

Session #911

A meeting of the Mt. Hood Community College District Board of Education was held on February 16, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION & WORKSHOP

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

Staff present: Jennifer DeMent, Linda Vigesaa, Debra Derr, Carrie Toth

Jones convened a work session at 6 p.m. Derr presented information on the PSU Tax proposal to the board. She distributed a packet of information on the proposed tax. The team at PSU putting this proposal together believes PSU has not received the funding it needs to adequately meet students' needs and hopes to have this tax on the November ballot. The PCC, Clackamas and MHCC Presidents have had conversations about the proposal. Derr asked the board to review the information and asked them to think about any action they would like to take. Derr asked the board members to send questions to her.

Jones convened an **Executive Session** 192.2(d), to consider matters of labor negotiations at 6:14 p.m. The executive session adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

A meeting of the MHCC District Board was called to order at 7:06 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Heather White and David Pontius were invited forward to present on Open Educational Resources. White noted that there has been a significant increase in textbook costs over the last few years. She stated that 50% of Community College students use Financial Aid to pay for their textbooks, so they are actually paying more than the list price for their books over the course of their loan.

White introduced Seth Albert, ASG President, who noted that he also has had to use his financial aid to purchase his textbooks. He stated that a philosophy class he took using OER was phenomenal, and one of his best courses. He hopes that MHCC can bring OER to our campus.

White noted that publishers have a monopoly on textbooks, which is part of what has driven up costs. She distributed a handout to the board, which is part of the official meeting minutes. She and Pontius are co-leads of the Textbook Affordability Team. She read the mission statement for the board members and noted statewide efforts for OER, including \$700k in grant funding available. A HECC steering committee is identifying the highest enrolled courses and looking at grants.

White distributed website information, stating that a goal of the task force is to make this a viable option for faculty. The library is making a strong effort to support and help faculty find available resources, not help make decisions, but provide options. The task force is working to facilitate communication across departments and is collaborating with ASG.

Pontius discussed goals for the future. Assessment tools are being developed to show how much money students will save. OER measures have already approved at Chemeketa, and it is estimated that they are saving students \$600,000 for sequenced courses that they are going to take. Student success, enrollment, retention – the task force hopes to make a positive impact in all these areas. Pontius noted that students will be informed if their courses are OER courses. His hope is that by Fall inservice, we can show the courses that utilize OER and how much money has been saved.

Zordich and Jones attended the Chemeketa presentation at the OCCA conference, and they were impressed. Their preeminent concern was copyright. Jones stated that she is happy we are looking at other options regarding textbook affordability, but she has concerns about protecting intellectual property, using the music industry as an example.

White addressed Jones's concerns by stating that the OER resources do have copyright licenses, just not traditional licenses – they have open resource licenses through Creative Commons; the authors have decided that they will open it up and allow people to make changes. Intellectual property is protected, just in a different way. It is not a financial model, but in a spirit of sharing.

Pontius agreed that there needs to be some sensitivity on the issue of academic freedom. The task force has been clear that they are not mandating OER but want to work with departments who approach them. They want to support faculty who want to be involved, especially in high enrolled courses that have a huge long-term impact on students. Ainslie noted that she sees it as a great opportunity.

Yellott noted that PCC collected and sold student textbooks to help offset costs. White responded that PCC did a survey on what was impacting student dropout rates, and textbook affordability was a huge issue. Albert stated that ASG has explored the idea of a book swap, but that they are currently focused on OER.

STUDENT RESOLUTION

Seth Albert presented with two other students a resolution passed by the ASG Senate to formalize their support of OER:

- Whereas:** The Associated Students of Mt Hood Community College (ASMHCC) seek to increase college affordability through Open Educational Resources (OER).
- Whereas:** The most frequently cited definition of OER is: OER are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. Open educational resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge.
- Whereas:** OER are high-quality, openly licensed, online educational materials that offer an extraordinary opportunity for people everywhere to share, use, and reuse knowledge. They also demonstrate great potential as a mechanism for instructional innovation as networks of teachers and learners share best practices.
- Whereas:** Textbooks are the only part of higher education's cost to students that teachers have 100% control over. Open materials can empower faculty with the academic freedom to tailor their courses to their students' needs. Through OER faculty can create their own course content, and publish under Creative Commons licenses. Alternatively, faculty can use existing OER to compile their course content.
- Whereas:** By offering MHCC students affordable textbook solutions, we will remove a major obstacle to student success. Unaffordability of higher education is one of the biggest obstacles to students accessing, persisting, and completing their college education.
- Whereas:** Dr. Cable Green, Director of Global Learning with the Creative Commons, states that 65% of students decided against buying a required textbook because of the cost, 50% of students said that costs of textbooks impacted how many and which classes they took, 82% of students felt they would do significantly better in a course if textbooks were available for free.
- Whereas:** When students become aware that MHCC textbooks are free, or nearly free, this will attract prospective students and also help us with student retention and completion. The longer students stay in school, the more likely they are to fulfill their academic goals.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED OF THE ASMHCC SENATE:

Section 1: The ASMHCC fully supports the OER movement.

