

**MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BLINN COLLEGE**

**Board Room
Third Floor, Administration Building
Blinn College, 802 Green Street
Brenham, Texas**

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The Board of Trustees convened at 7 p.m. in the Board Room with the following members present: Mr. Steve M. Westbrook, President, presiding; Mr. Atwood C. Kenjura, Vice President; Mr. Norwood Gange, Secretary; Dr. Henry J. Boehm, Jr., Mr. Don Jones, Mr. L.J. Lacina, Jr. and Mr. Leon Toubin.

Board members not present: None.

Members of the college staff in attendance were: Dr. Donald E. Voelter, President; Mr. John D. Barkman, Dr. John D. Harris, Dr. Daniel J. Holt, Dr. Debra R. LaCour and Dr. Barbara L. Pearson, vice presidents; Mr. Scott Baehren, Dr. Dennis Crowson, Mr. Tex Davis, Ms. Rebecca Garlick, Mr. Dennis Kocich, Ms. Margie Kovar, Mr. Spencer Lofland, Ms. Barbara Moore, Mr. Brad Nies, Mr. Darrell Reimer, Mr. Guadalupe Reyes, Ms. Ann Weir and Dr. Michel Zuch.

Also registered as in attendance were: Judge Carolyn Bilski, Austin County; Mr. Pat Elliott, Mr. Charles Thielemann, Mr. Frank Wagner, KTTX-KWHI; and Mr. Gary Engel, *Brenham Banner-Press*.

ITEM 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN AND TEXAS FLAGS

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Westbrook. The pledges and prayer were led by Mr. Westbrook.

ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pat Elliott commented on the college's relationships with American Campus Communities and the Blinn College Foundation L.L.C.

Mr. Charles Thielemann commented on the Blinn College Foundation L.L.C., his belief that the L.L.C. should be voided and about his concern that President Don Voelter was vested with too much power in his dual roles as President of the college and sole manager of the Blinn College Foundation L.L.C.

Judge Carolyn Bilski commented on the great value of Blinn College to Sealy and Austin County and thanked the Board for its support.

ITEM 3. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND LIST OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING AUGUST 31, 2007

Dr. Holt reviewed the financial statement and list of checks for the period ending August 31, 2007 (copies of the list of checks and the financial statement are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). He noted several reasons for the college ending the year with a higher than normal surplus. He then answered questions from the Board.

ITEM 4. REVIEW AND ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 14 AND 27 AND SEPTEMBER 4 AND 11, 2007, REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

On a motion by Mr. Kenjura, seconded by Mr. Toubin, the Board voted to approve the *Minutes* of the August 14 and 27, and September 4 and 11, 2007, regular and special meetings and hearings (copies are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

ITEM 5. REVIEW AND ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATION TO SEEK AND AWARD BIDS FOR:

- (A) **INSTALLATION OF AIR HANDLERS AND CONSTRUCTION OF MOISTURE BARRIERS IN THE ATTIC OF MELCHER HALL ON THE BRENHAM CAMPUS**
- (B) **REPLACEMENT OF COMPRESSOR, AIR HANDLERS, CHILLED AND HOT WATER LINES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT IN THE MAINFRAME COMPUTING AREAS OF THE CLASSROOM BUILDING ON THE BRENHAM CAMPUS**

Dr. Holt reviewed the problems that were recently discovered with the Melcher Hall attic circulations and moisture problems that need to be corrected.

He then reviewed potential problems with the air conditioning in the main frame computer room in the Classroom Building. He answered questions from the Board and estimated the costs for repairs to be about \$100,000. Mr. Barkman noted that the HVAC system had been inadequate for several years and had become more so due to the addition of more computer equipment in the computer room.

On a motion by Mr. Toubin, seconded by Mr. Lange, the Board voted to authorize the administration to seek and award bids for the needed repairs and additions.

ITEM 6. REVIEW AND ACTION TO APPROVE EMPLOYMENT OF A CONSULTANT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE C.F. SCHMIDT BUILDING (RFQ050)

Dr. Holt reviewed the RFQ's for an environmental assessment of the C.F. Schmidt Building and recommended PSI of Houston. On a motion by Mr. Toubin, seconded by Mr. Lacina, the Board voted to contract with PSI at a fee to be determined. A tabulation of the RFQ's received is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*.

