

**Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

The Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. in the Forlines Boardroom

**Board Members present:**

Larry Taylor-Chairman, Jerry Church, Alvin Daughtridge, Wongalee Thomas, James Bradshaw, Dale Hamby, Bill Stone, Joel Carroll, Candis Hagaman, Lowell Younce, Jim Sponenberg, Katelynn Hollar–SGA President

**Board Members absent:**

Chris Barlowe, Ann Smith, William R. Winkler

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

Dr. Mark Poarch-President, Dr. Jason Chaffin, Donnie Bassinger, Dr. Dena Holman, Rashelle Penley, Amy Bowman, Susan Wooten, Liz Silvers, Marla Christie, Ronald Holste, Christina Bryant

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order and asked Trustee James Bradshaw to give the invocation.

**ETHICS STATEMENT**

Trustee Candice Hagaman 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))*

**INTRODUCTIONS**

The following new employees were introduced to the Board: Ashley Teague, Full-time Compliance Specialist; and Halley Winkler, Full-time Technician, Financial Aid.

## **ACCREDITATION UPDATE**

Liz Silvers, Vice President of Instruction, gave an accreditation update. She said the goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. Accrediting agencies are educational associations of regional or national scope that develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met. The NCCCS is not an accrediting agency nor are they accredited. Liz informed the board that the key aspects of House Bill 8 is a constituent institution of the NCCCS shall not receive accreditation by an accrediting agency for consecutive accreditation cycles. If the institution is not granted candidacy status by any regional accrediting agency that is different from its current accrediting agency, at least three years prior to the expiration of its current accreditation, the constituent institution may remain with its current accrediting agency for an additional accreditation cycle. Liz said CCC&TI is the class of 2027; CCC&TI Leadership Orientation will occur in December 2024 with the Compliance Certification Submission due March 2026. Liz announced that this effects five different North Carolina community colleges and two universities; it's not just CCC&TI. Liz stated there's not enough time for us to petition the Department of Education (DOE) and a new accrediting body before 2027. Dr. Poarch said there is a different level of quality with other accreditation agencies. Accreditation ensures the transferability of our courses, and institutions are not eligible for Federal Financial Aid if they're not accredited. Liz said we've been with SACSCOC since 1964 and have a good working relationship with them. We would have to start all over. Jim Sponenberg asked how many other accrediting agencies are there. Liz said there're six different accrediting agencies across the country. She reviewed various PowerPoint slides with board members including Traditional Regional Accreditor Boundaries (Pre-2020), Accrediting Background, a Timeline for Various Accreditors, and the Accreditation Process. Liz announced that for CCC&TI, the process to pursue a new accreditation before 2027 is unachievable. She said we have been advised to present this information to the board members and have our board vote on whether to pursue a new accreditor or stay with our current accreditor and record the outcome in the meeting minutes. A motion was made by Jim Sponenberg and seconded by Dale Hamby to endorse the option to stay with SACSCOC another cycle due to our being unable to secure candidacy status three years prior to the expiration of accreditation. The motion carried.

## **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Jerry Church and seconded by Alvin Daughtridge to approve the February Meeting Minutes (**Attachment A**) as presented. The motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive Committee:** No report

### **Athletics Committee:**

Committee Chairman Joel Carroll announced that both our baseball and softball teams are playing at a 500 season. The softball team is 12-12 at this time, and the baseball team is 10-10. Our basketball team flew through the regular season undefeated until the last week of the season; they lost two games. The basketball team headed into the Region 10 Division-One Tournament at CVCC as the number one seed. Our team won the first two games easily, and then they ran up

against the number seven seed in the tournament and lost. CCC&TI's men's basketball team fell in the Region 10 Division-One Tournament Championship game to USC-Salkehatchie on Saturday 69-58. Caldwell finished the season 28-4. We won 28 games last year and lost in the finals; we won 28 games this year and lost in the finals. Jamison McIver was named Region 10 Coach of the Year for the second year in a row. Cincere Scott was named Region 10 Player of the Year, and Pharell Boyogueno was named Region 10 Defensive Player of the Year. Those two players along with Brandon Morgan, earned a spot on the All-Region 10 First Team. The basketball team had a very successful season. Chairman Carroll said next year will be interesting, out of twelve players, we have nine sophomores leaving.

**Building and Grounds Committee:**

Committee Chairman Bill Stone gave a facility update on our three active projects:

**Occupational Addition:**

The site work is continuing as they are working to break up rock in the area of the footers.