Section 2: The ASMHCC shall do everything possible to raise awareness, inform, and gain support from the college community, and present this resolution before the College Board of Education.

Section 3: This resolution will pass with a majority vote of the ASMHCC Senate.

Albert noted that it received a letter of acceptance from their Executive Cabinet earlier today.

PUBLIC INPUT

Corey Huston serves in his formal function as CEA President of almost 200 employees, who embody the Culture of Excellence. He stated that they are often the first point of contact for students; they volunteer for many of the activities on campus; they have a strong sense of responsibility and stewardship. 90% of membership lives in the district. They provide direct scholarships to students and support for our Strawberry and Cranberry short courses. He is pleased to communicate that the Executive Board has made a financial contribution to the Friends of Oregon PAC in the amount of \$6000.

Katrina Wright spoke about textbook affordability. She is the ASG Seasonal Events Coordinator. She spent over \$550 at the bookstore last term on three textbooks, and her college savings account is now empty. She is a first generation student working two jobs, serving on ASG, and textbooks are a burden on her. She does not have the option of not purchasing them. She strongly encouraged the board to support OER.

Leticia Guardiola is a first generation student. She was not able to buy a textbook until the day before her midterm. She knows many students who have to choose need over necessity. She asked the board to please help.

Kelsey Smith is the first in her family to graduate high school and go to college. She works off campus and serves in ASG. She is in her second year in the Forestry program, and instructors usually write textbooks. However, she has still spent \$1500 on textbooks in three years, and the amount will double if she continues. Joan DeYoung has a textbook she wrote herself that is foundational to her students, and she updates it every year. That is what OER is. When she works two jobs and gets up early and tries to make ends meet, school work can take a hit.

Zordich stated that he highly endorses OER. He has concerns about the rising cost of textbooks and sees OER as a potential answer.

BUSINESS/ACTION

Item 6.1

Derr introduced the Notice of Measure Election. She noted that the board approved their support of the bond. The board is not approving the bond; they need the approval of the language that will appear in the voter's pamphlet. She read it into the record:

Proceeds of the bonds will be used to finance district-wide capital projects. The State has agreed to provide an \$8,000,000 grant towards the cost of the projects but only if the College can provide matching funds. Passage of this bond would provide the matching funds. In addition, the District intends to apply to the State for seismic grants to help defray costs.

If the bonds are approved, a citizen committee would be established to oversee use of the proceeds. Bond proceeds would be used to:

- *Construct, equip and furnish new Workforce Applied Technology Center*
- *Construct, equip and furnish new Northeast Portland (Maywood Park) campus building*
- *Safety, security and other improvements including lockdown capability and seismic upgrades*
- *Technology infrastructure improvements*
- *Refinance existing capital obligations*

Bonds would mature in a period not to exceed 21 years from date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series. If approved, the tax rate is estimated to be approximately \$.31 per \$1,000 of assessed property value or \$31 per year for property assessed at \$100,000.

Zordich moved to approve the notice of measure election. Ainslie seconded. Derr noted that language was created by our consultants and has been taken through our internal community and legal team.

Albert asked about each portion of the bond – can it be clarified what the \$8m match from the state means?

Arnold asked if the matching fund needs to be in the language. Doughty responded that the 500-word statement will be in the pamphlet but does not require board approval – further details will be spelled out in the longer statement.

Arnold responded that she finds the dollar amounts to be helpful and asked if there any way to add that to the notice of measure election. Doughty noted that it would require follow up, and he recommends spelling it out in the 500-word statement. Polson suggested taking out the dollar value and proposed an amendment to the main motion to say in the summary, “The State has agreed to provide a grant,” rather than “The State has agreed to provide an \$8m grant.” The amendment would be contingent upon approval by bond counsel.

Arnold seconded the amendment. Jones called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment was approved unanimously.

Jones called for a vote on the main motion, the Notice of Measure Election. Jones, Zordich, Polson, Arnold, and Ainslie voted in favor. Yellott abstained. The motion carried.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Plinski presented the Academic Calendars for 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019. They are modeled on the state calendar, which is why the board is voting on calendars so far in advance.

