

GOGEBIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Ironwood, Michigan

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District of Gogebic County was held on Tuesday evening, August 31, 2021 at 6:30pm in the Upper Level of the Lindquist Student and Conference Center on the Ironwood campus.

Call to Order, Roll Call

Chairman Lupino called the Regular meeting to order at 6:30 pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present: Mrs. Beals, Mr. Brown, Mr. Burchell, Mr. Fitting, Mr. Kolesar, Mr. Lupino

Those Absent: Mr. Malloy

Also present: President Dr. George McNulty, Vice President of Business Services Erik Guenard, Vice President of Academic Services David Darrow, Ashley Paquette, Stacy Brey, Trevor Lemings, Charity Smith, and Roberta Anders.

Chairman Lupino stated that Mr. Trevor Lemings was present to introduce himself to the board. Mr. Lemings explained that he is an Americorps member serving as a College Completion Coach through the Michigan College Access Network. Americorps is a federal service program that works with local agencies to promote community service through a variety of avenues including education, which is his program's focus. The College Completion Corps works to increase the number of students who complete post-secondary certificates and degrees. He will be working with a cohort of Michigan Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners scholarship recipients at GCC to help them identify and reach their post-secondary education goals by connecting them to campus and community resources and championing their success.

Chairman Lupino thanked Mr. Lemings for being at the board meeting and for choosing Gogebic Community College, and wished him the very best.

Report of Secretary

Moved by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Burchell, and carried, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

Conflict of Interest

Mr. Fitting noted that he owns the property next to the GCC property sites where a road will be developed to access those properties.

Houghton Update – Stacy Brey

Chairman Lupino and the board welcomed Stacy Brey back.

Stacy Brey stated that week two of classes were underway and expressed that she is excited to have everyone back at the Copper Country Center.

Last week they welcomed the new nursing instructor, Trevor Ploe, and next week they will be welcoming their new Early Childhood CTE instructor Shannon Houle. This class coordinates with the Copper Country Intermediate School District.

A room at the CCC is being converted over to a Zoom Room this week. The Zoom team is on site Tuesday through Thursday to set up the room.

President McNulty was on site last week from Wednesday through Friday. VP Guenard will be on site this Wednesday, September 1 and VP Darrow next Wednesday, September 8.

President's Update – Dr. George McNulty

Dr. McNulty presented along with others at the UP Regional Labor Market Meeting at Bay College the week of August 16. Governor Whitmer opened the meeting. Information included the Sixty by 30 initiative, including talent, prosperity, future for frontliners and reconnect programs, labor market briefings, employer roundtable, and UP community college president remarks. He said it was a positive meeting.

Dr. McNulty visited Calumet, Hancock, and Houghton last week, attended various meetings and had feedback from community members, business and industry, and students who stated the importance of GCC's presence in Houghton. Director of HR, Ashley Paquette, traveled to Houghton today to welcome new employee nursing instructor, Trevor Ploe. Vice Presidents Erik Guenard and David Darrow will be in Houghton in the coming weeks to welcome in the fall semester.

Dr. McNulty toured Bessemer Plywood and reported that it is a technologically advanced operation. He was impressed with the quality workmanship and precision of the machine work. He thanked owner Clay Thomason for providing the tour of the facility.

Dr. McNulty attended Emberlight Festival Broadway Under the Stars in addition to a Donor Reception as GCC's representative this past weekend. He thanked community volunteers that helped to coordinate the many Emberlight events. The festival is a true celebration of art and diversity.

Dr. McNulty stated that he appreciated all that everyone has done to help make the transition into the fall semester a smooth one. He also noted, Happy Labor Day, and to enjoy the long weekend ahead.

Chairman Lupino thanked the City of Ironwood City Manager, Scott Erickson, for providing extra chip sealant for the parking lot adjacent to the Civic Center parking lot. Mrs. Beals will send a note of appreciation from the College.

Public Comment on Agenda

None

New Business – Financial Reports

Vice President Erik Guenard presented the July 2021 financial reports.

The General Revenue and Expense Summary is quiet for the month of July. The budget is in progress and should be updated by the next board meeting.

The Balance Sheet shows assets and liabilities incurred through July 2021. The pre-audit ending fund balance is showing \$2.2 million which is an increase due to HEERF lost revenue funding.

The Statement of Changes in Fund Balance shows the cumulative revenues and expenditures for the month of July 2021. The increase in fund balance is noticeable from the prior year in a few different funds. The auxiliary funds have a few funds with positive balances that will be adjusted. The bookstore will be negatively adjusted once the inventory of books is written off. In the large picture, the funds are performing well and the College is anticipating a positive fiscal year as we move forward.

