



# ACTION

## MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** *September 15 2021*

**ITEM TITLE:** 4.1b

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

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**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 18, 2021**

### Session 1041

A meeting of the Mt. Hood Community College District Board of Education was held on August 18, 2021, with a Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 pm, held via Zoom meeting.

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

Members present: Annette Mattson, board chair, Andrew Speer, board vice chair, Diane Noriega, Kenney Polson, Marie Teune

Additional Attendees: Dr. Lisa Skari, president, John Hamblin, vice president of Student Development, Al McQuarters, vice president of Instruction, Jennifer DeMent, vice president of Finance and Administration, Al Sigala, vice president of College Advancement, and executive director of MHCC Foundation, Jeanna Hunt, FTFA president, Christy Weigel, CEA president, Marilyn Pitts, PFTA president

Mattson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and declared a quorum was present.

#### 1.1 Approval of Agenda

Noriega motioned to approve the agenda. Speer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### 2.0 PUBLIC INPUT

There was public input provided by Jennifer Hare, Rozina Lethe, and Sarah Aimone in regards to reopening the college and the COVID pandemic.

#### 3.0 REPORTS

##### 3.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.



#### 4.0 BUSINESS / ACTION

##### 4.1 Consent Agenda: Approvals & Information

- a) Minutes – Board Special Session 1037, July 1, 2021
- b) Minutes – Board Regular Session 1038, July 21, 2021
- c) Monthly Personnel Report
- d) Monthly Financial Report
- e) Monthly Head Start Report
- f) COVID-19 Activity Report

Speer motioned to approve the consent agenda. Noriega seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

##### 4.2 President's Goals for 2021-2022

Lisa Skari provided a summary of the President's Goals for 2021-2022. The goals initially consisted of three focused goals which were: managing the COVID pandemic, strategic planning process, and accreditation & year six report. During discussions with the board on the president's goals, the board requested that a fourth goal be added: improving institutional capacity to recruit and retain a diverse workforce. There were some requested changes that were incorporated into the goals, which included the addition of benchmarks and how they will be measured.

Noriega motioned to approve the President's Goals for 2021-2022. Polson seconded the motion. There was a roll call board vote and the motion passed unanimously.

#### 5.0 BOARD MEMBER & COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Board members shared their participation in community meetings and events since the last board meeting. The Community Engagement spreadsheet will be updated to reflect the community activity.

#### 6.0 CLOSING REPORTS

##### 6.1 ASG Representative

Emily Pham Lee (ASG) – did not attend.

##### 6.2 Advisory Representatives

Jeanna Hunt (FTFA) – she shared that faculty whose programs were forced to delay graduation due to clinical rotations being cancelled in winter are winding up with students that are now getting ready to graduate. She stated COVID is a concern with faculty that are preparing for fall classes, and they are questioning the plans they made back in June. She stated the college response to the pandemic has been measured, appropriate, and cautious, and she hopes the



board and administration will consider a vaccine mandate for being on campus as safely as possible.

Christy Weigel (CEA) – she thanked the staff who have been working on campus since the beginning of the pandemic, and acknowledged the business office, payroll, public safety, facilities, maintenance, custodial, IT service desk, testing services, and science lab coordinators. She shared an update on the science labs, and stated they are now free of hazardous waste, which has saved the college thousands of dollars by identifying, sorting, and packing the waste. She shared that classified employees hope the college will treat concerns about fall term as a reaction to a massive public health crisis and not a political issue. Weigel referenced the current increase in COVID statistics and that there are many things to consider in regards to reopening and coming back to campus. She stated there are some conflicting messages that employees are receiving depending on who their supervisor is. She shared comments and concerns about the COVID pandemic and the reopening plans for returning to campus. She stated overall, a majority of classified employees have expressed hope that the administration, with the board’s support and leadership, will re-consider the idea of campus being open to the public starting September 13 and wait until it is safer for our community’s health and well-being to do so.

Marilyn Pitts (PTFA) – she has been in the midst of negotiating the PFTA replacement contract, which expired on June 30, 2021. She has served on the MHCC Reopening Team over the past year and has read and reviewed the reopening plans. She also serves on the Reopening Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Vaccine Incentivizing Sub-Committee, and will be presenting a plan with ideas to the Reopening Advisory Committee next week. She is hearing concerns from part time instructors, who signed up last spring to teach face-to-face classes in the fall, that things have changed and they are asking about processes at the college that will keep them safe. For the health of all of us and our community, she hopes that everything is COVID conservative.

### 6.3 Executive Leadership

John Hamblin – no additional updates.

Al McQuarters – he shared that the Statement of Need for Cybersecurity that was submitted to the HECC was approved. We are in the 90-day waiting period and can submit a full proposal.

