



**Board of Trustees
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Executive Office Board Room**

MINUTES

1. Mr. Curcio called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. Dr. Crowley read the Public Statement:
Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided at least 48 hours in advance of its commencement by posting in at least one public place reserved for such or similar announcements and by mail, telephone, or hand delivery to all appropriate parties pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4.1.

3. Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance / Welcome to Guests

The following were present: Mr. Curcio-Chair, Dr. Morgus-Vice Chair, Dr. Crowley-Secretary, Mr. Spekhardt-Treasurer, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Geraci, Dr. Lamonte, Dr. Connolly-President and Ex-Officio Member, and Mrs. Fullem-Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/ Recording Secretary. Mrs. Fox was not present due to a medical issue. and Mr. Hofmann was not present due to a work commitment.

Also present: Mr. Gandhi-Executive Vice President of Finance and Operations, and CFO, Dr. Aguirre Batty-Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Okay-Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Conde-Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Mr. Homer-Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Marketing, Enrollment Management, and Distance Learning.

4. Courtesy of the Floor - Agenda Items Only (5 minutes per speaker) – No one spoke.

At this time, Mr. Curcio noted that at the last meeting, Mrs. Geraci brought up a good point about all committees having not reviewed the budget. He clarified that this has not been the structure and practice, at least for the last three years. The practice has been that the budget would go before the Finance and Facilities Committee for review, and then recommended to the full Board of Trustees for approval. He added that the budget also went before the Executive Committee this year. He said if any Trustee wished to change the structure or practice for next year, it could be discussed.

Mr. Curcio then noted that there was a letter to the Editor of the NJ Herald regarding the football program. He said he does not know the gentleman.

The person was Mr. Orr of Branchville. In the letter he asked about information in support of the football program, how it relates to academics, analysis, and statistics to back up the decision to initiate the program. Mr. Curcio said that the question was certainly valid, and if Mr. Orr would like the information, it is public knowledge, and we would provide it to him.

With regard to the budget, Mr. Curcio indicated that all Trustees have had an opportunity to review the budget, and that last week he asked that if anyone had questions, to send them to Dr. Connolly in advance of today's meeting.

Mr. Curcio provided an overview of the budget being presented. He highlighted the following:

- This is the third year that there is no request to the Freeholders for an increase in operational funding.
- This is the fourth year with no tuition increase, and there is actually a reduction in certain lab fees for the students.
- There is a 2% salary increase, which was part of collective bargaining.
- The budget, as framed at the present time, is guided by the Strategic Plan of the College, which was approved by the Board of Trustees. It also operates within the plan of enrollment projections for high school students and graduates, knowing that we have a constant 25-27% of the high school graduates attending SCCC.
- The request to the Freeholders at the Board of School Estimate will include \$2.8M Chapter 12, half of which is bonded by the county. A quarter of this will be used for PSTA improvements. Over the next four years, we will be spending \$1M on the PSTA. We are actually saving the county \$500k, because half of the \$1M is being paid by the state. He said he understands that we are all tax payers, however, from a direct county taxing approach, because we are using Chapter 12 specifically for the PSTA, it saves the Freeholders from bonding \$500k, which is directly related to the county budget.
- None of the new money being requested is allocated for the McGuire project or the Academic Center. That money is already in previous budgets.
- Athletic programs come out of Board Designated Funds.

Mr. Curcio said that the staff is doing a good job, and programs are moving forward. He reiterated there are no operational funds request increases, no Chapter 12 request increases, and no tuition increase. He also stated that we are probably the only community college in the state to show an enrollment increase at this time.

5. Recommendation: Approval of Certification of the Amount of Local Appropriation Necessary for the Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Expense of the College for FY21, and Capital Outlay for FY21, and for the

President to Prepare the Final Bound FY21 Budget Document for Public Advertisement and for Submission to the Sussex County Community College Board for School Estimate. (Approval of the FY21 Budget) (Resolution BFF02182020-1)

Mr. Spekhardt moved to approve the amount of local appropriation necessary for the operating expenses for the College for FY21. Dr. Morgus seconded the motion.

Mrs. Geraci asked for clarification if the budget was being approved with or without football, because it includes both in the analysis. Mr. Gandhi noted that the budget the Board is approving, and that will be presented to the Board of School Estimate, is with football. The analysis is for Trustee comparison only, and all reporting to the Board will be with football.

Mr. Curcio added that it will be closely followed.

Mr. Homer provided an update on the football program and recruitment. He indicated that there are four areas that will feed the program: Transfers from other colleges, students coming back to us, new students, and retention of current students. He said that the program currently has 40-45 signed letters from student athletes, it is trending well, and "we are right where we want to be."

Roll call vote: Ms. Brown, Dr. Crowley, Mrs. Geraci, Dr. Lamonte, Dr. Morgus, Mr. Spekhardt, and Mr. Curcio voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spekhardt moved to approve the amount of Capital Outlay for FY21 (Chapter 12). Dr. Morgus seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ms. Brown, Dr. Crowley, Mrs. Geraci, Dr. Lamonte, Dr. Morgus, Mr. Spekhardt, and Mr. Curcio voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Recommendation: Authorization to Schedule Board of School Estimate Meeting and for Board Secretary to Advertise Said Meeting Along with a Summarized Statement of Both the Estimated Revenues and Anticipated Operating and Capital Expenditures. (Resolution BFF02182020-2)

Ms. Brown moved to authorize the scheduling of the Board of School Estimate Meeting. Dr. Lamonte seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ms. Brown, Dr. Crowley, Mrs. Geraci, Dr. Lamonte, Dr. Morgus, Mr. Spekhardt, and Mr. Curcio voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Courtesy of the Floor (5 minutes per speaker; one hour total, as per bylaws) – No one spoke.
8. Trustee Comments

Mr. Spekhardt addressed his fellow Trustees. He said, "I have been here for a

few years. I know that some of you folks have been here longer. Congratulations to everyone. This is a much different budget than it was when I first came here – a much better situation, and a much better story. One of the things that I just quickly wanted to discuss here is that everybody here is a volunteer. I would like to thank everyone who volunteers. The staff is obviously not volunteering, but are fully dispatched, so everything that you guys do is pretty amazingly accomplished when it comes to this budget. With accomplished people here, sitting at this table, the most valuable thing that we can give is to volunteer our time. Since I have been here, there have been one or two Special Meetings – One was because something broke, a heater or a furnace, and we had McGuire – so this is something that is special, but kind of unusual. I would never question anybody's right to ask, or they actually should question. However, I went back... we have been talking about this same thing since January. I think the first distribution was January 17th. The Chair sent out an email on the 19th, and again on the 24th, and Madam Chair also had in her minutes that the committee was bringing it forward. I took the liberty of asking Madam Chair... I'm looking at like a month from the first time it went out. I asked Madam Chair if anybody had approached her for any follow up questions. At the end of last week, nobody asked. There wasn't. I just found out we had a couple of questions at the end of last week or today or something going through. The only thing I ask is that everybody's time is very valuable here and we should probably avoid any Special Meetings, and just going forward if we have something, since you're accomplished people, we should go through and those responsibilities we should check them off and we should go through it. We need to respect the staff's time, and we need to respect each other's time. I don't want to take up any more of your time with my soap box. I just needed to share that with you."

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. upon a motion made by Ms. Brown, and seconded by Dr. Crowley. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____


Paul B. Crowley, Secretary – Board of Trustees