

**MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BLINN COLLEGE**

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

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

The Board of Trustees convened at 6:30 p.m., in the Board Room with the following members present: Mr. Douglas R. Borchardt, President, presiding; Mr. Atwood C. Kenjura, Vice President; Mr. David Sommer, Secretary; Mrs. Theodora "Teddy" V. Boehm; Mr. Norwood Lange; Mrs. Carolyn D. Miller, CPA and Mr. Leon B. Toubin.

Board members not present: None.

Members of the College staff in attendance were: Dr. Harold Nolte, District President; Ms. Sylvia McMullen, President, Brazos County Campuses; Ms. Kelli Shomaker, Senior Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services/CFO; Dr. Dennis Crowson, Senior Vice President, Student Services; Dr. Cynthia Griffith, Vice President, Instruction; Ms. Cathy Boeker, Associate Vice President, Government & Public Affairs; Mr. Joe Baumann; Ms. Kris Beckendorf; Mr. Mark Bernier; Ms. Linda Bow; Mr. Richard Bray; Dr. Blanche Brick; Mr. Mordecai Brownlee; Ms. Karen Buck; Ms. Lisa Caton; Ms. Brooke Conrad; Ms. Barb Corbisier; Ms. Megan Costanza; Mr. Joseph Engle; M. Elia Flores; Ms. Rebecca Garlick; Ms. Anna Hall-Zieger; Mr. Ronald Hammond; Ms. Sara Horton; Ms. Leslie Janac; Mr. Patrick Johnson; Dr. Linda Jones; Ms. Marie Kirby; Ms. Angela Lawrenz; Ms. Cathy Lively; Ms. Mary Lorenzo; Dr. Diane Lovell-Osburn; Dr. Virginia Machann; Dr. Michelle McGehee; Ms. Leslie McGinnis; Mr. Eric Miller; Ms. Twila Miller; Ms. Susan Myers; Mr. Robert Nelson; Mr. Richard O'Malley; Mr. Doug Peck; Ms. Nilsa Perez-Cabrera; Dr. Greg Phillips; Mr. Joe Al Picone; Dr. Michelle Raisor; Mr. Steve Rathbone; Ms. Rebecca Ruffino; Mr. John Schaffer; Mr. Scott Schumacher; Ms. Elizabeth Sharpe-Aparicio; Dr. Victoria Sharpe; Ms. Susan Slowey; Mr. Garrett Smith; Mr. Mark Thomas; Mr. Jeff Tilley; Ms. Judith Wagner; Mr. Gary Waites; Ms. Lisa Wall; Dr. Patricia Westergaard; Ms. Lea Williamson and Dr. Mark Workman

Also registered as in attendance were: Blinn College Students: Mr. Windsor Corin, Mr. William Ferguson, Ms. Ione Ferreira, Mr. William Niven, Mr. Jeremy Peel, Mr. Connor Shields and Ms. Tina Till; Mr. Kyle Cunningham, *Brenham Banner-Press*; Mr. John Muegge; Mr. Allen Reed, The Eagle and Mr. Frank Wagner, KWHI.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Borchardt. The pledge was led by Mrs. Miller and the prayer was given by Mrs. Miller.

REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS:

ITEM 2. READING OF A RESOLUTION FOR THE 2014 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CHEER AND DANCE TEAMS

Mr. Borchardt read a Resolution to congratulate the 2014 National Championship Cheer and Dance teams (a copy of the Resolution is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). Ms. Sarah Barland, Cheer/Dance Team Coach, thanked the Board for the recognition and support.

ITEM 3. BOARD PRESIDENT RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT FROM MARCH 25, 2014, MEETING

Mr. Borchardt read a response from the Board to the public comment from March 25, 2014:

The Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank the faculty members who spoke last month about the College's ongoing reorganization efforts. We value your insight and realize we have no greater resource than our very own faculty. We are inspired by your dedication and encourage you to continue to participate in our discussions regarding Blinn's future. There is no doubt that our instructors are a critical component of this College and have been crucial to Blinn's well-deserved reputation as one of the top community colleges in the state.

The decision to restructure the College's organizational chart has not come easily. For more than a year, Blinn administrators and board members have conducted research and heard from experts such as Dr. Belle Wheelan, president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; Dr. Narcisa Polonio, executive vice president of the Association of Community College Trustees; and Dr. Joseph Silver, former vice president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, regarding best practice trends in community colleges across the nation. Each of these distinguished educators encouraged Blinn's board and administration to consider changes to the organizational structure to better align the College with SACS accreditation guidelines and best practices, and to provide the greatest learning environment possible for our students. After countless hours spent studying the ways in which a new organizational structure could benefit Blinn College and its students, the board is unequivocally in support of a new structure that will help the College continue to meet our community's increasing demand for a Blinn education.

