

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 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 7:30 p.m. in the Jacksonian Room of the Hilton Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi, on September 17, 2009.

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

Dr. Clark began by greeting all Board Members. He said he knew the Board Members joined him in expressing sorrow and mourning for Dr. Larry Day, SBCJC Associate Executive Director for College Outreach, who passed away in his sleep at home on September 17, 2009. Dr. Clark said Dr. Day was a delightful human being, a dedicated family man and a devout church-going Christian man and we will all miss him very much.

Dr. Clark reported that he spoke to the Gautier Rotary Club today at the Jackson County campus of MS Gulf Coast Community College. Dr. Clark was invited to speak at the club by Dr. Jason Pugh, former SBCJC employee, who is the vice-president of the Jackson County campus and who sends his greetings.

Dr. Clark has issued an invitation to Dr. Hank Bounds, the new Institutions of Higher Learning Commissioner, to attend our board meetings and be introduced to our Board Members.

The SBCJC headquarters building project is making progress. Nine architectural firms provided proposals and of those nine, the list was narrowed to three. Those firms are Eley Guild Hardy, Dean and Dean, and the McCarty Company. Those three firms were interviewed by SBCJC building committee members, as well as DFA Bureau of Building personnel on September 16, 2009. There was a unanimous decision made by members of the interview panel to employ Eley Guild Hardy as the architectural firm to construct the SBCJC headquarters building. Dr. Clark will ask for formal SBCJC Board approval at the Friday board meeting.

The headquarters feasibility study is nearly complete, with SBCJC headquarters committee members asking for a few items to be revised. When the study is complete, Dr. Clark will give the report to Board Members. Dr. Clark proposed selling points geared towards the Legislature, in support of constructing the building sooner, rather

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than later. Construction costs are down and people in the construction industry need the jobs. Bids for similar jobs are coming in significantly lower than expected, anywhere from 10 to 30 percent below cost. Dr. Clark feels this could be a very strong selling point with the Legislature. Dr. Clark, along with officials from DFA, feels that action could begin on the land site, since \$2 million has been awarded in the bond bill. Examples of this are clearing of trees and leveling of land, as well as having Eley Guild Hardy to draw architect plans and place signs on the property indicating the future home of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. Mr. Jim Eley predicts the building could be completed by February 2012, if we were able to begin work soon.

Dr. Clark reported that he has talked with four members of the Mississippi congressional delegation and staff members of the remaining two members, regarding funding for the headquarters building. So far, all congressional members have expressed interest, but cannot make any promises at this time regarding funding.

In the past month, the governor mandated a five percent budget cut for educational entities. Dr. Clark feels that the agency and the community college system can handle this cut. The Legislative Budget hearing will be Wednesday, September 23 at 1:30 in the Woolfolk building. A major topic to be emphasized before the LBO members will be enrollment. One year ago, the system head count credit enrollment was 70,460 students, after the statutorily required six-week audit. The preliminary unaudited number is nearly 85,000. That is an increase of 20.5 percent. The final enrollment number will not remain at 20.5 percent because the enrollment number from last year was taken in the sixth week and is an audited number. This year's number is taken from the second week and is unaudited. Dr. Clark said we can expect the number to fall, but enrollment increase should still be up in the double-digits.

Dr. Clark reported to Board Members that Dr. David Cole, president of Itawamba Community College, has asked the MACJC to endorse the idea of asking the legislature to increase the maximum millage each county gives in support of the local community colleges. Dr. Cole is requesting the maximum of six mills of county taxes be increased to twelve mills. The MACJC voted in support Dr. Cole's request. Drs. Muse, Lott, Cole and Clark met with Mr. Derrick Surrette, executive director of the MS Association of Supervisors, as well as Mr. Blake Wilson, executive director of the MS Economic Council, to ask for their support with the proposed legislation.

Dr. Debra West informed Board Members she would present the standard WET Fund report, Workforce report, Grants report and CRC report at the Friday meeting. Mr. Greg Butler from Jones County Junior College will present a report on the prison project at South MS Correctional Facility.

Dr. Fiona Qualls reported that she will present the Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration report on Friday, as well a request to amend the Locations of Classes for the Fall 2009 semester.

Dr. Clark reported that he will present a request to the Board regarding a policy and procedure change for board meeting times. This is the information that Mr. Chuck Rubisoff presented to the Board in August.

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert provided the following information regarding the Finance agenda:

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Attachment 1 is the approval request for the General Fund Disbursements out of Fund 2298 in the amount of \$10,706,893.00, for October 2009. This will require approval.

Attachment 2 is the approval request for the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements out of Fund 4080 in the amount of \$2,783,465.00 and Fund 4110 in the amount of \$82,112.00, totaling \$2,865,577.00, effective September 30, 2009. This will require approval.

Attachment 3 is the Update on the Education Enhancement Reductions in FY 2010. This is for informational purposes only and does not require approval.

Attachments 4a and 4b are the Z-1 first Budget Revisions reflecting a five percent Budget Cut. This will require action from the board.

Attachments 5a and 5b are the Purchasing Approval requests for contracts with MS Department of Education and the Inter-Agency Agreement with the Office of the Attorney General. These requests will require approval.

Attachments 6a, 6b, and 6c are Financial Statements. **Attachment 6a** is for General Fund 2291 and Special Funds as of the Close of FY 2009. **Attachment 6b** is for General Fund 2291 and Special Funds as of August 31, 2009, FY 2010. **Attachment 6c** is the Lapse and Carryover Report for FY 2009. This is for informational purposes only and does not require approval.

Attachment 7 is the report provided by the Office of the State Auditor regarding the August 31, 2009 SBCJC property audit. 100 percent of the agency's inventory was identified. This is for information purposes only.

There being no other business, Chairman Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Recorded by:



Missy Saxton, Executive Assistant



Mr. Bubba Hudspeth, Vice-Chairman



Dr. Eric Clark, Executive Director