



Ratified at May 15, 2019 meeting

**Board of Trustees Meeting
April 17, 2019**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College held on Wednesday, April 17, 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), Dr. LeRoy Mitchell, Vice-Chairperson, Robin Bikkal, Esq., Toni Cox-Burns, Dr. Norman Jacknis, Elizabeth Lugones, Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, Betsy Stern, and Yolanda Howell, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Trustees Excused:

Deborah Raizes.

Cabinet Members Present:

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President, Dr. Vanessa Morest, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, Dr. Shawn Brown, Chief of Staff, Brian Murphy, Vice President and Dean of Administrative Services, 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 Mitchell made a motion seconded by Trustee Lugones to ratify the minutes of the March 20, 2019 Board meeting. The motion passed.

INFORMATION AND DECISION

A. President's Report

Dr. Belinda S. Miles reported:

President Miles gave updates on the following:

- The Environmental Sustainability event
- Ceremonial tree planting and dedication ceremony in memory of Dr. Joseph N. Hankin.
- Commencement speaker for this year
 - Larry Woodard, President and CEO of Graham Stanley Advertising – speaker at Staff Council Professional Development Day
- Strategic planning report
 - Co-facilitators Phil McGrath and Dawn Gillins hosted a college-wide focus group last week to work on a vision statement, which the board will remember was tabled last year following the values project; more than 100 attendees and good engagement; next event is Summit on May 3
- Center for the Arts
 - We are continuing our discussions with the County

Dr. Miles then introduced Gelaine Williams, Counselor/Coordinator, Career Services Center to give a summary of today's career expo where students network with employers and alumni.

B. Board Chair's Report

Trustee Nonna reported:

- We are looking forward to Commencement on May 16.
- On April 28 at 2 pm there will memorial service in honor of our former President Dr. Joseph N. Hankin.
- I attended the sustainability conference earlier today. It is great to see our students so engaged in these issues.
- We have been spending a lot of time working on the budget for the upcoming year.

C. Committees

Governance

Trustee Spano reported:

The Governance committee had discussion on the following topics.

- Faculty Student Association contract
- Evaluation of the Board and the evaluation of the President
- Criteria for awarding of Honorary Degrees
 - We would like to award the first Honorary Degree to Dr. Joseph N. Hankin

Resolution

Posthumous honorary degree for Dr. Joseph N. Hankin

WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph N. Hankin was a first-generation college student similar to those who attend Westchester Community College today; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hankin earned his bachelor of arts degree in social science from City College and his master of arts in history and doctor of education degrees from Columbia University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hankin served as President of Harford Community College in Maryland from 1967 until 1971 and President of Westchester Community College from 1971 until his retirement in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hankin was a widely recognized national leader, prolific writer, and speaker with numerous published works in the community college field; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hankin was renowned as one of the most effective presidents of two-year and four-year colleges and universities in the nation by the Exxon Educational Foundation and the University of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hankin served for thirty years as an adjunct professor at Teachers College, Columbia University, inspiring students from across the country through teaching and serving on doctoral committees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hankin presided over a period of bold growth and expansion at Westchester Community College that increased access to higher education and included more than doubling enrollment, expanding facilities on the main campus, and opening extension locations around the County; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Dr. Hankin in January this year presents a unique and extraordinary circumstance to recognize and honor his contributions to community college education; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to the college's by-laws and Education Law of the State of New York, the Board of Trustees hereby awards Dr. Joseph N. Hankin the posthumous degree of Associate of Arts, *honoris causa*, at Commencement on May 16, 2019.

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

Program Committee Report

Trustee Jacknis reported:

The Program Committee had discussion on the following topics.

- Workforce Development and human education programs including English as a second language
- The awarding of sabbaticals

Trustee Jacknis made a motion to delegate to the President the decision as to whether to grant sabbaticals.

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

Student Trustee Report

Trustee Lugones reported:

- Rafakatu Abubakar has been selected as the SUNY Student Assembly Liaison of the year. (This means that she was the most active and most responsive liaison from SUNY campus to the SUNY Assembly.
- Student Government elections are complete and there is a new Executive Board. Today we have Charles Greco our new student trustee in attendance.

Finance/Facilities

Trustee Mitchell reported:

- I recently attend the NYCCT conference in Syracuse. My report is in your folder.

The Finance committee had discussion on the following topics.

- Tuition – Our main focus for the college is affordability.
 - Our tuition remains competitive.

Resolution: Approval of the 19/20 College Operating Budget

***WHEREAS,** Westchester Community College seeks to provide accessible, high quality and affordable education and related services to meet the needs of its diverse community; and*

***WHEREAS,** Westchester Community College must balance financial stability with affordability to ensure the continued success of its mission; therefore be it*

***RESOLVED,** that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College herewith approves the College’s 2019/20 Unrestricted Operating Budget Request in the amount of \$98,162,000; and be it further*

***RESOLVED,** that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College authorizes a tuition increase of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per semester from Two Thousand One Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$2,190.00) to Two Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$2,290.00) for credit courses, an equivalent increase of 4.6% for non-credit courses, a change to the application fee from Thirty-Five Dollars (\$35.00) to Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), and an increase in the Science Lab Fees from Ten Dollars (\$10.00) to Forty Dollars (\$40.00).*

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

Trustee Mitchell asked Vice President Brian Murphy to go over the forecast for the month ending March 31, 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>
199393412 – FAC	EMPIRE MECHANICAL SERVICES	Construction and installation of split HVAC system in the Classroom Building Cyber Security lab	4/1/19 -3/31/20	\$13,750 (grant funds)

<u>CONTRACT #</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR NAME</u>	<u>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
190245417 – FAC	RED HAWK FIRE & SECURITY	Service, repair and update multiple fire suppression systems located in the Children’s Center, Student Center and Science Building	5/1/19 – 4/30/20	\$4,882 (\$1,389 to be reimbursed by FSA)

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

Public Comment

Chairman Nonna invited members of the community for public comment

Marijana Kocho

Addressed the Board regarding the Center for the Arts.

Clare Palermo Flower

Addressed the Board regarding the Center for the Arts.

Leslie Anders

Addressed the Board regarding the Center for the Arts.

Heather Ostman

Addressed the Board regarding the Westchester Community College Faculty Teachers Union moving into elections and possible conflicts of interest.

Adjournment

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

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for May 15, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda Howell

Yolanda Howell
Secretary, Board of Trustees