



Ratified at May 18, 2022 meeting

**Board of Trustees Meeting
April 20, 2022**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 3 PM via zoom video conference.

Trustees Present:

Dr. LeRoy Mitchell, Chairperson, Dr. Norman Jacknis, Vice-Chairperson, Robin Bikkal Esq., Susan Gerry, Hon. John Nonna, Hon. Lyndon Williams and Yolanda Howell, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Trustees Excused:

Deborah Raizes Vice Chairperson, Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith.

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, Dolores Swirin Yao, 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.

Call to Order

Chairperson LeRoy Mitchell called the meeting to order.

Ratification of Minutes

Trustee Nonna made a motion seconded by Trustee Gerry to ratify the minutes of the March 16, 2022, Board meeting. The motion passed.

INFORMATION AND DECISION

A. President's Report

Dr. Belinda S. Miles reported:

President Miles gave updates on the following:

- **Greetings:** We are in full spring semester mode with celebrations of achievement well underway.

Student Excellence:

- SUNY Film Festival Awards:
 - Digital Filmmaking student Paulina Jaskiewicz received the Grand Jury Award for her film, “Wide Open Dreams.” Of special note: while several WCC students have had their films accepted into the Festival, Paulina is the first WCC student to win an award and the only community college student in the festival’s 11-year history to win the prestigious Grand Jury Award!

Community/Partner/Emerging Opportunities:

- PepsiCo Campus Visit:

Members of PepsiCo’s national leadership and Senior PepsiCo Foundation representatives will visit our Valhalla campus early next month to meet a few of our *Uplift/SMILE* student scholars. We are especially honored by their request to visit, especially since they refer to WCC as their “flagship” campus in the Uplift program.

- Carnegie Mellon University Collaboration: NSF National AI Intelligence Research Institute Proposal
- SUNY Cannabis Industry Workforce Development Funding
- 2023 Federal Funding Opportunity: One-time appropriations request.
 - Two projects submitted:
 - Equipment for Fitness Center
 - Equipment for Engineering Lab

Dr. Miles then introduced Associate Dean of Student Life Adam Frank for PTK news.

Dean Frank introduced students Anthony Rispo (PTK Chapter President) and Guadalupe (Lupe) Conde (Vice President of Service) to give a brief presentation to the Board regarding Phi Theta Kappa.

B. Board Chair’s Report

Trustee Mitchell reported:

Accreditation

- Middle States Self-Study

- Dr. Robert Bonfiglio, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Vice President for Institutional Field Relations conducted meetings today with our college community as part of our Self-study process. We thank all who participated or attended the Open Session. This is a critical first step in our self-study preparation.
- Two to three BOT members will liaise regularly with the self-study core team.
 - John Nonna and Deborah Raizes have volunteered to be part of the team
- Joint Advisory Statement on Boards and Accreditation, March 31, 2022
 - "Board members lack a solid understanding of what accreditation is," says a report issued by AGB and CHEA in the face of stress on the system.

This is not the case at Westchester Community College. Our board members are engaged.

Chancellor Search

- Kristine Duffy, President, SUNY Adirondack, Chair, New York Association of Community College Presidents (NYCCAP) has been appointed to be part of the Chancellor search.

Guided Pathways Institute

- The Institute is taking place virtually this week. I am planning on attending some of the sessions. Trustees Nonna and Raizes will also attend some of the sessions.

New York State Budget

- Highlights include:
 - No reductions to 2021/22 Direct State Tax funding levels, for any programs or campuses
 - Increased levels of capital investment (\$660.0M above the annual \$550.0M), \$53.0M in support for new Full-Time Faculty and benefit costs, and support for growth in programs such as EOP, Maritime Scholarships, and Mental Health
 - Increased investment in New York State's students, through expansion of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for part-time students, returning the ability for incarcerated individuals to receive TAP, and removing work requirements for childcare subsidies for students
 - Elimination, in a single year, of the existing SUNY Tuition Credit (TAP Gap) as well as elimination of the "Excelsior Tuition Rate Lag" by re-setting the rate of tuition charged to Excelsior scholarship recipients to 2022/23

levels, which will then re-set annually to current year levels; an approximate \$62.0M benefit to SUNY Schools

- Reduced debt service requirements on our SUNY Hospitals, and one-time investment in childcare (\$10.8M) and campus/college/hospital operations (\$60.0M) that are intended to increase enrollment, strengthen academic programs, and support the evolution of the SUNY System.

NYCCT

Will have their meeting in September in Saratoga. They are currently accepting nominations for their annual awards

ACCT

Will meet in October in New York City.

Election of Board Officers

A nominating committee has been formed.

