MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

**DISTRICT NO. 537**

**RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**January 21, 2025**

# CONVENING OF THE MEETING

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. Tuesday, January 21, 2025, in the Board Room of Richland Community College by Chairwoman Carr. Chairwoman Carr also recited the College Vision, Mission, and Core Values.

## Roll Call

Trustees Present: Tom Ritter, Dan Diskey, Dale Colee, Ben Andreas, Marcy Rood, Vicki Carr, and Brayden Thomas

Trustees Absent: Bishop Wayne Dunning

Also present: Dr. Cris Valdez and other staff members

# MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 17, 2024, had been distributed to the Board prior to this meeting.

Colee moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 17, 2024. Rood seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairwoman Carr declared the motion carried.

# APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dr. Valdez and the Board of Trustees welcomed those in attendance.

 **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

##### Personnel Update

 **Changes**

**Name Position Start Date**

Ariel Velasco Literacy Coordinator to Dual Credit Coordinator 12/16/2024

**Retirements, Resignations, and Terminations**

**Name Position Last Day**

Sally Anselmo Director of Enterprise Systems 12/31/2024

Connie Hartman Executive Administrative Assistant 12/31/2024

 Academic and Student Success

# SPECIAL REPORTS

**REPORT OF ICCTA**

Chairwoman Carr reminded everyone that the National Legislative Summit is scheduled for February 9-12, 2025, in Washington D.C. After discussion, It was decided that we would not attend the ACCT Governance Leadership Conference in March. We will work to send a team next year.

**STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Teena Zindel-McWilliams and Jill Feinstein gave an update on the Strategic Plan.

**REPORT OF STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Student Trustee Brayden Thomas presented the Student Leadership Council Report.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees that would authorize the destruction of the verbatim tapes of the March 21, 2023, April 18, 2023, and May 16, 2023, closed session tapes, as presented.

**Andreas moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Diskey seconded. Roll call votes being all ayes, Chairwoman Carr declared the motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**BOARD POLICY 4.6.12 – FIRST READING**

In compliance with Illinois Public Act 103-871 (effective January 1, 2025), Richland Community College must adopt a policy allowing students serving in the National Guard or Reserve components to submit missed classwork and complete assignments resulting from military obligations, such as required drills or other service commitments.

Board Policy 4.6.12 ensures compliance with state mandates and provides clear procedures for students to notify faculty of their service obligations, adjust deadlines as needed, and maintain flexibility while upholding academic standards. The policy also includes provisions for training faculty and staff to ensure consistent implementation and support across the college.

This initiative reflects Richland’s commitment to supporting our military-affiliated students and their success, recognizing the unique challenges they face. We recommend your review and approval of this policy to ensure our institution is prepared to meet these requirements and maintain alignment with state legislation.

**TIME AND PLACE FOR 2025 REGULAR MEETINGS**

A recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees that sets the time and place of the regular monthly meetings to be the third Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise noted) to be convened at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the College.

**Ritter moved to set the time and place of the regular monthly meetings to be the third Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise noted) to be convened at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the College, as presented. Andreas seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairwoman Carr declared the motion carried.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

BILLS AND TRAVEL EXPENDITURES PAYABLE

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

A list of bills paid in the amount of $1,7777,195.57 for December 2024 was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.

Ritter moved to ratify the December bills and travel expenditures paid and approve the Financial Statement subject to audit. Andreas seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairwoman Carr declared the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

* President Valdez reported to the Board of Trustees that the College will be incorporating the Faculty and Adjunct Faculty of the Year and those nominated will be sent on to the ICCTA for recognition, as well.
* Rev. Courtney Carson will be recognized by the State of Illinois on February 20, 2025.
* Dr. Isaac Zuniga has been nominated by AACC as a Rising Star for Executives.
* We are very proud of these accomplishments.

ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

None

 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

ADJOURNMENT

Colee moved and Rood seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

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Benjamin Andreas, Secretary