Zordich moved to approve the academic calendars as presented. The motion was seconded.

Albert asked about alignment for students who are dual enrolled in high school; he noted that some students will have an issue with two separate breaks. Plinski stated that a statewide calendar would make this problem much easier for families, but universities are no longer on the same calendar. Derr noted that local K-12 districts have very different start dates. She reminded the board that they can amend the calendars later.

Jones called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

HEAD START HEAD LICE POLICY

Jean Wagner presented the Head Start Head Lice policy for a second reading. Zordich moved to approve the motion to approve. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Derr started off with a celebration of the Sustainability Council's efforts. Doughty stated that MHCC has a check coming from the Oregon Energy Trust for \$16,000. The program offered incentives, and a core group of staff – including Jim Bowness, Troy Builta, Laura Kutner, Dawn Loomis, and Charles George - have worked hard on making sure we received and will continue to receive the incentives.

Jones asked about sensors in the classrooms – is there a way to put the lights on a timer, rather than a motion sensor? Doughty stated that he will pursue the question and provide an answer.

Derr stated that MHCC hosted 500 volunteers for the MLK Day of Services. The group was all over campus and all over the community.

She attend the AACC Workforce Development institute and reconnected with some of our business and industry partners. She attended the January OPC meeting. She met with Commissioner Diane McKeel, a strong supporter of the college who will endorse our bond. Derr testified at Higher Ed and Workforce hearing, and also attended ASG Unsung Heroes celebrations. She will be attending Mayor Shane Bemis's city address tomorrow.

Derr provided a bond update, recognizing the work that is happening through volunteers. The bond committee held volunteer training last week at 6 p.m. and had a good crowd with positive energy. She thanked Corey Huston for attending and thanked the CEA for their donation. The PAC also received a check for \$1000 from Social Science faculty. She noted that people have been working on the bond on their own time and have really stepped up.

BOARD MEMBER/ADVISORY COMMENTS

Boyle noted that the FA voted to donate \$2000 to the Friends of MHCC PAC, with the OEA match.

Albert spoke to the board last month about ASG Goals, and he stated that they have decided on three goals: OER; promoting student life app; partnering GO Bond with the Voter Registration drive. ASG will be provided a vote organizer from OSF, at no cost to the college or to ASG. Bond information will be included in voter packets. He will advocate very strongly that his team volunteers in activities like phone banking.

Polson commented that he and Arnold attended the ACCT National Legislative Session in Washington, DC. They learned a lot, did a lot, and advocated a lot. They are excited about sharing what they learned with the rest of the board. He is still excited about working for the bond

Arnold represented MHCC, along with Zordich, at the Gresham Area Chamber Awards, which was a great opportunity for the College to acknowledge the great work that businesses do. It is a key reciprocal relationship, and she appreciated being a part of that. She is also looking forward sharing what she learned in Washington, DC.

Jones and Zordich met with Mayor Bemis recently, and he was extremely enthusiastic and supportive. He will endorse the bond. Jones stated that he is respected in our community, and his endorsement is valuable.

Zordich presented a report on the Foundation. Most recently, their focus was on a presentation from Paige Richardson on the GO Bond. He noted that the Foundation board donated \$50,000 to the PAC. Al Sigala presented his plan for the Alumni Association to help strengthen our connection to alumni. The Foundation is currently focused on scholarships and fundraising, as well as the auction. He hopes that the board members will all attend the auction. He attended Oregon Transfer Days on campus, an opportunity for our students to meet representatives from other colleges and enhance their understanding of what is available to them. Zordich also attended the Gresham Area Chamber Awards and was impressed by the attendance, and by the number of speakers who mentioned MHCC. He also attended the Jobs Fest and noted that we were joined by Intel this year.

Yellott passed.

Ainslie asked about the *Redesign of America's Community Colleges* book. She mentioned the new partnership between the College and Subaru. Derr noted that Steve Michener played a huge role and should be acknowledged for the partnership.

Huston stated that he appreciates the spirit of partnership with the Administration and the Associations. He asked the board to look with an open heart to OER; he is familiar with the struggles the students mentioned. He also advocated that students come to work on campus.

Jason Stiffler, secretary of the PFTA, distributed the PFTA newsletter. They have a matched donation of \$2200 for the PAC. Marilyn Pitts recently held the winter term open house, with the big theme being recruiting volunteers. He stated that two-thirds of those who attended signed up to be volunteers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.