

MINUTES OF THE MTCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The McDowell Technical Community College Board of Trustees met in formal session on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 5:30p.m via Zoom and conference call.

Members Attending via Zoom: Robert Ayers, Bill Bach, Mark Garrett, Nancy Hunter, Ray McKesson, Gary Stroud, Jim Washburn

Members Attending via Conference Call: Gwen Conley, Susan English, Kay Medford

Members Absent: Randy Hollifield, Donald Ramsey

Others present: Dr. Penny Cross, Madalyn Gaito, Ryan Garrison, Michael Lavender, Dean Stacy Buff, and 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 zoom as well as conference call.

Prayer: Ray McKesson

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 January 14, 2021. Bill noted an incorrect date at the end of the minutes; the date will be changed to February 11, 2021. Bill Bach made a motion to approve the minutes. Robert Ayers seconded the motion, 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 January 31, 2021. (handouts) Jim Washburn made a motion to accept the financial report. Ray McKesson seconded it, a vote was taken and the motion passed.
- Mr. Garrison reported that the Finance Committee will meet the first week in March to prepare the budget request

Building and Grounds Committee Report – Don Ramsey

- Dr. Merritt reported that the library renovations are nearing completion; just waiting on furniture items and technology installation. Dr. Cross spoke with Matt Smith to let him know the “Smith” name will be included in the new name of the library to honor both W. Harold Smith and Sharon Smith. Mr. Smith suggested it be named for Sharon Smith who was the librarian for over 30 years.

- A question was asked concerning the apartment complex planned on College Drive. Dr. Merritt reported he will be attending a meeting on February 25 where Dogwood Health Trust will update the partners involved in the project.

Personnel Committee Report – Kay Medford

No report.

Foundation Report – Nancy Hunter

Mrs. Hunter reported that she and Ray McKesson met with Dr. Merritt to share history of the MTCC Foundation Board. Dr. Merritt is contacting current Foundation Board members to gauge interest in remaining on the Board.

President's Report – Dr. Merritt

- Dr. Merritt provided an update from the meeting of the Association of Community College Presidents. (handout included in board packet)
 - The 2021 consensus budget priorities are: Increase employee salaries, fund enrollment adjustments & budget stabilization, continue funding modern & secure college IT systems, and include community colleges in capital funding proposals.
 - Encouraged presidents and trustees to reach out to legislators to emphasize the budget priorities. Dr. Merritt reported that part of the plan in publishing student success stories was to show the work and needs of MTCC. Michael Lavender asked trustees to share names of current or former students for articles.
 - Speaker Tim Moore spoke to the presidents and stated that a bond referendum was possible and they were looking at capital needs for the 58 community colleges.
- Quality Enhancement Plan Update & Retention/Enrollment – Drs. Cross & Merritt
 - Dr. Cross updated the Board on the QEP (ROAR). Teams continue to meet on a regular basis.
 - Three onboarding advisors are in place to assist students.
 - Currently reviewing the MTCC website to improve accessibility and updating the admissions process.
 - Developing the One Stop Center and increasing marketing; using student success stories.
 - The Advising group is reviewing ACA courses, advisor training and new student orientation.
 - Early alerts are going out to students at three and eight weeks.
 - Student headcount is still at 945. Starting registration for 8 week classes is underway.
 - Dr. Merritt reported that a team is working on a draft for a federal Title III Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) grant. Funding for the grant writer is being provided through the Dogwood Health Trust Leverage Fund, and the consultant is an expert in Title III SIP.
- Old Fort Workforce Education Center project – Dean Buff and Ms. Gaito

- The grant application was submitted to the Golden Leaf Foundation on Feb. 11 with grant awards expected to be announced on April 1, 2021.
- Dean Buff provided a powerpoint presentation highlighting the programs that will be offered at the Old Fort location.
- Scheduled to meet with the Old Fort Board of Alderman on April 19, 2021
- The beginner classes in Trail Construction and Sustainability scheduled for May 3-6, 2021 at the Universal Advanced Manufacturing Building.
- Campus Update – Dr. Merritt
Representative Madison Cawthorn is scheduled to meet with local business and government leaders at Universal on February 16. He has asked to tour the MTCC campus. Trustees are invited to join the tour beginning at the Cosmetic Arts building at 11am.

Chairman's Report – Chair Stroud

No report

Other

Trustee Mark Garrett expressed thanks to Dr. Merritt and Dr. Cross for re-establishing the High School Advisory Council with the McDowell Early College and McDowell Academy for Innovation. This group is scheduled to meet on the 4th Thursday of each month and should be mutually beneficial for all involved.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Robert Ayers moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bill Bach seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

The next regular meeting of the MTCC Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Brian S. Merritt
Secretary to the Board