

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BLINN COLLEGE**

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

**Regular Meeting, Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 6:30 p.m.**

The Board of Trustees convened at 6:32 p.m. in the Board Room with the following members present: Mr. David Sommer, President, presiding; Mr. Atwood C. Kenjura, Secretary; Mrs. Stacy Aschenbeck; Mrs. Theodora "Teddy" V. Boehm; Mr. Charles Moser; and Mr. Richard Powell.

Board Members not present: Mr. Douglas R. Borchardt, Vice President.

**ITEM 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN AND TEXAS FLAGS**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Sommer. Mr. Wynn Fulgham, Student Government Association Member, led the prayer, and Mr. Kevin Church, Engineering Academy Student and Resident Assistant of Campus Apartments, led the pledge.

**ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Sommer read the guidelines regarding the Board's practice related to Public Comment.

Mr. Mark Bernier, President, Faculty Senate, thanked the Board on behalf of the faculty for the increase in compensation and urged the discussion on part-time faculty salaries to continue.

**ITEM 3. DISTRICT PRESIDENT/CEO ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Jeff Tilley, Director, Marketing and Communications, read the District President/CEO Administrative Report on behalf of Dr. Hensley.

- On August 31<sup>st</sup>, Blinn was awarded a \$1.35 million grant to double the size of the Hodde Center.
  - This new space is expected to be completed in time to host classes in Fall 2016 and will include multi-purpose classrooms and workforce education laboratories.
  - Additionally, the space will allow Blinn to develop new programs including: industrial machinery mechanics, commercial truck driving, heavy equipment operation, and diesel engine mechanics.
- Dr. Hensley would like to congratulate Megan Costanza, David Yeager, and the rest of the Workforce Education Team on all their work in helping secure this major grant.
- Dr. Hensley also would like to thank the Board Members who were able to attend; it certainly was a great event for Blinn.
- On August 25<sup>th</sup>, Blinn had its Fall Convocation, which serves as a kick-off to the Fall Semester for the Faculty. Dr. Hensley also would like to thank the Board of Trustees, faculty, and everyone else who attended. A special thanks to Ms. Joyce Langenegger, Dr. John Beaver, and their Convocation Planning Team, who made the event such a great success.

- Dr. Hensley would like to thank the Board of Trustees, faculty/staff, and college constituents who attended the Tax Hearings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of August. The College appreciates public involvement in this important process.
- Dr. Hensley attended the first performance of “Steel Magnolias”, and commented she was impressed by the performance of Blinn's very own faculty and staff members, who were featured in the show. It was a great job by Brad Nies, Kevin Patrick, and the entire performing arts staff. The next performance in Brenham is “Bunnacula”, October 15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>, and the Bryan Theatre season kicks-off on October 24<sup>th</sup>, with “The Liar”.
- Dr. Hensley stated there was more exciting news from the Division of Visual and Performing Arts: Blinn just announced publicly last week that the new Performing Arts Series will be held at the O'Donnell Performing Arts Center. Performances will range from a magic show to Christmas memories, and will open on October 21<sup>st</sup>, with a performance of "The Young Irishmen."
- Start of school year items:
  - Blinn completed a successful welcome week on both the Brenham and Bryan Campuses, highlighted by several cookouts, an ice cream social, and a movie day during both events.
    - Both had great turnouts (early numbers show 949 students attended the events throughout the week in Brenham).
  - This Saturday, Texas A&M will bus all of the Brenham Engineering Academy students to College Station to an engineering tailgate and provide them tickets to the A&M Football Game.
- Dr. Hensley, Dr. Dennis Crowson, and Scott Schumacher attended the Region XIV Athletic Meeting in Galveston on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The College is looking forward to an exciting season, and Dr. Hensley sends her best wishes to all of Blinn's athletic programs.
- This past week, Blinn started its “B-Connected” audio series, which is a brief audio update from Dr. Hensley included monthly in the online newsletter, *The Connection*. This is part of Blinn's district-wide communication plan, which will include similar direct communication to the faculty, staff, students, and Blinn communities.
- Finally, Homecoming is right around the corner (Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>), so mark your calendars - we'd love to see you there!

#### **ITEM 4. ENROLLMENT REPORT FOR THE FALL 2015 SEMESTER**

Dr. Dennis Crowson, Senior Vice President, Student Services, reviewed the most recent Enrollment Report for the Fall 2015 Semester. He reported that overall enrollment is flat with significant growth in Distance Education and Dual Credit. (A copy of the Enrollment Report is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

#### **ITEM 5. HOUSING OCCUPANCY REPORT FOR THE FALL 2015 SEMESTER**

Dr. Crowson reported to the Board there are 1,325 Students living on the Brenham Campus, with approximately 200 Students on the waiting list. Dr. Crowson discussed the status of the Student Housing Request for Qualifications, which hopefully will result in an increase in housing capacity.

