

# **THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Sledge Board Room  
August 22, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Trustees George Little, Chairman; Joe Clendenin, Secretary; Connie Lovell; Bruce Hurst; Gary Evans, Irish Pickett; Vincent Gordon; Helen Probst Mills; Tim Carpenter; Mishell Marshall, SGA Vice President (Not present: Larry Caddell, Vice Chairman; Art Blue; Eugene Horne; Dr. Alexander Stewart)

**STAFF:** Ron Layne, Heather Lyons, Dr. Rebecca Roush, Kellie Shoemake, Dr. Julie Voigt, Libba Thomas, Dr. D.J. Farmer, Germaine Elkins, Dr. Twana McKnight, Chreatha Alston, Doug Smith, Steven Garner, Chief Dwight Threet, Teresa Sheets, Michelle Bauer, Lindsey Farmer, Stephanie Lang

**REMOTE:** Matthew Dial, Dr. Fallon Brewington, Dr. Kirk Lynch, Danaka Bunch

Mr. Little called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He read the statute regarding conflicts of interest to the Trustees and asked the Board if there were any potential conflicts with the agenda items to be discussed. Hearing none, Mr. Little proceeded to the next item of business.

Mr. Hurst offered a moment of reflection.

Ms. Lyons administered the Oath of Office to George Little and Joe Clendenin for reappointment to the Board. All members affirmed their acceptance.

Mr. Clendenin noted that the email sent to Board members did not include a closed session and asked that the Board use the version placed before them.

Mr. Evans noted that he would like to move the discussion about Personnel Action items to the closed session. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve moving Personnel Action items to the closed session. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Also noted was President Dempsey's absence.

Mr. Clendenin made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Pickett seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall presented the Student Government Association (SGA) report. SGA officers have completed training. SGA officers asked students for suggestions regarding activities that they would like to see on campus. Ms. Marshall reported that the SGA has engaged over 180 students during the first week of classes.

Mr. Carpenter reported for the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Mr. Carpenter called on Ms. Elkins to present a new naming opportunity for the second EMS classroom in Foundation Hall. Ms. Elkins said that the *Tom Ferrell EMS Classroom* will honor retired long-time Sandhills faculty member Tom Ferrell, who was named the inaugural recipient of the “North Carolina EMS Kent Spitler Award” from the NC Office of EMS and NC EMS Advisory Committee for lifetime contributions to Emergency Medical Services for North Carolina. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the naming of the *Tom Ferrell EMS Classroom*. Ms. Lovell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter reported that both Moore and Hoke land reversions have been completed and that both properties have now been returned to the College. Follow-up documents have been sent to the State Office, and the land will be transferred to SCC ownership.

Chief Threet presented a security update. Officers have completed training in a solo active shooter response environment. Updated weapons now include three long rifles. With COVID restrictions lifted, officers will participate in Samarcan training. This innovative training center has the ability to use photos of the SCC campus to simulate actual on-time training. EMS, whose most recent wide-scale training was in 2018, will resume training. Video cameras and loudspeakers are now in place on campus. Chief Threet will research and return to the Board with a proposal to include costs to purchase additional weapons for the College. It was noted that there are four armed police officers on the Pinehurst Campus. Mr. Gordon inquired as to training available to students, faculty, and staff. Chief Threet offered that the *Run, Hide, Fight* video is available on the SCC website for access to anyone. Discussion ensued regarding student requirements to view the video. Dr. Roush will explore the best way for the college to confirm that new students watch the video and will submit her findings to the Board. Dr. Farmer suggested that the video be included in the student orientation process. Mr. Evans suggested a reminder be sent to faculty and staff to view the video. Ms. Probst Mills asked if The O’Neal School is also part of the training and if we are working with them on emergency training. Mr. Layne said that the college would reach out to O’Neal leadership to coordinate efforts. Mr. Gordon made a motion to require that students view the *Run, Hide, Fight* video moving forward and that it remain mandatory for staff and faculty. Mr. Clendenin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding Foundation Hall, Mr. Smith reported that a temporary certificate of occupancy was received on August 12, 2022, and that classes were first held on Monday, August 15, 2022. Mr.

Smith also related that a very large punch list exists related to completion efforts in Foundation Hall and there is much still to complete in Kennedy Hall as the overall project now focuses on Kennedy Hall renovations. The projects are on time and within budget.

Mr. Layne reported that the turf the College agreed to contribute to the Old North State baseball field is now in place. The irrigation system is working, and we continue to use the same landscape crew that was used during baseball season to ensure proper field maintenance and improvement. The first rental use of the baseball field is now in place and moving forward. Mr. Layne asked Mr. Carpenter to review possibilities for future enhancements and steps that would need to take place in order to continue to increase likelihood of an SCC baseball team. Mr. Carpenter shared facts from a survey compiled by a knowledgeable individual associated with the baseball industry. Elements including coaching staff, qualifications of a head coach, and the recruitment of 25 to 30 players were reviewed. Mr. Carpenter cited that baseball is a very expensive sport and that realistically 2025 would be the projected date by which an SCC baseball team could be reasonably implemented. The possibility of a booster club on campus to help support the team was considered.

