



Ratified at November 20, 2019 meeting

**Board of Trustees Meeting
October 16, 2019**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at 3 PM in the Event Room of the Student Center on the Valhalla campus.

Trustees Present:

Hon. John Nonna, Chairperson, Hon. Andrew Spano, Vice-Chairperson, (via zoom video), Robin Bikkal, Esq., Toni Cox-Burns, Charles Greco, Deborah Raizes (via zoom video), Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, Betsy Stern, and Yolanda Howell, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Trustees Excused:

Dr. LeRoy Mitchell, Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Norman Jacknis.

Cabinet Members Present:

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President, Dr. Vanessa Morest, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, Brian Murphy, Vice President and Dean of Administrative Services, Eve Larner, Vice President and Dean, External Affairs, Executive Director, WCC Foundation, Anthony Scordino, Vice President, Information Technology, Tere Wisell, Vice President and Dean, Continuing Education and Workforce Development, Dr. Sara Thompson Tweedy, Vice President and Dean of Student Access, Involvement, & Success.

Call to Order

Chairperson John Nonna called the meeting to order.

Ratification of Minutes

Trustee Stern made a motion seconded by Trustee Robeson Smith to ratify the minutes of the September 18, 2019 Board meeting. The motion passed.

INFORMATION AND DECISION

A. President's Report

Dr. Belinda S. Miles reported:

President Miles reported:

- We welcomed sixteen students to the new honors cohort.
- The New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) conference in Saratoga, New York. Thank you to Trustees Mitchell and Spano for attending.
- We celebrated a dual admissions signing with Pace University.
- Faculty Convocation
- EOC Rebranding meeting
- Strategic Planning town hall
- Budget town hall

Dr. Miles introduced Professor John Watkins. Professor Watkins addressed the Board and gave an overview of the Cybersecurity program at Westchester Community College.

B. Board Chair's Report

Trustee Nonna reported:

- Congratulations to Professor Watkins for receiving a letter of distinction from the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education.
- The New York State Commission on Public Campaign Financing held a meeting on the Valhalla campus.
- New York Times article - **Where 4-Year Schools Find a Pool of Applicants: 2-Year Schools, By Laura Pappano.**
 - *“Community colleges are the workhorses of higher education. They don’t charge a lot and they take everybody. It’s why nearly a third of college students in the United States attend one. They often are treated as places where workers retrain, add technical skills and earn job certifications. But they also have a quieter role, helping students earn two-year degrees that prepare them to transfer to a four-year college. In our status-conscious higher education hierarchy, however, the firepower of those campuses and their students is often overlooked.”*

I thought that two words in this article describe us perfectly – Workhorses and Firepower. We have firepower and you all work so hard to help students.

C. Committees

Governance

Trustee Spano reported:

The Governance committee had discussion on the following topics.

- New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) conference in Saratoga

Program Committee Report

Trustee Spano reported:

The Program committee had discussion on the following topics.

- Strategic Plan
 - Today's meeting was a joint meeting with the Board and the Strategic Planning committee.
 - The plan represents a lot of work with multiple people on campus.

Student Trustee Report

Trustee Greco reported:

- Recognized SGA Secretary Alexander Meltzer-Werner who was in attendance
- The Student Government Association (SGA) now has a full government
- Ad Hoc Committees
 - Technology
 - Health & Wellness
 - Civic Engagement
 - Space Utilization

Finance/Facilities

Trustee Nonna reported:

Trustee Nonna asked Vice President Brian Murphy to go over the forecast for the month ending September 30, 2019 and the contracts.

Vice President Murphy presented the contracts to the Board.

Resolution: Contract Ratification

WHEREAS, Westchester Community College is required to enter into agreements for the continued operation of the College; and

WHEREAS, the attached schedule represents those agreements approved by the College since the last meeting of the Board of Trustees; therefore
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College hereby ratifies the aforementioned agreements.

<u>CONTRACT #</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR NAME</u>	<u>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
200240442 - FAC	MENGER MECHANICAL	Emergency repair to HAAB natural gas main service.	10/2/19 – 10/31/19	\$8,000
200240443 – FAC	CON EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.	Emergency repair to HAAB natural gas service. Install temporary bottling of gas to building and maintain the gas service.	10/2/19 – 10/31/19	\$6,000
200310444 - SPS	SHARON BELL	Provide sign language interpreting service for people with hearing impairments dependent on non-verbal communication.	10/31/19 – 12/31/19	\$10,000
209526199 - CE	ORION DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INC.	Vendor agreement with training provider (Orion Development Group). Funded by Grant:703-9997-5440800-9526-1819. Additional training costs that exceeded contract amt of \$21,600. Funds received. Total \$23,400.	12/1/18 – 11/30/19	\$1,800 (Grant Funds)

****Motion: Stern/Robeson Smith – all in favor**

Hurricane Victim In-State Tuition Bahamas

WHEREAS, Hurricane Dorian made landfall on the Abaco islands as a Category Five (5) hurricane on September 1, 2019 and remained over the Bahama Islands through September 3, 2019, causing an estimated \$7.0B in damage and leading to at least fifty (50) deaths; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York and the State University of New York (“SUNY”) have a long history of partnering with those in need; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo has called upon SUNY and the City University of New York to provide resident rates of tuition to students from the Bahamas displaced by the Hurricane; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2019, the SUNY Board of Trustees duly passed a resolution authorizing the SUNY Chancellor to amend the SUNY guidelines governing residency for tuition purposes to make undergraduate and graduate students from the Bahamas who have been displaced by Hurricane Dorian eligible for resident tuition rates for the 2019/20 academic year at SUNY State operated institutions; and,

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2019, the SUNY Board of Trustees duly passed a resolution encouraging the boards of trustees of the thirty (30) community colleges operating under the program of SUNY, to take similar action or to otherwise provide assistance

and support to facilitate the ability of these students to continue their academic studies at SUNY; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College hereby authorizes students from the Bahamas who have been displaced by Hurricane Dorian to be eligible for resident tuition rates for the 2019/20 academic year in accordance with the amended SUNY guidelines governing residency for tuition purposes.

****Motion: Stern/Robeson Smith – all in favor**

Aspen Fellowship

Chairman Nonna informed the members of the Board that Dr. Belinda Miles has been nominated to apply for a fellowship with the Aspen Group. This nomination/application requires Board approval.

****Motion: Nonna/Stern – all in favor.**

Public Comment

Chairman Nonna invited members of the community for public comment

SGA Secretary Alexander Meltzer-Werner addressed the Board and expressed excitement about being able to work with the Board of Trustees.

Adjournment

****Motion: Greco/Robeson Smith – all in favor.**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for November 20, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda Howell

Yolanda Howell
Secretary, Board of Trustees