

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

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of Wednesday, October 13, 1993.

CALL TO ORDER: The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 was called to order by Member Moats in the absence of Chairman Norwood on Wednesday, October 13, 1993 at 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois.

ROLL CALL: Present: Members Barton, Coste, Gillette (8:05 p.m.), Howard, and Moats
Absent: Members Born and Norwood; Student Member Norris

Also present: Paul Thompson, President; Vern Manke, V.P. Administrative Services; David McShane, V.P. Information Systems; Susan Webb-Kmiec, Recording Secretary; Robert Getz; Patty Roberts - Harper College. Guests: Dan Culloton - Daily Herald; Alan Bombick and Dominic Demonica - Legat Architects.

INFORMATION

Air Conditioning Hook-Ups

President Thompson discussed the change order for the air conditioning hook-ups between Buildings F and L. The architects and engineers figured the payback for this project to be between 3 and 4 years. It was President Thompson's recommendation to go ahead at this time. He noted that change orders are not brought to the Board until they are done, but he wanted to be sure there was a consensus from the Board to go forward with a project of this magnitude. The change will cost about \$50,000. However, Mr. Manke stated that they did not know what the excavating will cost. As there were no objections, President Thompson stated that they would go ahead with this project.

1994-95 Capital Projects

The Board has received a list of capital projects that were submitted to ICCB for approval. The Board discussed who in IBHE they can talk to to assure that our requests get on the ICCB agenda on Friday. In terms of legislators, the Board members need to get their lists together and decide who they will contact.

ICCB is giving Harper credit for \$4,809,000. Member Barton asked if this is the money that they owed to us. President Thompson replied that it is. They are also adding over \$1 million to give us a total project amount of \$6,531,900. This is a bigger project than what we had planned. In addition, some of the things that were to go in this facility went into L Building instead. Thus, this facility could house additional classrooms, or we may be able to consider the idea of two spaces such as a smaller theater and a larger auditorium.

President Thompson discussed the strategies the Board might take to win approval for this project. In terms of IBHE, he has invited Bruce Chelburg, who is the closest to Harper on the IBHE Board, to come to the College. Member Barton asked if Virginia McDonald is on ICCB or IBHE. President Thompson responded that she is on the IBHE board. Member Barton asked President Thompson for a list of the IBHE members. Board members discussed those people on the IBHE Board and other trustees who they can work with. Member Howard suggested that they all have a list with the names and addresses of these people so that even if the board members don't know them, they might be able to show them to influential people and see if anybody else knows them and can help. President Thompson stated that he would provide this list as soon as possible. He noted that Bob Wallhouse and Dick Wagner are key staff people for IBHE and we will have to work with them as much as possible.

Chairman Moats asked what the key variable is in the decision making process. President Thompson responded that the executive director makes recommendations to the Board, but the Board will influence his decisions. Member Barton stated that the Board needs to get political.

Member Howard asked about the possibility of getting strong letters of support from key people in the northwest suburbs who may have political connections even though they are not affiliated with Harper. Member Barton suggested that this might include CEOs of major corporations.

Chairman Moats stated that a theme is needed to take forward to the state in terms of why Harper is entitled to this money, and why it should be a priority for Harper as opposed to other institutions. It was his feeling that the reason should be that Harper has not gotten any money from the state in decades. It should be specified as to exactly when Harper last received money from the state, and that Harper only wants our fair share for the community. This community pays a good deal of taxes to the state, and we would like to get a certain proportion of that back. Member Barton noted that the auditorium is one of the buildings that was not finished on the master plan.

President Thompson suggested that Mr. Manke put together a document showing how much money we have contributed locally to all of the building, and how much the state has contributed. Member Gillette noted that if one looks down the list of what projects other colleges are requesting funding for, those projects such as parking lot expansions and renovations are the

types of projects that we have been paying for with local funding rather than state funding.

Mr. Manke stated that he has gone back through his files and extracted the projects for which Harper College has fronted the money that the state should have contributed to. He presented a letter from September 29, 1987 that was directed to Jim McGrath from David Pierce, the executive director of ICCB, which certifies the number of completed locally funded construction projects as being eligible for future reimbursement/credit to be applied toward future state-funded projects. The Board action as it pertained to the request at that time was as follows: The amount requested for the water main rehabilitation was \$37,500, and they approved \$50,180 as being eligible for state funding. A third boiler was installed for \$153,368, and Building M (Physical Education) was built with a request of \$4,425,000 and \$4,126,406 was approved. Chairman Moats asked if that facility had been built primarily through referendum money. Member Howard stated that they did not pay Harper that money; rather, that this is what was approved. Mr. Manke noted that all of these were projects that the state approved, but they never had the money to fund them. In 1981 there were roof repairs of \$479,121 and they approved the entire amount. According to Mr. Manke's estimate, there is close to \$5 million coming to Harper in credits. There is a letter on file that says that the state owes Harper this money.