All required information has been submitted to the N.C. Alcohol Beverage Commission regarding beer sales for ONSL in summer 2023, and we are now waiting for a response to hear if a further application from ONSL is necessary.

Ms. Thomas reported on financial matters regarding the allocation of State Construction Infrastructure Funds (SCIF) for the Meyer Hall project. Information was sent to the State Board for approval and has been approved. The full funding has been approved at \$3.2m.

Mr. Smith reported that the HVAC equipment for the Meyer Hall project is facing supply chain challenges that might require SCC to order that equipment almost a year out of the project start to ensure delivery. The architect (Moseley) suggested that the College purchase the equipment in advance of delivery to ensure on-time availability. Once approval comes from the State Construction Office, this will make up the time frame to receive the equipment. There may be a few warranty issues, but we will have the equipment on site for installation.

Ms. Probst Mills reported for the Finance Committee. Ms. Thomas reviewed the Travel Authorization for the President, Chief Operating Officer, and Board of Trustees. Ms. Probst Mills made a motion to approve the Travel Authorization for the President, Chief Operating Officer, and Board of Trustees. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Thomas reported on the Eagle Internal Control Review. Ms. Thomas reported that the annual internal control review of Financial Aid, Finance, and Information Technology was completed with no exceptions. Ms. Probst Mills made a motion to approve the Eagle Internal Control Review. Mr. Clendenin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Probst Mills made a motion to ratify the email poll conducted earlier to approve 2022-2023 insurance rates as presented by McGriff Insurance. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Thomas reviewed information regarding the reclassification of uncollectable student accounts. Ms. Probst Mills made a motion to approve the reclassification of uncollectible student accounts (\$83,492.66). Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Probst Mills said that the Board now has the opportunity to approve course fees for the Commercial Driving License (CDL) program. Ms. Bauer presented information regarding the new program. Continuing Education anticipates offering the first course in September 2022. The class would run through December at a course fee of \$1200. Mr. Layne added that our partnership with Golden Leaf is instrumental in the implementing of this program. Ms. Probst Mills made a motion to approve the student fee of \$1200. Ms. Lovell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Probst Mills reviewed the status of the Financial Report and the State and County Bond Funds through June 30, 2022, with no Board action required. Ms. Probst Mills also reviewed the 2022-2023 Tuition and Registration fees with no Board action required.

Ms. Thomas reported there have been no changes in tuition registration fees for 2022-2023. No Board action required.

Ms. Thomas reported that a budget request of \$529,800 was submitted to Hoke County Commissioners resulting in a \$488,885 approved 2022-2023 Hoke County budget.

Mr. Layne said plans are in place to work with Hoke personnel to lay out a stronger argument for increases to the Hoke County budget in 2022-23 leading into the Hoke budget decisions. Mr. Little asked to be informed of future changes.

Mr. Evans stated that Personnel Action Items will be discussed in closed session.

Mr. Evans reviewed the 2022-2023 Holiday Schedule. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Holiday Schedule. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Evans asked that the Board review the Curriculum and Personnel Information items with no Board action required.

Mr. Evans noted the transition to NC Flex Savings Program moving forward. Human Resources will host a Benefits Fair on Oct 25, 2022.

Ms. Pickett reported for the Educational Programs Committee. Dr. Roush asked for approval of Association for Vascular Access agreement for free IV modules for the Nursing program. Mr. Little made a motion to approve the Association for Vascular agreement for free IV modules for the Nursing program. Ms. Pickett seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Roush reviewed information regarding the College catalog changes and updates. New programs have been added to the catalog, most of which are certificate programs. Also added are Building Construction Technology, Construction Management Technology programs, as well as a new track within Computer Engineering Technology that involves medical equipment support. Mr. Little made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 College Catalog changes. Ms. Pickett seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Also reviewed was the curriculum program closure of Industrial Systems Technology. This opportunity for industry-recognized training and certification will continue to be provided through Continuing Education. Mr. Little made a motion to approve the closure of the Industrial Systems Technology program. Ms. Probst Mills seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bauer asked for Board approval of Educational Leave Request for Kimberly Blue, Senior Director of Compliance and Accountability. Ms. Lovell made a motion to approve the Educational Leave Request for Kimberly Blue. Ms. Probst Mills seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clendenin reported for the Planning Committee. Policy changes are being updated and Board members will receive these changes via email. The changes will be submitted for approval during the October BOT meeting.

