

Session #914

A meeting of the Mt. Hood Community College District Board of Education was held on April 13, 2016, with an Executive Session, followed by a workshop in the President's Office at 6 p.m. There was a Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Mt. Hood Community College, 26000 S.E. Stark Street, Gresham, Oregon.

TSCC HEARING ON BALLOT MEASURE

A public hearing of the TSCC was called to order at 6:01 p.m. TSCC members asked MHCC representatives a series of questions related to the bond measure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Members in attendance: Susie Jones (Chair), Jim Zordich (Vice Chair), Teena Ainslie, Sonny Yellott, Kenney Polson, Tamie Arnold, Michael Calcagno

An Executive Session of the MHCCD Board was called to order at 6:38 p.m. in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (d) to consider matters of labor negotiation. The Executive Session adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

2.1 OUTSTANDING SUPPORT STAFF AWARDS

A meeting of the Mt. Hood Community College Board of Education was called to order at 7:18 p.m.

Derr introduced the winners of the Outstanding Support Staff Awards. She noted that it is a celebratory event every year and is coordinated by Pam Benjamin.

Derr introduced Kealani Balfour, Katelyn Goslin, and Paul Wild. Derr personally thanked each of the winners, who were awarded with a plaque and a check from the Foundation for \$500.

The Board of Education adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

A meeting of the MHCC Budget Committee was called to order at 7:29 p.m.

Jones opened the meeting by noting that the Budget Committee must first elect a Budget Committee Chair for the remainder of the Budget Committee meetings.

Tamie Arnold nominated Michael Calcagno as Chair of the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded.

Susie Jones nominated Jim Zordich as Chair of the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded.

Kenney Polson nominated Tamie Arnold as Chair of the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded. Jones closed the nominations and called for a vote.

Tamie Arnold voted for Michael Calcagno. Kenney Polson voted for Tamie Arnold. Michael Calcagno, Susie Jones, Sonny Yellott, and Teena Ainslie voted for Jim Zordich. Jones stated that Jim Zordich was elected as Budget Committee Chair.

4.1 PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED BUDGET

Zordich called upon Debra Derr to read her President's Budget message. A complete text of the President's Budget Message is part of the official minutes.

Derr thanked all College staff and Faculty for embracing a Strategic process in budgeting for the next year. She noted that the budget is no longer reactionary but is strategic.

Zordich called on Jennifer DeMent, Budget Officer for MHCC, to present the proposed budget. DeMent noted that it is an overview, and that line item detail will be provided in a larger document in May. DeMent noted that we have two new proposed funds – one for debt service, and one for capital improvements, related to the GO Bond. They will only be used if the bond passes. The remaining funds were then divided based on budget law into separate funds.

Jones asked if the ending fund balance is increasing because of over-budgeting; DeMent responded that, yes, it has been the case. Derr noted that, historically, we have built the fund balance over the last three years by not using all the resources that were budgeted; they went back into the ending fund balance.

Albert asked about the ASG club fund. DeMent noted that it is a transferred amount and helps keep track of individual accounts.

Polson asked how the expenditures are being reduced in the bookstore. DeMent noted that cashier staff has been reduced; historically, there have been huge lines at the beginning of term – with enrollment declines, not as many positions have been needed. Other positions have been held open – the majority of savings are in personnel. Polson asked about the effect of OER and enrollment declines on the bookstore. DeMent responded that they have been significant. Patiño noted that OER has likely affected the bookstore, but ASG has also been pushing alternatives to buying full-priced books.

Yellott asked about Fund 52 – ASG should be for the students. Why is Athletics part of this budget? DeMent responded that big universities may have self-sustaining programs, but only big programs; community colleges have never been close to self-sustaining. The programs are for the students, not to make money. He noted that ASG meets every February to discuss their budget; clubs such as basketball would come in with a budget request. The students vote and pass the requests through a budget process. He believes that the process is handled well.

Zordich noted that there is a great deal of data to review. He adjourned the Budget Committee at 8:27 p.m.

6 CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

A meeting of the MHCC District Board was called to order at 8:27 p.m. A quorum was present.