Mr. Fitting inquired regarding residential housing numbers. Mr. Guenard stated that we are 50% full at this point.

The presented financial statements show a draft pre-audit College position at the end of the 2021 fiscal year. The College performed well under the restrictions of COVID and is now

seeing revenue flow back into the institution via HEERF funding. The College will bring forward a budget for approval in September with the hope of appropriations by the State of Michigan.

Received health insurance renewal rates for January 1 and they are well under the budgeted amount. He is expecting to see an approximate 3% decrease in the budgeted amount on the health side and an approximate 2% decrease on the dental and vision side.

Mr. Kolesar inquired regarding the appropriation of the percent increase. Mr. Guenard stated that 2% is a safe allocation at this point.

Mrs. Beals asked for an update on the new snack bar. Mr. Guenard reported that the electrical is expected to be completed in the Samsons Canteen this week. The equipment will be moved over to this location and will wait for the sign off from the Health Department. Amy Tarro and Leah Hagen have worked very hard on this project and they are now serving some pre-packaged food. Mr. Fitting asked where residence housing is eating since it was their number one concern last year. Mr. Guenard stated that soda, fruit, yogurt, pre-made sandwiches and salads are being served. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8am to 4pm and Friday 8am to 1:30pm. A meal card program is being offered.

Chairman Lupino expressed that it was nice to see that free lunches were offered to students during the first week of classes. Mr. Guenard informed the board that this was arranged by Kari Klemme and Student Services, who did a wonderful job in welcoming students. Mrs. Beals asked Ms. Brey about the availability of food at the CCC since it has been a concern for years. Ms. Brey stated they do not have food on site; it has been on hold over the last year due to COVID. Mrs. Beals would like the board to follow up with this in the future.

Motion made by Mrs. Beals, supported by Mr. Burchell, and carried, to approve the July 2021 financial statements as presented.

*New Business – Consent
Agenda Items – Bid for
Road Work into New
Building Trades Home
Site*

Mr. Guenard stated that Gogebic Community College sought bids from local contractors to develop a road to access the three remaining properties on college owned land and provide access to the new building trades home for construction. Two bids were received, and Administration recommends the board accept the bid from Angelo Luppino, Inc.

Motion made by Mrs. Beals, supported by Mr. Kolesar, and carried, to accept the bid from Angelo Luppino, Inc. for road work into the new building trades home site, as presented.

*New Business – Consent
Agenda Items- Bid for
Retrofitting of Porcupine
Mountains Chair Lift*

Mr. Guenard reported that under the direction of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Porcupine Mountains Director, Gogebic Community College publicly sought bids for the retrofitting of the chair lift. The RFP requested to have an engineering study done to determine the ability to increase capacity on the downhill rider side of the chair lift to accommodate increased traffic for summer activities at the Porcupine Mountains Ski Hill and the materials and labor to install the correct infrastructure to meet state standards. Two bids were received, and the Administration recommends the board accept the bid from SkyTrans Manufacturing, LLC.

Mrs. Beals asked if the chair lift will be open for fall colors. Mr. Guenard stated that the chair lift will not operate until the engineering study is completed, and it passes inspection.

Motion made by Mrs. Beals, supported by Mr. Fitting, and carried, to accept the bid from SkyTrans Manufacturing, LLC for retrofitting of Porcupine Mountains chair lift under the caveat that the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources reimburses Gogebic Community College for the cost of the project, as presented.

*New Business – Consent
Agenda Items- Contract
with the CCISD*

Mr. Guenard explained that Gogebic Community College works annually with the Copper County Independent School District to provide classes. Gogebic Community College will be teaching an Early Childhood Education Class in the high school setting. The contract was provided by the CCISD for this instructional assignment.

Motion made by Mr. Brown, supported by Mrs. Beals, and carried, to accept the contract with the CCISD, as presented.

*New Business – Personnel
Items – Non-Affiliated
Staff Appointment – Staff
Accountant*

Mr. Guenard stated that Gogebic Community College was authorized to search for a new Staff Accountant. Ms. Michelle Wasielewski interviewed well for the position and showed a breadth of knowledge in accounting and the many aspects therein. Ms. Wasielewski is being recommended by Administration for employment.

Motion made by Mr. Kolesar, supported by Mr. Burchell, and carried, to approve the hiring of Ms. Wasielewski, as presented.