#### **ITEM 6. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND LIST OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING AUGUST 31, 2015**

Ms. Annette Ferguson, Assistant Vice President/Controller, reviewed highlights from the Financial Statements and List of Checks for the period ending August 31, 2015. (Copies of the Financial Statement

and List of Checks are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). She reviewed the cash position, revenues, waivers, exemptions, and expenditures for the month of August, as well as the fiscal year 2014-2015. (A copy of the Power Point Presentation is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). The Administration responded to questions from the Board.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

All items listed in this portion of the agenda are considered to be routine by the Board of Trustees and will be enacted upon one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Trustee so requests; in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in the Regular Agenda. Trustees receive agenda materials in advance of the meeting to prepare for the business to be conducted.

- ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 18, 2015, REGULAR MEETING AND SEPTEMBER 1, 2015, SPECIAL MEETING**
- ITEM 8. ACCEPT A DONATION OF HILL-ROM HOSPITAL BEDS FOR STUDENT TRAINING IN THE ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMS**
- ITEM 9. ADOPT ANNUAL TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS UPDATE 30 AND ADDITIONAL NECESSARY REVISIONS, AFFECTING THE FOLLOWING BLINN COLLEGE BOARD POLICIES:**
- A) BBE (LOCAL) BOARD MEMBERS - AUTHORITY**
  - B) BD (LOCAL) BOARD MEETINGS**
  - C) BFCC (LOCAL) COLLEGE PRESIDENT - RETIREMENT OR RESIGNATION (POLICY DELETION)**
  - D) BFD (LOCAL) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - RETIREMENT OR RESIGNATION**
  - E) BFE (LOCAL) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - EVALUATION**
  - F) BH (LOCAL) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS**
  - G) CDE (LOCAL) ACCOUNTING - FINANCIAL ETHICS**
  - H) CF (LOCAL) PURCHASING AND ACQUISITION**
  - I) CHA (LOCAL) SITE MANAGEMENT - SECURITY**
  - J) CIA (LOCAL) EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES MANAGEMENT - RECORDS MANAGEMENT**
  - K) FFD (LOCAL) STUDENT WELFARE - FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION**
  - L) FFE (LOCAL) STUDENT WELFARE - FREEDOM FROM BULLYING**
  - M) GE (LOCAL) ADVERTISING AND FUND-RAISING**
  - N) GFA (LOCAL) COMMUNITY USE OF COLLEGE DISTRICT FACILITIES - CONDUCT ON COLLEGE DISTRICT PREMISES**

On a motion by Mr. Kenjura, seconded by Mr. Powell, the Board voted unanimously to approve **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 7-9: ITEM 7** - Minutes for the August 18, 2015, Regular Meeting, and September 1, 2015, Special Meeting. (Copies of the Minutes are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*); **ITEM 8** - The Administration to accept a Donation of Hill-Rom Hospital Beds for Student training in the Allied Health Programs. (A copy of the Donation Form is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*); and **ITEM 9** - Revisions to Board Policies: BBE (LOCAL), BD (LOCAL), BFCC (LOCAL), BFD (LOCAL), BFE (LOCAL), BH (LOCAL), CDE (LOCAL), CF (LOCAL), CHA (LOCAL), CIA (LOCAL), FFD (LOCAL), FFE (LOCAL), GE (LOCAL), and GFA (LOCAL), as presented by the Administration. (Copies of the Revisions are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*.)

## DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

### ITEM 10. ADOPT 2015 TAX RATE

Mrs. Cathy Boeker, Associate Vice President, Government and Public Affairs, reviewed the College's process for adopting the 2015 property tax rate.

Mrs. Boeker reminded the Board that at the August 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, she reviewed the effective tax rate calculated for Blinn College by the Washington County Appraisal District. She stated the effective rate is designed to give a taxing entity essentially the same property tax revenue as the prior year. The 2015 effective rate for Blinn College was calculated to be \$0.0557 per \$100 valuation. This rate would have resulted in an assessment of \$55.70 in annual taxes for Blinn College on each \$100,000 worth of property in Washington County.

The Board voted unanimously in August to propose a tax rate of \$0.0601 per \$100 valuation, which is estimated to yield \$1,798,045 in tax revenue. This proposed rate will equate to \$60.10 in annual taxes for Blinn College for a Washington County Taxpayer per \$100,000 worth of property. This equates to \$4.40 more per \$100 valuation per year than if the effective tax rate had been adopted.

Mrs. Boeker reported all required notices have been published in the newspaper and posted on the College's website in accordance with the Tax Code. She stated that the two public hearings were held; therefore, the Board has for its consideration, a Resolution that would set the 2015 Blinn College property tax rate for Washington County at \$0.0601 per \$100 valuation.

Mr. Kenjura read the Resolution regarding the adoption of the tax rate and levying ad valorem taxes for the year 2015 for the support, maintenance, and operation of the Blinn College District.

