

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 15, 2009

The committee-of-the-whole meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) met at 6:00 p.m. at Huntington's Grille in Jackson and then reconvened at 7:30 p.m. in the Hattiesburg Room of the Hilton Hotel in Jackson, MS, on January 15, 2009.

Members present: Mrs. Brenda Yonge, Mr. George Walker, Mr. Max Huey, Mr. Napoleon Moore, Mr. Ed Perry, Mrs. Patricia (Pat) Dickens, and Mr. Henry (Bubba) Hudspeth. The following members were absent: *Mr. Chip Crane, Mr. Bobby Steinriede and Mr. Bruce Martin.*

SBCJC Staff in attendance: Dr. Eric Clark, Dr. Fiona Qualls, Dr. Larry Day, Dr. Debra West, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert and Mrs. Missy Saxton.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Reggie Sykes, IHL.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. George Walker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed back Mrs. Yonge.

Dr. Clark began by greeting all Board Members and telling them that one of the main items the staff members are focusing on is the legislators being in Session and adjusting our budget to meet the recommended budget cuts. He thinks we need to push as hard as we can for our FY 2010 budget which is what the Legislature will be working on this year.

A hearing was held before the full House Appropriations Committee on January 15. Dr. Clark expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Dickens, Mr. Hudspeth and Mr. Huey for being present at the hearing. Dr. Clark made the point at the hearing that the Mississippi Adequate Education Plan (MAEP), which was passed eleven years ago, has had tremendous support around the state. He also pointed out that the Legislature passed Mid-Level Funding and people ought to treat it with as much respect as they do MAEP. He further pointed out that the community and junior college system are "the jobs people."

There was a two percent budget cut in November. There is an additional proposed cut of three percent. The staff has met to discuss budget cuts and how to absorb the cut. In the Support bill, the Presidents were asked how they wanted to handle the cuts and they indicated they would like to take the cuts in the formula as opposed to separate line items. Eighty-five percent of the formula is distributed on enrollment and fifteen percent is distributed equally among all of the colleges. That is the plan SBCJC will use in determining cuts among the colleges.

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The desire to have a SBCJC headquarters building was expressed by the Board Members more than a year ago. Staff has developed a list of reasons why this is a good thing and we continue to refine it. There are two different issues: one, is the authority to occupy a particular piece of land and two, is getting the money for the building. Staff has visited with Mr. Kevin Upchurch, the Executive Director of DFA and Deputy Director, Mr. David Anderson. Staff expressed that we would like to build in-between the IHL building and Ridgewood Road. We need to request the Legislature to pass a bill saying we have the authority to occupy that land. The bill has to be specific enough to include a legal description of the property and currently would not pass due to the lack of specifics, but the deadline is nearing to introduce bills and we should be able to at least get some language introduced for a bill. Mr. Upchurch said DFA would begin to survey the site soon. He thinks they can get a survey by the end of the Session and add the specifics to the proposed bill as we progress.

Funding for the building will be much tougher. It's a hard sale this year with the economic situation as it is. The MACJC has committed to promote and support the efforts of having a new SBCJC headquarters building by promising to talk with their respective legislators. The stimulus money coming from Washington could be a big help, but that remains to be seen. Dr. Clark has talked with Senator Thad Cochran's chief of staff about the community colleges being recipients of stimulus package funds. Dr. Clark urges Board Members to talk to their state and federal representatives, as he is doing. It is impossible to predict our chances on constructing the headquarters building but we're going to do anything we can. Mr. Anderson with DFA said we would need to eventually hire someone to do the programming. Programming involves thinking through everything we need to do to construct a building, such as space needs, spacial relationships and a layout or model. Mr. Anderson recommended a gentleman out of Maryland who has helped other Mississippi state agencies build or re-locate to new buildings. It would cost about \$30,000 to hire this person. Dr. Clark doesn't think the time to hire that person is right now, although we do have the money, but thinks when the time comes, we should do this.

