

Session #918

A meeting of the Mt. Hood Community College District Board of Education was held July 13, 2016, with followed by a Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Mt. Hood Community College, 26000 S.E. Stark Street, Gresham, Oregon.

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

A meeting of the MHCC District Board was called to Order at 7:06 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

3.1 Election of Chair

Jones opened nominations for Board Chair.

Ainslie nominated Susie Jones as Chair, noting that she would like the continuity of having the same leadership for one more year. Zordich seconded the nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Election of Vice Chair

Ainslie nominated Jim Zordich for Vice Chair of the board. Yellott seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Danielle Eversole of MHCC Head Start came forward. She is currently an employee with Head Start and has been for 16 years. She wanted to put a face to the change in the Head Start FAFSA to show how it affects people. She was using the FAFSA to help pay for her books and other fees; she now has to pay \$500 or more each term. The change has caused a financial hardship. She is a Bus Driver and has served on the Policy Council and now works in the office at Head Start while enrolled at MHCC.

Kelly Harrington, MHCC Head Start Chapter President, spoke. He is a teacher with Head Start. He addressed the same issue of the FAFSA money. The extra money from the FAFSA they used to have, they no longer have, so it has been a burden on the lower-paid employees. He would like the board to take it under consideration.

BUSINESS/ACTION

5.1 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

5.2 CONSENT AGENDA

Jones called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Zordich requested items 5.2g and 5.2i. be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion and asked about the fees listed in item 5.2g.

DeMent responded that some of the benefits like TIAA are employee contributions; we have to write checks to the vendors, but they are not necessarily college expenditures. Zordich asked about Copiers Northwest; DeMent responded that some equipment is still in transition. He then asked about Food Services of America; DeMent responded that they are primarily for Head Start and possibly the bookstore.

Zordich asked about the EAB sole source contract. DeMent stated that it has been through the sole source process. Derr explained that the EAB is a national organization that focuses in educational research. They have developed a platform the College extensively reviewed; they will provide process improvement assessment, help us refine and improve our student outreach, recruitment, and onboarding processes. A large part will be communication and will be applied to our Enrollment Management Plan. It is aligned with our Guided Pathways work. We will be able to leave the contract if it does not prove to be beneficial.

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

5.3 RESOLUTION TO REFINANCE EXISTING DEBT

DeMent reached out to Carole Samuels at Piper Jaffray when our bond did not pass about ways to refinance. She will be presenting a full resolution. Samuels stated that interest rates are at an all-time low. The College has several outstanding debts that are eligible. The process starts with the board approving a resolution, which gives DeMent the authority to move forward. She noted that there is little risk to the college in getting the process started.

Arnold motioned to approve the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

5.4 CEA AGREEMENT 2016-2019

Cathy Nichols and Corey Huston came forward. Huston noted that it is the first time in memory that a new agreement was settled before the previous one had expired. Nichols thanked Kelly Gernhart, Kim Sharer, and her bargaining team for their hard work. She thanked DeMent, Vigesaa, Forbis, and Derr for sitting down to work out details. She noted that they got a solid vote for the contract, which she was happy to see.

Jones called for a motion to accept the agreement. Zordich recused himself from the vote because his wife is a member of the Classified Employee Association. Polson moved to accept the agreement. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

5.5 BOARD CALENDAR

Zordich moved to approve the board calendar. The motion was seconded. Derr noted that this is not the complete calendar and is reflective of board meetings only; she noted that at the retreat, a more detailed calendar will be presented.

Arnold raised the possibility of meeting twice monthly. She asked if the calendar was set in stone. Jones responded that the calendar can be amended by board action.

The motion carried unanimously.