Jennifer DeMent – she provided an update on the bond sale related to the pension bonds, and stated the bonds were sold at just under 2.5% interest rate. She received an updated savings projection this afternoon, and the projection is that the college will save about \$25 million over the next 20 years because of the pension bonds. She is the chair of the Reopening Advisory Committee, and the goal of the group is to seek leadership, advice, and input from everyone



that is impacted so that we can look at expanding instruction, student, and operational supports on campus. They are surveying staff and students to understand their feelings about returning to campus, and to gather data about the current vaccination rates. They are also exploring vaccine incentives for staff and students. She stated the college has a collaboration with Multnomah County, who has been hosting a vaccination clinic in the Vista Dining Center on campus through August 26, and they are discussing an extension with the County. The vaccination clinics are free and they are also offering gift cards as an incentive.

Al Sigala – he shared that he and Dr. Skari continue to meet with legislators, and that he has heard about the possibility of a special legislative session in September. He looks forward to hearing more about that.

#### 6.4 President's Report

Dr. Skari responded to a few comments shared during public comment, and provided her President's Report to the board.

*Before I move into my closing comments, I would like take a few minutes to respond to a few things you heard during public comment. You may recall the email I sent you back on July 29 regarding the campus plans for fall quarter. As you heard, we were intentional about those plans being developed by the areas, and for areas to be able to figure out what makes the most sense for them. We felt really strongly that it did not make sense for a top-down plan because different areas have different needs, and they support students in different ways. Our goal has always been about serving students, but we also had a secondary goal to allow for flexibility and support a work-life balance of our employees. Right now, the VPs have been working with the managers, who have also been working with their staff, to develop plans for their areas that would provide some in-person support for fall quarter. And, as I noted in my email, this is not a 100% full-scale return to campus. We are also being cautious, even prior to the current conditions, and trying to figure out what makes sense. And, as you heard earlier, we also have the Reopening Advisory Committee working on this, and they are in the process of surveying students and employees regarding their comfort level with returning to campus.*

*Next week, the VPs and I are meeting to review the area plans and begin to develop the master schedule and communication plan for what it will look like, so our apologies to everyone for the confusion. We still have a month out and are trying our best to build up, from areas to VPs to that master area, so I wanted to assure you that it is planned to happen and we will be working on that next week. Also, this is a work in progress and we continue to track and monitor the current developments and what is happening. We also believe that the benefit of planning is that you know how to act, and you are prepared when you need to, and so our planning is continuing for that purpose. Plans can shift, but knowing what you need to do and when is paramount to being able to have it be seamless and smooth when you get there. Lastly, I wanted to make a small correction to the statement around masks. The college did not lift its*



*mask mandate. We continue to operate under our administrative regulation related to COVID which requires masks on campus, with a few exceptions if you are in an office alone or if you are outside and are able to social distance.*

*You may have noticed the reports are a little shorter over the summer, but I want to assure you it does not mean there is a lack of activity. Over the summer we focus on assessments, evaluations, planning, and more planning. I wanted to take this opportunity to say we put in place a new evaluation process for management and confidential employees, and the changes not only align with our annual unit planning process, but also are designed to have some self-reflection, and give the employees more control over their continuous improvement plans. It has been interesting as we have worked through it this year for the first time, and seeing my direct reports and what is coming through. There is clear evidence of how they are thinking strategically about what they want to do in the next few years, so we are now looking at a longer-term horizon, but also how that connects to moving the college forward and their role in that. I think that was one of the original hopes out of this new process, and it is working. We are anxious to see how this rolls out further. The one thing I did come across as we look to the future is there was some nice alignment with my goals that related to my direct reports' goals. So, I will probably come back to you and request that we move up my annual goal process to earlier so that it can be used by my direct reports and other areas, so we can get that scaffolding all the way down of what we are working on.*

*The first week of August was spent at the annual Oregon President's Retreat looking at the state level of what we want to work on for the year. We spent a day exploring the role of president and the role they play in improving student success and equitable outcomes. The session was led by Robert Templin of the Aspen Institute, and they do an annual Aspen Prize Award for an outstanding improvement and college outcomes for students. It was fascinating as they have done a lot of research around presidents, and the interesting take-away is the only consistent thing they found in the successful institutions had to do with the stability and long-term relationship of the leadership. It was really insightful to see what some of the presidents have done and how we move forward and incorporate some of that. Also, in planning for the year for Oregon Presidents Council, we will be spending time looking at funding. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is reviewing our funding formula, so we will be tracking that. We will continue to look at student success, diversity, equity, and inclusion, cybersecurity, and also something new is strengthening our collective voice, in both the legislative and higher education space. As such, you will see me involved with not only the HECC as it relates to the funding formula, but also with the universities as we are working towards a statewide study on higher education with the hopes of having a report done by winter. I will continue to keep you posted on that. It is fun to see some of the new areas that the presidents are getting into that I really think are in the best interests of the state.*



*In closing, I want to once again thank the faculty and staff for their continued nimbleness, tenacity, and strength, which has been amazing. I am so proud of the way everyone continues to show up for students. And to all of you, I want to thank you for your continued work on behalf of students, your continued support of all of us, and for your continued partnership with me in helping us navigate Mt. Hood Community College into the future. So, here's looking ahead to the start of fall quarter next month. I look forward to seeing you there. Thank you and good night.*

#### 7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Polson motioned to adjourn. Speer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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Clerk

Board Chair

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