

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL RETREAT & REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Friday, September 25, 2020

Zoom/Live Streamed via STCC YouTube Channel

9:30 AM

**Minutes of Meeting**

Present at Roll Call: Marikate Murren, Chair  
Jynai McDonald, Secretary  
Alessande Anderson, Student Trustee (few minutes late)  
Maurice Lindsay, Alumni Trustee  
Vicky Crouse, Trustee  
Steve Grande, Trustee  
Eric Hagopian, Trustee  
William Johnson, Trustee  
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Trustee  
Jeff Sattler – Trustee (left early)  
MacArthur Starks, Jr., Trustee

Also Present: Dr. John B. Cook, President;  
Dr. Renae Gorman

- I. Call to Order** – Chair Marikate Murren called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.
- II. Roll Call** - Ten out of eleven Trustees present at initial roll call, constituting a quorum. Student Trustee Alessande Anderson joined within five minutes after roll call.
- III. Approval of Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – August 24, 2020**

Trustee Eric Hagopian moved the motion to accept the August 24, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting minutes, seconded by Jynai McDonald, and unanimously approved through roll call and with no further discussion.

**IV. Trustee Committee Reports**

**Committee on Ways and Means– Monday, September 14, 2020**

Committee on Ways and Means Chair Mac Starks referred to the meeting report to inform the full Board of the Ways and Means meeting held on Monday, September 14, 2020. The meeting included the typical agenda items such as Cash Flow Projections, FY

2021 Budget Update, and Revenue and Spending Report through August 2020 forecasting a year end deficit in the amount of \$1,190,875. Moved on to the FY 2020 Audit Update which is being performed by O'Connor & Drew. Auditors are scheduled to present the audit results and financial statements to the Audit Committee on October 13. During the President's Perspective, Dr. Cook announced Jonathan Tudryn's departure. Ways and Means Committee Chair reiterated his appreciation for Mr. Tudryn's knowledgeable contributions to the Committee and wished him well.

Trustee Chair Marikate Murren called for a motion to approve the September 14, Committee on Ways and Means meeting report. Trustee Jynai McDonald moved the motion, seconded by Trustee Eric Hagopian, and unanimously approved through roll call.

#### **V. Holding of Officer Votes – Chair Marikate Murren**

For the record, this agenda item was moved up, right after Trustee Committee Reports. Chair Marikate Murren put forth the following motion:

**[Motion 2021-01] That Trustee Jynai McDonald becomes the Chair of the Committee on Internal and External Relations for Springfield Technical Community College.**

The motion was seconded by Trustee Steve Grande and Trustee Bill Johnson and after no further discussion, was unanimously approved through roll call.

There is still an opening for the position of Vice Chair of the Board. A recommendation for this position will be set forward at the next Board of Trustee meeting, unless there is a motion from a Trustee to accept the Vice Chair position. Hearing none, this agenda item will be moved to the October 26, Board of Trustees meeting.

#### **VI. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Chair Marikate Murren**

Official welcome from Chair Murren to the first meeting of the first school year at Springfield Technical community College. Chair Murren thanked Trustee Jynai for accepting the position of Chair of the Committee on Internal and External Relations and officially welcomed the most recent Trustees elected, Alumni Trustee Maurice Lindsay, and Student Trustee Alessande Anderson.

#### **VII. Discussion of Program Discontinuations**

In August, Dr. Renae Gorman addressed the Full Board in regards to the topic of Programs Discontinuations. Dr. Gorman made recommendations and asked reconsidering the following three programs out of the seven programs discontinued: Landscaping, Cosmetology, and Automotive.

Chair Murren opened the topic up for discussion. Essentially the Board is seeking clarification in regards to the analysis and process that led into the discontinuation of

these seven programs. Most Trustees feel that before reconsidering the discontinued programs, they need to review the process used and any information that fed into this decision.

Trustee Vicki Crouse called for a motion:

[Motion 2021-02] That the Board vote whether or not wants to reconsider the community and constituent's request to review the closure of three or seven programs for reconsideration in the future.

Motion Seconded by Trustee Jeff Sattler, and upon further discussion, Chair Marikate Murren called to amend as follows:

**Amended [Motion 2021-02] That the Board vote whether or not wants to reconsider the community and constituent's request to review the closure of all seven programs discontinued for reconsideration in the future.**

Before voting for the motion and upon further discussion, Chair Murren clarified that once the motion is approved that Board may establish the process of requesting what information is needed to review these programs taking in consideration all aspects, not limited to financial reasons.

A question before voting, does the Board have the statutory authority to reverse the decision made by Administration. Chair Murren confirmed that yes, it is under the purview of the Board and the board capability to allocate funds and to make these types of decisions.

Motion with amendment seconded by Student Trustee Alessande Anderson. Approved by vote through roll call with: Nine Trustees Yes, One No, and One Trustee absent (left early)

Marikate Murren recommended forming an Ad Hoc Committee to meet and discuss what is needed to review the process of programs' discontinuations. Chair Murren called for a motion to approve the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Sposito, and unanimously approved through roll call (at the moment Ten Trustees present voted yes – One absent).

## VIII. Discussion of All-Unit Congress Resolution

Chair Marikate Murren acknowledged receipt of a resolution from the All Units Congress, sent by Eric Warren on September 1. All Trustees received the resolution.

Since this communication includes several resolutions, Chair Murren proceeded to inform that the Board has purview and oversight in the selection and review process of the President of the Community College, but does not have jurisdiction over any staff

member mentioned in the resolution. The Board's responsibility is to review the President's performance and make recommendations, including moving forward with any type of internal leadership.

It is not the Board of Trustees' responsibility to probe to dig into personnel matters. If there are no formal complaints, we cannot base action on third party conversations that cannot be substantiated.

Motion called by Trustee Bill Johnson to acknowledge receipt of the AUC resolution and that it was discussed. Motion seconded by Trustee MacArthur Starks.

Further discussion in regards to the concerns about commentaries, how would the Board know if there are any issues? What is the process to bring issues up to the Board? Chair Marikate Murren will take this on as a responsibility to find out the process and report back to the board.

Motion unanimously approved through roll call.

**IX. Old Business /New Business – None**

The only new business item – The Vice Chair position will be voted on at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

**X. Date of next Board of Trustees meeting – Monday, October 26, 2020**

**XI. Adjournment** – Meeting called to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. moved by Trustee Elizabeth Sposito, seconded by Trustee Eric Hagopian and unanimously approved through roll call.

  
Marikate Murren  
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees