

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

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019**

The Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Board of Trustees met in joint session with the Watauga Board of Education and the Watauga County Commissioners on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at the Watauga Instructional Facility in Boone, NC in Room WC112.

**Board Members present at the meeting were:**

Larry W. Taylor-Chairman, Jerry T. Church, Alvin W. Daughtridge, Marilyn C. Starnes, James E. Sponenberg, William “Bill” S. Stone, Dale L. Hamby, Thomas “Tom” L. Thuss, William R. Winkler, Robert M. Brady.

**Board Members absent from the meeting were:**

Lowell K. Younce, Ronald R. Beane, George S. Robinson, Ann E. Smith, Jessica Osgood-SGA

**Watauga County Commissioners present were:**

John Welch-Chairman, Charlie Waldin, Deron Geouque-County Manager

**Watauga Board of Education present were:**

Dr. Scott Elliott-Superintendent, Dr. Jay Fenwick

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

Dr. Mark Poarch-President, Donnie Bassinger, Dena Holman, Susan Wooten, David Holman, Caleb Marsh, Donna Church, Edward Terry, Garrett Stell-News Topic.  
Guest: Rachel Plott-Academic Excellence Student

Trustees did a walk-through of the new Student Services Center Building before beginning the Board meeting.

Chairman Larry W. Taylor called the meeting to order and asked Trustee Tom Thuss to give the invocation.

**ETHICS  
STATEMENT**

Trustee Dale Hamby reviewed the following Ethics Statement with the Board:

*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**

Chairman Taylor welcomed the Watauga County Commissioners, the Watauga Board of Education and all trustees to the meeting.

All in attendance were introduced.

Dr. Scott Elliott, Watauga Superintendent thanked the trustees for their continued partnership. He announced that on May 23, 2019, they would hold the first ever Career/Scholarship signing event for students that are going on to college or into the work field. Watauga High School will hold their graduation ceremony on June 14, 2019, at the Convocation Center. He also announced that 147 of those graduates took a community college course. County Manager Deron Geoque announced that Watauga approved one million dollars for the budget for CCC&TI and he along with the other commissioners, think that CCC&TI is a phenomenal institution to have in Watauga County.

Dr. Poarch expressed his appreciation to Dr. Elliott and his team for their cooperation. He feels there are great things on the horizon for the college and their partners. Dr. Poarch also thanked the Watauga Commissioners for their support of an officer on the Watauga Campus. With the addition of a new building, having an officer on campus will help ensure everyone is safe. Dr. Poarch informed those present that we will have an electrical lineman facility on the Caldwell campus and will actually be able to put poles and bucket trucks in the facility. There are a lot of opportunities in this area and we are working with the commissioners and the board of education to further those opportunities. We are looking forward to great things in the future.

Trustee Bill Stone stated that this Board is the most experienced Board in the state and has been a part of the college since we acquired the land. We started this relationship with the commissioners and board of education and it has gone on for the last 30 years. He announced that at the last Caldwell Cuisine event, we had 135 people and the event was sold out. The new Watauga Student Services Center will allow us to have similar events on the Watauga Campus. Bill Stone also informed the board and others in attendance that Peter Hans, NCCCS office President visited last week and he was very impressed with the new building and said he would attend the opening. He thanked the commissioners for always supporting us.

Donnie Bassinger announced that the Watauga Student Services Center is 30 days behind schedule. The furniture will arrive in September with a building completion date of September 15, 2019.

**ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARD**

Dr. Poarch introduced the 2019 Academic Excellence Student Award winner, Ms. Rachel Plott. Rachel is a Watauga Campus Nursing student. She graduated with a GPA above 3.5 from one of the most rigorous programs we offer. He presented her with a

plaque, a letter from the NCCCS President and a medallion. She began her classes with the CNA class. She will be working at the Watauga Medical Center. Rachel stated that telling interviewers that you are a graduate from CCC&TI makes a big difference when you go to apply for a job. Rachel said that she has had a fantastic experience while attending CCC&TI.

**WATAUGA  
CAMPUS REPORT**

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Steve Melton gave an update on student activities and enrollment for the Watauga Campus. He gave student success reports on several of the students attending the Watauga Campus. One of the students

Randy Patusic, Vice President of SGA who has a 3.8 GPA. Every time there is a student event on campus, she takes care of everything associated with the event, no matter how much of her time it takes. Another student, Andrew Greene attended the Leadership Institute in Virginia and left Virginia as a top graduate and he is now majoring in politics. Randy said he owes much of his success to CCC&TI. The other students were Graham Sherving and Will Harvey. They started their own wood company.

Dr. Poarch stated that behind every one of those students Steve talked about, there is a great faculty member and we have one of those faculty members with us tonight, Dr. James Rodkey. Dr. Poarch presented Dr. Rodkey with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Rodkey informed Board members that there are a lot of students who have come through our programs and started their own businesses. He also thanked the board for everything they do for the institution. Dr. Rodkey announced that the faculty had the culinary program cater his retirement celebration and they did a fantastic job. He reminded Board members that if they have not already done so, they should attend Caldwell Cuisine/Watauga Cuisine. The food is great and it shows off what our culinary students can do.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Bill Stone and seconded by Tom Thuss to approve the April 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes (**Attachment A**) as presented.

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

**Executive Committee:** No report

**Athletics Committee:** No report

**Building and Grounds Committee:** No report

**Curriculum Committee:** No report

**Finance Committee:**

Committee Chairman Jerry Church announced that there are no Gifts to the Institution to report this period.

Committee Chairman Jerry Church made a motion to approve the State Budget Transfers for April 1-30, 2019 as presented in **Attachment B**. The motion carried.

Committee Chairman Jerry Church made a motion to approve the Interim Financial Summary Report for April 2019 as shown in **Attachment B-1**. He informed board members that we are 83% through the year and are in good shape. The motion carried.

**Policy and Legislative Committee:** No report

**Personnel Committee:**

In the absence of the Personnel Committee Chairman George Robinson,

Trustee Alvin Daughtridge, for information purposes, presented the following employments/retirements/resignations: the retirement/resignation of Aaron Cook, full-time Dean of Science Technology, Engineering & Math (**Attachment C**); the resignation of Nicole Fogle, full-time Program Assistant, Institutional Effectiveness (**Attachment C-1**); the resignation of James Richards, Jr., full-time Technical Director, Civic Center (**Attachment C-2**) and the employment of Mikayla Bryant, full-time Foundation Assistant (**Attachment C-3**).

**SGA REPORT**

There was no report from SGA for the June 2019 meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Poarch presented, for information purposes, the Civic Center Monthly Report for April 2019 (**Attachment D**), the SLPA Passage Rate information (**Attachment F**), a Thank You Letter From Whippoowill Academy for donation of cupcakes (**Attachment G**), a Thank You Letter from a student (**Attachment H**) and Letters, News Articles and Board Highlights (**Attachment I**).

Dr. Poarch informed board members that he has been notified that

our 2018-19 Compliance Review (**Attachment E**) will begin on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The program auditors will be on campus until June 4 and once the audit is complete will send a letter notifying us of the findings.

Dr. Poarch thanked the Trustees for their help with the graduation ceremonies. He thanked Trustee Bill Stone for doing the “Welcome” for the Adult High School ceremony, Trustee Tom Thuss for doing the “Welcome” at both graduation ceremonies for the Friday evening graduations, and Dale Hamby for doing the “Welcome” for the Early College Graduation on Saturday evening. He feels that this really shows the quality of people we have at the institution. Dr. Poarch shared a graduation story with the board: a student came to graduation late with no cap and no gown and her shoes were broken. An employee here at the college, Sandra Reese, gave the student her new sandals, and found her a cap and gown so that she could participate in the ceremonies. All of the ceremonies were great. Trustee Tom Thuss asked the trustees to think about the fact that there were 804 graduates that crossed the stage during the graduation ceremonies and just how many families that has impacted. How many lives that has changed. Trustee Jim Sponenberg announced that he feels the inclusion of a past student in the graduation ceremony, such as the guest speaker, is a great way to promote the college.

Dr. Poarch gave an overview of the Furniture Factory Lab Ribbon Cutting that was held on April 25, 2019, in the new furniture lab. He thanked Donnie Bassinger and his department for taking care of space needs so the lab would be ready for the opening, and thanked Edward Terry for working with the Lectra personnel.

Dr. Poarch informed the board that the NCCCS President, Peter Hans visited our campus on May 9, 2019. Deborah Murray and Dr. Don Phipps also participated in the tour. The tour consisted of touring our health clinic, visiting Truck Driver Training, and other program areas. Dr. Poarch thanked all for what a great job our instructors, faculty and staff do.

## **CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS**

Chairman Taylor informed board members that Mr. William Stone will be reappointed to another four-year term beginning July 2019 as shown in the attached appointment letter (**Attachment J**). The board welcomed Mr. Stone as a reappointed trustee.

Chairman Taylor informed board members that their 2019-20 Board Committee preferences (**Attachment K**) were distributed and are due back to Donna Church by June 19, 2019. Chairman Taylor also asked that each trustee serve on two committees.

Chairman Taylor appointed Trustees Dale Hamby, Bill Stone and Jim

Sponenberg to serve on the 2019-20 Nominating Committee. Dale Hamby was asked to serve as the committee chairman.

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

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

Trustee Bill Stone made a motion to go into Closed Session with possible discussions after reconvening the meeting. The motion carried.

The Closed Session ended with Chairman Taylor reopening the full board meeting. A motion was made by Jerry Church and seconded by Tom Thuss for the Board to authorize Chairman Taylor to sign and send a letter, on behalf of the college trustees, to the State Board of Community Colleges asking for permission to purchase the former Rite Aid Building on Highway 321 near the college campus. The motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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Donna Church, Recording Secretary

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Thomas "Tom" L. Thuss, Board Secretary