

MINUTES OF THE MTCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The McDowell Technical Community College Board of Trustees met in formal session on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 5:30p.m in the Universal Advanced Manufacturing Center Conference Room and via conference call.

Members in Attendance: Robert Ayers, Susan English, Mark Garrett, Randy Hollifield, Nancy Hunter, Ray McKesson, Kay Medford, Donald Ramsey, Gary Stroud, Jim Washburn

Members Attending via Conference Call: Bill Bach, Gwen Conley

Others present: Dr. Brian Merritt, Ladelle Harmon, Madalyn Gaito, Ryan Garrison, Michael Lavender, Dean Stacy Buff, Dean Judy Melton

Media: None

Call to Order – Chairperson

Chairperson Stroud welcomed the board members and called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Madalyn Gaito called roll to identify members present on conference call.

Prayer: Kay Medford

N.C.G.S. 5138A-15(e): Ethics Act

Chair Stroud read the Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest statement. No conflicts were noted.

Approval of Minutes – Chairperson

Chair Stroud called for approval of the board minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting on March 11, 2021. Robert Ayers moved to approve the minutes with a correction on the motion on the approval of the Financial Report. Ray McKesson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Financial Report

VP Garrison presented the county detail budget and the State appropriation budget for the month ending March 31, 2021. (handouts) Jim Washburn made a motion to accept the financial report. Kay Medford seconded it, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Building and Grounds Committee Report – Don Ramsey

Mr. Ramsey asked that Dr. Merritt provide the Board with an update on the Golden LEAF grant award. Dr. Merritt reported that MTCC received notification on April 1, 2021 that the Golden LEAF Foundation approved our grant application for \$800,000.00 to develop the MTCC Workforce Development Center in Old Fort. The team participated in a reporting meeting with the Golden LEAF Foundation and will be meeting with the Old Fort Town Aldermen on April 19th.

Personnel Committee Report – Kay Medford

Mrs. Medford reported the committee met on March 29 to discuss updating the President's Evaluation. Committee members reviewed the current evaluation instrument, removed one evaluation question and made slight wording changes on several questions. BOT members will receive evaluations at the May meeting, to be completed and turned in prior to the June meeting. The results will be presented and discussed in Closed Session at the June meeting then will be presented to and discussed with Dr. Merritt prior to submitting to the State Board by June 30, 2021.

Foundation Report – Nancy Hunter

Mrs. Hunter reported that the Foundation Executive Committee will meet on April 14th to plan for the Annual Meeting in May.

McDowell County Education Committee – Dr. Merritt

Dr. Merritt reported that The McDowell County Ed. Committee meets on a monthly basis and is made up of representatives from MTCC, McDowell County Schools/Board of Education and McDowell County Government.

Dr. Merritt: presented Old Fort project, strategic planning process, impacts of pandemic on enrollment; federal funds received which will help with budget stabilization over the next two years.

Mr. Garrett reported on the Virtual School opening in August for the 2021-22 academic year. He also shared that discussions were underway to consider feasibility of moving MAI to the MTCC campus and ways to increase the number of students who are served through MAI and MEC.

President's Report – Dr. Merritt

- BP 1.27 Naming Honors -- Second Reading
Mr. Harmon presented the policy for the second reading. The corresponding procedure was included for informational purposes.
Don Ramsey moved to approve BP 1.27 Naming Honors. Robert Ayers seconded the motion, a vote was taken and BP 1.27 was approved.
- Naming Proposal - Academic Resource Center
Dr. Merritt presented the naming option, the Smith Academic Resource Center, to the Board for approval. The name recognizes the financial gift of the W. Harold Smith Trust and the time and commitment Sharon Smith provided as the Director of the MTCC Library. Nancy Hunter moved that the newly renovated library be named the Smith Academic Resource Center. Kay Medford seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.
- Dr. Merritt presented the naming option, The Kim Ledbetter Food Pantry, to honor the work of Kim Ledbetter who championed the Food Pantry to serve students in need. He informed the Trustees that former employee, Don Ford, made a financial contribution to establish a scholarship in memory of Mrs. Ledbetter. Ray McKesson moved that the Food Pantry be named the Kim

Ledbetter Food Pantry. Don Ramsey seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

- **Calendar Approval**

Dr. Merritt referred the BOT to the handout listing the 12 holidays for the College in 2022. Dr. Merritt requested the issue be tabled until the May meeting to provide time for the President's Council members to discuss the holiday dates.

Kay Medford moved the calendar approval be tabled until the May Board meeting. Mark Garrett seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

- **Strategic Plan Update and Mission/Vision Discussion**

Dr. Merritt led Trustees through an information gathering session based on the College Mission and Vision Statements.

- **Campus Update**

Dr. Merritt referred Trustees to the update in their board packets.

Employee updates: Abigail Ledford hired as the social media specialist. Joan Weiler has been hired as the Interim Director of Online Learning, replacing Summer Perkins.

Grants: ARC pre-application is in progress. The Dogwood Health Trust has provided leverage funding to hire a consultant to write the Title III grant.

Chairman's Report – Chair Stroud

No report

Other

Announcements

- NCACCT Legislative/Leadership Seminar – Friday, April 23, 2021; 9am to 2:15pm.
- MTCC Graduation – Friday, May 14, 2021

Adjournment

Don Ramsey moved that the meeting be adjourned. Robert Ayers seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

The next regular meeting of the MTCC Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Brian S. Merritt
Secretary to the Board