

# Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham

Laidlaw 143

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

2:00 p.m.

- **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Wendy Bohlke officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were trustees Jeff Fairchild, Rebecca Johnson, John Pedlow and Teresa Taylor, constituting a quorum. Others present included President Hiyane-Brown; Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services; Barry Robinson, Vice President for Instruction; James Siegel, Vice President for Student Services; Julie Nicholl, Assistant Attorney General; and Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for the Office of the President.

Chair Bohlke began with a land acknowledgement to recognize and pay respect to the Coast Salish Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

## ACTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

- Trustee Taylor moved to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Johnson and the **motion was approved.**
- Chair Bohlke announced that there is a designated time for public comment on the agenda.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### ➤ Consent Agenda

Minutes of January 11, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting and WCC Fall 2022 Graduates.

Chair Bohlke stated: "If there are no objections, items in the consent agenda will be adopted." As there was no objection, these items were adopted.

## WCC TRUSTEE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

- Chair Bohlke presented the Whatcom Community College Board of Trustees Endowed Scholarship Award of \$1,000 to Eva Brown, ACT Transforming Lives Award recipient.

Brown expressed her gratitude for the experience at the ACT Transforming Lives Award dinner.

## STRATEGIC CONVERSATION

- **Community Transition – Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services**

President Kathi introduced guests from the Bellingham School District: Dr. Greg Baker, Superintendent; Analisa Ficklin, Assistant Director; Jessica Sankey, Chief Operations Officer.

Greg Baker, Bellingham School District Superintendent, expressed his appreciation for being at the meeting to share this new partnership with WCC that will provide the needed support for students in the Community Transition program.

Annelisa Fickland and Jessica Sankey provided an overview of the program and the opportunities with the partnership, highlights included:

- Serves student age 18-21 through a Special Education Program within BCS
- Support students in achieving goals in the areas of education/training, employment and independent living
- Provides continuum of services in classroom-based learning, work-based learning, and a variety of community experiences
- A testimonial video including CT students' stories
- Important in increasing opportunities for CT students' opportunities to interact with community especially other students in higher education such as community college
- Increase opportunities for inclusion for young adults with disabilities within the broader community

Nate Langstraat provided an overview of the potential site on campus and the next steps which included board approval of the proposed Board Resolution.

- **Budget Update – Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services**

Langstraat shared a PowerPoint with an update of Fiscal Year 2023 Budget which included information on revenue forecast vs actuals, expenditure forecast vs actuals and mid-year review process and Fiscal Year 2024 budget development.

Highlights included:

- Compensation items funded at 83% state allocation and 17% tuition in Governor’s proposal budget which will translate to a budget reduction of \$800,000 to \$1000,000 for WCC. It is critical to get full funding from the state for compensation mandates.
- Operating Budget development timeline was shared noting that all campus budget forums and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> readings with the Board of Trustees will occurred in May-June.

### **ACTION ITEM**

➤ **Board Resolution – Ground lease with Bellingham Public School for Community Transitions Program**

Trustee Johnson move to adopt resolution 2023-01 which supports a partnership with the Bellingham Public School to locate their Community Transitions facility and program on the Whatcom Community College campus via a formal ground lease agreement. It was seconded by Trustee Taylor and was unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Chair Bohlke called for public comment. She announced a 15-minute public comment period with 2 minutes allocated to each person.
- There was no public comment.

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

- President Kathi introduced new Vice President for Student Services, James Siegel. Siegel shared that he appreciated everyone being so welcoming.
- On February 13, 2023, a new sculpture titled ININYAX’A7N (Thunderbird) by artist James Harry was installed outside of the Phyllis & Charles Self Learning Commons. A short video of artist James Harry describing the artwork was shared.
- President Kathi shared her excitement of the new partnership with Bellingham Public Schools and thanked Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administration, for his work on this project.
- WCC’s “Know the Line posters” have been nationally recognized and published in National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s (NASEM) Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Assessment in Higher Education’s Partner Network repository of work to be shared with other members. Thank you to the hard work of WCC’s NASEM Leader Team.

- President Kathi signed on to the letter to Washington State Legislature from the Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges to advocate for 100% state funding for COLAs negotiated by the Governor's office and the salary increased provided through I-732; and 100% state funding for the system's operating budget request.
- The Strategic Planning Core Team continues to make progress on development of a draft to engage campus in strategic planning session on Professional Development Day on February 21, 2023. Sarah Simpson has met with a number of key community stakeholders to solicit feedback. The core team will incorporate those feedback into the draft to present to campus.

## REPORTS

- **ASWCC** – Joshua Norton, president
  - Norton noted the increased in attendance at ASWCC campus events.
- **WCCFT** - Anna Wolff, President
  - Wolff shared the resolution approved by the faculty union which members will take to Olympia to share with legislators on February 20, 2023.
  - The Union's Executive Committee met with President's cabinet to discuss legislative advocacy and look forward to working with classified union leadership to support each other's lobbying efforts.
  - Wolff also noted that the union is tracking Senate Bill 5476 and House Bill 1523 which
  - Senate 5476 house bill 1523.

## DISCUSSION/ITEMS OF THE BOARD

### ➤ **ACCT Legislative Summit**

Trustee Pedlow shared the summit provided opportunities to connect with legislators and fellow trustees across the state and nation. The theme of this year summit was focused on the Role of Community College and Workforce Development. There was a lot of discussions on services to support the whole student.

Summit had great keynote speakers and interesting topics. 62 presidents and trustees from Washington state attended the summit.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

- At 3:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a closed session of the Board for thirty minutes as provided in RCW 42.31.110, to discuss collective bargaining and a Executive Session immediately after the closed session, to evaluate the qualification of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee... and to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to litigation or legal risks of a proposed action or current practice the agency has identified when public discussion of the litigation or legal risks is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency...

Chair Bohlke announced that action was not anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Vice Presidents Nate Langstraat and Barry Robinson, Executive Director Rafeeka Kloke and Assistant Attorney General Julie Nicoll.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 4:00 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



3/15/2023

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Chair of the Board

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Date



3/15/2023

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President and Secretary of the Board

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Date