Board Members in attendance: Susie Jones (Chair), Jim Zordich (Vice Chair), Teena Ainslie, Sonny Yellott, Kenney Polson, Michael Calcagno, Tamie Arnold

6.1 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Zordich moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

6.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Arnold moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

7 PUBLIC INPUT

Seth Albert asked to address the board regarding the requested increase in tuition. He understands that the budget has been carefully planned, but the students find it frustrating that tuition continues to increase. The students want to find a way to stop raising tuition; it increases every year - statewide, nationally, and within our college. Albert noted that his education will be incredibly expensive.

Lindsay Patiño noted that Jennifer DeMent and Debra Derr presented the budget to their EC and Senate. The students recognize that there is a need for increased funding, and they understand the budget, but they still find it frustrating and disappointing that tuition continues to increase. They would like to look at more creative solutions. She noted that the tuition freeze will help some students, but it is a larger social issue. What do we do as a community and as a Board of Education when people will not be able to afford college anymore?

Nancy Milner came to talk two or three years ago to the board about the swimming pool. She was diagnosed with cancer in January 2010. She had a transplant in 2011; five years later, she came to thank the board for keeping the pool open. She was very ill; the swim team at MHCC took over her life and helped her with her paperwork. The Aquatics Center and MHCC were tremendous and are doorways into the College. She has been swimming here since 1978 and drives from Northeast Portland. She is almost in remission and continues to undergo treatment, scheduled around her courses. She invited the board to attend the Nationals event in August.

BUSINESS/ACTION

8.1 PURCHASING POLICY

Mejdi Mahjoub and Jennifer DeMent presented a second reading of Board Policy 3180. Calcagno made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

8.2 FEE SCHEDULE

Christie Plinski presented the FY 2016-2017 proposed fee schedule. Plinski thanked Derr for her message and acknowledgement of the need to take some strong steps. She noted that there are relatively few changes, with some minor increases. Jones noted that the board has only received the non-instructional fees.

Calcagno asked about the Veteran's Fee for the pool. Plinski responded that it is new. Calcagno commended the move.

Jones asked about the College Services Fee. DeMent noted that this discussion comes up every year - different options have been explored, but it is a difficult issue. Waiving the fee for one-credit classes

has been discussed as an option. Historically, this came about after the elimination of the parking fee. She notes that the fee generates about \$1m in revenue.

Jones asked if the College Services Fee and the Access fees have been increasing. The College Services Fee replaced several smaller fees, like an application fee. It started at \$25 and is at \$45 within ten years. Jones asked if the fees affect enrollment. Corey Huston responded as a member of the budget review council; they do know that expenses impact enrollment – for example, the one-credit hour Access Fee change allowed more people to take courses.

Instructional Fees will be reviewed at the April 27th workshop.

8.3 CONSIDERATION OF TUITION ADJUSTMENTS

Sergey Shepelov presented an update on MHCC's enrollment projections. Jennifer DeMent presented a proposed tuition adjustment and provided information about what other community colleges are currently charging. A \$2/credit hour based on HEPI has been proposed – it would only apply to new students because of the tuition pledge. The proposal is in line with the President's goal of having a predictable model of increase by tying it to the HEPI. Several schools have already made tuition adjustments, while others are pending.

Jones asked what some of the universities are increasing their tuition by. DeMent responded Portland State increased by 4%, so bigger universities have larger increases, and their enrollments are not necessarily declining across the board.

Polson asked about a scenario for a student who is taking 12 credit hours. Doughty noted that the Oregon funding model makes this an increasingly complex picture. The Oregon Promise, for example, would be asking more money from the state if tuition increases; decreased funding from the state has been an issue. He asked the board to consider that a tuition increase has a complex effect. Polson responded that the majority of our students are not high-school age, and he could see that population being differently effected. Doughty pointed out that targeted scholarships are one option, which the Foundation is working on.

Arnold asked about the budget impact if we did not increase the tuition. DeMent responded that it is approximately \$386,000. Jones noted that is never easy to vote for an increase, but she is pleased that we have the tuition lock and are increasing at a lower rate than some of our sister colleges.