Mr. Kenjura made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.0601 per \$100 valuation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Boehm.

Mrs. Aschenbeck read the following statement:

"There seems to be some confusion about why the Board has chosen to raise taxes. The Board has heard many concerns regarding the raising of taxes in Washington County used to support Blinn College. Unfortunately, times have changed and so has the state of education. Blinn-Brenham has fallen behind economically, and as a Board, we are working to make it as economically viable as possible. In order to grow the number of students at Blinn-Brenham, we need to work on the campus and make it a place that is up-to-date and welcoming to students from the surrounding areas, as well as increase the housing in order to allow more students to live on campus. If we do not grow the Brenham campus of Blinn, it will not be able to survive. As a Board, we know that this tax increase is in the best interest of our community because of the number of people that Blinn employs. In addition, think of all the businesses that are supported by Blinn students, by sports teams that travel to Brenham, or Agriculture Departments that come here for events. Blinn is vital to our community, and because it is, we need to pull together and make it more financially stable than it has been in the last several years."

On a record vote, the Board adopted a Resolution setting the 2015 tax rate at \$0.0601 per \$100 valuation. All Board Members present voted in favor of the Resolution. (A copy of the Resolution is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

Mr. Sommer read the following statement from Mr. Borchardt after the record vote was taken:

"Because of a long-standing prior commitment, I am unable to attend the Board meeting. While I understand that my vote cannot be accepted due to me not being present, I do want the record to reflect that I am in total support of adopting a 2015 tax rate of \$0.0601 per \$100 valuation. Could I have been present, I would have voted for the increase."

**ITEM 11. ADOPT ADDITIONAL OR REVISED FEES BEGINNING SPRING 2016**

Ms. Kelli D. Shomaker, Senior Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services/CFO, reviewed the reasons for the implementation of a diploma printing fee, the ratification of the Holleman housing fee, the pass-through testing fees, and the physical therapist simulation laboratory fees.

On a motion by Mr. Moser, seconded by Mrs. Aschenbeck, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the new and increased fees beginning Spring 2016, as presented by the Administration.

**ITEM 12. AUTHORIZE BLINN COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES TO SIGN FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS AND/OR INITIATE FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS WITH BANK OF BRENHAM**

Ms. Shomaker stated the Administration would like to pursue doing business with the Bank of Brenham, and asked the Board to authorize the following representatives to sign financial documents and/or initiate financial transactions at the Bank of Brenham:

Dr. Mary Hensley, District President/CEO  
 Ms. Kelli D. Shomaker, Senior Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services/CFO  
 Ms. Annette Ferguson, Assistant Vice President, Finance/Controller  
 Mr. Thomas J. Brazzel, Director, Accounting

On a motion by Mrs. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Powell, the following Board Members: Mr. Sommer, Mrs. Aschenbeck, Mrs. Boehm, and Mr. Powell; voted unanimously to authorize the representatives listed above to sign financial documents and/or initiate financial transactions with the Bank of Brenham, as presented by the Administration.

Mr. Moser and Mr. Kenjura abstained from the vote due to being shareholders of the Bank of Brenham.

**ITEM 13. AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATION TO PURCHASE THREE VEHICLES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Dr. Crowson asked the Board to authorize the purchase of either Dodge Chargers or the Chevrolet Caprices to replace three vehicles for the Police Department. (A copy of the Bid Tabulation Sheet is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

On a motion by Mr. Kenjura, seconded by Mrs. Aschenbeck, the Board voted unanimously to purchase three vehicles for the Police Department. The Board authorized the Administration to choose between the Dodge Charger or the Chevrolet Caprice.

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

The public was recessed for a break at 7:20 p.m.

The public was recessed for Closed Session at 7:34 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**ITEM 14. CLOSED SESSION:**

- (A) **PERSONNEL MATTERS (GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.074)**
  - i. **DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE OR DISMISSAL OF PUBLIC**
- (B) **CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY (GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.71)**
  - i. **CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING MATTERS ON WHICH THE ATTORNEY'S DUTY TO THE COLLEGE UNDER THE TEXAS DISCIPLINARY RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT CEARLY CONFLICT**
  - ii. **CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING SANDERS V. HENSLEY, CASE NO. 1:15-CV-426, U.S. DISTRICT COURT, WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

The Public Session was reconvened at 9:31 p.m.

**ITEM 15. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:**

No action was taken on Closed Session items.

Mr. Sommer reminded the Board of the three standing Board Committees: Budget, Audit, Investment, and Finance Committee; Real Estate and Property Committee; and Academic, Workforce, and Community Involvement Planning Committee. He asked which Board Members planned to attend the Brazos County Advisory Committee Meeting. Mr. Sommer, Mrs. Boehm, and Mr. Powell plan to attend.

**ITEM 16. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Moser, seconded by Mrs. Boehm, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m.



Mr. David Sommer, Presiding  
President



Mr. Atwood C. Kenjura  
Secretary