Mr. Clendenin asked that the College Strategic Plan (CSP) updates be submitted in advance of approval during the October BOT meeting. Mr. Clendenin will meet with staff to make revisions to the first draft of the plan on September 7, 2022. The Planning Committee will then meet on September 14, 2022, for a luncheon meeting to make any additional changes. The September 14, 2022, Planning Committee luncheon will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Planning and Research conference room. The Planning Committee as well as the Board of Trustees is invited to the luncheon. Mr. Clendenin asked that those who plan to attend call Lindsey Farmer to confirm. Board members will then receive in the mail a copy of the updated CSP for review before the October BOT meeting.

Dean Farmer reported that all summer CSP meetings with leadership across campus have been completed. VPs met with Dean Farmer and selected top priorities that will be included in this year's 2020 CSP. After review, the Board will have the opportunity to approve accordingly.

Dean Farmer reported that the College is currently set for SACSCOC reaffirmation. The entire compliance certification report is being written and is due March 1, 2023. The College is

required to respond to approximately 70 compliance certification standards, which is currently a work in progress. We will write our *Quality Enhancement Plan* project for 2023 and will request final Board approval at the time of completion. The actual SACSCOC on-site visit, which the Board is required to be a part of, will be October 9-12, 2023. Official affirmation is June 2024.

Ms. Pickett reported for the Student Affairs Committee. The committee met on August 22, 2022. Ms. Shoemake noted a short list of revisions in the student handbook. There is an increase in the number of student clubs; 19 clubs at present. The College welcomed a new director of student life, Dana Cuellar. Ms. Pickett made a motion to approve the *Student Handbook* for 2022-2023. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussion on the proposed Boys & Girls Club (BGCS) program on the Sandhills Pinehurst Campus centered on concerns related to the Dempsey Center location. Grades K through five will be serviced at the Pinehurst Campus. The three major concerns were related to the ability to shield BGCS participants from student and public engagement in an open area such as Petersen Dining Hall and privacy issues related to bathroom use and safety. It was determined to refocus the efforts to contain the program within Blue Hall where controlled restroom use is available in the small gymnasium and campus traffic is limited. The Board requested that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be modified and attorney vetted prior to distribution and to conduct a voice poll to approve the modified MOU.

Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the current MOU for operational purposes during the first two weeks of the program while modifications are made to address Board concerns. Modifications are to be reviewed by Attorney John May. The final MOU is to be made available to Board members via email for final approval. Ms. Pickett seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Farmer reported on the current status of the Sandhills Promise Program. Efforts have been intensified on the Hoke Campus to increase participants in the Promise. Dr. Farmer also addressed the challenges in the College's ability to recruit 30% of Hoke graduates to attend SCC in their freshman year. Dr. Farmer profiled the increased community presence of the student enrollment outreach team to expand contact below the 10<sup>th</sup> grade year into middle schools and elementary schools to better recruit students into the Promise Program. Dr. Farmer's team presented videos on Opening Day to include human interest stories and stories of success. The videos are also available for viewing on social media. Dr. Farmer met with Mr. Evans to discuss ideas to recruit and target a younger audience of students.

Ms. Shoemake reported on the current success of new student advocate, Emily Waldrop. The purpose of the student advocate role is to act as a liaison to students for on- and off-campus resources. Ms. Waldrop led the initiative to create a food bank on campus. During a spring food drive and thanks to *The Pilot*, the drive received additional support from the community. Thus far, 22 students have been assisted. Additionally, Ms. Waldrop participated in student coach

training. Ms. Waldrop is currently working with a student calendar which offers 42 days of student initiatives.

Ms. Elkins presented the Foundation Report. The Foundation received a sizeable gift for the Aviation Program from Doug and Ellen Leslie. The next Foundation Board meeting will be held on October 24, 2022. There will be a transition in Board chairs moving forward. J.J. Jackson will be successor to Kathy McPherson. There are three potential new directors to be considered for Board positions – Tom Beddow, Bruce Hockman, and Patricia Gallagher. A Foundation audit is currently underway. Staff members Ms. Thomas, Katie DuPont, and Karen Walker are working well with auditors. There are currently no red flags. The SCC annual golf tournament will be held on August 30, 2022, at the Southern Pines golf course. The Foundation is currently working with Jim Westman to update the photo displays in the Ball Visitors Center. The update will include a nicer, more polished representation of the history of the Sandhills Gardens. There will be a buffet at Weymouth House following tonight's Board of Trustees meeting, beginning at 6 p.m.

The Board went into closed session at 6:21 p.m.

Mr. Evans reported on Personnel Action for the Personnel Committee. He asked for Board approval for the promotion of Shenika Ward from Director of Finance to Dean of Campus Diversity and Cultural Programs. He also asked that Denise Nash, Ilona Pelerin, Carolyn Williams, Ashley Davis, and Taylor Cox be approved as faculty members at the college. The Board of Trustees decided to table all personnel action until they receive more information about positions. Upon receipt of that information, the Board of Trustees will conduct an email approval vote of those positions. No vote or second was taken on this motion, and it was withdrawn.

The Board reconvened at 7:28 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George Little, Chairman of the Board

Joseph Clendenin, Secretary of the Board