

**Joint Meeting Minutes of the CCC and TI Board of Trustees,  
Caldwell County Commissioners, and Caldwell County Board of Education**

**Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

The CCC&TI Board of Trustees met in joint session with the Caldwell County Commissioners and the Caldwell County Board of Education on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 12:00 noon in Room 206 at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center.

**Board members present were:**

Larry W. Taylor-Chairman, Jerry T. Church, James M. Bradshaw, Wongalee Thomas, William Stone, Ann E. Smith, Joel Carroll, William Winkler, Lowell Younce, Katelynn Hollar-SGA

**Board members absent:**

Alvin W. Daughtridge, James Sponenberg, Chris Barlowe, Dale Hamby, Candice Hagaman

**Caldwell County Commissioners present:**

Donald Duncan-County Manager, Jimmy Harrison-Deputy County Manger, Donnie Potter, Jeff Branch, Robbie Wilkie, Abby Rich-County Clerk

**Caldwell County Board of Education present:**

Dr. Don Phipps-Superintendent, Darrell Pennell, BJ Fore, Chris Becker, Teresa Branch, Mark Gerson, Joe Sims, Ann Edwards

**CCC&TI Staff and others present:**

Dr. Mark Poarch-President, Dr. Jason Chaffin, Donnie Bassinger, Dr. Dena Holman, Susan Wooten, Liz Silvers, Ronald Holste, Lauren Saunders, Marla Christie, Martin Hubner, Amy Bowman, Donna Church and guests Senator Dean Proctor, Jeff Link and Maggie Murray.

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order and asked Wongalee Thomas to give the Invocation.

**ETHICS  
STATEMENT**

Trustee Joel Carroll reviewed the following Ethics Statement with Board members:

*In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Board today? If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved.  
(N.C.G.S. 138A-15 (e))*

**OATH OF  
OFFICE**

Notary Public Donna Church swore in one new board member. Mr. James M. Bradshaw was appointed by the Governor and will serve the remainder of Ron Bean's term, which ends June 30, 2025.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

The Board of Trustees, Commissioners, and the Board of Education introduced themselves. Comments were shared by all. Dr. Poarch and Chairman Taylor thanked all for their continued support of the college and the great partnerships we share.

**CCC&TI  
UPDATE**

Dr. Poarch thanked Senator Proctor for all he has done for the community colleges. While showing a slide show of various happenings on campus and the construction projects, he announced that our enrollment is up 47 students. Dr. Poarch gave an update on enrollment in curriculum, adult learners, and short-term workforce. Our Hispanic population was approximately 1% in 2006, but today it is up to 11%. Dr. Poarch announced that the best thing we do within our system is the Career and College Promise program. This program saves families in Caldwell County over \$1,000,000 a year in tuition costs.

Dr. Poarch announced that we received a \$425,000 grant for the substation program. We were also allocated an additional \$39,000,000 for the health sciences building that will allow us to put all of our health sciences programs in the one location. He also showed slides for the other projects we are currently involved in, which consist of the Intramural Athletic Field and expansion on our Watauga Campus. Donnie Bassinger announced that we have completed the programming phase, and getting ready for the schematic design, and the design development for the health sciences building. We will also add additional parking. Donnie also informed the board that by the end of the week, they will be removing trees from the Athletic Field. Slides were shown of the athletic field and Donnie announced that it will take approximately 8-9 months to complete the Athletic Field. We will also add an additional 10,000 sq. ft. to the Occupational Training Facility that will house nursing and construction trades.

**ATHLETICS  
PRESENTATION**

Jeff Link, Executive Director, Student Engagement and Educational Partnerships/Athletic Director, gave an overview of our athletics and where our teams are at this point. Volleyball is the newest addition to our athletics program. Since 2021, we have had seven regular season championships and three Region 10 tournament championships. He also announced that we have one of our baseball players that has signed a major league contract with the Giants.

Maggie Murray, Assistant Athletic Director announced that the average GPA for our athletes is 3.05. Our athletes have visited four of our elementary schools in the last year. They read, greeted students, etc. We have a total of 97 student athletes, with the majority being in baseball. Eighty-five are from North Carolina, ten are out-of-state students, and nine are Caldwell County natives. Jeff informed the board that housing is the biggest challenge for our athletes. We have 54 renting in Caldwell County, 18 in Catawba County and at least 24 that either live at home, or in Wilkes, Burke or Alexander County.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Jerry Church and seconded by Bill Stone to approve the September Meeting Minutes (**Attachment A**) as shown. The motion carried.