- Trustee John Nonna
- Trustee Gregory Robeson Smith
- Trustee Susan Gerry.

The committee will report back at our May meeting.

New Student Leaders

Congratulations to the new student leaders who were recently elected. We look forward to working with you.

C. Committees

Governance

Trustee Gerry reported:

The Governance committee had discussion on the following topics.

- New College Logo Reveal
- 2022 President Evaluation
- 2022 Board Self-Evaluation
- Committee of the Whole Meetings
- Shaping the agenda for our summer retreat
- Discussed the nominating committee for the election of Board Officers

Program Committee Report

Trustee Jacknis reported:

The Program committee had discussion on the following topics.

- General Education Curriculum – How is diversity represented?
- Faculty Professional Development - DEI

Self-Study

Middle States will be part of the Program Committee agenda for the foreseeable future

Trustee Jacknis introduced a video about first generation college students

Finance/Facilities

Trustee Mitchell reported:

The Finance committee had discussion on the following topics.

- Operating Forecast
- Capital Projects Update
- Contracts
- Facility Use Policy
- WCC 2022/2023 Operating Budget Presentation for approval by the College Board of Trustees

Trustee Mitchell asked Vice President Brian Murphy to go over the forecast for the month ending March 31, 2022 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>
21-0240-230-FAC	American Petroleum Equipment and Construction Company, Inc.	Amend contract for additional work to meet requirements of health & safety codes regarding fuel tanks.	2/1/21 – 1/31/22	\$3,069.22 <i>(original amt \$11,115 from 12/16/20 BOT)</i>
WCC-22-929-FAC	Macan Deve Engineers, DPC	Perform a design study on the Hartford Hall Daikin mini-split HVAC system.	7/1/22 – 12/31/22	\$9,200

<u>CONTRACT #</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR NAME</u>	<u>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
22-8102-318-PDC	NYS & CSEA Partnership for Education and Training	Provider Agreement for tuition voucher program with NYS & CSEA partnership for education and training.	4/1/22 – 3/31/23	\$15,000 (Revenue)
22-0240-317-FAC	National Standby Repair, Inc.	Replace Children Center generator transfer switch	5/1/22 – 12/31/22	\$6,995
22-0240-519-FAC	Valhalla Contracting Corp.	Replace three fire hydrants.	5/1/22 – 12/31/22	\$20,985
22-0240-518-FAC	Valhalla Contracting Corp.	Masonry repairs behind observatory/emergency exit area at Academic Arts Building.	5/1/22 – 12/31/22	\$26,750

****Motion: Mitchell/Nonna – all in favor**

Resolution: Approval of the 2022-23 College Operating Budget with Tuition and Fee Increases

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 2022/23 Unrestricted Operating Budget Request in the amount of \$101,424,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College authorizes a tuition increase of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per semester from Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$2,365.00) to Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$2,415.00) for full-time credit courses and an equivalent increase of 2.1% for part-time credit courses; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the following fee increases effective Fall 2022: 3% increase in Children’s Center fees; an increase in the Student Activity Fee from \$7.50 per credit to \$8.50 per credit up to a maximum of 12 credits; an increase in the Student Services Fee from \$4.00 to \$4.50 per credit up to a maximum of 12 credits; establishment of a \$50 fee for students electing a Bursar Deferment.

****Motion: Mitchell/Nonna – all in favor**

Trustee Gerry reported:

BOT Policy on Ethical Governance

Resolution - POLICY on ETHICAL GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, Section 6306 of New York State Education Law establishes community college boards of trustees and delineates the number, term, appointing authorities, and powers of trustees; and

WHEREAS, In New York State, community college trustees are public officials subject to NYS Public Officers Law, and in Westchester County, community college trustees are subject to Westchester County Code of Ethics.; and

WHEREAS, By law, trustees of Westchester Community College take an oath of office to abide by these regulations. To create an environment that supports collegial and productive board leadership,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Trustees of Westchester Community College supplement the state and county laws by endorsing the ACCT Guide to Ethical Governance as an expectation for professional conduct and ethical responsibility of board member service at Westchester Community College.

****Motion: Gerry/Nonna – all in favor**

Public Comment

Trustee Mitchell invited members of the community for public comment

- SGA President Brenda Herrera informed the trustees of the election of the new student trustee, Lucas Peixoto. President Herrera also gave an update from the SGA Board.
- Dr. Rinardo Reddick thanked the Board for the updates regarding DEI. Dr. Reddick also sent his congratulations to the new SGA Board and to PTK.

Adjournment

****Motion: Mitchell/Jacknis – all in favor.**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for May 18, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda Howell

Yolanda Howell
Secretary, Board of Trustees