5.6 SECOND READING - HEAD START CODE OF CONDUCT

Wagner presented the Code of Conduct for a second reading. Zordich moved to approve the motion. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

5.7 PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Jones stated that in each of Derr's three years, the evaluations have been conducted differently. This year, a survey was given to board members. A summary version was reviewed by the board in

Executive Session. Overall, the board gave her a 93% favorable rating; if the board votes to approve the summary, her contract rolls over. Zordich moved to accept the evaluation. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

6.1 HEAD START POLICY - GENDER PARITY

Wagner stated that the county wanted a gender parity policy for our program. She read the policy and noted that she will be available for questions. It was approved by the Head Start Policy Council.

6.2 POLICY UPDATES

Derr reminded the board that we began more than a year ago a contract with OSBA to review our Board Policies and Administrative Regulations. Yellott questioned the policies, including the Mother-Friendly Workplace and the Tobacco-Free Environment. Derr and Toth will provide additional information on these two policies.

Calcagno and Arnold addressed Yellott's concern about the Mother-Friendly Workplace Policy, stating that it addresses breastfeeding mothers, specifically.

Pitts asked if employees will be able to respond to the new Board Policies. Derr responded that, yes, input is welcome prior to the next meeting.

Huston noted that he would love to see the Mother-Friendly policy pass as written.

6.3 GO BOND DEBRIEF

Derr began a debrief on the GO Bond. She noted the time and effort of the College in the GO Bond. It did not pass, but she is grateful that the College is still committed to future efforts. The College received some valuable information. A question was posed to her regarding the \$8m matching funds, and the results are complicated - DeMent can answer questions if needed.

Jones stated that there have been several debrief sessions. She noted that the board has differing opinions on when the board should go out for a bond. Another debrief took place with internal personnel, where a healthy discussion was held. Her takeaway was that the internal leadership team is not ready to go out in November.

Polson noted that he was in favor of going back out in November. Calcagno would also like to hear strategies to reformulate the bond. He is in strong support of passing a bond - we need the opportunity to pay off debt. He is in favor of May 2017, with this November being very crowded with major national, state, and local issues. A later date would provide a quieter stage. He wants to review the project list reviewed, focusing on the areas that voted "no." We still have work to do in developing strategies and involving constituents.

Arnold asked about the \$8m match. What would taking out additional debt mean? DeMent responded that the issue is that the Applied Technology Center would cost more than \$16m total. In talking to people, anecdotally, Arnold found that voters related that they found the dollar amount was too high. She would like to look at our options. She agrees that November is poor timing. The more time we have to plan and prepare, the better.

Polson agrees that we need the bond, and we will have to try again. He supports trying again in November. He reviewed who voted yes and no; he believes we need to spend more time to educate the areas who voted "no," particularly communities of color, and that we would get a different

turnout – those voters are more likely to turn out for a presidential election. He believes those who voted yes will vote again, but we have to convince those who didn't vote.

Jones stated that her first instinct was go out again in November, but in thinking and listening, she sees too much competition on the November ballot, even for a small amount. She thinks it should be a smaller, more strategic act. She agrees with Polson on the need to address specific communities.

Zordich agreed – he originally wanted to go out in November, but the discussions following the board changed his mind. He would like to reevaluate the bond package. He hopes we perpetuate the community connections we have made. He also favors May 2017.

Yellott does not foresee a successful bond in November.

Ainslie initially felt like we should go out again right away, largely due to the time and effort put in, and in order to get the match. But the November election is bringing out so many angry issues that she feels the best bet is in May.

DeMent responded to questions about the match. The expiration date is six years from when the project was initially approved. It would have to be fully completed by 2019. If we had the match in place by next spring, we could request an extension from the state. We are also coming up on a new legislative session, where community colleges will be allowed to request capital funds. We have submitted a new \$8 request for Maywood. We may have to choose between the projects.

Derr noted that the biggest questions will be when we go out, and how we structure and restructure. Anecdotally, people are very favorable about the College, but the amount was too much. We will have to look again at the projects – maybe we have to focus on one project. Derr stated that May will be here very quickly, and we will not have the opportunity to raise the kind of money we did this year. The grassroots efforts will take some time, and it is time-consuming for staff. How engaged does the board want to be in those efforts? Why did we not move our “maybe” voters to a yes vote?

