

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OF McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Trustees of McHenry County College was held on Monday, August 24, 2009, in the Board Room, Room A217, of Building A on the Campus. Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

When the roll was called, the following were present:

Ms. Walters
Mr. Parrish
Mrs. Larson
Ms. Miller
Ms. Kurtz
Mr. Sheriff
Mr. Lowe
Dr. DeWitt

Attorney Perkoski arrived at 6:03p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Without objection, the agenda stands approved.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Without objection, the minutes of the July 20, 2009 Committee of the Whole meeting were approved.

OPEN FOR RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Cal Skinner addressed the Board.

REVIEW OF BOARD PACKET FOR AUGUST 27, 2009 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

There were no questions about the Board Packet.

WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

Attorney Perkoski reviewed a draft version of a possible Whistleblower Policy. The purpose of this policy is to encourage people to come forward when there has been any kind of misconduct without the fear of retaliation. Two policy options were presented: one uses a designated internal employee to review complaints and investigate the situation. The second option is to enter into a contract with a third-party entity. Both policies protect against retaliation and allow employees to report unethical issues that might

occur in the College. Mrs. Larson inquired if the outside source works on a retainer principal and Attorney Perkoski indicated that most of the time the fees are project based. Dr. Tyree explained his past experience on this matter and talked briefly about a firm called Ethics Point. Various questions were answered about the draft version of the policy and Attorney Perkoski responded. After the discussion, all Board members agreed that using an outside agency, as specified in option 2 in the draft Whistleblower Policy, is the best way to proceed. The Board asked Attorney Perkoski to investigate third-party firms which not only provide a reporting process, but also conduct investigations.

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH PROCESS

Dr. Tyree presented the idea and his opinions of using a search firm to assist in the search process. Chair Miller asked if the Administration can put together a list of potential search agencies in time for the upcoming Board Meeting. Ms. Walters had concerns about not hiring someone from the private sector and indicated that she would like to research the search firm in depth. Questions ensued about prices and time frames. Dr. Tyree indicated that the time frame for the process to complete can be anywhere from six months to a year and price depends upon the firms that will be used. Dr. Tyree cautioned that one “gets what they pay for” and indicated that the new President will have to be involved with the happenings of the school and informed about any surrounding issues prior to their start date to ensure a smooth transition. After further discussion, Mr. Lowe requested the Administration to compile information from the previous Interim President search and present all information regarding search firms at the next Board Meeting on August 27, 2009.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session.

SUMMARY COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Attorney Perkoski commented on the status of the land that was to be purchased for the communications tower. He explained that because of potential FAA complications, the buyer is going to exercise his right to terminate the purchase contract. The Board reached consensus to allow the purchaser to terminate the contract.

Ms. Kurtz asked Mr. Parrish about the Promise Program and how we can promote it. Mr. Parrish went on to say that he would like the Board to have a single voice to answer any and all questions to the press and the public. Ms. Kurtz indicated that there's a need for transparency and that Board opinions should be represented by the Chair.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Kurtz would like the Presidential Search to appear on all future agendas for the Committee of the Whole Meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Caryn Hook, Recording Secretary

Donna Kurtz, Board Secretary