

Mr. Guenard reported that Jim Vanderspoel, Director of Mt. Zion Operations, analyzed reducing expenses and increasing revenue at Mt. Zion. COVID has forced operating hours to lessen due to occupancy. He explained the presented rates include a reduction in rates for the half day pass and the half day ski and snowboard rental, and the cost of the local student lift rate increased by \$5.

Mr. Burchell questioned the reduction in hours and was concerned about the Team Z race team getting enough hours on the hill. Mr. Guenard explained that Mr. Vanderspoel has been in contact with the team and they will get the time needed, even with the change in hours. Mr. Burchell was also concerned about raising the rates and decreasing hours will deter local skiers from using Mt. Zion. He suggested the rates remain the same from the previous year. Mr. Kolesar suggested a promotional rate for equipment rentals.

Moved by Mrs. Beals and supported by Mr. Brown to accept the 2020-2021 Mt. Zion rates as presented. Roll Call Vote: Beals – Yes, Brown – Yes, Burchell – No, Fitting – Absent, Kolesar – No, Lupino – No, Malloy – No. *Motion failed – 2 Yes, 4 No, 1 Absent.*

Moved by Mr. Burchell and supported by Mr. Kolesar to keep the local student pass rate at \$85 from the previous year and accept the all other presented 2020-2021 rates for Mt. Zion. Roll Call Vote: Beals – Yes, Brown – Yes, Burchell – Yes, Fitting – Absent, Kolesar – Yes, Lupino – Yes, Malloy – Yes. *Motion carried – 6 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent.*

*New Business – Consent
Agenda Items – Accounts
Receivable Write-Offs*

Mr. Guenard presented the list of accounts receivable write-offs that were based off a recommendation from the auditors.

It was moved by Mr. Kolesar, supported by Mrs. Beals, and carried, to approve the accounts receivable write-offs as presented.

*New Business – Consent
Agenda Items – Removal of
Law Program from Course
Catalog*

Vice President Darrow explained the Curriculum Committee analyzed the low enrollment numbers of this program and recommended removing the program for the upcoming academic year.

It was moved by Mr. Malloy, supported by Mr. Brown, and carried, to remove the Law Program from the course catalog.

*New Business – Consent
Agenda Items – Five-Year
Master Plan*

Mr. Guenard presented the updated Five-Year Master Plan, which sets the stage for capital outlay items. Mr. Kolesar stated the plan was well written and he would like to see labs on the Ironwood campus to be a top priority. Mr. Burchell questioned the listing of a larger residence hall in the plan. Mr. Guenard explained that because this was a revenue source, the state would not fund this type of project. The Board discussed taking a campus tour, with the Five-Year Master Plan in hand, and assess the state of the campus.

Moved by Mrs. Beals, supported by Mr. Kolesar, and carried, to accept the Five-Year Master Plan as presented.

*New Business – Personnel
Items – Non-Affiliated Staff
Resignation Request –
Allied Health Coordinator*

Mr. Darrow commented on Claire Grzenia's diligent advocacy for students, and told the Board she will be missed in her position. Her last day at the College was September 22. Mrs. Beals asked if her job could be done remote and Mr. Darrow explained there is a high student contact required for this position.

Moved by Mr. Kolesar, supported by Mr. Malloy, and carried, to approve the resignation of Claire Grzenia, thanked her for her service, and post for a replacement Allied Health Coordinator.

*New Business – Personnel
Items - MAHE Faculty
Retirement Request –
Business Instructor*

Mr. Darrow explained that Jim Dahlin was a teacher in K12 before his many years at the College and Mr. Dahlin's request is contingent upon approval of early retirement. He will be missed by staff and students, and is exemplary in his care and concern for students.

It was moved by Mr. Kolesar, supported by Mr. Malloy, and carried, to approve the retirement of James Dahlin, and thank him for his many years of service to the College.

*New Business – Personnel
Items – Non-Affiliated Staff
Retirement Request – Vice
President of Student
Services*

Dr. McNulty presented the retirement of Vice President of Student Services, Jeanne Graham. Dr. McNulty said Jeanne has demonstrated a willingness to do what it takes to serve the needs of the GCC community. She has done everything in her power to advocate for student success and the development of staff. Jeanne was a strong advocate for the College and its mission for over 30 years. Jeanne will definitely be missed. Dr. McNulty also stated that he hoped Jeanne

would return to GCC in some capacity in the future to continue her good work with the College.

It was moved by Mrs. Beals, supported by Mr. Brown, and carried, to regretfully approve the retirement of Jeanne Graham, and to reevaluate the position before reposting. The Board thanked Ms. Graham for her many years of service to the College and wished her well in retirement.

*New Business – Personnel
Items – Men’s Assistant
Basketball Coach*

Ms. Graham presented the recommendation of Garfield Volker for the men’s assistant basketball coach, on an interim basis. She supported his commitment as a former Samson basketball player.

Moved by Mr. Malloy, supported by Mrs. Beals, and carried, to hire Garfield Volker as interim men’s assistant basketball coach, as presented.

*Discussion of Strategic
Planning*

Dr. McNulty reported the Strategic Planning Committee is now mobilizing implementation teams to put the Strategic plan into action. Mrs. Beals thanked all the faculty and staff who committed to implementation of the plan and was overwhelmed by the number of volunteers.

*Public Comment on Topics
Relating to GCC*

None

Other Business

Mr. Kolesar thanked Dr. McNulty for the consistent updates he sends to Board members.

Mr. Lupino mentioned the 2021 MCCA Summer Conference has been moved to a virtual event, and there will be a virtual opportunity in the spring with the Higher Learning Commission.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Malloy, and carried, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm.

John J. Lupino, Chairman

Susan Beals, Secretary

*Next GCC Board of
Trustees Regular Meeting*

Tuesday, October 27, 2020
4:30 pm – Upper Level of the Lindquist Student and Conference Center