

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 19, 2009

The committee-of-the-whole 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 7:15 p.m. in the Hattiesburg Room of the Hilton Hotel in Jackson, MS, on February 19, 2009.

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

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 7:15 p.m.

Dr. Clark began by greeting all Board Members and telling them that he and the SBCJC Staff have been working hard on our efforts to get a headquarters building. He requested volunteers to be part of an internal planning committee and those members are Dr. Debra West, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Dr. Larry Day, Dr. Fiona Qualls, Mr. Ray Smith, Mr. Kell Smith, and Mrs. Missy Saxton. A bill has been introduced on both the House and the Senate sides to let SBCJC occupy space between the IHL tower and Ridgewood Road. The language is not perfected at this point and will be worked out once the survey is complete. It passed the House, 122 to 0 and passed the Senate 51 to 1. The respective bills should end up before a conference committee, two to three weeks before the session is out.

Dr. Clark is working closely with Mr. David Anderson, Deputy Director of DFA. The cost of the survey of the land is \$5,400.00. Dr. Clark has authorized this transaction and DFA will contract this out. This contract should begin within thirty days. Also, Mr. Anderson recommends Mr. Jim Eley, of Eley, Gile, & Hardy Architects to conduct a feasibility study. This will cost \$25,000.00. Dr. Clark will ask that the SBCJC Board approve the spending of \$25,000.00 for the feasibility study at the Friday, February 20 board meeting.

The members of the MACJC have passed a proposal supporting the building of a SBCJC headquarters building, above any improvements to their respective campuses. The proposal states that whatever bonds are allocated to the community colleges, the Association agrees that the number one priority of the presidents is the construction of a SBCJC headquarters building, up to a cost of \$12 million. The presidents understand the symbolic importance of a SBCJC headquarters building. Mr. David Anderson says that the presidents' input and support will show officials that the community college system as a whole is serious about building a headquarters building.

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Dr. Clark has met with Governor Barbour twice about our desire to have our own headquarters building. The governor expressed his understanding of our need for the building. Dr. Clark asked each Board Member to write a letter to the governor, voicing their support for the new headquarters building. He also pointed out that this year would be a great year to build, as the interest rates are very low and construction costs are down.

Dr. Clark presented his thoughts regarding the architectural design of the proposed headquarters building. He would like to see the new headquarters building modeled after Montpelier, President James Madison's home. It would complement the look of the Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters building, also situated in the R & D Center complex, which is modeled after Monticello, President Thomas Jefferson's home.

When asked about stimulus funds for possible funding of the building, Dr. Clark said he thinks there is not funding specifically designated for new capital construction, but that there is proposed funding for repair and renovation for campus buildings.

Mrs. Patricia Dickens suggested that all Board Members write a letter of thanks to the college presidents, for their support of a bond bill to fund the building of a headquarters building.

Dr. Clark concluded his report.

Dr. Debra West informed the Board Members that she will present items for Career and Technical Education; specifically she will seek final approval of the Career Tech 2009 Curricula Revisions and New Curricula. These have been submitted for APA comments and no comments were received.

The standard Workforce report is included for informational purposes. Dr. West informed Board Members about HB 890 and 891, which target the WET funds for nursing training. This is an attempt to line item this funding for specific training. We are hesitant about this, because the more funds that are specifically obligated, the less amount of funds will be available for general training. These funds are already declining and may soon cease to exist.

Dr. West referred to Exhibit A4, which addresses the three triggers that could cause cessation of the WET funds. A resolution has been submitted by the SBCJC, in conjunction with MDES, asking the Governor to consider offsetting a low balance in the WET funds, by funding from the Rainy Day Fund.

The standard Grants report will be presented, as well as the Career Readiness Certificate reports.

Dr. Day presented a report on capital improvement projects. He also presented a report of his outreach activities, with the main purpose of identifying best practices at our campuses. He has selected, for his first report, three best practices found at three separate colleges. He plans to produce another report detailing these practices in the near future.

Dr. Qualls will be presenting the final approval request from East Mississippi Community

College's program on nursing. She will also present the report on proprietary schools.

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 March through June 2009, in the respective amounts of \$10,837,543.00 per month. This will require approval.

Attachment 2 is the approval request for the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for February 28, 2009, in the total amount of \$2,480,396.19. The breakdown is Fund 4080 in the amount of \$2,439,411.87 and Fund 4110 in the amount of \$40,984.32. This will require approval.

Attachment 3 is the Update on Education Enhancement Fund Reductions. This is for informational purposes only and does not require approval.

Attachment 4 is the approval request for the Budget Contingency Fund 3296 Disbursements for March through June 2009, in the respective amounts of \$662,625.00, for March through May 2009 and the amount of \$662,623.00 for June 2009. This will require approval.

Attachments 5a and 5b are the Financial Statements for Fund 2291 and Special Funds as of January 31, 2009. These reports are all for informational purposes only and do not require action.

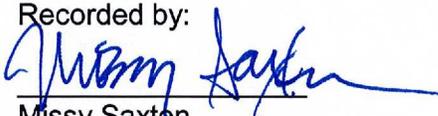
Attachment 6 is information on the SBCJC Fidelity Bond Coverage and is for informational purposes only.

Attachment 7 is the Mileage Reimbursement Rate Change, informing that the reimbursement rate has changed from \$.0585 to \$.055, effective January 1, 2009. This is for informational purposes only and does not require approval.

Mrs. Gilbert concluded the Finance Report.

There being no other business, Mr. Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Recorded by:


Missy Saxton


Mr. George Walker, Chairman


Dr. Eric Clark, Executive Director