

The 269th meeting of the Board of Trustees
Mount Wachusett Community College
Thursday, October 26, 2023
Murphy Conference Room
Meeting Minutes

- A. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Antonioni called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.
- B. **ROLL CALL:**
Present: Chair Robert Antonioni, Patti Bergstrom, Tracy Hutchinson, Denise Gosselin, Justina Johnson, Patricia Pistone, Irene Hernandez and representing the Academic Senate, Sheila Murphy

Present via zoom: Claire Freda, Doug Petersen, and Independent Auditors from Withum - Chris Pelland and Matt Richard

Unable to attend: Rick Walton

Also, present from the College: President Vander Hooven, many members of the Leadership Team, Candace Shivers, Sandy Tavares, Maureen Provost and Lori Donahue representing MCCC and Executive Assistant Laurie Snoonian

Many others joined via live stream on Vimeo
- C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Chairman Antonioni asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 17, 2023. Ms. Hutchinson made a motion to approve and Ms. Bergstrom seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Public Comments – Candace Shivers, MCCC Chapter president, shared her frustration and request for help by the board and college community in advocating on their behalf. Although their contract was ratified in March, they are waiting on retro pay back to 2020 including a COVID bonus. Sandy Tavares, Maureen Provost and Lori Donahue also voiced their disappointment and struggles. They asked if everyone could sign the petition and share with others.
- D. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT** – On behalf of the board, Chair Antonioni acknowledged the struggles of the MCCC union and offered support. He stated he would call Senator Cronin later today.
- E. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – President Vander Hooven
- a. Jim reiterated his support of our MCCC faculty and professional staff as they await approval of the supplemental budget for their new collective bargaining agreements.
 - b. Recognized the disrespect for those at MWCC, but across all community colleges and will continue advocating each time he meets with the Department of Education.
 - c. Jim mentioned how much he values and appreciates the work that our faculty and professional staff do each day. He sees the respect they show for one another and wanted them to know they make a difference every day in North Central Massachusetts.
- F. **LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS** – None
- G. **MISSION/STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE** – None

H. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS OF THE DAY

- a. **AD – 1302 – Approval of FY 2024 Budget.** VP stated this final budget is the same as preliminary one previously voted on. Chairman Antonioni asked for a motion to approve the FY 2024 Budget. Ms. Hernandez made a motion to approve and seconded by Ms. Hutchinson. All approved. Motion carried.
- b. **AD – 1303 – Approval of Audited Financial Statements** as presented by Chris Pelland from Withum. Chair Antonioni asked for a motion to approve the Audited Financial Statements. Ms. Hernandez made a motion to approve and Ms. Gosselin seconded the motion. All approved. Motion Carried.

I. NEW BUSINESS –

- a. 5 Year Program Reviews
 1. Early Childhood Education as presented by Thom Linehan.
 2. Art as presented by Joyce Miller.
 3. Interdisciplinary Studies as presented by Dan Soucy.
- b. BOT Self-Assessment Process as presented by Amanda Henrichs
 1. Amanda briefly recapped why the self-assessment process is necessary. It is a requirement of NECHE, but it is also good practice to see what the board is doing well in and what could improve.
 2. Amanda explained the process – The board will answer a questionnaire with 10 categories. Each member will choose 3 to 4 statements from each category to discuss further.
 3. The deadline is November 15 to submit to Amanda.
- c. Announcements
 1. President Vander Hooven mentioned the “Funding our Future” breakfast on November 9 at the college. This will be an opportunity to strengthen our relationships with the business community.
 2. An invitation was sent by DHE invited the Board of Trustees to attend the Annual Trustee Convening on Thursday, November 16 at the DoubleTree in Westborough. President Vander Hooven is unable to attend, but stated it is a good opportunity to meet other trustees and discuss goals and expectations moving forward. This event has been canceled by the DHE.
 3. Scary Karaoke is taking place in the South Café this evening. This is one of our biggest events for students. If you are unable to attend, Jim recommended checking out the decoartions.
 4. Trustee Freda mentioned it might be beneficial to form a coalition of trustees across the state to help with the salary issues facing MCCC. Chair Antonioni agreed it was a great idea and President Vander Hooven offered to organize it.

- J. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Antonioni asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez and seconded by Ms. Gosselin. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:02 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Snoonian