In response to your concerns, we have encouraged the administration to develop strategies for obtaining and including faculty and staff input in the reorganization process. We are confident in the College's leadership team and we believe that with faculty support of a new structure, we can create a system that maximizes our students' success in the classroom. As we move forward with this endeavor, we encourage you to be confident, hopeful participants in the reorganization process.

He informed the crowd that the Board Executive Committee will be meeting with Faculty Senate leadership to further address faculty concerns.

ITEM 4. DISTRICT PRESIDENT ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Harold Nolte reviewed administrative announcements and recent and upcoming events, as well as, accomplishments around campus (a copy of the announcements and events are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

ITEM 5. BRAZOS COUNTY CAMPUSES UPDATE

Ms. Sylvia McMullen reviewed recent and upcoming events, such as new student orientations for the Brazos County Campuses (a copy of the events are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). She also noted that Fall registration has only been available for two days and over 3,600 students have already registered.

ITEM 6. REPORTS:

- **LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM AND AGRICULTURE CLUB AWARDS**

Mr. Doug Pierce, Professor, Agriculture & Applied Technologies, reviewed the academic accomplishments and awards for the Livestock Judging Team and Agriculture Club (a copy of the Livestock Judging Results and Agriculture Club Statistics for April 2013-2014 are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

Mr. Bryn Behnke, Professor, Agriculture & Applied Technologies, discussed the activities of the Agriculture Club over the past year. The students introduced themselves.

- **SEALY CAMPUS**

Ms. Lisa Caton, Director, Sealy Campus, reviewed an overview of the Sealy Campus operations and activities (a copy of the presentation is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). She discussed various opportunities and challenges of the campus. She also discussed a recent fundraiser for scholarships for the campus and the need for Workforce Education in Sealy.

- **SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES - REAFFIRMATION UPDATE**

Mr. Joe Baumann, Dean, Institutional Effectiveness and Enrollment Management, reviewed progress on Blinn's reaffirmation of accreditation. The off-site report is anticipated in June with a response due in August (a copy of the Board update on Blinn's reaffirmation of accreditation is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

- **QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN**

Dr. Mary Barnes-Tilley, Professor, Social Science, discussed the importance of student success and student focus. She reviewed the progress on the Blinn College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and the process utilized to arrive at "Learning Communities" as the QEP initiative for Blinn College (a copy of the Board Update on QEP Development is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). She responded to questions from the Board.

- **STUDENT LIFE**

Mr. Mordecai Brownlee, Dean of Student Life, reported to the Board that at this point, only 400 beds remain in on-campus housing for fall 2014. He introduced the Student Body President for the Bryan Campus to review the organization's activities and accomplishments. A Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) representative reviewed the activities, growth and accomplishments of the group (a copy of the PTK Report is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). Representatives from the student organization Distinguished Gentleman introduced themselves and thanked the Board and Administration for their support.

- **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Mr. Richard O'Malley, Executive Director, Facilities, Planning and Construction, reviewed highlights from the written buildings and grounds report (a copy of the buildings and grounds report is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

ITEM 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Borchardt reviewed the Board's guidelines regarding public comment.

Mr. Mark Bernier, President, Faculty Senate, delivered a resolution of concern on behalf of the faculty (a copy of the written resolution is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

Mr. Joseph Engle, Professor, Social Science, addressed the issue of communication. He acknowledged the recent increase in communication but voiced concern about an atmosphere of fear and intimidation. He is concerned about a lack of structure in the organizational change. He feels that academic communications are non-existent, specifically saying that talking is not dialogue.

Ms. Susan Slowey, Professor, Social Science, notified the Board that several faculty members who are individual members of the American Association of University Professors intend to form a Blinn College Chapter.