Jones called for a vote on the tuition increase. Ainslie moved to approve. The motion was seconded. Calcagno, Polson, Ainslie, Jones, Zordich, Yellott, and Ainslie voted in favor. Arnold voted no. The motion carried.

8.4 APPROVAL OF EARLY HEAD START CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Jean Wagner presented the Early Head Start Child Care grant for approval. It is for 75 Early Head Start students in East Multnomah County. Zordich moved to approve the Early Head Start Child Care Grant as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Calcagno noted that a training video was produced by one of our Integrated Media students; he thinks it is a great collaboration and commends the staff for thinking outside the box. Wagner credited Pam Corrie and pointed out the link in this month's head start report.

9 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Derr thanked Jones, Zordich, and the board for engaging in the bond activities and continuing to meet with the community. They are getting close their 100 Points of Contact goal.

Derr welcomed the East County Pathways participants to campus and thanked Yellott and Zordich for attending the Nursing Pinning ceremony.

Jones, Zordich, and Calcagno attended Charter Day, which was organized by ASG. Mayor Bemis also attended. Derr has just returned from Chicago and presented on Change in the Community College and the role of the President in supporting Access, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Celebrations: congratulations to Lidia Yuknavitch, who won two Oregon Book Awards, and to the Rho Theta honor society, which has been nationally recognized in Washington, DC.

Derr reminded the board that the Diversity Job fair takes place tomorrow in the gym, and that the 50th Anniversary Gala is on April 23rd. They have a record number of sponsorships this year.

Bond update: it is countdown time. The PAC has raised over \$150,000 so far and is hoping to raise another \$100,000. Over 90 volunteers are helping in the effort, but more are needed. Mailings and phone calls are being increased.

10 BOARD MEMBER/ADVISORY COMMENTS

Marilyn Pitts stated that the bond is tremendously important and she wants to do whatever she can to personally help. She has been going out to deliver information as well as making phone calls from home. She challenges everyone in the room to put their full effort into this month.

Corey Huston echoed Marilyn's sentiments and has also been walking and making phone calls. He appreciated starting off with the Outstanding Support Staff Awards. He noted contract negotiations continue; the CEA contract offers a 2.5% step increase, but many employees have been here long enough that they will not get a step increase. The message from the team is that they were hoping to have the negotiations completed done by now. Huston stated that costs for employees living in the area have increased as well. Huston wants to work together to pass the bond and would like to help close the contract.

Ainslie asked the rotary club for a financial donation; they cannot make a financial donation but offered to put up yard signs and make phone calls. She will send a roster to Laura Jean. Four former board members are in the group and willing to help.

Yellott attended the Nursing ceremony and enjoyed the video and ceremony.

Zordich stated that the bond campaign is well supported, and endorsements continue to be received. He has been making buttons for those who want to wear them. The PAC will have a table at the

Gresham Saturday Market. He also noted that the Foundation is reviewing a large number of scholarship, a significant increase from prior years.

Jones reminded the board that there will be an additional meeting on April 27th. She looks forward to Waldon Hagan's Enrollment report. Jones read the Academic Plan and thought it contained fantastic information.

Polson said he is happy to be here and continue the good work.

Arnold has been doing a lot of knocking on doors for her own campaign and has some positive feedback on the bond.

Calcagno mentioned the Job Fair, the largest one in East County, will take place here tomorrow from 11-4. He understands the frustration of student loans and tuition, and the cost of living that is ballooning out of control. He would like to address the policies that are creating that artificial increase in the cost of living.

Albert noted that the mascot is in the process of changing; a vote will be held soon, to be announced on May 9th in conjunction with ASG elections. The Vote OR Vote campaign is underway and is tying in with the bond efforts. Over 300 students have registered to vote, with a goal of 700. ASG will be volunteering at the 50th Anniversary Gala.

Patiño stated that Omar Morante has been working hard to get the word out on student scholarships. Students will take an OER presentation to Faculty Senate and will have a full-day festival on May 11th in the TLC.

Boyle noted that the Association will be present at the auction.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Carrie Toth, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education.