**Athletic Field:**

Final grading is taking place, and the drain line is being installed around the perimeter of the field. The block walls are going up for the restrooms. The seeding should begin around the outside of the main field in the next couple of weeks.

**Health Sciences Facility:**

Advertising for the Construction Manager at Risk closed on February 24<sup>th</sup>. We received seven applications; four of those have been selected for interviews on April 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be conducting interviews all day that day. Chairman Stone announced that they are having to go through a process they have never gone through before because most firms we work with can't handle the risk of a project this large. He said he's going to insist that a written progress report be provided to the trustees monthly. Chairman Taylor agreed that everyone needs to know what's happening, but we need to have one person answering for us, that person being Dr. Poarch.

**Curriculum Committee:** No report

**Finance Committee:**

Committee Chairman Jerry Church made a motion to approve the State Budget Transfers for February 1 through February 29, 2024 (**Attachment B**) as presented. The motion carried.

Committee Chairman Church made a motion to approve the Interim Financial Summary Report for February 2024 (**Attachment B-1**) as presented. The motion carried. He noted that we are two thirds of the way through the year.

Committee Chairman Jerry Church made a motion to accept, with gratitude, the In-Kind Gift Donation of Polycom HDX Mic Pods from Haywood Community College as shown in **Attachment B-2** and the In-Kind Gift Donation of a Philips IU-22 Ultrasound System from Catawba Valley Medical Center as shown in their **Blue Folder**. The motion carried.

**Personnel Committee:**

Committee Chairman Alvin Daughtride presented, for information purposes, the following employments and resignations: employment of Ashley Teague, Full-time Compliance Specialist (**Attachment C**); employment of Halley Winkler, Full-time Technician, Financial Aid (**Attachment C-1**); and the resignation of Cheryl Bolt, Full-time Program Assistant, JE Broyhill Civic Center (**Attachment C-2**).

**Policy and Legislative Committee:**

No report

**SGA REPORT**

SGA President, Katelynn Hollar, announced that SGA had a St Patrick's Day event yesterday that was similar to a club fest.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Poarch thanked those that were able to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kick-off Luncheon on March 7<sup>th</sup>. He doesn't think it could have gone any better. It was a great, fun day. Dr. Poarch said that there are several people in the room that are on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee; the committee is led by Dr. Jason Chaffin. Dr. Poarch announced that we gave out 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary canvas bags with a magnet, a glass, a coaster and ring pops included inside during the anniversary luncheon.

Dr. Poarch informed the board that **Attachment D and Attachment E** are both compliance and accreditation related. Attachment D is a letter from the Department of Veteran Affairs office. Dr. Poarch said this is acknowledgment of our compliance visit; everything was good. They were impressed with our institution and our people. There were no issues to report. Attachment E is a letter from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for our EMS programs. Dr. Poarch said there are no additional progress reports required at this time.

Dr. Poarch shared, for information, a memo from NCCCS (**Attachment F**). He said he's happy to share the college is receiving a little over a half million dollars for our rural broadband project. The first line on the sheet shows where they allocated funds to cover rock removal in Watauga. Dr. Poarch said we will have more wireless access points across our campuses which will help our faculty and our students. Susan Wooten said this will double our coverage, and she's really excited about this. Hopefully, this project will be complete by the end of the year.

Dr. Poarch presented, for information, the Ethics Matrix (**Attachment G**). He said several trustees have Ethics Training due in 2024. Jim Sponenberg and Lowell Younce both announced they had completed their training at the NCACCT meeting last Friday in Raleigh, NC.

Dr. Poarch gave a Legislative update to members of the board. He shared, for information, a new PROPELNC document (**Attachment H**). He said you've all heard about PROPELNC, the new funding model for the North Carolina Community College System. Dr. Poarch said what we've tried to do with Attachment H is to localize PROPELNC and demonstrate to our General Assembly members and other stakeholders what it would mean to CCC&TI to receive that additional funding. He said just to remind you that the projected increase in funding for our institution if the entire \$93

million dollars was funded is around \$1,500,000 dollars. What we've attempted to do here is to take those sectors that we're focusing on for the system and show what we would be able to do with the funding. Nursing is an example; we show we currently have 76 two-year degree Nursing graduates, and we're estimating with this money, we could increase that to 125 graduates. This handout was locally done by Amy Bowman and her team in the marketing area. He said they did distribute this to some General Assembly members last week in Raleigh and received favorable responses.