Arnold asked about Maywood Park: the impression she got was that Maywood was deteriorating rapidly. Her question is about the viability of the facilities. Derr responded that the HVAC, technology, and safety issues are still there. Engineers were clear that we could not retrofit the building. She suggest part of the retreat cover what assignments staff have if we are to go out for a new bond.

6.4 BOARD COMMITTEES

Jones introduced the Board Committee item. She wanted to plant a seed with board members. She does agree with Arnold in that we do not have enough time to get all the board business done. While an additional monthly meeting is an option, another option is Board Committees. We have a good deal of open space in the retreat agenda and can discuss the proposal. Committees could include bond planning, Carver policy, the Master Plan, legislative advocacy, etc. The structure would allow members to participate at varying levels. Calcagno thinks this is a great idea and a good step for us to take as a board. He sees it as a good opportunity for board development and productivity, and to take the College forward. It would get the board away from some of the more operational aspects and being more visionary. Ainslie would also like to see a further development of community relations.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Derr noted that her report would be brief. She thanked Jim and Susie for attending the Service Awards ceremony. Commencement was held outside with good weather, and Congressman Blumenauer spoke. Portland State had been working toward a business tax to fund its operations; the PBA agreed to help PSU come up with a strategy outside of a vote – it was removed from the ballot.

The Foundation Board dinner was held at the Riverview Restaurant, which went well. She continues to meet and have conversations about possibilities in the Gateway area. She also met with the new Metro East CEO, Marty Jones. We have started our annual Audit Process, with two new committee members.

CLOSING REMARKS

Pitts noted that PPS showed us that if a community says no to a bond, it is important to go to the community to go ask why. It is important to take sufficient time and ask why and why not. We can learn more about our community and use this as a tool. She recommends doing this very quickly; she believes that it could be 2018 before we are ready, as creating the foundation is so critical.

Huston noted that there are big decisions moving forward for the board. He thanked them for approving the CEA agreement. He encouraged the board to adopt the Head Start Gender policy; it could save the life of a child in this community.

Ainslie talked last month about the Last Gold movie, which is being shown across the nation. An organization or school could sponsor the movie and would share in the profits. She thought it could be shown in the theater, with tickets sold.

Yellott asked if Derr was interested in getting a group of staff and faculty together to discuss IP 28 . Derr noted that as public employees, we cannot take a stand on any political issues. Jones noted that the board cannot take a position, either.

Zordich enjoyed Strawberry Short Course, where the time capsule was presented. He asked what we want in the next time capsule and asked for the board members to send ideas to Derr. Contents are displayed in the student union. He noted that he would like to continue as the board liaison to the Foundation. He and Jones attended the first Audit Committee meeting and found it very informative.

Jones noted that board members have the opportunity to serve on the OCCA standing committees. She also noted that we have a deadline coming up for the ACCT conference in New Orleans. If board members have interest, let Carrie know by July 25th.

Polson passed.

Arnold asked about the FAFSA issue – she would like more information. She stated the highlight of her service was the graduation of the GED students and the Commencement. She was proud to take part in it and congratulated the graduates.

Calcagno mentioned that Junki Yoshida is hosting the Soulful Giving concert. He echoed Marilyn's comments about listening to our voters and signaling to our community that we are engaged with them. Along with Waldon and Susie, he represented the college in Bend at the GISS conference. He took away that the board needs relevant reports on student success, perhaps by term. Derr agreed.

Boyle passed.

Harrington appreciated the suggestion on addressing the FAFSA issues and thanked the board for allowing him to sit on the meeting.

Zordich asked to recognize the Classified members who were responsible for the Strawberry Short Course. It has become a great community connection.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Clerk

Board Chair

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