

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OF McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 as a Virtual Meeting as authorized by Executive Order 2020-7, and as permitted by Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/7(e) to be held without the physical presence of a quorum of trustees at the regular meeting location. Members of the public were able to provide public comment and access all open portions of the meeting via the link and accompanying information located on the Board of Trustees page of MCC's website, located at: <https://www.mchenry.edu/board>.

Vice Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. When Secretary Allen called the roll, the following were present:

Ms. Walsh
Mr. Smith
Mr. Allen
Ms. Evertsen
Ms. Siddons
Ms. Speros
Ms. Hoban
Ms. German

Dr. Gabbard was present. Attorney Sam Cavnar was present as legal counsel.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 10, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting were accepted as presented.

OPEN FOR RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments submitted for this meeting.

PRESENTATION ON COLLEGE INVESTMENTS

Representatives from PFM Asset Management, Mr. Jeff Schroeder and Mr. Matt Hanigan, were on hand to recap the College's investments during 2020 and to answer related questions. They relayed how the market and interest rates affect portfolios, noting 2020 was dominated by the coronavirus pandemic, with huge job loss numbers since April. PFM managers protect the College's assets by putting safety first, managing the portfolio conservatively by only investing in high quality investment bonds. They were pleased to report we

ended the year with above-benchmark results. After the presentation, Trustees were provided the materials prepared by PFM Asset Management.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gabbard discussed a variety of topics in this President's Report. Related to COVID-19, he outlined that MCC is beginning the Spring 2021 semester as it did the Fall 2020 semester, offering several modes of instruction to students. As the release of vaccines is facilitated by the county, the College reported to McHenry County Department of Health that a vast majority of its employees would desire the vaccine. MCC also plans to utilize its gymnasium to vaccinate employees when made available. MCC continues with reassigning duties where feasible, and safety protocols remain in place for staff and students when entering its buildings.

Dr. Gabbard noted that MCC's spring enrollment is in a much stronger position than anticipated, relaying MCC headcount increased by 2.2%, and credit hours decreased by only 0.7% from spring 2020. This is a more positive outlook when compared to the combined Illinois community college average showing significant drops in both categories - 15.9% in headcount, and 15.85% in credit hours. Dr. Gabbard then outlined all the different means of financial assistance offered through MCC in addition to traditional Foundation scholarships awarded. Among those are the Scot Success Scholarship awards, Student Success Funds awards and Purple Pride Relief Funds awards, all of which are making a huge difference in MCC students being financially supported and able to stay in school. He shared how pleased he is with the speed in which the College is distributing award dollars, assuring all that MCC is focused on awarding more funds this spring.

Dr. Gabbard went on to provide updates within the Center for Agrarian Learning and its Entrepreneurial Agriculture Degree Program, noting nine students currently enrolled in Introductory Farm Practicum. Instruction is focused on how to plan to grow and sell a product, and on creating more delivery systems for those products. He then ended by mentioning several upcoming events scheduled on campus.

PRESENTATION: FOCUS ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Dr. Gabbard provided a brief overview of some areas of student success that will be the focus over the next five months: Enrolling and Onboarding; Persistence; Pathways; Completions and Transfers; and Eliminating Barriers. He then showed where measurable Student Success data is found in the myMCC portal, urging Trustees to visit that site, look at data provided, and bring forth discussions and questions.

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Tenuta recapped the final November financial statements rather than preliminary numbers, since the board did not meet in December and final numbers for November 2020 were available for this meeting. He noted we are doing well with state funding and are tracking well to the budget.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SUMMARY COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Allen remarked that given such a cold, rainy, and snowy graduation day in December, he was amazed by how many MCC employees were lined up outside to celebrate and congratulate students as they drove through Parking Lot A in the drive-by recognition event.

Ms. Hoban spoke of a work-related incident, noting that one of her employees who desired to go back to school has had a wonderful experience at MCC. She was welcomed back to college after a ten-year break and was understandably nervous, but let Ms. Hoban know how welcoming and helpful MCC staff were in supporting this educational journey; a life changing experience for both she and her family.

Ms. Siddons personally thanked Dr. Talia Koronkiewicz for assisting a friend's daughter when she decided to transfer from another community college to MCC, noting this type of action by MCC employees is the epitome of what the College stands for.

Ms. Speros commented positively on several pieces of the information shared in tonight's meeting. She went on to say she had met a parent who remarked on the great experiences two of her children had at MCC. Ms. Speros shared the comments and feelings those students had about MCC and the instruction they received, also noting they were both happy to have graduated MCC with no debt.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Bob Tenuta for arranging PFM Asset Management to present his evening. He complimented Bob for bringing in an active team like PFM to manage the College's investments, pleased that there has been marked improvement in the College's investments over his years on the Board.

Ms. German thanked administrators for the speed in which the College distributes scholarship and other award dollars to students, noting her friends who go to other schools have not had the same experiences in that regard. She then mentioned she will be attending an ICCB Student Advisory Committee meeting soon, and asked whether the Trustees had any topics or information they would like her to bring to that meeting.

Ms. Walsh remarked how pleased she is with the manner in which the College quickly issues needed award funds to students. She appreciated the updates on the many forms of financial resources available at MCC, noting it is nice to hear about options other than Pell grants. Ms. Walsh asked that administration promote the food pantry to our students, acknowledging food insecurity is so common. She wants to ensure MCC students know they can go to the food pantry for assistance.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:41 p.m., Vice Chair Walsh asked for a motion to move into Closed Session under Illinois Open Meetings Act 120/2(c) #1 – Personnel and #21 – Review of Closed Session Minutes. Ms. Siddons moved; Mr. Smith seconded. The roll was called and all were in favor. After a short break, the closed session began at 7:52 p.m.

At 8:29 p.m., Mr. Smith motioned to come out of closed session, seconded by Ms. Evertsen. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Siddons to approve closed session minutes of the November 10, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting. Ms. Evertsen seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Vice Chair Walsh declared the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Mary Cornett, Recording Secretary

Thomas E. Allen, Board Secretary