Member Gillette asked if the College had applied for funding on all the locally funded projects. Mr. Manke replied that Harper applied, but the state stopped approving reimbursement for a lot of the projects which were done. Harper is doing Building L on their own since the state would not approve funding. It was approved, but on the basis that it would not be subject to reimbursement credit. However, this shows the amount that Harper invested.

Member Barton shared that it was brought up at an IBHE or ICCB meeting that schools who are able to fund their own projects do not really need state funding. Chairman Moats responded that they are going for public funding because they are responsible public servants, and it is up to them to get their point across. President Thompson stated that this is why it is important to work with IBHE Board members, because Dick Wagner has a bias against rich community college districts, at least compared to the central and southern Illinois districts.

Mr. Manke continued with the letter which stated that reimbursement/credits would be applied toward future state funded projects in accordance with the rules of the Capital Development Board. The projects being discussed tonight would come under the jurisdiction of the Capital Development Board. The Performing Arts Center along with the affiliated classrooms would get the College the reimbursement that is owed to us from many years ago. He noted that the classroom inclusion is key to this issue. He stated that the Board should work very hard to try and make sure this occurs.

Member Barton asked when the next IBHE meeting will be held. President Thompson responded that it is November 9 in Chicago. Member Barton suggested that some of the Board members should attend these meetings and become acquainted with the IBHE members.

Member Gillette asked if the College applied for M Building and the library renovation. President Thompson suggested that it may be included on the list, as the amount is more than it would have been for just the performing arts. In addition, renovation requests were included in the RAMP document. Mr. Manke noted that the renovation of F Building will be finished before this will happen. If approval is granted now, it will be approximately two years before actual construction. Planning money is usually received the first year, with the remainder coming in the next year. This would place the project in the 1994-95 budget and 1995-96 for release of the funds, should it be approved.

Member Gillette asked if some of the minor requests such as tennis court renovations have a chance of being approved. President Thompson did not believe so. ICCB will meet on Friday, October 15 to pare down the list. They may take new construction and renovation in two different groups.

Member Barton noted that there is a school on the list that has done a number of back-door referendums that resulted in \$20-25 million. She asked if Mr. Wagner looks at that the same way as he does wealthy community college districts who can fund their own projects. President Thompson responded that it should be viewed that way, but he was not sure about this.

In response to Chairman Moats' question as to the theme, President Thompson stated that from his perspective the theme should be that the state support is very low compared to what the local support has been. Chairman Moats noted that we need something to legitimately dramatize the fact that other colleges have received money from the state while Harper has not. Member Barton added that we do not have any type of auditorium.

Member Barton asked President Thompson if they were going to put a plan of action together and distribute hand-outs to the Board members so that they would all be sharing the same information. Chairman Moats suggested that they keep this very simple. President Thompson stated that this could include a couple of graphs. He noted that he would like to compare Harper's funding with that of Lewis and Clark College. In the last 5-6 years, they have done more building with state money than Harper has ever gotten. Member Barton noted that a good deal of this has to do with the politicians who are involved.

Member Howard suggested that they have one sheet that shows all of the building that has been done on campus since the beginning, and a column that would show initial funding from the state and then subsequent funding from the state, with a third column indicating the amount of local dollars that has gone into each one of those. Member Gillette added that this should include

renovation and upgrade. Member Barton suggested that they concentrate on the new facilities we built on our own because that is what we are asking for. Mr. Manke interjected that he supports that idea. Because many schools do not have the facilities that we have, it may hamper our efforts if we dramatize how much we have been doing. He suggested that we focus on our needs, and the reasons why these needs should be supported. Member Howard asked Mr. Manke if he was suggesting that we don't show the things that the state has funded that we built. Mr. Manke noted that we have the letter that details our credits. Member Barton explained that there are schools represented at ICCTA meetings who are worried about having to close their doors, and that we are perceived as being too wealthy if we go in and list the things that we have done on every building. Member Gillette suggested that we make a list and find out what percentage of funding we have received from the state. The people in this district pay high taxes and fund a high proportion of the College building and improvements.

