

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, March 29, 2022 at 6:00 pm 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 5:59 pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present: Mrs. Beals, Mr. Brown, Mr. Burchell (arrived at 6 pm), Mr. Fitting, Mr. Kolesar, Mr. Lupino and Mr. Malloy.

Those absent: None

Also present: President George McNulty, Vice President of Academic Services David Darrow, Jennifer Ahonen, Kelly Marczak, Maria Sokol, Dennis Svoke, Connie Hicks, Jesse Carroll, Chad Lashua, Serena Mershon-Lohkamp, Randy Kasich, and Roberta Anders.

Chairman Lupino announced that Agenda Item 6.3.4 will be removed from tonight's agenda.

Moved by Mr. Brown, supported by Mrs. Beals, and carried, to remove Consent Agenda Item 6.3.4 from the agenda, as presented.

*Report of Secretary*

Moved by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Fitting, and carried, to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2022 Regular Board Meeting and the minutes of the March 3, 2022 Special Board Meeting, as presented.

*Conflict of Interest*

None

*Institutional Reports*

*Introduction of New Employees – Jesse Carroll and Chad Lashua*

Mr. Darrow introduced Mr. Carroll, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Admissions, Marketing & Community Relations to the board. Dr. McNulty introduced Chad Lashua, new Vice President of Business Services who will begin at GCC on May 9, 2022, to the board. Chairman Lupino welcomed them.

*Foundation Update – Kelly Marczak*

Ms. Marczak reported that the Foundation has a new endowed scholarship: the Angela Contratto Memorial Scholarship. The ARC of Gogebic County is sponsoring the scholarship in memory of Angela. It will be an annual scholarship for two years and an endowed scholarship for perpetuity.

The Dean Pearson Memorial Scholarship has also been established. It is a \$1,000 scholarship each year for five years. Dean Pearson taught in our Automotive Department and his son is an alum of GCC.

Gerald and Mary Maki currently fund an annual scholarship with GCC. They established a legacy gift in their estate plan to fund an endowed scholarship for perpetuity.

The Foundation is establishing an Arts & Beautification Circle (ABC) at GCC. It is co-chaired by Susan Beals and Carol Pisani, with support from the Foundation office. The purpose is to encourage individuals to collectively improve the quality of the campus experience through art and beautification. Where one person may not always see the impact of a single donation to a purpose, the giving circle method can make a significant impact on the purpose through multiple donations. Members of the ABC commit to an annual \$100 membership to be used for art projects and bi-annual meetings to decide on future projects. Contact Ms. Marczak for more information. The inaugural project is an impressive 8 foot, 3-dimensional tree constructed by the welding students. We funded the material; the students provided the creativity and talent. She shared a brochure with the board. Mrs. Beals added that discussions were started 3-4 years ago, and it is now coming to fruition.

*HLC Update – Dr.  
Maria Sokol*

Dr. Sokol reported that they are looking forward to the Comprehensive visit from the HLC scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of 2023. There will be 6-8 people coming. In preparation for that visit, she has been working on the Assurance Argument that will be submitted in February 2023 to aid in the evaluation of all of our processes and help “prove” to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) that we are adhering to the Criteria for Accreditation and should receive reaffirmation of our accreditation status following their on-campus visit next April. While the team from the HLC are on campus and visiting our Copper County Center, they will be reviewing all of our processes, paying particular attention to any “Areas of Concern” that were identified following their last focused visit in 2019. She will provide the Board with a Dashboard of how we met the criteria in the past, including highlighted areas that we were told to focus on for this coming evaluation. Of course, the work of Accreditation is ongoing, as is updated in the Accreditation newsletter provided to the Board and the GCC faculty and Staff on a monthly basis. In addition, she made up a primer for Accreditation that is distributed to all new employees so that they have a quick reference guide to GCC Accreditation to accompany any information they can access on our GCC Accreditation SharePoint page. Lastly, she will provide them with a rough draft of an information sheet that will be available to all employees and students over the next year to help give them a better awareness of what the HLC visit will cover as well as some potential questions to prepare them. The next year will be all about continued preparation for our visit to ensure successful reaffirmation of accreditation. Mr. Darrow was in a meeting today for Forestry Program accreditation. She provided handouts to the board.

*Nursing Accreditation  
Update – Nicole Rowe*

She reported the RN pass rates from 2020 and 2021 compared to the national average of all candidates and the national average of those with an associate degree. Ms. Rowe also reported the LPN pass rates from 2020 and 2021 comparing Ironwood, Houghton, and National.

