

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT #512  
COUNTIES OF COOK, KANE, LAKE, AND McHENRY, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Decennial Committee Meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Decennial Committee meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 was held in conjunction with the Committee Meeting of the Whole on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 in of the Wojcik Conference Center, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois. This portion of the meeting began at 5:42 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Martha Bell, Greg Dowell, Herb Johnson, Bill Kelley (by phone), Lane Moyer, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack and Student Member Kei Smith.

Absent: None

Also present:

Paula Akialis, Assistant Professor; Joseph Angermeier, Instructor; Dr. Yolonda Barnes, Dean, Business Social Sciences; Mike Barzacchini, Director of Marketing Services; Julie Bearden, Director of Campus Recreation; Tony Butler, Director of Risk Management; Orlando Cabrera, Tech Support Specialist; Scott Cashman, Senior Manager Community, Career and Corporate Education; Meg Coney, Administrative Coordinator; Dr. Maria Coons, Vice President and Board Liaison; Dr. Kathy Coy, Director, Institutional Research; Megan Dallianis, Interim Associate Provost-Student Success; Amanda Duval, Chief Human Resources Officer; Julie Ellefson, Professor; Rob Galick, EVP Finance and Administrative Services; Bob Grapenthien, Controller; Rita Gura, Interim Dean Health Careers; Erika Hartman, Administrative Coordinator; Mary Kay Harton, Dean of Students; Dr. Joanne Ivory, Dean, Career and Technical Programs; Dr. Tamara Johnson, Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Jeff Julian, Chief of Staff; Nellie Khalil, Associate Professor; Rick Kellerman, Network Specialist; Virginia McHugh-Kurtz, Assistant Professor; Nancy Medina, Executive Director Facilities Management; Sherese Parker, Director of Athletics; Bob Parzy, Associate Provost of Enrollment; Kim Pohl, Director of Communications; Dr. Avis Proctor, President; Jaime Riewerts, Dean Liberal Arts; Darlene Schlenbecker, Vice President of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness; Darice Trout, Senior Director, Community, Career and Corporate Education, Dr. Michelé Smith, Vice President, Business Solutions; Mark Wahlers, Interim Associate Provost Curriculum and Instruction; Frank Wawrzyniak, Coordinator of Membership and Facilities; Dr. Ruth Williams, Provost; Riaz Yusuff, Chief Information Officer; Heather Zoldak, Chief Advancement Officer.

Guests: David Yandel, FGM Architects; Tim Lumpp and Erik Schwab, Pepper Construction

## INTRODUCTION

Vice Chair Walt Mundt facilitated the meeting. He explained that Public Act 102-1088 requires each governmental unit in the State, with some exceptions, to convene a meeting at least three times every 10 years. The purpose is to study local efficiencies and report recommendations regarding efficiencies and increased accountability to the counties. Martha Bell and Lane Moyer have graciously agreed to join the Board of Trustees and Dr. Proctor as members of the Decennial Committee. The first meeting of the Decennial Committee was held on October 18, 2023. At that meeting, four strategic partnerships that are used to leverage resources were reviewed. In addition, a survey was conducted asking: What suggestions do you have for additional efficiencies; and What other suggestions do you have for further accountability. Two themes resulted from the survey: 1) Sustainability: What is the status of our sustainability efforts? and 2) Buildings: Provide a financial overview of the Building M partnership.

## DISCUSSION OF SUSTAINABILITY

### **The Status of Sustainability at Harper**

Dr. Ruth Williams and Nancy Medina reviewed the college's sustainability efforts. The college signed the President's Climate Commitment in 2010 pledging to decrease our carbon footprint to mitigate climate change. Sustainability is also embedded in various classes such as BIO 103 and 104, PHI 170, PHY 112 and PLS 206. There is also a learning community combining the disciplines of CHM and PHI. Continuing Professional Education has programming in sustainability areas. There are plans to offer a Sustainability Distinction, as the college does in social justice and global studies.