Mr. Walker recalled a resolution that was made by the board a few years ago, in support of a new headquarters. Dr. Clark said he had wanted to reach out to the legislators and ask for their support of a SBCJC headquarters building and this would be a perfect opportunity. He said he would have SBCJC staff to construct a letter to legislators in support of the headquarters building and have it mailed next week.

Dr. Clark noted that this week marks his one year anniversary as the executive director of SBCJC and he is the happiest he has been, professionally, in his life and he thanks the board for this opportunity.

Dr. West reported that she did not have any items that required Board approval, but she would provide the standard Workforce Report and Grants Report.

Dr. West also provided an update on the Jones County Junior College Training Project at South MS Correctional Facility (SMCF). JCJC received the sub-grant contract from MS Department of Employment Security just before Christmas. JCJC has hired a project manager to oversee the project. There has been a meeting with JCJC staff and SMCF prison officials to discuss details of implementing the program, and JCJC has started to hire instructors. The program should be up and running by February.

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Dr. Larry Day stated that he has completed all of his initial visits to the colleges and will hopefully provide a best practices report at the next board meeting. Dr. Cole has invited Dr. Day to attend a professional development workshop to be held at the ICC Tupelo campus. ICC requires faculty and staff to earn at least fifteen hours of professional development each year. The Three Rivers Development District Group will be present at this professional development session. They are primarily responsible for the tuition guarantee program at ICC. Dr. Day has visited at SWCC already this year where he attended a presentation to a professional from Washington DC promoting the proposed SWCC training facility.

Dr. Fiona Qualls reported that the SBCJC is involved in a lot of collaborative projects with IHL and MDE. Mississippi is one of eleven states that has been awarded a \$150,000 pre-planning grant for the coming year from the Lumina grant. This grant focuses on producing more graduates and how to improve upon teaching practices by making them more efficient and practical. The purpose is to come up with ideas that will make us very competitive for a two million dollar grant over four years. The focus will be to collaborate with the National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT) which has a number of proven results in several states. Meetings are being planned with NCAT personnel. NCAT is very expensive and this Lumina grant helps to provide for the cost.

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert began her Finance report by referring SBCJC members to the Finance agenda tab.

Attachment 1 is the approval request for General Fund 2298 Disbursements for February 2009, Aid to Colleges, in the amount of \$12,302,167.00. This will require approval.

Attachments 2a and 2b are the approval requests for the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for January 31, 2009, in the total amount of \$2,953,452.00. The breakdown is Fund 4080 in the amount of \$2,871,341.00 and Fund 4110 in the amount of \$82,111.00. This will require approval.

Attachment 3 is the approval request for the Budget Contingency Fund Disbursements for February 2009, from Fund 3296, in the amount of \$662,625.00. This will require approval.

Attachments 4a and 4b are the Financial Statements for Fund 2291 and Special Funds as of December 31, 2008. These reports are all for informational purposes only and do not require action.

Attachment 5 is the Purchasing Approval Request for Software Support for 526 Plato Software licenses for Adult Basic Education. This is for the period of May 1, 2009, through April 30, 2010, in the amount of \$47,740.50. This will require approval.

Attachments 6a and 6b are the requests for Approval of Form Z-1 Changes for January Budget Cuts for FY 2009. The Support Budget cut is three percent or \$7,373,521.00 and the Administration Budget cut is three percent or \$233,072.00. This will require approval.

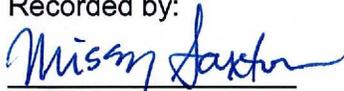
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Mrs. Gilbert brought it to the attention of the Board Members that the hotel room rate for staying at the Hilton has increased to \$114.00 per night. The Board Members agreed to continue to utilize the Hilton Hotel for their room reservations.

Mrs. Gilbert concluded the Finance Report.

There being no other business, Mr. Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Recorded by:



Missy Saxton



Mr. George Walker, Chairman



Dr. Eric Clark, Executive Director