*New Business – Personnel
Items – MAHE Houghton
Faculty Appointment –
Nursing Instructor*

Mr. Darrow stated that after searching and interviewing, the committee recommends Mr. Trevor Ploe for the position of Nursing Instructor at the Copper Country Center. Trevor earned an associate degree from Gogebic Community College and his bachelor's degree from Capella University in Minneapolis. In addition, he has previous experience with the Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital, Lighthouse at Hubbell, and is a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Motion made by Mrs. Beals, supported by Mr. Burchell, and carried, to approve the hiring of Mr. Trevor Ploe, as presented.

*New Business – Personnel
Items – Appointment –
Head Women's Softball
Coach*

Dr. McNulty reported that Ms. Noel Aho has submitted her letter of interest for the Head Women's Softball Coach position. Ms. Aho had significantly advanced the softball program since 2017 and had previously been an integral part of GCC athletics.

Motion made by Mr. Kolesar, supported by Mr. Fitting, and carried, to approve the hiring of Ms. Noel Aho, as presented.

*New Business – Personnel
Items – Appointment –
Assistant Men's
Basketball Coach*

Dr. McNulty shared that Mr. Denver Sharrow is a Samsons alum who was a very good student-athlete while attending GCC. Denver would be a positive role model for the players on this year's team. His experiences on and off the court would allow Mr. Sharrow to provide support for the players, our program, and Coach Dennis Mackey throughout the upcoming basketball season. If approved, Coach Mackey looks forward to having Mr. Sharrow assist him in coaching the 2021-22 Samsons men's basketball team.

Motion made by Mr. Kolsar, supported by Mr. Burchell, and carried, to approve the hiring of Mr. Denver Sharrow, as presented.

*New Business – Personnel
Items – AFSCME
Resignation/Retirement –
Maintenance and
Custodial*

Mr. Guenard announced that we have received a retirement notice from Mr. Dave Erickson. Mr. Erickson joined Gogebic Community College in 2005 in the Maintenance and Custodial Department. Since Mr. Erickson's hire date, he has served in this department and is the lead for all maintenance services. His work ethic and attention to detail are a model to be replicated, and during his time at Gogebic, he has represented the institution well. The institution thanks him for his superior service to faculty, staff, and students, and we wish him well in his future endeavors. Chairman Lupino thanked Mr. Erickson for his exemplary service to Gogebic Community College.

Motion made by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Fitting, and carried, to accept the resignation/retirement of Mr. Dave Erickson and begin a search for a replacement, as presented.

*New Business – Personnel
Items – Non-Affiliated
Staff Resignation –
Director of Financial Aid*

Mr. Guenard announced that Gogebic Community College is in receipt of the resignation of Ms. Breanne Lombardo, Director of Financial Aid. Although her tenure was short, the College is thankful for her time on staff and wishes her the best in her future endeavors. Ms. Lombardo's last date of employment will be September 30, 2021.

Motion made by Mrs. Beals, supported by Mr. Fitting, and carried, to accept the resignation of Ms. Breanne Lombardo and begin a search for a replacement and a third-party interim solution until the position is filled, as presented.

*Discussion of Strategic
Planning*

Dr. McNulty stated that we are ramping up 2021-2022 implementation with strategic planning team lead meetings and are looking forward to presenting the first strategic plan report the board in September or October.

*Public Comment on
Topics Relating to GCC*

None

Other Business

Dr. McNulty reminded board members that the social for new employees will be prior to the next board on September 28, from 5:30 to 6:15pm. He thanked Roberta Anders and Ashley Paquette for their work in coordinating the event, as well as board member Mrs. Beals for bringing the idea of a social to the attention of Administration.

Mrs. Beals reminded board members about the Emberlight Film Festival taking place tomorrow night at Theater North at 5pm. The cost is \$10.

Chairman Lupino mentioned there is a committee in place to study a Samsons mascot. The committee is headed by Ms. Kari Klemme and they welcome any creative thoughts and ideas for a mascot.

Executive Session

Moved by Mr. Brown and supported by Mrs. Beals that the meeting be moved to Executive Session to discuss matters exempt from disclosure.

Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Absent. *Motion carried* – 6 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. The meeting moved into Executive Session at 7:11 pm.

Return to Regular Session

Moved by Mr. Brown and supported by Mr. Fitting that the meeting return to Regular Session.

Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Absent. *Motion carried* – 6 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. The meeting returned to Regular Session at 8:01 pm.

*Action Taken During
Executive Session*

Approval of the MAHE contract.

Motion made by Mrs. Beals, and supported by Mr. Brown, and carried, to approve the MAHE contract, as presented.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Fitting, and carried, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

John J. Lupino, Chairman

Susan Beals, Secretary

*Next GCC Board of
Trustees Regular Meeting*

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 6:30 pm – Upper Level of the Lindquist Student and Conference Center.