Dr. Poarch shared an email that he had previously sent to trustees concerning the reelection of presidents and a copy of the State Board of Community Colleges Code SBCCC 300.5 with the proposed amendment (**Attachment I**). Dr. Poarch said this was another piece in the law that got added in the last session that's impacting community colleges. They've added the word "reelection" in the General Statutes. The law now states that the election and reelection of a president is subject to the approval of the State Board of Community Colleges. That is in law; that is in statute. Colleges are trying to figure out how to adjust the contracts and evaluation of presidents so that we make sure we comply with the law. Dr. Poarch said the state board and the system attorney came out with some original language that the presidents and the Trustee's Association weren't really happy with, so the presidents and Trustee's Association are working together on the language which he included in the original email. Dr. Poarch said the second page of Attachment I is the language that has been proposed to the state board. Once they agree on the language, it will go through the rule making process before it becomes codified in the state board code. Dr. Poarch said he's included, in the **blue folders**, an email that he received late yesterday afternoon that says until this is codified into state board code, local boards should follow this interim guidance in terms of the reelection of presidents. After the president's evaluation is complete, a letter goes to the System Office. There are certain categories they evaluate every year, and this basically adds a little bit to those requirements. If the president's contract is amended, that has to be included in the letter that goes to Raleigh. Dr. Poarch said this is just interim guidance. Bill Stone said these changes are reducing the authority of local boards and increasing the authority to shift to Raleigh. Dr. Poarch said our Vice Chairman, Jerry Church, serves on the Executive Committee of the Trustee's Association.

Dr. Poarch presented, for information, the Civic Center Monthly Report for February (**Attachment J**) and the Letters, News Articles and Board Highlights (**Attachment K**).

### **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Larry Taylor presented, for information, the Calendar of Events (**Attachment L**), future board meeting dates and upcoming events.

Chairman Taylor announced the following trustees have agreed to speak during upcoming graduation ceremonies: Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> Jerry Church has agreed to speak during the 10:00am ceremony; Dale Hamby has agreed to speak during the 1:00pm ceremony. Candis Hagaman has agreed to speak during the Early College Graduation on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. We still need someone to speak during the 4:00pm ceremony on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. CASA Graduation is on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Chairman Taylor asked Trustee Dale Hamby to update members of the board about the recent trip to Raleigh to attend the 2024 Law-Legislative Seminar. He said it was a good trip. He learned a lot

while attending the seminar; he learned a lot about PROPELNC, apprenticeships and Title IX. James Bradshaw said he attended the New Trustee Training Session during the seminar. He said it was an informative session that our Vice-Chairman, Jerry Church, was a part of; however, because of the orientation session we had for him here back in January, he already had a good understanding of the things that were discussed. Mr. Bradshaw thanked everyone again for the orientation that was held for him here on campus. He also said he didn't realize how well CCC&TI is respected in the state; he's excited about being a part of this group. He said Dr. Poarch is a leader amongst leaders in the NC Community College System. It was a pleasure to be able to go, and he thanked them for the opportunity to attend the seminar. Jerry Church said that was his first time serving on a panel for discussion with new trustees. Mr. Church said one thing he learned from it is that most trustees are not receiving any type of orientation before attending the session in Raleigh. Bill Stone said our board is a leader, and they function as a board wherever they go. He also said that a comment was made by another community college president at the seminar that during the darkest hours of COVID, Dr. Poarch held them together. Dr. Poarch was president of President's Association during this time. Wongalee Thomas said they talked about partnering with other colleges and customized training in the session she attended; she thought it was very interesting and important. She learned that 50% of young males can't be found; they aren't enrolled in college or employed. Jim Sponenberg said not only are we well respected in the community college system, but another thing that is obvious when you go to Raleigh, the people that are in the General Assembly and state government realize what a great college CCC&TI is and how great our leadership is with Dr. Poarch. This comes into our well-being as a college; CCC&TI is well respected for a lot of reasons. Jim Sponenberg also said how much he appreciated Ronald Holste, Executive Director of the Watauga Campus, attending the board meetings.

Chairman Taylor appointed Ann Smith – Chairperson, Candice Hagaman and James Bradshaw to the Trustee Student Award of Merit committee to help choose the trustee student award recipients.

Chairman Taylor reminded board members that two of the next three board meetings will be on Tuesdays; be sure to mark your calendars for that.

Dr. Poarch reminded board members that the Statement of Economic Interest Forms (SEI) are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>, which will be before our next board meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Christina Bryant, Recording Secretary

  
Ann E. Smith, Board Secretary/Treasurer