

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, September 13, 1995.

CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 was called to order by Chairman Moats on Wednesday, September 13, 1995 at 7:34 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Barton, Born, Coste, Heise, Howard (7:37 p.m.), Kolze, and Moats

Absent: Student Member Solarte

Also present: Paul Thompson, President; Ed Dolan, V.P. Academic Affairs; Bonnie Henry, V.P. Student Affairs; Vern Manke, V.P. Administrative Services; David McShane, V.P. Information Systems; Cathy Albergo; Vic Berner; Harley Chapman; Lori Cronin; Dave Dluger; Robert Getz; Bill Howard; Bill Neumann - Harper College; Susanne Havlic and 10 Media Writing Class students; Guests: Dan Culloton - Daily Herald; Margaret Van Duch - Chicago Tribune.

Chairman Moats noted that there would be a short executive session to discuss personnel matters at the end of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Born moved, Member Kolze seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the August 16, 1995 Special Board meeting.

Member Coste stated that his vote on August 16 approving the appointment of Brian Heise to the Board of Trustees should have been recorded as "Aye".

Member Born amended her motion to reflect that change.



than half of the square footage to be used as such. The square footage does not allow for the addition of an art gallery.

Member Coste reiterated that a decision needs to be made whether or not to submit an addendum for a larger building before deciding what the interior will include. Member Howard noted that much of the impetus was on the performing arts center because of the lack of this type of facility at the College. However, there is a great need for meeting and conference space which must be addressed as well. She felt that as long as the plan does not take away from the performing arts space, this re-design has a lot of appeal.

There was discussion of the use of the space for instructional break-out rooms. Harley Chapman stated that a large space for 250 people will be able to be divided into smaller break-out rooms. There was discussion of the impact on the space of an art gallery. President Thompson noted that although the architects were asked to consider the possibility of an art gallery, it was not a part of the plan that was submitted to ICCB.

The Board members and faculty discussed the merits of the size of the performing arts facility in terms of total size and accommodations as well as seat capacity. It was agreed that the overall concern is that the facility is not compromised by trying to encompass too many functions. Mr. Manke felt that the discussion is premature until the architects submit their plans and show what a facility of this size can reasonably contain.

Member Howard stated that everyone concerned wants to ensure that the facility is built properly and includes all of the necessary elements, even if it means phasing in different functions. President Thompson noted that the proposed utilization of J-143 needs to be addressed. That could be the 250 seat conference space with break-out rooms built around it. There was discussion concerning the unsafe conditions in that facility. There was also discussion regarding the use of the old Bookstore for Corporate Services space. Member Coste brought up the issue of having the new building too far away from Food Services. It was agreed that the issue needs to be seriously addressed.

Member Born stated that at the recent conference, the legislators who were present indicated that they felt no capital projects would be approved this year. Thus, this project may be delayed for approximately two years, which will increase the cost due to inflation. Member Born felt it will be necessary to justify the cost of the building to the taxpayers in terms of the number of people who will be served. Vice President Dolan stated that the administration and faculty have no doubts about their ability to utilize that space to a significant degree. Kathy Albergo stated that the calendar reflects only major performances presently done

and a few that are proposed. However, set construction and play design may limit the amount of time that the space is truly available for other public use. The black box was built as a drama laboratory and is almost exclusively for instructional purposes as it is difficult to practice for a large production in a small facility. Dave Dluger from the Audiovisual Department commented on the difficulties incurred with acoustics and space restrictions in trying to stage productions and musical events in Building J.

Member Born asked if anyone had discussed with members of the Foundation the need in the northwest suburban area for a facility of this nature as there have been other facilities built in the area in recent years. President Thompson noted that he had spoken with Tom Rivera, who thinks that this space is definitely needed. Member Howard stated that even though there are performance facilities in the area that can be used by the public, she envisions this space as primarily for our students' use, although it will be used by the broader community that we serve.

Chairman Moats stated that we have to approach the issue in terms of the long-term interests of the school rather than the actual size and cost of the facility because there are many unanswered questions as to the funding and building schedule and what changes we might be able to make. He felt we would be short-sighted to not discuss what the facility could encompass merely because of the wording of the RAMP document. There was general agreement with this assessment. Chairman Moats noted that it seems to be the consensus of the Board that the performing arts space as presently envisioned is not going to be adequate. Member Howard reiterated that it is important to be sure it is adequate rather than building it too small. There was discussion regarding the preferred number of seats in this facility. Kathy Albergo, Chair of the Music Department, stated that the preference of the music and theater departments is for a small stage, which they feel is anywhere between 300 and 450. A larger stage is more difficult to work with acoustically for both stage and music. It will also be more difficult and more expensive to build sets and lighting. She noted that they would not want to sacrifice storage backstage and wing areas for more seats. Ms. Albergo stated that the architects and acousticians need to determine the amount of seating along with adequate storage in the allotted space. Chairman Moats reiterated that it is the Board's desire to have enough space for these things and have the size large enough to accommodate the size of the crowds that would utilize this facility. He stated that the Board also feels that the theater is the highest priority, and that more of the \$6.5 million should be directed toward that part of the project. Member Born voiced her agreement with that assessment. In response to a question from the audience, President Thompson stated that if only a performing arts facility is planned, he did not feel that the state would grant the funding. Member Born

suggested the possibility that the Board would wish to approve the use of additional money from the fund balances in order to achieve the desired size facility. It was agreed that the College does not wish to jeopardize the state funding in any way, and will meet whatever criteria is necessary to get that funding. The question was raised as to how aggressively the College wants to look at other options to achieve what is in the long-term interests of the community.

Member Howard stated that if the Board is satisfied that their questions have been answered, the architects could then determine how a fully adequate 400 seat theater with all of the necessary storage and backstage room, plus an associated conference center with the offices that have been outlined could be incorporated into the space. Member Born asked if this would include the corporate services area and teleconferencing functions. Member Howard felt that the architects should look at the possibility of following the RAMP document, because the board is supportive of the theater, the art gallery, and the need for more space for corporate services as well as conference and break-out rooms, even if phased construction was necessary. If necessary, the possibility of securing additional dollars could be discussed at a later time.

Member Kolze stated that he did not see food service included. It was agreed that there needs to be more discussion with the architects as to how food service would be provided to the facility.

Member Coste questioned the information contained in the RAMP document versus the IBHE approval amount. The documents in question will be provided to the Board.

It was agreed that President Thompson would draft a letter of instruction to the architect summarizing much of the intent of the project. The letter will be presented for Board approval at the September 28 Regular Board meeting.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Member Howard asked that a letter of congratulations to newly appointed ISBE member Julia Walsh be sent from the Board.

Member Barton commented favorably on a presentation by Steve Catlin and Bruce Bohrer that she recommended to the Board.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Member Born moved, Member Barton seconded, that the Board adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment and dismissal of personnel.



**BOARD REQUESTS**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 1995 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

- 1) Member Coste questioned the information contained in the RAMP document versus the IBHE approval amount. The documents in question will be provided to the Board.