

GOGEBIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Ironwood, Michigan

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District of Gogebic County was held on Monday evening, February 22, 2021 at 4:30pm via Zoom.

- Call to Order, Roll Call* Chairman Lupino called the Regular meeting to order at 4:30pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
Those present: Mrs. Beals, Ironwood Township, MI; Mr. Brown, Bessemer, MI; Mr. Burchell, Ironwood, MI; Mr. Fitting, Ironwood, MI; Mr. Kolesar, Ironwood, MI; Mr. Lupino, Ironwood, MI; Mr. Malloy, Ironwood, MI
Also present: President Dr. George McNulty, Vice President of Business Services Erik Guenard, Vice President of Academic Services David Darrow, Stacy Brey, Kelly Marczak, and Kari Klemme.
- Report of Secretary* Moved by Mr. Brown and supported by Mr. Malloy to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.
Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. *Motion carried* – 7 Yes, 0 No.
- Conflict of Interest* No conflict of interest of board members on agenda items was brought forward.
- Foundation Update – Kelly Marczak* Kelly Marczak reported the Foundation has received two gifts from the recent passing of Alex Marciniak and Mary Paoli. Mr. Marciniak was a faculty member at the College and a long-time supporter. Ms. Paoli was a past Foundation board member. Ms. Marczak expressed her gratitude for both gifts.
- Houghton Update – Stacy Brey* Stacy Brey informed the board that the Copper Country Center will be using grant funding to install an onsite laundry facility for the Certified Nursing Assistant Academy. Ms. Brey thanked those who donated to the CCC Food Pantry.

Ms. Brey reported there is a plan for a new k-8 charter school in the Fall 2021; The Copper Island Academy. There has been land purchased located between Hancock and Calumet, with school funding coming from various donors.
- President’s Update – Dr. George McNulty* President McNulty announced GCC faculty member Bill Perkis, has been selected to be part of the Global Education Project, which is spearheaded by a group stemming from the United Nations. Mr. Perkis is recognized as a regional expert in his field.

Dr. McNulty informed the Board of the diversity initiatives that GCC is involved in. Faculty members Jason Shrontz and Allyson Stanton are working with the Ironwood Diversity and Inclusion group and leading book club discussions on a variety of books. Mr. Shrontz is also leading a GCC Reading Group with faculty and staff.

The College is moving forward with the bridge project on the Ironwood campus. Gogebic Range Health Foundation awarded GCC a grant in the amount of \$12,250 for the project. Dr. McNulty expressed his gratitude to the Foundation for their generosity. The project is estimated to cost \$35k to complete, but the College is working with Xcel Energy on using used telephone poles to save on overall cost.
- Public Comment on Agenda* None

*New Business –
Financial Reports*

Vice President of Business Services Erik Guenard presented the January 2021 financial statements. The General Fund Revenue and Expense summary shows all expenses through the end of January. He explained it is below budget in tuition and fees due to low enrollment and will be explained further with mid-year budget adjustments. There is a timing issue with tax collection payments and are expected to work out within the next 60 days.

The Statement of Changes in Fund Balance shows the General Fund, which is where all cash flows through. The Auxiliary fund is low due to COVID and decreased student numbers. The Bookstore had pre-purchased books, which will be returned, and will make up for some of the deficit. The Foundation is doing well at this time, as the stock market is performing well.

Mr. Malloy inquired about the MI Reconnect program. Mr. Guenard explained that this program allows for free tuition to students who are over the age of 25, do not have a prior degree, and are living in-district. Out-of-district students would have to pay the out-of-district fees; however, the tuition is covered. This program begins with Summer enrollment.

Motion made by Mr. Malloy and supported by Mr. Brown to accept the January 2021 financial statements as presented, and to pay the attached invoices.

Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. *Motion carried – 7 Yes, 0 No.*

*New Business – Consent
Agenda Items – Mid-
Year Budget
Adjustments*

Mr. Guenard provided an overview of the current budget as opposed to the adjusted budget. He explained the largest hit was out-of-district student tuition. Some administrative salaries went down due to open positions. The College cut down on legal expenses, travel, and salaries. We came into the year with a surplus and there was a reduction to the contingency of \$220,028, which was considered.

The Auxiliary Funds were short by \$71,542 as a result of the Residence Hall reducing capacity for COVID. The adjustment will swap the Auxiliary Fund to the Designated Fund to cover the deficit. Mr. Lupino asked if there would a need to plan for a shortfall of \$546k for the upcoming year, and Mr. Guenard assured him that we are cleaning out from the previous year and major cutbacks will not be made.

Motion made by Mr. Brown and supported by Mrs. Beals, to accept the mid-year budget adjustments, as presented.

Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. *Motion carried – 7 Yes, 0 No.*

*New Business – Consent
Agenda Items - MESPA
Compensation Study*

Mr. Guenard spoke with MESPA regarding the previous contract and the current pay scale was negotiated because the minimum wage on the scale was low. Working with MESPA and Human Resources, Mr. Guenard sent out an RFP for a wage study and the listed companies were those who responded. The firms were comparable, with the lowest price coming from Carlson & Dettman Consulting out of Madison, WI. He explained reference checks were performed and this is a smaller firm compared to the others. The MESPA group agrees with moving forward with this group.

