

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 29, 2021

Zoom/Live Streamed via STCC YouTube Channel
5:00 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Marikate Murren, Chair
Jynai McDonald, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Secretary
Maurice Lindsay, Alumni Trustee
Vicky Crouse, Trustee (joined shortly after roll call)
Eric Hagopian, Trustee
William Johnson, Trustee
MacArthur Starks, Jr., Trustee

Unable to attend: Alessande Anderson, Student Trustee
Jeff Sattler - Trustee

Also Present: Dr. John B. Cook, President

Nanette Flores, Executive Assistant to the President & Board Clerk

I. Call to Order

Trustee Chair Marikate Murren called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

The following Trustees were present at roll call: Trustee Chair Marikate Murren, Trustee Vice-Chair Jynai McDonald, Trustee Secretary Elizabeth Sposito, Alumni Trustee Maurice Lindsay, Trustee Eric Hagopian, Trustee William Johnson, and Trustee MacArthur Starks. Seven present, constituting a quorum. Trustee Vicky Crouse joined shortly after roll call.

III. Approval of Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – March 29, 2021

Trustee Bill Johnson moved to approve the minutes from March 29, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee Betty Sposito and unanimously approved through roll call.

IV. Trustee Committee Reports

a. Committee on Internal and External Relations – March 8, 2021

Internal and External Committee Chair Jynai McDonald referred to the March 8 meeting minutes, including the comping NECHE (New England Commission on Higher Education) accreditation visit, efforts and initiatives from Student Affairs including M.I.L.E. (Male Initiative for Leadership in Education), news about AIA@STCC (Antiracism and Inclusion Alliance), as well as a discussion with leadership from the All Unit Congress (AUC), and plans to continue inviting this body to future Committee meetings. Also shared were efforts/initiatives by Human Resources as well as Academic Affairs, and President Cook shared perspective from the recent All-College Town Hall.

Trustee Maurice Lindsay moved to approve the minutes from March 8, 2021 Committee on Internal and External Relations, seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson and unanimously approved through roll call.

b. Committee on Ways and Means – Monday, March 15, 2021

Committee on Ways and Means Chair Mac Starks referred to the meeting minutes included in the packet to update the full board on highlights of the March 15th Committee on Ways and Mean meeting. He noted cash flow projections, and how forecasted budget is projecting to be net-positive by about \$2,000,000. A current fiscal year Facilities Project report was provided, and indicated \$838,187 has been spent with the expectation of an additional \$2,000,000 by the end of the fiscal year.

Also shared with the Committee was Draft #1 of a FY 2022 Budget. Outlined was a version that included federal funding supports for COVID, with a working deficit of \$800,000; a separate version indicated that without this federal support, the working deficit would be \$4,900,000. Also discussed was the FY22 Facilities and Capital Projects, including a Trustee consideration of the discontinued Automotive and Cosmetology programs.

Trustee Jynai McDonald moved to approve the minutes from March 15, 2021 Committee on Ways and Means, seconded by Trustee Betty Sposito and unanimously approved through roll call.

V. Old Business

Trustees were reminded that Trustee Training is mandatory per Massachusetts statute/rule. A third round/ cycle of training sessions is in progress, and for current Trustees (appointed prior to October 20, 2020), the training must be completed no later

than November 1, 2021; for Trustees appointed after October 20, 2020, the training must be completed within six months of their appointment.

Chair Murren added that Nanette Flores has been sending Trustees calendar invites/reminders for each of the sessions.

VI. New Business

Dr. Cook shared how Trustee Eric Hagopian has reached term-limits, having served as an STCC Trustee for two terms (ten years of service in total). President Cook expressed deep appreciation for Eric's contributions over the years, and noted Trustee Hagopian's innovation in the field of manufacturing. Other Trustees expressed sentiments of appreciation, and Chair Murren shared how Eric will be missed. Eric described the long-standing connection between the Armory and his family, including the role in particular his Grandfather held when the Armory was a federal entity.

VII. President's Perspective – Dr. John B. Cook

Dr. Cook starting by pointing out the STCC zoom/virtual backgrounds, and expressed thanks to STCC Marketing (Kerry Ferrero and Keith Paul) for the branding work, and preparations made for this use during the NECHE visit.

Also discussed and described by the President were a recent visit to the STCC Campus Repopulation Work Group, and the continued hope but uncertainty with COVID vaccination access and social distancing regulations. A robust Fall Semester remains the goal, and continuation of on-campus COVID testing is expected. The college will continue to ensure health and safety.

Dr. Cook later added that the Department of Higher Education (DHE) has approved reinstatement of discontinued programs: BioMedical Engineering Technology, BioTechnology, Civil Engineering Technology, Landscape Design & Management, and Dental Assisting. An update on the reinstatement process will be provided at the April 26, full Board meeting. The President also shared good news: STCC was recently ranked the 4th Best Community College in the nation, and this news will be part of upcoming marketing campaigns, and placement on Springfield/Chicopee/West Springfield area billboards.

a. Notes on FY 2022 Budget Planning/Fiscal Outlook – Dr. Cook referenced Draft #1 of the FY 2022 budget, including key assumptions (i.e. freeze on STCC fees) and noted a some of the points made during the Ways & Means Committee presentation.

VIII. Chair's Report - Trustee Marikate Murren

Voting for the next segmental Trustee Representative to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education is taking place. Our own Trustee Jynai McDonald is one of the five candidates, and the election is by the Board Chairs of the 15 community colleges.

Chair Murren reminded the Board of Trustees of the invitation to meet the NECHE accreditation visiting team embedded in the Committee on Ways and Means Meeting, scheduled to be held on Monday, April 12, at 5:00 p.m.

Chair Murren is looking forward as we look to focus on the support of students, and prepare for success in the fall. The Committee on Ways and Means will continue to be the forum for discussions of the FY 2022 budget, including important facilities/infrastructure needs.

IX. Date of next Board of Trustees meeting – Monday, April 26, 2021

X. Adjournment – Meeting called to adjourn at 5:33 p.m. moved by Trustee Eric Hagopian, seconded by Trustee Mac Starks and Bill Johnson. Unanimously approved through roll call. Marikate Murren, Jynai McDonald, Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Maurice Lindsay, Vicky Crouse, Eric Hagopian, William Johnson, and MacArthur Starks.



Marikate Murren
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees



Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees