

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

**Sledge Board Room, Sandhills Community College, and via Zoom  
December 7, 2020, 5:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Trustees George Little, Chairman; Larry Caddell, Vice Chairman; Gary Evans; Joe Clendenin, Secretary; Gary Evans

**STAFF:** Dr. John Dempsey; Brenda Jackson; Teresa Sheets; Ron Layne; Dr. Rebecca Roush

**ZOOM / CONFERENCE CALL:** Irish Pickett; Dr. Sandy Stewart; Helen Probst Mills; Gene Horne; Dr. Larry Upchurch; Art Blue; Connie Lovell; Vincent Gordon; Dennis Lee, Megan Ramsey, SGA Presidents; Germaine Elkins; Dr. Twana McKnight; Dr. Kirk Lynch; Doug Smith; Libba Thomas; Nevius Toney; Jessica Locklear; Dr. Julie Voigt; Wendy Dodson

Mr. Little called the Board meeting to order at 5:00 pm. He read the statute regarding conflicts of interest 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. Horne made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Caddell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2020, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Dempsey asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Board of Sandhills Community College Trustees. Mr. Evans made a motion to elect Mr. Little as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Clendenin made a motion that the nominations be closed. Mr. Blue seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Little opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chairman. Mr. Evans made a motion to elect Mr. Caddell as Vice Chairman. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caddell made a motion to nominate Mr. Clendenin as Secretary to the Board. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caddell made a motion to elect John May as Board attorney. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lee presented the Student Government Association (SGA) Report. Mr. Lee reported that students have been involved in numerous projects during the semester. The SGA has taken part in many community service activities and continues to seek ways to involve the Hoke Campus moving forward. Mr. Lee thanked the Board for the opportunity to represent the student population during his term as SGA President.

Mr. Caddell reported for the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Mr. Caddell asked Dr. Dempsey to speak on plans for two recognitions. Dr. Mary Kay Thomas, the first African American graduate of SCC, will be honored with a sculpture to be placed in front of the Hoke Center. Cynthia Ann McDonald, the first female African American English professor, will be recognized with a plaque which will be placed on a stone near Logan Hall. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve recognitions for Dr. Thomas and Ms. McDonald. Ms. Probst Mills seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Dempsey reported on the Hoke High School of Math and Science project. Dr. Dempsey said that the Hoke project is a two-part project which will require discussion regarding the disposition of land as well as the acquisition of land. A meeting was held in late November with Dr. Freddie Williamson, Superintendent of Hoke County Schools, and the Hoke County Commissioners, to discuss the project. Dr. Dempsey is encouraged that the Hoke High School of Math and Science will be a wonderful asset for future enrollment at SCC just as the SandHoke Early College High School has been. Real estate considerations will be discussed in closed session.

Mr. Caddell presented information regarding Foundation Hall. Construction bids will go out January 11, 2021. Bond issuance is scheduled to take place on February 17, 2021. The construction contract will be awarded in March 2021 with a 24-month construction schedule.

Mr. Horne reported for the Finance Committee. Mr. Horne called on Dr. Roush to discuss the approval of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Fees. The fees for the new courses are largely to support course materials and software required for the certifications. Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the Continuing Education and Workforce Development fees as presented. Ms. Probst Mills seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Horne reviewed the Financial Report and the Status of State and County Bond Funds through October 31, 2020, with no Board action required.

Dr. Dempsey asked Mr. Little to share information regarding the budget for 2020/2021. Mr. Little recently attended a Trustee Executive Committee meeting whose purpose was to adopt a legislative program. Mr. Little said that discussion ensued towards the end of the meeting concerning decreased enrollment, which will affect future budgets. An additional concern was the task of re-opening the colleges. Dr. Roush stated that enrollment for spring semester shows a slight increase.

Mr. Evans reported for the Personnel Committee. Mr. Evans reviewed Personnel Action which included two new faculty appointments. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve both new hires. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Evans reviewed personnel information with no Board action required.

Ms. Dodson presented information regarding the OLE (Online Leadership Experience) Professional Development Program offered by the NC Community Colleges System. The program is open to all North Carolina Community College employees at no cost to the employee. The program offers a series of webinars which includes leadership opportunities and a mentoring program. Dr. Roush frequently sends out notifications regarding upcoming webinar topics.

Dr. Stewart presented the Educational Programs Committee report and called on Dr. Roush to review several points of interest. Dr. Roush reported that the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Program (GEER) has presented scholarship opportunities to Continuing Education. At the request of medical offices in the region, Continuing Education has developed a Certified Medical Assistant program. Under the direction of the System Office, the College will apply for a CT/MRI diploma, which is the highest category for this certification in order to offer the CT Certificate. Dr. Stewart made a motion to allow the College to apply for a CT/MRI diploma. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Dr. Roush reported that reorganization has taken place in the area of computer programs, simplifying the programs to benefit students. Dr. Roush asked for approval to officially close the Simulation Gaming and Digital Media programs. Moving forward, these programs will be included under the umbrella of other computer-based programs. Dr. Stewart made a motion to close the Digital Media and Simulation Gaming programs. Mr. Blue seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clendenin reported for the Planning Committee. Mr. Clendenin said that the four-year College Strategic Plan (CSP) will be in draft format before Christmas break. A copy will be sent to the Planning Committee members for their review. The committee will meet in January to consolidate submitted recommendations. Board members will receive a copy of the CSP before the February retreat. The CSP will be voted on at the February meeting. Mr. Clendenin called on Mr. Layne to give an athletics update. Mr. Layne reported that golf and cross-country teams have completed the fall semester, with the golf team winning all events in which they participated. Mr. Layne reported that there were four confirmed COVID athletes during the fall semester and emphasized the importance of strict protocol concerning COVID testing within the athletic community. A meeting will be held on December 11 to determine if sports will move forward.

Dr. Upchurch reported that the Student Affairs Committee had no additional information to submit. Dr. Dempsey reviewed COVID numbers to date. He commended Officer Joe Steppe in his duties of performing contract tracing. Ms. Probst Mills asked if SCC students, faculty, and staff have been encouraged to download the free Slow COVID phone application from the Department of Health and Human Services. The application alerts the individual as to whether they have been in proximity of anyone who has tested positive for COVID. Dr. Dempsey asked Ms. Probst Mills to email information regarding the application to him.

Ms. Elkins presented the Foundation Report. The Foundation annual campaign mailing was delayed until two weeks before Thanksgiving. Ms. Elkins met with Vice President Shoemake; Financial Aid Director, Shenika Ward; Veteran's Affairs Director, Teresa Taylor; and a donor couple who is making a six-figure gift to the Veteran's Center in January 2021. The donation will allow the Center to repurpose an office for a counseling center, and will provide a quiet place for veterans and students to decompress. The gift will also allow the Center to bring in a part-time staff member who will focus on retention efforts of the military population on campus.

Dr. Dempsey presented the President's Report. Dr. Dempsey read a letter from a faculty member offering thanks on behalf of all faculty and staff for the stipend received in October. Dr. Dempsey presented gifts to attending Board members to include dinner at Wolcott's for all Board members and their guest. Kennon Briggs will visit on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, and will meet and share information with four SCC individuals interested in becoming a college president.

Mr. Little presented an update to the Trustees before going into closed session. Mr. Little offered thanks to the Board of Trustees for their contributions to the welfare of the College and to Dr. Dempsey for his great leadership and service. Mr. Little also commended the staff, faculty, and students of SCC.

Mr. Clendenin made a motion for the Board to go into closed session. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 6:05 pm.

The Board of Trustees left closed session at 6:45 pm.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George Little, Chairman of the Board

Joseph Clendenin, Secretary of the Board