Dr. Blanche Brick, Division Chair/Professor, Social Sciences, addressed the Board on the latest reorganization plan. She thanked the Board for hearing the concerns of the faculty (a copy of Dr. Brick's remarks are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

Dr. Mark Thomas, Professor, Humanities, introduced himself and addressed the Board regarding ethics. He discussed concerns regarding the sincerity, trust and leadership of Blinn College. He discussed events that led to the recent resignation of a Division Chair and asked for accountability for this resignation (a copy of Dr. Thomas's remarks are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

Ms. Twila Miller, Interim Division Chair/Professor, Math & Engineering, expressed concern regarding the leadership and ability of Dr. Greg Phillips, Dean, Math & Engineering (a copy of Ms. Miller's concerns are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

Mr. Connor Shields, Blinn Bryan Improvement Group, presented a survey of students regarding requests for improving the Bryan Campus (a copy of the survey and results are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*), areas included are:

- 1) Outdoor seating areas
- 2) CPC covered walkway
- 3) Improved landscaping
- 4) Library hours
- 5) Need for additional computers in the Library
- 6) Need for increase in tutors and tutor hours

Dr. Linda Jones, Instructor, Psychology, Bryan Campus, spoke to the Board regarding shared governance. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and for being respectful. She expressed concern over the Deans and Assistant Deans being District-Level positions. She feels like those positions not being at the campus level will be a loss for the students and faculty.

Dr. Michelle McGehee, Professor, Natural Science, spoke in support of the reorganization and the Administration. She does not support the previous comments made and stated that others share her view.

ITEM 8. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND LIST OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2014

Ms. Kelli Shomaker reviewed the financial statements and list of checks for the period ending March 31, 2014 (copies of the financial statement and list of checks are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). She highlighted revenues and expenses.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- ITEM 9. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 25, 2014, REGULAR MEETING**
- ITEM 10. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT A GIFT TO THE COLLEGE OF HVAC EQUIPMENT FOR STUDENT WORKFORCE TRAINING**
- ITEM 11. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION RELATED TO DISPOSAL OF SALVAGE PROPERTY OF A USED MICROSCOPE ON THE BRENHAM CAMPUS**

On a motion by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Boehm, the Board voted to approve **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: ITEM 9** - minutes for the March 25, 2014, Regular Meeting (a copy of the minutes are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*); **ITEM 10** - the Administration to accept a gift to the college of HVAC equipment for Student Workforce Training; and **ITEM 11** - the Administration to adopt a Resolution Related to Disposal of Salvage Property of a Used Microscope on the Brenham Campus (a copy of the Resolution is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*), as presented by the Administration.

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

The public was recessed for a break at 8:13 p.m.

The public was recessed for closed session at 8:25 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

ITEM 12. CLOSED SESSION:

- (A) REAL PROPERTY (GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.072)**
 - i. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY IN BRENHAM, BRYAN, SCHULENBURG AND SEALY**
 - ii. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ENTERING INTO A SALES CONTRACT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2501 EARL RUDDER FWY S, COLLEGE STATION, BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS**
 - iii. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ENTERING INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT OF A 0.80 ACRE TRACT OF LAND IN THE PHILLIP COE SURVEY, ABSTRACT 31, BRENHAM, TEXAS**
- (B) CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY**
 - i. CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING MATTERS ON WHICH THE ATTORNEY'S DUTY TO THE COLLEGE UNDER THE TEXAS DISCIPLINARY RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT CLEARLY CONFLICT WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS LAWS; DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE REAL ESTATE CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS**
 - ii. LAWSUIT STYLED, CHARLES THIELEMANN V. BLINN BOARD OF TRUSTEES; CAUSE NO., 35485 DISMISSED IN THE 335TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, WASHINGTON COUNTY, TEXAS**
- (C) PERSONNEL MATTERS (GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.074)**
 - i. DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE OR DISMISSAL OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES OR OFFICERS**

ITEM 13. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

The public session was reconvened at 10:02 p.m.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS:

ITEM 14. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:


(A) REVIEW AND ACTION TO PURCHASE, EXCHANGE OR LEASE REAL PROPERTY IN BRENHAM, BRYAN, SCHULENBURG AND SEALY

On a motion by Mr. Toubin, seconded by Mr. Kenjura, the Board authorized the Administration to enter into a sales contract for property located at 2501 Earl Rudder Fwy S, College Station, Brazos County, Texas, subject to the final review and completion of due diligence.

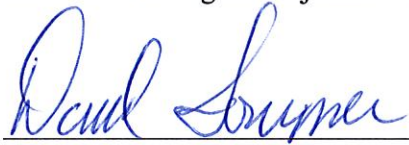
On a motion by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Lange, the Board authorized the Administration to enter into a lease agreement of a 0.80 acre tract of land in the Phillip Coe Survey, Abstract 31, Brenham, Texas.

ITEM 15. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, seconded by Mrs. Boehm, the Board meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.



Mr. Douglas R. Borchardt
President



Mr. David Sommer
Secretary