

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES  
September 27, 2023

Trustees Present: Vernie Coy, Jason Taylor, Thomas Smith, Russell Karn, Carl Tharman, Kenneth Huss (via conference phone)

Call to Order: Chairperson Thomas Smith called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. in the Conference Room of the David Reist Administration Building on the Highland Campus.

Approval of the Agenda: It was moved by Mr. Tharman, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes: It was moved by Mr. Karn, seconded by Mr. Coy, that the Minutes of the August 23, 2023 Regular Meeting, Revenue Neutral Hearing and Budget Hearing be approved as presented. Motion passed.

Approval of the Warrants: It was moved by Mr. Coy, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that warrants numbered 473721 through 473954 be approved as presented. Discussion. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None.

Wamego Building "C" Real Estate Estimate: President Fox stated that Building C at the Wamego campus is not currently being utilized. Repairs to the parking lot and building would be very costly and are needed in order for the facility to be properly functional. President Fox confirmed that the other two buildings on campus currently provide them with enough space for classes and Building C is not needed. She gave the Trustees a few options for selling the building or the possibility to lease it. Discussion. The Board would like to bring this item back for further discussion at a later date.

October Board Meeting in Atchison: The Board of Trustees discussed the option of conducting the October Board Meeting in Atchison and also touring all of the HCC Technical Center facilities, including the newly remodeled Welding Technology facility. President Fox stated that the Foundation Board will be having their meeting in Atchison as well in October. Discussion. The trustees would like to move the Atchison Board Meeting to November instead due to conflicting schedules.

President Search Committee Format and Calendar: President Fox stated that the HCC President position has been open for a little over a week and gave the Trustees different options for how they might want to structure the committee members and interviews. Discussion.

Approval of Health Insurance Rates: President Fox provided the Trustees with a summary of renewal rates with Blue Cross Blue Shield for 2023-2024. IMA provided a summary that stated the medical plans will remain the same for the employees but the contribution rate made by the College did have an increase. Aetna and United healthcare could not compete with the prices of BCBSKS so they declined to quote. It was moved by Mr. Karn, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that the College renew health insurance coverage with Blue Cross Blue Shield for 2023-2024. Motion passed.

Limitations of International Students: The Trustees were presented with a proposal on the recruitment of international student athletes by Athletic Director, Jerre Cole. Having an unlimited amount of international students has raised a few concerns including cost of insurance, lack of student support resources addressing language barriers, lack of community and campus resources and also the commitment of scholarship dollars. Mr. Cole recommends no more than 3 international athletes per sport. Discussion.

Student Services: Dr. Eric Ingmire, Vice President for Student Services, stated that the College will be hosting the CPC (College Planning Conferences) fair for high schools on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and is expecting over 150 students and close to 40 colleges. The Admissions team attended the KACRAO Conference on September 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> in Topeka. Dr. Ingmire discussed marketing updates and reviewed the budget cuts being made. He confirmed that Esports season has begun with 41 students on the team. HCC hosted the Overwatch Tournament on September 22<sup>nd</sup> where 13 Esports teams competed. Two students were awarded a scholarship to join the Kstate Esports team. Dr. Ingmire discussed enrollment and scholarships.

Finance and Operations: Mr. Randy Willy, Vice President for Finance/Operations, provided cash balance reports through August 2023 and reviewed income and expense reports. Mr. Willy gave an update on all new, ongoing and completed projects.

Academic Affairs: Mrs. Sharon Kibbe, Vice President for Academic Affairs, confirmed that planning for the Spring 2024 schedule has begun. She stated that a couple of synchronous Zoom sections of courses and online Public Speaking is still being offered. Mrs. Kibbe gave KBOR and HLC updates. Evaluations for faculty have begun for the Fall semester. The new process that is being implemented this semester will include student surveys and a professional development questionnaire. Mrs. Kibbe stated that credential changes will be voted on in November at the HLC meeting. She is hopeful for a tiered credential system which will allow HCC to hire teachers based on teaching experience rather than just the required master's degree.

Technical Education: Mr. Lucas Hunziger, Vice President for Technical Education, confirmed that the pole shed building at the Western Center has been completed. The Precision Ag and Welding students have been taking short field trips to area business partners. The Western Center will be hosting a Principal-Counselor luncheon on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Phil Lierz, Western Center Diesel Instructor, will be offering a CDL ELDT training course this fall. The Western Center will also be having an Open House on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to highlight facility updates, new programs and the pole shed. Mr. Hunziger stated that the Technical Center Advisory Meeting Dinner will take place on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The beginning of the year picnic was successful. Thirty students have been accepted for Spring 2024 following ADN interviews. The welding shop ventilation system is almost complete as they wait for the blower motor. He confirmed that Perkins Grant funds are being used to purchase a new robotic arm for Engineering Graphics. The Enology and Viticulture staff are still working on the application for the National Science Grant.

Trustee's Report: None.

President's Report: None.

Announcements: None.

A recess was held from 8:50 p.m. -8:55 p.m.

Executive Session: It was moved by Mr. Karn, seconded by Mr. Coy, that the Board go into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. for no more than 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel. Motion passed. President Fox and legal counsel Shazzie Naseem were asked to remain in the session.

The Board reconvened to Regular Session at 9:25 p.m.

Adjournment: Chairperson Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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Thomas Smith  
Chairperson

Date

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Carl Tharman  
Secretary/Treasurer