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

**Executive Committee:** No report.

**Athletics Committee:** No report

**Building and Grounds Committee:**

Committee Chairman Bill Stone announced that we submitted a 3-1 Form when we first started the Health Sciences Building and now, we will have to submit a revised 3-1 Form in the amount of \$64,578,976.

Chairman Stone informed the board that the 3-1 Form as shown in **Attachment B-1** is for the amended amount of funds needed for the new Health Sciences Building. The original 3-1 Form that was submitted in the amount of \$23,000,000 was based on original estimated building costs and funds available. ClarkNexsen Architects now estimate that a total of \$64,578,976 is needed for the project. The new 3-1 Form reflects funds currently available in the amount of \$64,578,976 as follows: a special appropriation of \$23,000,000 was allotted to CCC&TI in 2021; a special appropriation of \$9,000,000 allotted in 2023-24; a special appropriation of \$30,000,000 allotted in 2024-25; state funds from the State Capital Infrastructure Fund in the amount of \$2,578,976. Chairman Stone recommended, on behalf of the Building and Grounds Committee, approval of the revised 3-1 Form (**Attachment B-1**) as presented. Motion carried.

**Curriculum Committee:** No report

**Finance Committee:**

Committee Chairman Jerry Church made a motion to approve, as presented, the Interim Financial Summary Report for September 2023 (**Attachment C**). The motion carried

Chairman Church presented, for information purposes, the Foundation Audit (**Blue Folder**).

**Personnel Committee:**

Bill Stone in the absence of Committee Chairman Alvin Daughtridge presented, for information, the following resignation: Resignation of Brandon Cockerham, FT Truck Driver Training Instructor (**Attachment D**).

**Policy and Legislative Committee:** No report

**SGA  
REPORT**

SGA President, Katelynn Hollar announced that the SGA will be holding Trunk or Treat on Oct. 26, 2023 for the students and community.

**PRESIDENT'S  
COMMENTS**

Dr. Poarch welcomed Mr. James Bradshaw to the board as a new trustee.

Dr. Poarch informed the board that the campus has suffered a loss with the passing of one of its employees. Alicia Hartley passed away on campus. We are doing all we can to help with the grief of the loss. Our first responders did a wonderful job, and so did our college team. It was a horrible situation. Flowers were sent to the service and many college employees were there.

Dr. Poarch presented, for information, the Civic Center Monthly Report for September 2023 (**Attachment F**) and Letters, News Articles and Board Highlights (**Attachment H**).

Dr. Poarch presented, for information, the Western Carolina University Graduates (**Attachment F**). This document shows that 52 of our CCC&TI students graduated from Western Carolina University. He is proud to showcase that many of our students are on the path to a 4-year degree.

Dr. Poarch announced that he will be in Raleigh tomorrow to attend the NCACCP meeting to go through the budget, but the biggest news is the \$39,000,000, and 7% salary increase for employees, with 4% being given this year and 3% next year. Additional salary money is in the

budget, but we don't know yet how it will be allocated: \$7 million in recurring funds for nursing faculty and \$19,000,000 in recurring funds for faculty who teach Tier 1A and 1B courses. There are also funds to expand the nursing and health care programs. He will keep everyone informed of any other information he receives.

**CHAIRMAN'S  
COMMENTS**

Chairman Taylor announced that Trustee Ron Beane has resigned his trustee position as shown in **Attachment I**. We wish Ron the best, but we are very lucky to have James Bradshaw fill this position. Mr. Bradshaw informed the board that he grew up in Caldwell County and was a student at CCC&TI. He also worked with Mr. Beane at West Caldwell High School for 10 years. He is now retired.

Chairman Taylor presented, for information, the letter from the West Caldwell High School Hall of Fame Committee (**Attachment J**). This letter is showing that the committee has selected Dr. Poarch to be inducted into the WCHS Hall of Fame in the 23-24 school year. All congratulated Dr. Poarch.

Chairman Taylor presented for information the Calendar of Events (**Attachment K**) and Future Board meeting dates and upcoming meetings and events calendar.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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Donna Church, Recording Secretary

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Ann E. Smith, Board Secretary/Treasurer