Mr. Manke noted that Harper started on their construction when the state had funds to spend. A lot of our buildings were built early, and Harper received 75 percent funding up front on many of the buildings. Other colleges started later when the state was having financial trouble and did not receive that kind of initial support. The amount of building and renovations we have done without state support may not be something that we want to use for rationale because many of them were built with 75 percent state support. The ones that did not get support are listed, and they do not really care about renovations that were done later as many colleges had to do the same thing. Mr. Manke reiterated that we focus on the letter that states how much money the state owes Harper in credits. President Thompson asked if we should add L, P and S Buildings on this as well. Mr. Manke replied that this was a good idea, as this is new recent construction.

Member Barton stated that she would like to help in any way possible to push this through IBHE. Chairman Moats noted that the Board needs a clean, simple theme, and that we need to know who the decision makers are that we need to influence. Thirdly, they need a list of all the people who want to help. He added that we need to find a way to take the debate out of it in terms of some of the issues raised by Mr. Manke. Member Barton stated that part of what they were told by ICCB was that they were going to try to get that money back for the College. However, this did not work. Chairman Moats pointed out that the legislators made it clear that you do not get things by being quiet. Member Gillette added that it was their impression that by Harper joining the whole community college district and pushing for their requests as a group, Harper may be hurting themselves. President Thompson stated that it is a delicate balance. There is strength in numbers when going for operational dollars, but when capital projects are on the list, that must be handled individually.

President Thompson stated that besides IBHE and our legislators, we can find out who else we need to work with outside of our legislative contingent. This might include Pate Phillips and

other downstate legislators, as well as Virginia McDonald, even though she is no longer in the legislature. Member Barton noted that ICCB may be able to help because they reviewed this list as well. President Thompson stated that Cary has an interest in getting these IOU's cleared out. Miriam Gonzalez will also be an excellent ally.

President Thompson stated that a short statement will be prepared for the Board members that will succinctly tell our story. There will have to be periodic updates with our contacts so that we can tell our legislators where the project is in the approval process. Once it is in the legislative arena, someone needs to stay on top of it until it is approved. Chairman Moats asked what the critical dates are. President Thompson felt it would be approved on Friday by ICCB. There is a meeting on November 3 between ICCB and IBHE where they work out the budget recommendations that are going to go through. They should be ready to act on it at the November 9 IBHE meeting. President Thompson stated that if we are on the list as of November 3, then we need to be working on IBHE members between the November 3 and November 9. Member Barton asked what could be done between now and November 3. President Thompson replied that if we get on the list on Friday, he will then put together a strategy for the next phase. Member Gillette asked if they need to do anything before Friday to make sure we stay on the list. President Thompson responded that there was nothing wrong with calling members of the ICCB. He will fax our Board members a list of names and telephone numbers. Member Barton stated that they all need to get the same information so that if they are asked questions, they will be giving the same answers. Member Gillette replied that they could respond that Harper has not gotten any money from the state for 20 years, we are in the red now, and we need their help. Mr. Manke felt that they just need to say that we have an IOU dating back to 1987 specifying that the state owes us this money. We have a project on the request list that we need funding for. He added that the Heartland College project may give us competition because that is a new school. Mr. Manke added that there were some promises made in the past, and we need to get back to those people who made the promises. President Thompson stated that he would call Cary in the morning, and Member Barton added that she would call him as well.

Member Gillette asked why no local funding was included in this request. Mr. Manke stated that local funding is something that we keep back as a compromise.

Member Barton asked if the November 3 meeting is an open session. President Thompson responded that it is by invitation only, and added that he hopes to be invited because he is on the President's Council.

Member Barton asked if the information supplied to them can be very simple and straight forward. President Thompson added that he would like some graphic illustration included as well. Member Howard reiterated that all of the Board members need a copy of the letter to go with the other facts. President Thompson noted that if he gets a sense from Cary that we will stay on the list,

it may not be necessary to follow up right away with ICCB. However, if it seems questionable, he will get the information out to the Board members as soon as possible. This will include the names, phone numbers and addresses of ICCB and IBHE members.

If we are on the list after November 9, then we need to work with the legislators and let them know that this is something that we want to see in the governor's budget. The budget will probably be announced in early January, and then it will go into legislative session.