Mr. Burchell asked when the last time this study was done. Mr. Guenard reported the last study was performed in 2012.

Motion made by Mrs. Beals and supported by Mr. Malloy to approve Carlson & Dettman Consulting to conduct the MESPA compensation survey in the amount of \$9,250.

Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. *Motion carried – 7 Yes, 0 No.*

<i>New Business – Personnel Items - Administrative Assistant to the Allied Health Director</i>	<p>Vice President of Academic Services David Darrow reported this position has been open since last March and Dawn Vernetti rose to the top during the interview process. She is recommended by Administration to fill this role.</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. Kolesar and supported by Mrs. Beals to approve the hiring of Dawn Vernetti for the position of Administrative Assistant to the Allied Health Director, as presented. Multiple Board members commented on their excitement to hire Ms. Vernetti. Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. <i>Motion carried – 7 Yes, 0 No.</i></p>
<i>New Business – Personnel Items - Allied Health Coordinator</i>	<p>Mr. Darrow explained this position is a role which works closely with advising allied health students. Kristy Dums was engaged and energetic during the interview process, with a history of great customer service skills. Ms. Dums is recommended to fill this position.</p> <p>Motion made by Mr. Brown and supported by Mr. Malloy to approve the hiring of Kristy Dums as the Allied Health Coordinator, as presented. Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. <i>Motion carried – 7 Yes, 0 No.</i></p>
<i>New Business – Personnel Items – Marketing Strategist</i>	<p>Mr. Guenard reported four candidates were interviewed for this position and Kari Klemme demonstrated creativity and captured the essence of the mission of the GCC during her interview and presentation. Ms. Klemme is recommended by the search committee to fill this position.</p> <p>Motion made by Mrs. Beals and supported by Mr. Burchell to approve the hiring of Kari Klemme in the position of Marketing Strategist, as presented. Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. <i>Motion carried – 7 Yes, 0 No.</i></p>
<i>New Business – Program Exploration</i>	<p>Mr. Darrow presented national and regional data regarding Outdoor Education, Physical Therapy Assistant, and Occupational Therapy Assistant programs, which he thanked Glen Ackerman-Behr and Nicole Rowe for assisting in gathering. He explained administration will offer a more formal presentation at the March Board meeting regarding all three programs. Mr. Brown expressed his excitement for the Outdoor Education program. Mrs. Beals inquired about an economic development component to this program. Mr. Darrow explained it is still in the early stages, however there would be opportunities there. Mr. Lupino requested concrete data available for available jobs for graduates which offer a living wage after completion of the program.</p> <p>Mr. Brown suggested holding a Board workshop before the March Board meeting to further discuss the three programs in detail. Mr. Burchell proposed Mr. Darrow connect with four-year colleges and universities as potential program transfer partners.</p>
<i>Designation of Regular Meeting Date, Time, Location</i>	<p>Discussion regarding the meeting times ensued with various time and day conflicts brought forward. It was moved by Mr. Brown, and supported by Mr. Burchell, to hold the monthly Board meetings on the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm, with the exception of December, in the Upper Level of the Lindquist Student and Conference Center. Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. <i>Motion carried – 7 Yes, 0 No.</i></p>
<i>Discussion of Strategic Planning</i>	<p>Dr. McNulty reported current strategies being implemented include a variety of diversity initiatives, continual emphasis on outreach to the Copper Country Center, improved onboarding of new employees, and investing in a systematic method to measure employee engagement and satisfaction. He will continue to keep the Board informed of the good work that is happening.</p>
<i>Public Comment on Topics Relating to GCC</i>	<p>None</p>

Other Business

Mr. Lupino informed the Board there will be the quarterly update of the Presidential Evaluation in closed session at the March Board meeting.

Mr. Kolesar asked Mr. Guenard if the ACES center is still accepting professional clothing for students. Mr. Guenard informed him that they are and we can coordinate a time for drop off, if needed.

Mr. Kolesar inquired about Board members interested in attending the upcoming HLC Conference as a Board representative for GCC. Ms. Klemme will send Board members the listing of daily breakout sessions and the deadline to sign up for the conference.

Dr. McNulty thanked Kari Klemme for her time supporting the President's office. He noted she has set the bar high and he has appreciated her efforts. Dr. McNulty will also be contacting all Board members in the near future to have discussion on fund raising for the LSCC project.

Mrs. Beals announced the Ironwood Diversity and Inclusion group will be hosting a speaker for Hispanic History Month on March 1st via Zoom and would like GCC to share the event on social media pages.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Malloy and supported by Mr. Brown that the meeting be adjourned.
Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. *Motion carried* – 7 Yes, 0 No. The meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm.

John J. Lupino, Chairman

Susan Beals, Secretary

Next GCC Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Monday, March 30, 2021 at 6:30 pm – Upper Level of the Lindquist Student and Conference Center