

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JULY 29, 2015 ~ MINUTES

A working retreat of the Board of Trustees was held at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, 10630 Fremont Pike, Perrysburg, Ohio.

Call to Order – Chair Rich Rowe called the meeting to order at 12:44 p.m. and directed the record to show the meeting was held in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and the policies of the Board of Trustees.

Roll Call – Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mary Beth Hammond, Srinivas Hejeebu, Ronald McMaster, Edwin Nagle, Rich Rowe, Diana Talmage and Thomas Uhler (7).

Chair Rowe commented that the purpose of the special meeting was a half-day retreat to follow up from the March 13, 2015 retreat. He noted at the July 15, 2015 special meeting, the President provided an executive summary of the financial recovery plan, which included presidential priorities, and the College, through the engagement of Burges and Burges Strategists, was in the concluding stages of a feasibility study to explore the potential for a charter change. He stated that as defined by Ohio Revised Code 3354.12, a community college has local appointments to the board of trustees and is able to place the question of a tax levy for local funding for capital and operating expenses on a ballot in its respective counties. He commented that an exhibit is reserved on the agenda for such item(s), as may be recommended by the President.

President's Report – President Mike Bower noted the financial recovery plan is for a three-year period, and the College must plan for the long-term beyond two sources of revenue in order to focus on preparing students and communities for jobs for the future. A first step is to look at amending the College charter. At the invitation of President Bower, Steve Robinson, Vice President of Academic Affairs, spoke on the financial recovery plan stabilizing the College in the short-term; however, changing the charter would allow diversification of the revenue stream for the long-term. He referenced Judith Rodin's book, The Resilience Dividend, on building capacity to withstand stress or disruptions. He commented that strong regions have strong community colleges and local support can help the College be a leader in advancing educational attainment and job skills; provide affordable, quality programs and develop collaborations and partnerships as a full community college. Using an analogy of the stability of a three-legged stool, he explained that maintaining balance is challenging with two sources (state support and tuition) of revenue, which may be limited based on what is available at the state level, while a third source such as local support would steady, assist and enhance in supporting student persistence, retention and completion. Additionally, he observed that local support is the purest form of performance-based funding, accountability and indicates an institution's value in the community. Dave Cannon, Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, commented that state capital appropriations are unable to keep pace with deferred maintenance or depreciation. The following question was considered, "How might the College provide education and training or to grow services, if the State may not able to provide for higher education in the future?"

At the invitation of President Bower, Bill Burges, President, and Vanessa Tey Iosue, Executive Vice President, Burges and Burges Strategists with LJR Custom Strategies presented key findings of a June 2015 survey of voters age 18-54 in the Ohio counties of Wood, Lucas, Hancock and in the school districts of Woodmore and Genoa. Based on a summary of public perception of the

value of the College, the following questions were considered, “Would the next step of amending the charter be worthwhile?” “Are there any disadvantages to being a community college?”

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION 2015-07-29-01

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, in accordance with section 3358.02 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Board of Trustees authorizes the President to pursue the necessary steps with the Chancellor of Higher Education toward amending the charter of Owens State Community College into a community college, as defined in section 3354.01 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Mr. Nagle made a motion to approve the recommendation of the President, which was seconded by Mr. Uhler. Following a voice vote, the motion was adopted.

Statements and Comments by Members of the Board of Trustees – Trustee Hammond commented on her excitement, passion and being in the community for Owens Community College. She also commented on participating in the September 19, 2015 Ready, Set, Go! 5K run/walk at the Findlay Campus to raise funds toward an emergency assistance program to support Findlay Campus students who may encounter unexpected financial burdens that may threaten their ability to continue their education.

Adjournment – As there was no further business to come before the Board of Trustees, Chair Rowe declared the meeting adjourned.