Member Coste asked exactly what capital projects are being considered and discussed tonight other than the Performing Arts Center on the ICCB list. President Thompson responded that this is the only one, although Mr. Manke thinks there is probably some renovation for F Building included in the request. Member Coste asked what the "Local Funding" column refers to. President Thompson stated that it refers to local contributions, and some colleges have submitted in their RAMP documents the amount that they are going to make as a contribution locally given what the state might give them. Member Coste asked why we are listing \$1,103,400 as local funding. Mr. Manke explained that the proposed local funding is their 25 percent contribution. Our local funding is zero because they are going to cover 25 percent. They get the state amount of \$5,426,500. The state will pick up the entire amount, so they owe us \$6,531,900. There will be no local funding except for the eligible credits that we have coming.

Member Gillette asked if out of the \$6 million, they are going to give us the \$4.8 million they already owe us plus \$1 million more. Member Coste stated that regardless of what they do, he wanted to know if we are proposing to use any local public funds for this project.

Chairman Moats interjected that this project is not truly for a Performing Arts Center, but rather for a small theater. Harper has been in existence for 25 years, and still does not even have the type of theater that most high schools have. Mr. Manke noted that the project was submitted as Performing Arts / Teaching Facility / Gallery. He added that it is important to keep this in the forefront because the state focuses on the teaching facility along with the performing arts facility. The total amount of money requested for the project includes \$3,310,100 for state funding, and \$1,103,400 for local funding. They are going to match that with 25 percent local funding, plus the original state source which is coming from what they owe us, plus funding for some remodeling and renovation projects which were submitted. This amounts to \$6,531,900.

Member Gillette suggested that if the state gives the College the \$4.8 million it owes us, plus \$1.1 million, we would only be asking for what they owe us plus 25 percent. Mr. Manke stated that they didn't say they wouldn't carry the rest as a balance. President Thompson stated that he would take what they are offering. Member Gillette noted that if you want to have a point

to make with someone, you could make that case as an argument. However, that may result in not having future credits.

Chairman Moats noted that because of the short time frame, the full attention of someone in administration is needed to coordinate the activities necessary to get this project approved. He added that the community deserves this. Member Barton felt the idea of a coordinator is very important so that no one is overlooked and so that the Board members know specifically what their assignments are.

President Thompson introduced Dan Culloton from the Daily Herald.

OTHER BUSINESS

Oakton College is hosting the North Suburban Region on October 20. President Thompson noted that they need to know who is attending. Member Howard and Member Gillette will not be able to attend as there is a Candidate's Night for prospective Board members. Member Barton noted that it is well worth attending these Regional meetings because of the excellent programs.

President Thompson reminded the Board that the Annual Ball is coming up. He distributed information regarding the silent auction as well as invitations for the Board members to send out. Patty Roberts will supply them with a list of those who have accepted so that they don't duplicate efforts.

Member Gillette noted that he had read the information sent to them regarding the pending legislative bills, and still was not able to determine what is good and bad for Harper. He asked if someone could take the alternate positions and put that in terms of how it affects this institution. President Thompson replied that they would do that.

Member Gillette asked if the Board was going to do the change order for the air conditioning bid. Chairman Moats stated that they had discussed that before Member Gillette arrived at the meeting. President Thompson explained that they did not take action, but rather that there was a general consensus that they should proceed with the work. He reiterated that the payback is estimated to be 3-4 years. Member Howard noted that she liked the fact that this could be a back-up system.

Member Gillette addressed the input they received on what has happened with the senior citizen issues that were raised previously. He noted that there seems to be a number of seniors who are not attending classes who have in the past. He questioned if it may be worthwhile to send them a survey letter and add an invitation to come and rejoin the Harper community. President Thompson replied that this is a good suggestion, but that he would like to wait until the spring term to see if there is an organized protest to sit out for one semester. He felt that if we send a letter out now, we would get the same kind of letters we got previously from some of these people. Member Gillette stated that we could point out to these people the

availability of financial aid and space available for seniors who take advantage of late enrollment. Chairman Moats felt this was a good suggestion, and that Harper should tell their side of it and leave it up to those people to decide whether to attend. Member Gillette suggested that the staff look into a lower rate for both senior citizen parking and activity fees. Member Howard stated that it was her understanding that the Board had given direction to look at this whole situation, including the parking and student activity fees. Member Gillette added that they had also asked for the possibility of family discounts, and had not heard anything back regarding that either. He assumed that there was work being done on these issues.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business before the Board, Chairman Moats adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary