

MINUTES  
BOARD RETREAT  
OF McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

A Retreat of the Board of Trustees of McHenry County College was held on Saturday, August 29, 2015, in Room SCC105 of the Shah Center, 4100 W. Shamrock Lane, in McHenry, Illinois. Chair Smith called the retreat to order at 8:06 a.m. When Secretary Jenner called the roll, the following were present:

Mr. Memmen  
Ms. Kisser  
Mr. Jenner  
Ms. Liddell  
Mr. Parrish  
Ms. Tirio  
Ms. Walsh  
Mr. Smith

Dr. Smith was also present. Dr. Gary Davis of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) was present as facilitator.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Dr. Smith noted that the Board had agreed to move the September, October, and November Board meeting dates to Wednesday nights so that Mr. Parrish would be available. However, the Budget Hearing must be held on Thursday, September 24 as it has already been noticed in the newspaper. A quorum of four Trustees will be needed for the hearing. Mr. Jenner, Ms. Walsh, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Tirio confirmed they would attend the meeting to guarantee a quorum.

Mr. Parrish expressed his appreciation for making this accommodation. He will provide reports on his class to the Board.

OPEN FOR RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

No one addressed the Board.

## DISCUSSION OF VISION, MISSION, AND STRATEGIC PLAN

Chair Smith stated that the sole goal and objective of today's retreat is to ensure that the current Board is aligned with the existing College Strategic Plan. He thanked Dr. Davis for facilitating the retreat. Dr. Davis noted that when he began working with ICCTA the McHenry County College Board was the first he met with. He provided background on his career working with Boards and Trustees over the last eighteen years. Dr. Davis passed around copies of questions for discussion and began with ground rules: 1) interested in feelings and views of all; everyone weighs in at each point in the discussion; 2) sidebar discussions are banned: comments must be shared with the group for the good of the Board; 3) it is okay to be hard on the issues, ask for clarification.

Dr. Davis explained that the Board would talk about the big picture, reviewing the five strategic initiatives. Dr. Smith added that the Trustees would either endorse or not endorse the current Mission Statement.

Dr. Davis asked the Trustees to answer the following questions during the next segment of discussion: 1) Why is the College here? 2) What should it become? 3) Where should the College be five to ten years from now? 4) What is your vision for the College? Discussion followed, and the Board reached consensus on the following vision for the College.

### *A RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION*

- Preferred
- Collaborative
- Full service/varied modes of delivery on demand
- Value-based/cost-efficient
- Services all community including K-12
- A leader in sustainability

A break was taken at 9:15 a.m., and the meeting resumed at 9:25 a.m.

Discussion followed on the Mission Statement. During discussion, it was noted that the Mission Statement is short and easy to remember. It has some history, works well, and will be retained.

Discussion followed on the values, and consensus was reached that the current values will remain the same: Change-Ready / Community / Quality.

Discussion followed on the five Strategic Initiatives and resulted in the following:

**INITIATIVE 1**

***Increase student engagement, completion and success.***

It was agreed that this should remain as the first initiative.

**INITIATIVE 2**

***Maintain the College's financial stability, and expand infrastructure and technology to establish state-of-the-art learning environments that inspire postsecondary education and career development.***

***Maintain the College's financial stability*** will be a separate initiative.

The second half of this initiative was revised to read:

**INITIATIVE 3:**

***Deliver infrastructure and technology to insure state-of-the-art learning environments.***

**INITIATIVE 3 (will become Initiative 4)**

***Ensure high-quality services and learning opportunities through a culture of continuous improvement, innovation and accountability.***

It was agreed there would be no change in the wording of this strategic initiative; it will become Initiative 4.

**INITIATIVE 4 (will become Initiative 5)**

***Engage in partnerships that enable MCC students to succeed in a global economy.***

It was agreed there would be no change in the wording of this strategic initiative. It will become Initiative 5.

**INITIATIVE 5 (will become Initiative 6)**

***Attract, develop and retain quality instructors who are outstanding scholars/teachers and an excellent, diverse staff who are committed to the mission of MCC.***

It was agreed there would be no change in the wording of this strategic initiative. It will become Initiative 6.

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held.

SUMMARY COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Walsh stated that the retreat was a good session, featuring open discussion and questions. She asked about dates for September Board meetings. Dates through December are listed below.

September meeting dates:

September 14 Evaluation and Policies Committee  
September 15 Committee of the Whole  
September 23 Regular Board Meeting  
September 24 Budget Hearing

October meeting dates:

October 12 Evaluation and Policies Committee  
October 13 Committee of the Whole  
October 21 Regular Board Meeting

November meeting dates:

November 9 Evaluation and Policies Committee  
November 10 Committee of the Whole  
November 18 Board Meeting

Mr. Jenner asked whether there was something unique about McHenry County College in the results of the retreat; he got a feeling of reinventing the wheel. Dr. Smith replied that the mix of attributes for McHenry County College would be different than the mix for other community colleges. She stated that nimble, collaborative, preferred, full-service set a vision of where the Board wants the College to go. Dr. Smith noted that the Strategic Plan would be revised and come back to the Board for a vote.

Mr. Jenner stated that one of MCC's strengths is engagement with K-12 districts; he is glad to hear this is expanding. He added that he was glad to hear that student success will be measured for each student.

Mr. Jenner stated he would still like to see a Board-level curriculum committee not to direct, but to get a better idea of what programs the College has. Dr. Smith noted that Board committees are set at the April Organizational Meeting each year. Ms. Kissler noted that the Board could set up a temporary committee during the year.

Mr. Memmen stated that he valued everyone's opinion and thought the retreat was great. He noted that he and Ms. Robin Doeden from the McHenry County Community Foundation would be participating in a charity event on October 24; if Board members are interested in attending, they should let him know.

Ms. Liddell stated she thought today's retreat was good; she added that the process provides better clarification for the Board. She would like the College to be more involved in school district open house events. She added that she would hesitate to add another Board committee, and would prefer finding more effective ways to give the entire Board more information.

Mr. Parrish thanked all for changing the September, October, and November Board meeting dates. He spoke about the Promise program, which provided tuition for all students, in need or not. Mr. Parrish felt that this mix of students benefited all.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, the retreat was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

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Patricia Kriegermeier, Recording Secretary

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Chris Jenner, Board Secretary