

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 Board of Trustees Closed Session on January 10, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

A closed session of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 was called to order by Chair William Kelley Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 2:03 p.m. in the Wojcik Conference Center, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois. The reason for the closed session was pursuant to OMA 2 (c) (16) self-evaluation, practices and procedures with a representative of an association of which the public body is a member.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, Herb Johnson, Diane Hill, Greg Dowell, Walt Mundt, and Bill Kelley

Absent: Student Trustee Kei Smith

Also attending: Jim Reed, ICCTA (via phone), Dr. Avis Proctor, Dr. Maria Coons, Rob Galick, Dr. Ruth Williams, Heather Zoldak, Darlene Schlenbecker, Dr. Tamara Johnson, Jeff Julian, Dr. Michelé Smith, Robert Grapenthien, Robert Hayley, Mary Kay Harton, Sherese Parker, Tom Cassell, Dennis Vovos from Holabird & Root

DISCUSSION

Chair Kelley reviewed the six goals of the workshop: 1) discuss student success initiatives that should continue; 2) discuss centralizing facilities rentals; 3) updates on Athletics; 4) update on Building A; 5) review mid-year financials; and 6) review the 5-year financial plan and funding alternatives.

Student Success Initiatives

Ruth Williams reviewed SOAR as an organizing framework and how the discussion fit into these focus areas.

- Removing life and structural barriers to support student needs was reviewed. This includes mental health services, basic needs, technology needs, childcare at the LCC and athletic scholarships. To maintain this, 8 FTEs are needed and are included in the total cost of \$1,988,600.
- She also discussed the culture of care to create a sense of belonging and inclusive learning environments. Initiatives include the four connections, area of interest experience days and flex teaching. To maintain this \$301,000 is needed.
- Information on new programs in Aviation, Cybersecurity and Psychiatric Technician were reviewed as a means of creating

pathways to economic mobility. This would require a total of \$1,700,000 when existing funding is accounted for.

- Strategic enrollment management includes incentivizing the path for success, dual credit advisors, registration rallies and converting non-credit to credit students. This would require 1 new FTE and a total of \$353,000.
- Resource planning for grant funded positions was reviewed including ECACE, Perkins, and PATH grants with one new FTE needed to support launching grants. Total cost of \$349,452.
- Sustaining current student success initiatives which includes outreach activities, Modern Campus software, GLIDE, Alumni programming and redesigning the Social Justice studies course would cost \$208,500

Overall, funding related to compliance is estimated at \$533,800, continuing strategic plan initiatives \$248,500 and new funding of \$3,800,652 is needed.

Trustee Robb felt the presentation was difficult to understand and follow. The number of new positions is concerning since 75% of the budget is personnel. Ruth Williams explained that some positions are required to comply with new legislation. Trustee Hill recommended looking at grants to fund positions as well as philanthropy. Trustee Dowell asked about partnership possibilities to curtail some costs. He expressed our residents are concerned about real estate taxes and students about tuition increases. Trustee Johnson expressed his appreciation of the details and would like this reviewed again in the future.

Centralizing Facilities Rentals

Tom Cassell reviewed plans to centralize facilities rentals by creating one central web landing area, centralizing rental touchpoints, and driving web traffic to the new web landing area. Increasing rentals will bring in revenue but staffing needs, and wear and tear on facilities must be considered.

Athletics

Sherese Parker reviewed the current state of external athletic fields and spaces. A phased-in approach to improving those areas was recommended. This included improving the track and stadium with turf, lighting and support structures as the highest priority at \$6.6 million, moving the tennis courts/pickleball to Lot 12 at \$1.6 million, moving the softball field at \$3.4 million and updating the baseball field with turf and lighting for \$1.7 million. Total cost \$13.3 million

Building A Study

Dennis Vovos reviewed possible improvements to Building A. This included space for Information Technology/Server Data Center, the PIE Division, space for HR, Accounting and Admissions Processing. Spaces would also be available for events, the police station, storage, an executive suite and swing space. To demolish the space – the cost would be \$25 million to tear down the structure and add links to C and W, and landscaping. To renovate the space would cost \$50 million and to demolish and then construct a new facility would be \$70 million. Rob Galick added that the current Building A will be used as the new Canning Center is constructed and will be maintained but the long-term use needs continued review.

Mid-Year Financial Review

Bob Grapenthien provided an update on the budget. Revenue sources are up. CPPRT is higher than normal by \$1.1 million. The college budgeted 75% of the expected state revenue, enrollment is up and thus so is tuition, investment revenue is \$4.2 million overbudget and grant indirect costs are anticipated at \$500,000. Overall, a \$12.8 million surplus is anticipated.

Five-Year Financial Plan

Rob Galick reviewed the five-year plan. Salary projections for union as well as non-union employees were reviewed, as well as the addition of 4 new positions for compliance purposes. Benefits costs will increase 5%, inflation is expected to be between 2.0 and 2.7%. The recommended tuition increase is \$3 per credit hour through FY29. Harper's current tuition rate is slightly higher than the state average, but rests in the center of the median. The tuition increase was supported by the shared governance Finance Committee. State funding budgeting will remain at 75%, but investment earnings will decrease as interest rates are likely to go down. The plan projects a "soft landing" by FY29 where revenues will match expenses. Until then, revenues will slightly exceed expenses. The surpluses will be used to add to the fund balance and support other initiatives approved by the Board. The first look at the FY25 budget indicates a budgeted \$2.9 million surplus. Unallocated surpluses (future projects) of \$23 million are available for use and it was recommended that those funds be used for athletic field improvements and a new Student Information System.

Trustee Kelley asked about how past surpluses are being used: Can these funds be used to improve Building A? It was explained that this can be done if the Board takes formal action to repurpose the funds but the workload on the staff for current projects is extensive right now so Building A work would need to wait.

Trustee Dowell asked if there is a breakout of real estate taxes between commercial and residential properties. One is much more at risk. This will be reviewed.

Trustee Stack appreciated the time to review all this information.

Trustee Dowell asked if virtual meetings are now allowable. It was explained that the State does not allow virtual meetings at this time. This prevents younger community members from joining the Board.

Chicago Bears Opportunity

Walt Mundt reviewed the potential a new Bears' stadium will bring to the region. Harper will be impacted by the new stadium if built in Arlington Heights. He suggested a promotional video be developed internally to showcase the college. This can be discussed at a later time. Dr. Proctor explained that we have reached out to local officials and the Bears to express our support for the project, but also ensure that the Bears follow through with their commitments to safety and financial implications. Trustee Robb said that Harper can provide training.

FORMAL ACTIONS

There were no formal actions taken.

ADJORNMENT

Member Stack moved, Member Dowell seconded, adjournment of the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Members Pat Stack, Greg Dowell, Nancy Robb, Diane Hill, Herb Johnson, Walt Mundt and Bill Kelley

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Chair

Secretary