She gave an accreditation update focusing on progression, curriculum changes since 2020, summer initiatives, accreditation standard changes, challenges, and application date. The accreditation body wants all GCC adjunct faculty to be master’s prepared. In this region it is difficult to find those people. This is an area that needs to be addressed. How can we go about encouraging and supporting people to get their master’s degree? It could be financially. Mrs. Beals mentioned that it puts us in a tough spot since even if we provide them with the extra education, we cannot compete with pay offered elsewhere. Ms. Rowe agreed and said they can make more out in the field, so wages are a challenge. Mrs. Beals asked if the clinical instructors are part-time, and Ms. Rowe replied yes. Dr. McNulty inquired how much it would cost for a master’s program and Ms. Rowe replied that it would vary depending on where you go.

*Mechanical  
Engineering Technology  
Program Review –  
Dennis Svoke*

Mr. Svoke explained that the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program at GCC is designed for students who wish to design and manufacture products in accordance with industry standards. Students may pursue a one-year manufacturing certificate program or a two-year program to earn an Associate of Applied Technology degree. The one-year certificate program also serves as the first year of the two-year program in a “stackable credential” model. At the time of development, industry was leaning toward a one-year certificate requirement that taught students fundamental knowledge in design and manufacturing. From there, and upon being employed, individual companies could train them for their respective operations. Both programs offer extensive hands-on learning opportunities. It has been decided to change the program name from Computer Aided Design to Mechanical Engineering Technology, since it lends itself favorably to industry trends and the emphasis on technology is more attractive to students. Mr. Svoke and Ms. Hicks are the instructors, Glen Ackerman-Behr is an adjunct. The program provides students with an opportunity to receive training for immediate occupational employment and an opportunity to update their skills. In addition, it provides students with advisory-board guided curriculum to meet current industry trends and guidance to fit their

individual career interests. This program also has an excellent opportunity to expand with the potential addition of Mechatronics and Civil Engineering Technology. Continued marketing of the program is recommended by faculty and advisors. Board members asked various questions regarding the software Mr. Svoke mentioned. Dr. McNulty asked if he has heard from employers he talks to or advisory committee about competition that is existing now or especially in the future related to short-term credentialing and non-degree programs. Mr. Svoke replied no. Mr. Kolesar asked if this would be an advantage for them to get this and have it in their portfolio. Mr. Svoke replied yes but that students would most likely not want to pay extra so maybe they could possibly work with Financial Aid. Mr. Burchell asked if the student base is local. Mr. Svoke replied yes, between here and Houghton.

*President's Update –  
Dr. George McNulty*

Dr. McNulty reported the following:

Civil Rights Compliance Review: Dr. McNulty thanked Glen Ackerman-Behr, Workforce Development Director and Kristin Kenney, Registrar, for coordinating the CR Review. The remote site visit was conducted on March 21. The review team had the opportunity to read through extensive documentation, videos and virtual tours to complete their work. GCC was complimented on breadth of communication and community outreach using various forms of social media. The final report will include both compliant and non-compliant findings and will be delivered in approximately two months.

Copper Peak News: Dr. McNulty communicated a congratulations to Copper Peak on receiving \$20 million from the state of Michigan with the passing of State Senate Bill 565. He thought this was an incredible moment for the UP and all of Michigan. Much hard work, support, and advocacy occurred to receive the funding.

EMS: Dr. McNulty congratulated Bob Kirkley who was promoted to the Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin Regional Director for Aspirus MedEvac. He also congratulated Cory Roell who was promoted to the MedEvac Operations Coordinator. Both Bob and Cory teach in the EMS program at GCC.

Campus Suites: Dr. McNulty thanked Aaron Froelich, Campus Suites Manager, for his work on implementing a new on-call access to a small canteen inside of campus suites. Available hours are 8 AM – 11 PM Sunday through Thursday and 9 AM to midnight Friday and Saturday. We have started with a small budget, but we have options such as frozen pizza, mac and cheese, cereal, ramen, raviolis, and of course some snacks and treats. This is a trial of sorts to see the reaction and impression it has on the students living on campus. Dr. McNulty also thanked board member Eric Fitting for his emphasis on providing more food options for our students living in residence.

Chairman Lupino thanked everyone who provided an Institutional Report this evening.

*Public Comment on  
Agenda & Reports*

None. However, Mr. Kasich mentioned there was not an agenda printed out for him to review.

*New Business –  
Financial Reports*

Ms. Jennifer Ahonen, Controller, presented the January 2022 financial statements.

The General Fund Revenue and Expense Summary shows the college budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 and the activity through February 28, 2022. The revenues and expenditures are in-line with the budget and comparable to the previous fiscal year. The spring semester tuition and fees have been posted in both the current year and previous fiscal year. Revenues are at 70% of the budget, while expenditures are at 59% of the budget in the current year with a net revenue of \$1,356,997.

The Balance Sheet shows assets and liabilities incurred through February 28, 2022. The accounts receivable – state aid is recorded in both the current and previous year and is comparable. The Accounts Receivable Tuition and Other balance is showing a slightly higher balance in the current year. Third party billing will bring this amount down. The cumulative

fund balance will continue to decrease over the remaining four months as expenditures catch up with revenues. The financials present a healthy position at the end of February 2022.

