

**HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Special Meeting – August 5, 2009

Gary Luther called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Hummel Corporate and Professional Education Center, Room 282-283

Trustees attending: Mr. Luther, Mr. Armstrong, Mrs. Crandall, Mr. Russell, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Accattato, Mrs. Mary Ellen Clark, Mr. Snyder (by audio connection)

Trustees absent: Mr. Barbato.

In Attendance: Dr. Murray, Mr. Laino, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Hawes, Mrs. Semo, Ms. Ruffing

Guests: Mr. Jim Wallace (Herkimer County Administrator), Mr. Ray Smith (Chairman of the Herkimer County Legislator) and Mr. Dennis Korce (Herkimer County Legislator and Vice Chair of Finance Committee).

Mr. Luther asked Mr. Wallace and Pat Russell to elaborate on the reasons why the HCCC 2009-2010 budget from the Herkimer County Legislators has so many concerns. Mr. Russell commented that many legislators and committee members have grave concerns in regard to the budget and that the legislators cannot see supporting a request by the college for additional funds. Mr. Russell commented that some of the county legislators also felt that raises at this time for the non bargaining employees were not needed.

Mr. Wallace stated that the county is looking at a possible two million dollar deficit for 2010 due to the economy, sales tax, retirement system, etc. These are serious concerns at this time. The county is in a difficult economic situation, and the request for additional funding of \$194,000 has raised concern. Mr. Wallace provided suggestions on how the college could lower their request of funds. One suggestion was the health insurance plan. Mr. Wallace recommended that the college remain with the self insured plan instead of moving to a fully insured plan.

Mr. Dunn stated that driving new programs and workforce development will be driving more revenue to the county.

Mr. Armstrong stated that the challenge is to risk in order to progress. HCCC is a gem and to stimulate growth, the legislators need to realize that they have a fiscal obligation to support the college.

Mr. Snyder, who was in attendance by telephone, stated that the law requires the local sponsor to provide 4/15th of the operating costs. Students are carrying a major portion of the cost, and now the county needs to meet their obligation.

Mr. Wallace stated that the next County Legislator meeting will be on August 12.

President Murray stated that many items were cut out of the budget to come to the figure that the college is proposing. Anything that was not critical was cut out, line by line.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:45 p.m., Mr. Russell moved that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Accattato seconded the motion

Vote - Unanimous

At 7:50 p.m., Mr. Dunn moved that the Board reconvene.

Mr. Accattato seconded the motion.

Vote - Unanimous

The Board amended the budget and approved a reduction in the budget. They agreed to have the college remain self-insured with a clause to hold the county responsible for any overages above the budgeted health care amount. Included in the budget is funding to conduct an independent analysis of the college's health care needs. The sponsor share was reduced to an increase of \$50,000. Several items deleted from the budget, such as strategic planning costs and an economic impact study, will be requested through the county's contingency budget.

Mr. Dunn moved to approve the amended budget.

Mr. Accatatti seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous

Mr. Accatatto moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Dunn seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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