

MINUTES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
OF McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Tuesday, March 16, 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 6:02 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 February 16, 2021 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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gabbard shared the latest COVID-19 and vaccine update, noting no significant changes since his last report. The College remains in the state's Phase 1C classification in the vaccine efforts.

Dr. Gabbard shared that due to the challenges MCC students face because of COVID-19, the Friends of the MCC Foundation expanded their efforts to assist throughout 2020. In order to continue the ability to deliver emergency assistance to students, an appeal is underway to grow the Student Success fund. One

such way is through the upcoming *Listening for a Cause* event, at which local musicians will be showcased.

#### STUDENT SUCCESS SERIES: PERSISTENCE

The second topic in the Student Success Series, *Persistence*, was presented by Dr. Talia Koronkiewicz, Ms. Sonia Reising, and Ms. Lisa Brncich, the Vice President of Student Affairs, AVP of Student Affairs, and the Director of Student Retention and Conduct, respectively. Acknowledging there are many and varied barriers students face when pursuing their education, Student Services has implemented student assistance programs and opportunities to make each student feel both supported and welcome. In addition to financial assistance and more student appreciation opportunities, the Student Navigator partnership with students is important as the navigator role is embedded in every class. By listening to students' needs, monitoring their progress, and guiding students to MCC resources, the navigator helps to ensure students get a real sense of belonging and support to help them on their academic journeys.

Data was shared which shows how MCC compares to its counterparts in retention rates, also referred to as 'persistence' rates, with MCC experiencing higher percentages than the statewide average. Student Services departmental goals are to consistently make improvements related to the student experience, so focus on providing necessary technology to students, and various other means of support, will continue

#### PRELIMINARY FEBRUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Tenuta recapped the preliminary February financial statements. He indicated a significant change in allocation of levy funds and the timing of state funding both affect numbers but they are reasonably comparable to last year's with no surprises anticipated. He also provided an update related to the College's audit firm. Mr. Fred Lantz, the College's audit partner at Sikich LLC, has retired but will continue to work for a time as a director to oversee accounts. Mr. Tenuta indicated that our next audit will be the final one performed by Sikich, as part of the three-year contract we have with their firm. Sikich would be prepared to continue as our audit firm if we want to extend the contract. Mr. Tenuta asked for input from the board whether they would desire we go out for bids.

#### RAMP/FACILITIES MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION

Mr. Dominick Demonica from Demonica Kemper Architects presented an overview of the College's draft Facilities Master Plan. He outlined the steps taken throughout the process of developing a master plan. Mr. Demonica recapped the projects completed since the College's previous master plan, then highlighted current projects in development which include a new storage building, creation of student collaboration and math tutoring spaces, and the new Foglia Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation. He clarified that the Facilities Master Plan serves as a road map, laying out future capital needs that are then used to support the Resource Allocation Management Program (RAMP) document. From a phasing perspective, and should state funding become available, three identified RAMP projects may be considered. Those projects identified for submission in the next required RAMP submission are a Multi-Purpose Center addition, a First Responder Training Center, and a Library/Student Success Center Renovation.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SUMMARY COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Siddons appreciated the presentation on Student Success and Persistence this evening, thanking the team of presenters for the information. She added that reviewing the Facilities Master Plan gave her a clear view of where the College places focus, noting both presentations reflect the mission of MCC to serve students. Several other Trustees voice they shared these same thoughts and sentiments.

CLOSED SESSION

No closed session meeting was held.

APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: COTW of February 16, 2021

Tabled for another session.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Vice Chair Walsh declared the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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Mary Cornett, Recording Secretary

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Thomas E. Allen, Board Secretary