The Statement of Changes in Fund Balance shows the cumulative revenues and expenditures through February 28, 2022. The General Fund is recording a healthy fund balance. This fund balance will continue to decrease over the remaining four months of the fiscal year. The fund balance in the Restricted Fund will increase by year end as the revenues are drawdown to match the expenditures. The auxiliary funds are recording positive fund balances for the current year with Mt Zion ski hill as the exception. Reminder that the Bookstore/Samsons Canteen and Campus Suites had lost revenue recorded in the previous year that carried forward in their beginning fund balance amounts. The Snack Bar remains an inactive fund as it has consolidated with the Bookstore/Samsons Canteen.

Included is a summary of COVID funding for the college. This report shows the COVID funding by category and line item through February 28, 2022. The columns compare the initial authorization to the amount expended under each category for each of the three fiscal years so far affected by COVID. The total expense from the three years is compared to the total authorization to show the balance remaining. All student funds have been expended through the end of February 2022. There has been an automatic extension until June 30, 2023 for HEERF funds, with both the student and institutional portions.

Motion made by Mrs. Beals, supported by Mr. Malloy, and carried, to approve the January 2022 financial statements, as presented.

*New Business – Consent  
Agenda Items –  
Maymester*

Mr. Darrow explained that GCC will run an intersession in May, as was done last spring. Maymester dates will be from May 16 to June 3, 2022. Currently there are eight different course offerings. The proposed tuition rate will be \$185 per credit hour. Mr. Darrow asked the board if it is possible to have tuition rates approved for the fall as well. Mr. Lupino asked if there were any projections. Mr. Darrow replied that registration opens tomorrow. A major marketing push will begin.

Motion made by Mrs. Beals, supported by Mr. Brown, and carried, to approve the Maymester tuition rate of \$185, as presented.

*New Business – Consent  
Agenda Items –  
Corporate  
Authorization  
Resolution*

Dr. McNulty stated that Chad Lashua, Vice President of Business Services, must be authorized and fully empowered to make financial transactions on behalf of the College beginning on his first day of employment at GCC. His start date will be May 9, 2022.

Motion made by Mr. Malloy, supported by Mr. Burchell, and carried, to authorize and fully empower Chad Lashua, Vice President of Business Services, on his first day of employment at GCC, to make financial transactions on behalf of Gogebic Community College, and that the Corporate Authorization Resolution be approved and submitted, as necessary, to all financial institutions with which the College does business, as presented.

*New Business – Consent  
Agenda Items – Bid  
Approval – Technology  
for Ironwood Science  
Labs*

Dr. McNulty explained that equipping the Ironwood chemistry and biology labs at GCC with Vernier Go Direct Sensors will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the laboratory setting, as well as allow students to remain connected to the laboratory environment when remote learning is required. Two bids were received. The Vernier product list was revised to best serve multiple biology, forestry, and chemistry courses, as well as the anticipated near-term needs of a lab technician offering. Given the time involved, as well as other factors, it was determined that only Vernier would be contacted for a second quote.

Ms. Mershon-Lohkamp said she, Bill Perkis, and Chenin Limback are excited about this. It has been a collaborative effort and they have been working on it for a while. Less equipment will have to be shared, and they will be working with students remotely. It will allow them to share equipment we have with Houghton. Mr. Lupino thanked them for the work on this. Mr. Kolesar asked if they would be able to run a lab in Houghton. Ms. Mershon-Lohkamp replied

that it is one of the thoughts and a potential possibility. There is a possibility for dual enrollment along with the Zoom technology we have.

Motion made by Mrs. Beals, supported by Mr. Fitting, and carried, to approve the bid from Vernier Software & Technology in the amount of \$27,312.31 with funding coming from the HEERF III institutional funds, as presented.

*New Business –  
Personnel Items – Non-  
Affiliated Staff  
Appointment –  
Instructional Designer*

Mr. Darrow reported that GCC was authorized to search for an Instructional Designer. The search committee interviewed and selected Ms. Danielle Boyette. Ms. Boyette served as the Assistant Director of Innovative Education at the University of South Florida. She also served has worked as a post-secondary instructor, a middle school Latin teacher, and a higher education project manager. Danielle earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of South Florida.

Motion made by Mr. Kolesar, supported by Mr. Brown, and carried to approve the hiring of Ms. Danielle Boyette as Instructional Designer with an anticipated start date of April 4, 2022, at the initial step; Grade 7 on the Non-Affiliated pay schedule, as presented.

