MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

**DISTRICT NO. 537**

**RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**November 19, 2024**

**DECENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Joe Feinstein presented the final report for compliance on local government efficiency act. Findings and recommendations were made to the Board of Trustees. Voice vote being all ayes, Vice Chair Colee declared the motion carried.

# CONVENING OF THE MEETING

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 19, 2024, in the Board Room of Richland Community College by Vice Chair Colee. Vice Chair Colee also recited the College Vision, Mission, and Core Values.

## Roll Call

Trustees Present: Tom Ritter, Dan Diskey, Dale Colee, Ben Andreas, Bishop Wayne Dunning, and Marcy Rood

Trustees Absent: Vicki Carr, Brayden Thomas

Also present: Dr. Cris Valdez and other staff members

# MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 15, 2024, had been distributed to the Board prior to this meeting.

Ritter moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 15, 2024. Bishop Dunning seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Vice Chair Colee declared the motion carried.

# APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dr. Valdez and the Board of Trustees welcomed Derek Clem, Melissa Scircle, Hunter Tuinstra, and Cody Morrell.

# SPECIAL REPORTS

**REPORT OF ICCTA**

Bishop Wayne Dunning went over highlights of the last ICCTA meeting:

Advocacy

* Approved the association’s 2025 State Legislative Initiatives (pursue community college workforce degrees, enhance student transfer and articulation policies, and prepare Illinois’ future workers) and Core Legislative Values (remain responsive to the community college district, receive equitable funding for college operations, and champion equity in higher education)
* Previewed the Illinois General Assembly's spring 2025 session. Spending pressures and a projected $3.2 billion deficit will affect negotiations on the state’s Fiscal Year 2026 budget.
* Reviewed recommendations from the September 27 Business Enterprise Program Summit, co-sponsored by ICCTA and the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents; Encouraged trustees to participate in the February 2025 Community College National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C.
* Received updates on ICCTA’s Community College Baccalaureate Degree project, the Illinois Community College Board’s Adequacy and Equity in Community College Funding Work Group, and the Presidents Council's legislative agenda.

Member Engagement

* Adopted ICCTA's 2025-2027 Strategic Plan
* Presented a resolution honoring Maureen Broderick (Joliet) for her outstanding service as ICCTA president for 2023-2024.
* Congratulated Shawn Boldt (Highland) on his election to the Association of Community College Trustees board and Dr. Florence Appel (DuPage) on her election to the ACCT Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.
* Reminded trustees to complete ACCT’s member interest survey.

Trustee Education

* Praised ICCTA’s November 15 Legal, Legislative, and Ethics Update seminar. Future seminars may examine artificial intelligence’s influence on hiring and curricula, the future of the U.S. Department of Education; grants writing, and types of board governance.
* Learned that Trustee Roundtable participants discussed the state of DEI efforts on campus and the board’s role in supporting student success.
* Welcomed remarks from student trustee Liman Lei (Harper), who shared his experiences as an international student and campus leader.

**MONITORING REPORT**

Meredith Johnson-Palmer, Joe Drew, Allison Shuppara-Otton, and Jacque Manicki presented the Monitoring Report – Student Services/Wellness.

**FACULTY REPORT**

None

**REPORT OF STUDENT TRUSTEE**

The Student Leadership Council Report was in the Board packet for information only.

**FOUNDATION REPORT**

Julie Melton reported on top accomplishment, projects in progress and new opportunities on the horizon. She also reminded the Trustees about the upcoming Holiday Party on December 11, 2024, at Hickory Point Golf Couse.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board of Trustees. It included:

1. Spring 2025 Request for Temporary Full-Time Hire, Hunter Tuinstra
2. Spring 2025 Request for Temporary Full-Time Hire, Cody Morrell
3. Authorization in Compliance with 5 Illinois Compiled Statutes 120/2.06

**Ritter moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Bishop Dunning Second. Roll call vote being all ayes, Vice Chair Colee declared the motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE ATECH ABS/TCS SYSTEM TRAINER**

A recommendation was made to the Board that would authorize the College Administration to purchase one (1) ATech ABS/TCS System trainer from ATech Training, Inc. in Walton, KY for a total cost of $14, 975. Funding is provided through the Carl D. Perkins V Grant, as presented.