ITEM 7. REVIEW AND ACTION TO REVISE BOARD POLICIES:

- (A) **FBD (LOCAL) ADMISSIONS AND ATTENDANCE TO EXCUSE STUDENTS FROM CLASS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW (ED. CODE 51.9111)**
- (B) **EGD (LOCAL) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: GRADUATION, TO PROVIDE FOR APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF SPECIFIC DEGREES TO BE OFFERED BY THE COLLEGE AND DELEGATION OF SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS TO THE FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION**
- (C) **EGD (LOCAL) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: GRADUATION, TO PROVIDE FORMAL APPROVAL FOR THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN TEACHING DEGREE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE BOARD**

Mr. Barkman reviewed proposed additions to Board Policy FBD (Local) to bring the college into compliance with new state law providing for excused absences for students called up to active duty in the

United States armed forces (a copy is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). On a motion by Mr. Lacina, seconded by Mr. Kenjura, the Board voted to approve the policy as presented.

Dr. LaCour reviewed the changes to Board policy EGD (Local) of specific degrees to be offered by the college and delegation of specific course requirements to the faculty and administration (a copy is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Toubin, the Board voted to approve the policy as presented.

Dr. LaCour recommended the formal approval of the Associate of Arts in Teaching degree that was previously approved in principle by the Board (a copy is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). On a motion by Mr. Toubin, seconded by Dr. Boehm, the Board voted to approve the policy as presented.

ITEM 8. REPORTS:

- **SEALY CAMPUS ADVENTURE COLLEGE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**
- **ENROLLMENT AND HOUSING OCCUPANCY FOR THE FALL SEMESTER 2007**
- **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Mr. Scott Baehren reported on the Sealy campus activities including the Adventure College activity for children which was very successful. He noted that the Sealy campus contact hours are up about 35 percent, and the college will offer a welding class at the Sealy High School. The Sealy Economic Development Corporation has agreed to provide up to \$10,000 for marketing workforce education at the Sealy campus.

Dr. Harris reviewed the headcount enrollment for the fall 2007 semester which is up to 14,616 (4.06 percent increase) over the fall 2006 fall semester enrollment in headcount. A copy of his report is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*. He also reported on the student housing occupancy and estimated that there were 255 students who were unable to get into college housing on the Brenham campus. He answered questions from the Board about housing availability in the community. A copy of his report is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*.

Dr. Holt gave a report on building and grounds issues and an effort of the staff to keep costs of repairs as low as possible. He noted a structural engineer is currently working to resolve the rust problems previously discovered at the Student Center. He also reported that two chillers at the Bryan campus may have to be replaced at a cost of \$250,000 each even though they are only 12 years old. The Board asked whether the air conditioning contractor could be held liable for any of the damage.

ITEM 9. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Voelter reported on the following:

- a. There is about \$33,000 in the unclaimed account for the rollback funds. An amount of \$12,446 given to the Foundation has been transferred to Blinn College for maintenance.
- b. Announced the Texas Association of Community College Trustees and Administrators Conference in Austin and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Governing Boards Conference in Houston will be held on October 29 & 30, 2007.
- c. The time for the Blinn-Kilgore football game to be held on Saturday, September 22 has been changed from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

ITEM 10. RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION (AS AUTHORIZED BY GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.101)

The public session was recessed at 8:30 p.m.

ITEM 11. CLOSED SESSION

- (A) EVALUATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL (*GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.074*)
- (B) DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY IN BRENHAM, BRYAN AND SCHULENBURG (*GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.072*)

ITEM 12. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

The public session was reconvened at 9:35 p.m.

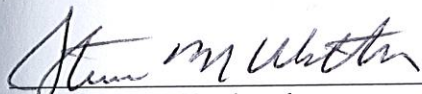
ITEM 13. REVIEW AND ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

- (A) REVIEW AND ACTION ON FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONTRACTS
- (B) REVIEW AND ACTION TO PURCHASE, EXCHANGE OR LEASE REAL PROPERTY IN BRENHAM, BRYAN AND SCHULENBURG

On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Kenjura, the Board voted to employ part-time faculty for the fall 2007 semester. On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Lacina, the Board voted to employ faculty on one-year contracts for the 2007-2008 school year (a copy of the list of persons employed is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Kenjura, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.



Mr. Steve M. Westbrook
President



Mr. Norwood Lange
Secretary