*New Business –  
Personnel Items – Non-  
Affiliated Staff  
Resignation –  
Controller*

Dr. McNulty reported that the College is in receipt of the resignation of Ms. Jennifer Ahonen, Controller. Ms. Ahonen was integral to the success of the Business Department, supporting a broad range of internal and external constituent needs. Ms. Ahonen maintained solid business acumen and displayed excellence supporting Administration, the Board and staff with major business functions while the College searched for a new Vice President of Business Services. Ms. Ahonen's last date of employment will be May 20, 2022. He mentioned that Ms. Ahonen is the ultimate work professional with the strongest work ethic he has seen. Chairman Lupino stated it has been a pleasure working with Ms. Ahonen; she has done an outstanding job and will be missed.

Motion made by Mr. Malloy, supported by Mrs. Beals, and carried, to accept with regret, Ms. Jennifer Ahonen's resignation letter, with authorization to search for a new Controller, as presented.

*New Business – MAHE  
Staff Resignation –  
English Instructor*

Mr. Darrow stated that English faculty member, Ms. Nicole Mason, has submitted her resignation letter effective August 15, 2022. Ms. Mason began teaching at GCC in the fall 2021 semester and advised the Art Club.

Motion made by Mr. Kolesar, supported by Mr. Fitting, and carried, to accept Ms. Nicole Mason's resignation letter effective August 15, 2022, with authorization to search for a new English Instructor for the Ironwood campus, as presented.

*New Business –  
Resignation – Women's  
Head Basketball Coach*

Removed from Agenda.

*New Business –  
Resignation – Women's  
Head Softball Coach*

Dr. McNulty stated that the College is in receipt of the resignation of Ms. Noel Aho, Women's Head Softball Coach. Ms. Aho has significantly advanced the softball program and has been an integral part of GCC athletics. She will resign at the commencement of the 2022 season.

Motion made by Mr. Kolesar, supported by Mrs. Beals, and carried, to accept Ms. Noel Aho's resignation at the commencement of the 2022 season, with authorization to search for a new Women's Head Softball Coach, as presented.

*Approval of 2022  
Graduate List*

Mr. Darrow presented the 2022 Graduate list for approval and stated it was the most exciting time of the year for him.

Motion made by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Malloy, and carried, to approve the 2022 Graduate List pending satisfactory completion of their degree and graduation requirements, as presented.

*Discussion of Strategic  
Plan*

Dr. McNulty reported the Strategic Planning team has been working on collecting measure data and creating the status report for each objective. This information is being entered into the Watermark software.

*Public Comment on  
Topics Relating to GCC*

Mr. Kasich stated that he was very disappointed there was not an agenda available for him. He mentioned the COVID money available to GCC and felt we should reach out to students that “did not make the grade” due to COVID. It was not a good time during COVID and was traumatic for our youth during remote learning. He would like the opportunity to have his son back at GCC if his son wants to continue his education, although he has a job right now. He asked that the board take it into consideration if there is money available so his son could continue his education, if he chooses to.

*Other Business*

Mr. Lupino mentioned that school was cancelled last month and there was a board meeting that evening. At some colleges, the board meeting would be cancelled if the college is closed. Some had difficulty getting to GCC that evening. He asked what the board thought about this. Mr. Malloy thought it was a wonderful idea. They will put together a plan next month.

Mr. Burchell inquired about the Commencement speaker. Dr. McNulty stated we are still searching. Mr. Burchell asked about the recommendation from the DEI group. Dr. McNulty replied they had recommended for a future date. Mr. Burchell mentioned that Miles Mykkanen could do it this year, but not next year. Dr. McNulty thanked him for this information.

*Closed Session*

Moved by Mr. Brown, and supported by Mr. Malloy, that the meeting be moved to Closed Session to discuss matters exempt from disclosure.  
Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. *Motion carried* – 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. The meeting moved into Closed Session at 7:28 pm.

*Return to Regular  
Session*

Moved by Mr. Brown and supported by Mr. Malloy that the meeting return to Regular Session.  
Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. *Motion carried* – 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. The meeting returned to Regular Session at 9:28 pm.

Action in Regular Session: We, the GCC Board, have had a very productive discussion with Dr. McNulty as part of his evaluation; and based on the plans we have discussed, we the Board move to affirm Dr. McNulty’s contract through June 30, 2024, per his contract.

Motion made by Mr. Kolesar, supported by Mr. Brown, and carried, to affirm Dr. George McNulty’s contract through June 30, 2024, per his contract.

Roll call vote: Beals – Yes; Brown – Yes; Burchell – Yes; Fitting – Yes; Kolesar – Yes; Lupino – Yes; Malloy – Yes. *Motion carried* – 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent.

*Adjournment*

Moved by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Malloy, and carried, that the meeting be adjourned.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm.

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*John J. Lupino, Chairman*

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*Susan Beals, Secretary*

*Next GCC Board of  
Trustees Regular Meeting*

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 6:00 pm – Upper Level of the Lindquist Student and  
Conference Center.