**Andreas moved to authorize the College Administration to purchase one (1) ATech ABS/TCS System trainer from ATech Training, Inc. in Walton, KY for a total cost of $14, 975. Funding is provided through the Carl D. Perkins V Grant, as presented. Rood seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Vice Chair Colee declared the motion carried.**

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE RATIONAL OVEN**

A recommendation was made to the Board that would authorize the College Administration to purchase the RATIONAL oven from MJ Kellner, Cedar Rapids, Springfield, IL for a total cost of $20,324.20, as presented.

**Ritter moved to authorize the College Administration to purchase the RATIONAL oven from MJ Kellner, Cedar Rapids, Springfield, IL for a total cost of $20,324.20, as presented. Andreas seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Vice Chair Colee declared the motion carried.**

**PROTECTION, HEALTH, AND SAFETY RESOLUTIONS 25-1, 25-2, AND 25-3**

**Resolution 25-1**

The Operations Department intends to move forward with the next phase of our multi-year project designed to replace aging pneumatic control systems throughout the college’s main campus. These pneumatic control systems, which were installed between 1984 and 2004, are used to manage the flow of either hot or cold water through the hydronic systems in individual spaces on campus. These pneumatic controls are notoriously less energy efficient than modern digital solutions; replacing them will provide multiple avenues for the college to reduce its energy expenses over time. This phase of the project, which aligns with the college’s strategic plan priority of energy reduction, will cost $318,000.

**Resolution 25-2**

The Operations Department intends to move forward with the next phase of its legacy lighting replacement program, which is designed to remove high-cost or unsustainable fluorescent, incandescent, and halogen lighting fixtures from the college’s main campus. Department personnel have identified lighting fixtures in several locations that need to be replaced within the next 18 months. This phase of the project, which aligns with the college’s strategic plan priority of energy reduction, will cost $136,000.

**Resolution 25-3**

The Operations Department has observed water damage on the westward interior wall of the Center for Sustainability and Innovation (CSI) building. To date, attempts to identify the water infiltration points have been unsuccessful. Due to the building’s construction, our architects have advised that the best course of action would be to remove the exterior siding, replacing the underlying sealed foam board insulation, and then replace the siding. The cost for this work is estimated to be $100,000.

**Andreas moved to approve the Protection, Health, and Safety resolutions 25-1, 25-2, and 25-3, as presented. Diskey seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Vice Chair Colee declared the motion carried**.

FINANCIAL REPORT

BILLS AND TRAVEL EXPENDITURES PAYABLE

The October 2024 Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statement were presented to and discussed with the Board.

A list of bills paid in the amount of $2,454,181.82 for October 2024 was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.

Bishop Dunning moved to ratify the November bills and travel expenditures paid and approve the Financial Statement subject to audit. Ritter seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Vice Chair Colee declared the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

* President Valdez reported to the Board of Trustees statistics regarding the DPS Prep Academy. We are in our 4th cohort. 121 students are in the 73% persistence rate. 1837 credits have been completed and the average GPA is 3.44. This is a cost savings of $936,882.00 over three years.

ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

* Dale Colee attending the WSOY Food Pantry check presentation. Once again, the Community stepped up and made a great impact. Very impressive!
* Dale Colee thanked the legislators that represent and promote all the good being done in our District.
* Dan Diskey and Dale Colee will be running in the Consolidate election on April 1, 2025.
* Marcy Rood asked if Richland could work to acquire more English language instructors for evening classes. Dr. Zuniga said that we are continually working on this.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

ADJOURNMENT

Bishop Dunning moved and Diskey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

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Benjamin Andreas, Secretary