



# ACTION

## MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** *February 19, 2020*

**ITEM TITLE:** 4.1a

**CONTACT PERSON:** *Laurie Popp, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education*

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**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 15, 2020**

### Session 997

A meeting of the Mt. Hood Community College District Board of Education was held on January 15, 2020 with a Special Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Town and Gown Room at Mt. Hood Community College, 26000 S.E. Stark St., Gresham, OR 97030.

#### 1.0 CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Members present: Diane McKeel, board chair, Jim Zordich, board vice chair, Annette Mattson, LaVerne Lewis, Andrew Speer, Kenney Polson, Diane Noriega

Additional Attendees: Dr. Lisa Skari, president, Jennifer DeMent, chief operations officer,

Diane McKeel, board chair, called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. and declared a quorum was present.

#### 1.1 Approval of Agenda

Zordich motioned to approve the agenda. Polson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### 2.0 PUBLIC INPUT

There was public input regarding academic revitalization and the proposed board vote to phase-out of seven academic programs. The following individuals provided public input: Cheryl Johnson, Bess Wills, Kim Sharer, Blakesley Clapp, Ally Haas, Andrew Rupp, Marty Castellanos & Denise D'Angelo, Brendan Wilson, Sarah Rutledge, Rosemary Connolly, Sean McGinty, JD

Kiggins, Devin Hardgrove, Dale Gronso, Patty Martin, Naomi Abrahams, Karen Johnsten, Brianna Medears, and Petra LeBaron Botts.

### 3.0 BUSINESS - ACTION

#### 3.1 Academic Revitalization

McKeel read the following written statement:

As the fiduciary agents for this college, it is the role of the board to ensure Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) serves the educational needs of the community, today and into the future. Last February, the board held a retreat to take an in-depth look at our budget, and address our long-term financial stability. We had a sizable budget deficit to address, and knew our options included both cuts and tuition increases. We provided the direction to prioritize high enrollment, high completion, financially sustainable academic programs, while protecting equity and access, especially for the historically disadvantaged. Knowing that thoughtful and strategic cuts take time, we made a larger tuition increase in the first year of the biennium, knowing that larger cuts would occur in the second year.

Dr. Skari read the following written statement:

Madame Chair and members of the Board of Education,

My recommendation to you this evening does not come lightly. I have reviewed the data, the letters, and the public comment. I have heard from faculty, community members, staff, students, and our Association of Student Government. I reflected deeply on our mission and what it means to provide affordable access to higher education, not only for our students today, but also for future generations. We need to develop a financially sustainable operating model, which means we need long-term solutions, not short-term fixes. Having given due consideration to the recommendation by Dr. McQuarters, staying true to our mission of affordability and addressing the board's directive put forth to me, I hereby recommend the phase-out of the seven programs.

Noriega motioned to approve the president's recommendation. Mattson seconded the motion.

There was a brief discussion by several board members about the data and process used for academic revitalization. Zordich voiced concerns about the data used to formulate the plan and stated he was prepared to propose a motion to postpone the board vote to allow for a review of relevant alternatives. He moved to vacate the current motion. Mattson referred to the current motion on the floor and indicated a vote was needed before another motion could be made. McKeel agreed and the discussion continued. Noriega, Mattson, and Speer shared personal reflections about their experiences at MHCC and comments on the challenges facing the College. McKeel thanked everyone who came forward during the multiple board meetings to share their thoughts on academic revitalization, and for all the emails the board received around these issues. She commented about the difficult decision to be made and thanked her colleagues on the board for their thoughtful approach to the recommendation.

The board vote to accept the president's recommendation to phase-out seven programs:  
In favor: McKeel, Noriega, Mattson, Speer  
Opposed: Zordich, Polson, Lewis  
The motion passed.

#### 4.0 ADJOURNMENT

McKeel motioned to adjourn. Speer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Clerk

Board Chair

*Minutes recorded by Laurie Popp, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education.*