

**HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Regular Meeting – March 24, 2025

Chairman Stalteri called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. in RMCC 282/283.

Trustees Attending: Dr. Ainsworth (virtual); Mrs. Crandall; Mr. Drumm; Mr. Gregory; Mr. Madrid; Ms. Prymas (7:13 pm); Mr. Reardon; Mr. Russell; Mr. Stalteri; Mr. Testa

In Attendance: Mr. Laino; Mr. Dutcher; Mr. Oriolo; Ms. Woudenberg

Also Present: Trish Lucas, auditor of D’Arcangelo & Co., LLP; Pepe Aragon; Edris Noori; Jeffrey Steele; Lane Potter

Chairman Stalteri led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Stalteri presented the following consent agenda items for Board approval:

- a. Minutes – February 24, 2025 Regular Meeting
- b. Financial Statements as of February 28, 2025

Mr. Drumm moved that the consent agenda items for the March 24, 2025 regular meeting be approved.

Mrs. Crandall seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pepe Aragon, Associate Professor and Men’s Head Soccer Coach, shared his view that the College is in a grave situation. He spoke about the positive things that have occurred at the College during Mr. Laino’s leadership and feels that the College is the best he has seen it in 25 years. His is concerned that should Mr. Laino decide to leave, the College may lose other valuable employees. Mr. Aragon asked the Board if the college community could advocate for Mr. Laino to be Herkimer College’s president, as he feels the Chancellor has not considered all the positive things happening at the College. Mr. Stalteri responded that the Board has tried everything they could and shared Mr. Aragon’s concerns. Mr. Potter asked what the Board is looking for in a president. Mr. Russell asked about faculty members’ thoughts and morale. Mr. Aragon feels faculty are very confused and are worried that things can change for them. Mr. Steele believes that faculty are all in different places and are looking for a general direction. Mr. Noori added that there has been much progress at the College with a very united team, but more support is needed from the Chancellor, who he would like to see come to Herkimer College to speak to the campus community. Mr. Stalteri thanked everyone for their remarks. Mr. Laino also added his appreciation.

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Trish Lucas of D’Arcangelo & Co., LLP, reviewed the Audit Report for Herkimer College for the year ended August 31, 2024. She reported a clean, unmodified opinion on the financial statements of Herkimer County Community College. No significant or material weaknesses

were noted; results disclosed no instances of noncompliance material that needs to be reported; and the College qualified as a low-risk auditee. The Schedule of Findings and Recommendations were also reviewed. Ms. Lucas thanked Mr. Laino, Ms. Woudenberg and their staff for their cooperation and preparation for the audit.

Mr. Drumm moved to accept the audit report for the year ended August 31, 2024, as presented.

Mr. Testa seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE'S REPORT

Academic Senate: Mr. Steele reported that the Academic Policies Committee approved an Artificial Intelligence Policy, which they will forward to the Provost. Also, an ad hoc Academic Review Committee will be proposed for approval for instances when there may be a dispute between a faculty member and a student. On March 28th, the president of Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) will visit Herkimer College to talk to faculty and the Academic Senate officers.

Officer-in-Charge's Report:

Mr. Laino reported that Dr. Lane Freeman of Freeman Educational Consulting was on campus earlier this month for a meeting on Artificial Intelligence (AI). He gave a general overview of AI in higher education and held guided discussions with faculty, staff, and leadership on developing a roadmap for AI adoption and professional development. Resources, potential partnerships, and steps to support a sustainable AI strategy were identified. Administrators, faculty and staff will continue moving forward with AI.

Mr. Laino gave an update on the Workforce Development Leader position.

Mr. Laino recently sent a letter in support of the Herkimer County IDA's application for funding via the FY26 Congressional Directed Spending opportunity. The HCIDA is seeking federal funds to support and grow the agricultural sector in Herkimer County by pursuing a project to build a certified kitchen.

Bids for the capital projects are starting to come in, and things will begin moving quickly. The locker room project will begin soon.

Chief Academic Officer Update:

Provost Oriolo reported that the application for the Medical Coding/Transcriptionist program title be changed to Medical Coding is currently with the State Education Department.

Chief Student Services Officer Update:

Herkimer College recently hosted the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III Men's Basketball National Championship Tournament.

Assistant Professor Steve Boucher and two student business leaders are arranging to have Herkimer College banners mounted on poles, beginning at the NYS Thruway and continuing along South Caroline Street up to the College. The Foundation has donated funds for this project.

Open House will be held at the College on April 5th. Additional events are planned on this day to give students a chance to experience campus life.

The rest of the agenda was tabled, and the Board moved on to a workshop that was recently postponed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Testa moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mrs. Crandall seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

slh