

HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting – November 25, 2024

Chairman Stalteri called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in RMCC 282/283.

Trustees Attending: Dr. Ainsworth (virtual); Mrs. Crandall, Mr. Drumm; Mr. Gregory; Ms. Prymas; Mr. Reardon; Mr. Russell; Mr. Stalteri; Mr. Testa; Mr. Zugai

In Attendance: Mr. Laino; Mr. Dutcher; Mr. Oriolo; Ms. Woudenberg

Also Present: Ms. Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney; Dr. Robin Riecker; Tim Riecker; Kyle Roepnack; Frank Drapalski; Jeffrey Steele; Kathleen Stables

Chairman Stalteri called on Mr. Drumm to lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Stalteri presented the following consent agenda items for Board approval:

- a. Minutes – October 16, 2024 Regular Meeting
- b. Minutes – November 12, 2024 Special Meeting
- c. Financial Statement as of 10/31/2024

Mrs. Crandall moved that the consent agenda items for the November 25, 2024 regular meeting be approved.

Mr. Drumm seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Robin Riecker and Kyle Roepnack, President and Vice President of the Herkimer County Community College Administrative Association, offered remarks, on behalf of the association members, regarding the presidential search process and Chancellor King's decision to end the search without accepting the Board's recommendation. Dr. Riecker expressed her belief that the Board is committed to both the community and the College and that they did their due diligence to select the best candidate for the presidency. She further believes that the delay of nearly a year after the Board submitted their candidate's name to the Chancellor for consideration sends a troubling message about the autonomy of local governance and threatens the stability of the institution. Mr. Roepnack added his belief that the Chancellor's actions bring into question the search process, how it was carried out and how decisions were made. He felt that this undermined the search on campus and that the opportunity to have a voice was taken away. Mr. Roepnack further expressed his feelings that SUNY's response was unprecedented, as SUNY representatives were part of the search from the beginning. The Board thanked Dr. Riecker and Mr. Roepnack for their comments.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Mr. Dutcher reviewed the Enrollment Report. As of November 25th, 560 students are registered,

compared to 430 students last year at this time. In addition, applications are up 10% and acceptances are up 11% compared to last year at the same time.

A report from SUNY on community college enrollment changes over one year was recently released and was shared with the Board. Herkimer College's ranking, among 30 community colleges, for **total enrollment** went from 29th place to 8th place (-8.2% to 5.8%) from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023. The College's ranking for enrollment for **first-time undergraduates** went from 30th place to 13th place (-16.7% to 1.8%) from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Testa moved, at 6:13 p.m., that the board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss, under provisions of Section 105f of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

Mr. Gregory seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

Mr. Drumm moved, at 7:33 p.m., that the board reconvene.

Mrs. Crandall seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Drumm moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Testa seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

slh