

**MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BLINN COLLEGE**

**Board Room
Third Floor, Administration Building
Blinn College, 802 Green Street
Brenham, Texas**

Special Meeting, Tuesday, June 18, 2007

The Board of Trustees convened at 6:15 p.m. in the Board Room with the following members present: Mr. Steve M. Westbrook, President, presiding; Mr. Atwood C. Kenjura, Vice President; Mr. Norwood Lange, Secretary; Dr. Henry J. Boehm, Jr., Mr. Don Jones, Mr. L.J. Lacina, Jr. and Mr. Leon Toubin.

Board members not present: None.

Members of the college staff in attendance were: Dr. Donald E. Voelter, President; Mr. John D. Barkman, Dr. John D. Harris, Dr. Daniel J. Holt, Dr. Debra R. LaCour and Dr. Barbara L. Pearson, vice presidents; Mr. Scott Baehren, Ms. Pat Baughman, Ms. Linda Bow, Mr. Dennis Kocich, Ms. Barbara Moore, Mr. Joe Al Picone, Mr. Darrell Reimer, Ms. Jean Ricciardello, Ms. Rebecca Richter, Mr. Scott Smith and Mr. Michael Welch.

Also registered as in attendance were: Mr. Pat Elliott, Mr. Charles Thielemann, Mr. Frank Wagner, KTTX-KWHI; and Mr. Gary Engel, *Brenham Banner-Press*.

Mr. Steve Westbrook called the meeting to order.

ITEM 1. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no administrative announcements.

ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pat Elliott asked if the college owed American Campus Communities (ACC) any money and asked what ACC was. Dr. Voelter replied that ACC is a private company that builds and manages housing for college students. He stated that the college does not owe ACC any money. Mr. Elliott stated that he hoped the college will not attempt to raise local taxes to make up for the health insurance premium funds vetoed by the Governor.

Dr. Voelter reviewed the Governor's veto of the second year of the state's community colleges' employee health insurance premium funds. He answered questions from members of the Board about the cut. He stated the college would lose in excess of \$3,050,000 over the next biennium in state revenue as a result of the veto.

**ITEM 3. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE BUDGET FOR THE 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR
INCLUDING REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

- (A) THE PROPOSED BUDGET
- (B) SPECIAL ITEMS REQUESTS
- (C) SALARY SCHEDULES AND PAY SCALES
- (D) REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS

- (A) Dr. Holt commented on the impact of the Governor's veto on budget preparation. He then reviewed the budget process that was started several months earlier in the year and recognized the members of the Institutional Planning Committee who worked to develop the proposed budget. He described the process by which items were included or excluded from the budget and reviewed the key budget categories. Dr. Holt also reviewed the "budget scrubbing" process he is using to identify unused funds in the current budget to be used to meet unmet budget requests and Brenham campus facility touch-ups and renovations. He answered questions from the Board on the relative distribution of salary funds among full and part-time instructors and professional and non-professional staff.
- (B) Dr. Holt reviewed a list of "special request" items in the proposed budget. Mr. Jones expressed concern that current year budget surpluses were being spent on second priority "wish list" items requested for the 2007-2008 school year as opposed to first priority items. Dr. Holt explained that the first priority items are being included in the 2007-08 budget.
- (C) Mr. Reimer reviewed the requests submitted by college staff for new faculty and staff positions totaling \$1,610,469 and for other personnel increases, resulting in a total proposed personnel cost increase of \$2,616,310. He reviewed the decision band method the college implemented in 2004 for determining and setting salaries. He commented on the cost of a one percent pay increase for various classes of employees.

Dr. Holt then reviewed lists of: (a) new and replacement expenditures; (b) 2007-2008 budget request items that have been purchased using current-year funds from a list of items requested for 2007-2008; (c) new and replacement expenditures; (d) institutional and technology computer software; and (e) a list of needed facility repairs and renovations on the Brenham and Bryan campuses. Copies of the various budget lists reviewed under this agenda item are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*.

The meeting was recessed from 8:23 p.m. until 8:40 p.m. for a break.

Mr. Westbrook asked that the Board give the administration some direction in developing the budget. The Board then discussed whether or not to spread the \$3,000,000 budget reduction resulting from the Governor's veto over two years or delay the entire budget reduction to the 2008-2009 budget year. An informal consensus was reached to spread the reduction over two years. Also discussed was a desire to provide pay increases for faculty and staff in the 3 - 4 percent range. The administration was directed to present projected costs for the increases at the regular July Board meeting. The administration was also directed to show the Board what would have to be cut from the proposed budget to fund the pay increases.

Mr. Toubin stated that he would like for the college to begin to use its scholarship money to attract "A" and "B" level students who would be more successful and stay at the college for a longer period than current students do.

ITEM 4. RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION (AS AUTHORIZED BY GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.101)

The public session was recessed at 8:56 p.m.

ITEM 5. CLOSED SESSION

- (A) **EVALUATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL (GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.074)**
- (B) **DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY IN BRENHAM, BRYAN AND SCHULENBURG (GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.072)**

ITEM 6. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

The public session was reconvened at 9:12 p.m.

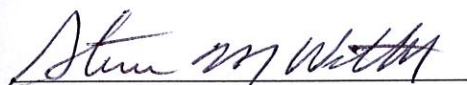
ITEM 7. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

- (A) REVIEW AND ACTION ON FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONTRACTS
- (B) REVIEW AND ACTION TO PURCHASE, EXCHANGE OR LEASE REAL PROPERTY IN BRENHAM, BRYAN AND SCHULENBURG

No action was taken on this agenda item.

ITEM 8. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Lange, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.



Mr. Steve M. Westbrook
President



Mr. Norwood Lange
Secretary