



**MINUTES:** Approved by Board 4/20/2023

**Board of Trustees**  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NH**  
**Meeting of 1.19.2023**

**Present:** Mark Rubinstein, Tim Allison, Kathy Bogle-Shields, Tricia Lucas, Cheryl Lesser, Alfred Williams, Scott Fields, Shannon Reid, Barbara Spada, Matt Moore, Chuck Lloyd, Ann-Marie Hartshorne, Richard Heath, Chris Dodge, Richard Ackerman, Will Cunningham, Bob Baines, Jack Calhoun, Steven Appleby, Ed Smith, Lucille Jordan, Nick Toumpas, Heather Burwell, Gregg Eastman, Darrin Daniels,

**Online:** Paul Holloway, Beth Doiron, Becky Lewis, Adrianna Komst, Shannon Reid, Sara Sawyer, Joseph Doiron, Sharon Harris, John Harrington

Scott fields

Board Chair Shields called the meeting to order at 10:03am at NHTI- Concord's Community College Campus, Concord NH.

Trustee Baines made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Trustee Smith. The motion carried without opposition.

A subsequent motion was made by Trustee Baines to approve nominations for members of College Advisory Boards. The motion was seconded by Trustee Smith. The motion carried without opposition.

The **Audit Presentation** that was part of the scheduled agenda for this meeting was delayed as a result of a determination that incorrect information inadvertently provided to CCSNH by the State of New Hampshire had resulted in miscalculation of CCSNH's liability for pensions. The error was of sufficient magnitude to require restatement of FY22 financial reports. Our vendor, Segal, is going to revise their projections and provide updated information to CCSNH that will require subsequent review by Berry Dunn. The identification of this error, which was in CCSNH's favor, will be a helpful reminder to remain vigilant to ensure the accuracy of subsequent reports.

**Committee Meeting Updates-**

The Chairs of Student Success, Assets & Resources, Finance, Governance, and Executive Committees provided summaries of key issues discussed by each of those committees.

**Joe Doiron Presentation**

See slideshow for summary.

### **Board Structure Discussion**

Chair Shields described a variety of factors that caused her to believe that it would be helpful for the Board to restructure Committees and meetings to support more effective engagement. The proposal brought forth would be to move to continue to use the third Thursday of each month, committing to four meetings of the Board, four meetings of each Committee, and four months that would be open and potentially useful for informational sessions or other purposes of the Board. Additionally, this pilot approach would involve inviting all Trustees to all committees—either as a member or as an observer—to foster broader understanding of how the components fit together, help identify new areas of opportunity for engaging Trustees' talents and interests, and supporting a more meaningful experience for Trustees. The proposal was to have committee meetings in Concord as the most central location, but to continue to rotate Board meetings across the campuses to facilitate awareness and engagement with each of the colleges. All Trustees expressed support for piloting this effort.

### **Strategic Plan Update- See slideshow**

Plan is to keep you informed. Preview a few of the pillars to provide Trustees with update. President Bicknell and Director Lewis led the discussion on Pillar III (workforce development) and President Williams and Executive Director Reid led the discussion on Pillar V (Financial Sustainability). The group expressed interest in continuing to receive period updates.

### **LRCC/WMCC Presentation**

Interim President Cate and President Lloyd provided an update on the LRCC-WMCC-spawned initiatives. The current analysis suggests that the merger of the two institutions did not offer sufficient enhancement of the student experience or offer substantial increase in efficiency or economic benefit owing to the differences between the two colleges, thus, suggesting that a merger of the two institutions would not be beneficial at this time.

Instead, the report identifies concrete and potentially significant opportunities for short-term and long-term actions that could be undertaken, some by the LRCC-WMCC teams, but most by all seven sister colleges to achieve greater impact. Following discussion, the Board adopted a motion that encouraged the LRCC-WMCC working group to continue to act upon those opportunities that make sense for those two Colleges, but the Board also directed the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to implement those opportunities for improved student services and operational efficiency that could be transformational if pursued at the System level.

The Board prioritized those opportunities that appear to offer the greatest potential to expand access and support success for students.

For those opportunities that are associated with the curriculum, the Board expressed respect for the voice of faculty in curricular matters and an expectation that SLT would engage faculty appropriately, while still pursuing an ambitious timeline to develop these innovative strategies.

In addition to the scalable opportunities to support access and success for students, the Board also expressed support for developing the potential for enhancement of services and more efficient allocation of resources.

To achieve those objectives, the Board assigned accountability to the Chancellor to engage the SLT, faculty, and others as appropriate to deliver a project plan for pursuing these objectives by March, 2023.

This motion was made by Trustee Baines, seconded by Trustee Lozeau, and passed unanimously by the Board.

**Free Community College**

Chancellor Rubinstein provided an overview of promise programs. There are over 200 of these nationwide, ranging from institutional and local to statewide initiatives that encourage postsecondary enrollment by helping students with greatest need to overcome the barrier of cost. The Chancellor described CCSNH's interest in pursuing this program, the idea having emerged from the LRCC-WMCC initiative, and described ongoing efforts to refine estimates of costs and to develop financial support for the effort. The Chancellor committed to updating the Board regarding the progress around this initiative.

No further business was brought forward. The meeting adjourned at 12:50pm on motion of Mr. Baines and second by Mr. Eastman and Mr. Daniels.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Lawton  
Executive Assistant to the President, NHTI