Harper has applied for and received grants from the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN). This funding has assisted in developing programming on Photovoltaics, SunSpec and in holding career networking events. The Learning and Career Center is becoming the hub for green economy programming for the college.

In terms of operations, the college has reduced waste by installing water bottle filling stations. The bike share program attempted to decrease the number of cars coming to campus. Electric car charging stations have been placed in parking lots. Green cleaning projects are being used, as well as sustainable materials in building maintenance operations. Occupancy sensors assure lights are on when people are present and new Building Automation Systems are adjusting climate controls more efficiently. All new buildings are constructed at a minimum of LEED silver. A new boiler system that is being installed – replacing boilers that are over 50 years old – will be more energy efficient.

Other efforts include using more digital materials and saving on paper, collecting technology products during Tech Week so they do not end up in landfills, diluting chemicals and reducing monitor brightness.

Harper remains committed to sustainability. The Sustainability Coordinator has left the college and there are plans to replace this position. This vacancy has reduced the visibility of sustainability work on campus. The student Environmental Club remains very active and there are plans to reinstate the shared governance Sustainability Work Group.

Questions/comments from the Decennial Committee:  
Decennial Committee members acknowledged the work being done to decrease costs and enhance the college's focus on sustainability. They asked the college to conduct an analysis of how Harper is doing as compared to other higher education institutions in sustainability. Are we a leader? If not, what needs to be done to enhance our efforts? They also advised that net zero carbon is easier to reach with geothermal approaches to building heating/cooling.

#### DISCUSSION OF THE FINANCIALS FOR BUILDING M

#### **Building M Partnership Financials**

During the October 2024 Decennial Committee meeting, there was discussion as to how the partnership with the Palatine Park District and Northwest Community Healthcare (NCH) assisted the college in completing a total renovation of Building M. The partnership formed over a failing pool and limited funding. The vision was for a multi-purpose building that could house academic programs, community activities, athletics and wellness. Northwest Community Healthcare was also a partner but constructed their own attached facility as an urgent care center. This discussion focused on the financial viability of the building – is it running at breakeven or better?

Bob Grapenthien, Mary Kay Harton and Julie Bearden provided usage and financial information on building operations in the Health and Recreation Center. The priorities of the building in order include Academics, Athletics, Wellness, Student Engagement, Campus Recreation and CE classes. This creates a multi-use facility. The main financial driver for the facility is memberships for usage. When the facility opened in 2019, there were 301 memberships which grew to 434 in 2020. The facility was closed during the pandemic but since then memberships have rebounded and are now at 578 in 2023. Usage as measured by check-ins at the facility is at an all-time high of 126,098.

During 2023, the partnership did better than breakeven and generated a \$10,602 profit. This aligns with the proforma income statement developed when the partnership was formed. There is an overall fund balance of \$124,918 in the account that monitors the

finances of the building. The largest expense is contractual services and this is reflected in outsourcing building management to CENTERS. In addition, the building utilizes a large number of student workers.

Questions/comments from the Decennial Committee:  
Decennial Committee members who were involved with the approval of the partnership and subsequent renovation of the building expressed their appreciation for the positive impact the facility is having at the college and in the community. Comments included ensuring the building is used to its fullest capacity. The membership rate for the fitness center is viewed as a bargain in the community. So, we are serving our community well. There was a question about the contractual services fee paid to CENTERS. It was explained that this company is known in the industry and among other community colleges for managing these types of facilities. Their contract was just renewed and a bidding process will occur in the future when that contract expires. There was also a question about maintenance costs and it was explained that maintenance costs are billed accordingly to both the college and Palatine Park District.

Concluding Comments

The final meeting of the Decennial Committee for this cycle will be on May 8. At that meeting, a draft of the report that will be filed with the counties will be reviewed.

FORMAL ACTIONS

None

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Chair

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Secretary