

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

I. WELCOME

1. Meeting was Called to Order at 5:00 p.m. - Reading of Public Announcement

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, advance notice of this Public Meeting of the Council was provided on November 27, 2023 by posting written notice of this meeting on the Council website and by transmitting the meeting notice to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian, and to the Secretary of State.

ATTENDEES:

<u>College</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Board Chair</u>	<u>Board Alternate/ Other Trustees</u>
Atlantic Cape	Barbara Gaba		
Bergen	Eric Friedman	Dorothy Blakeslee	Sheetal Ranjan
Brookdale	David Stout	Barbara Horl	
Camden	Lovell Pugh-Bassett		Jessica Stewart
Essex	Augustine Boakye		
Hudson	Chris Reber		Pamela Gardner
Mercer	Deborah Preston		Lawrence Nespoli
Middlesex	Mark McCormick		
Morris	Anthony Iacono	George Milonas	Paul Licitra
Ocean	Pamela Monaco		
Passaic	Steven Rose		
Raritan	Michael McDonough		
Rowan at Burlington	Michael Cioce		
Rowan at South Jersey			
Salem	Michael Gorman	Ida Bowen	Dot Hall
Sussex	Jon Connolly		
Union	Margaret McMenamin		Mary Zimmermann
Warren	Marianne Van Deursen		

There were 25 voting members of the Council who were present during the business meeting, constituting a majority and quorum.

Additional Attendees: Maris Lown, Lori Wilkin, Barbara Hadzima, Lauren Inganamort, and Jim Loveys.

Council Staff: Aaron Fichtner, Megan Swieconeck, Catherine Starghill, and Jake Farbman.

2. Introduction and Announcements- Chair Sheetal Ranjan

II. BUSINESS

3. ACTION: Approval of Minutes

By motion of Barbara Horl, and seconded by Dot Hall, the minutes of the November 13, 2023 Executive Committee meeting; November 20, 2023 Council meeting; December 7, 2023 Council Electronic Vote; December 18, 2023 Executive Committee meeting; January 26, 2024 Executive Committee meeting; and February 12, 2024 Executive Committee meeting were approved without amendment.

4. Acceptance of Council Financial Statements

By motion of Dot Hall and seconded by Jon Connolly, the Council accepted the financial statements for November 2023, December 2023, January 2024, and February 2024.

5. Report on Temporary Investments

The Council currently keeps its cash reserves in an account with Spencer Savings Bank. The Council is also enrolled in the NJ Cash Management Fund. As of February 29, 2024, the Council's NJ Cash Management Fund holdings are \$1,939,633.

6. ACTION: Acceptance of NJCCC Audit FY2023

By motion of Mary Zimmermann, and seconded by Dot Hall, the Council accepted the FY2023 NJCCC Audit.

7. Action: Resolution- NJCCC Personnel Policy Change- Reduce Employee Contribution to Benefits

By motion of Tony Iacono, and seconded by Dot Hall, the Council adopted a resolution to reduce NJCCC employee contributions to 20% of insurance premiums.

8. Action: Resolution- NJCCC Personnel Policy Change- Eliminate Waiver Incentive

By motion of Barbara Horl Iacono, and seconded by Eric Friedman, the Council adopted a resolution to eliminate the waiver insurance incentive. Employees currently receiving the incentive will be phased out over the next three years.

III. STRATEGY

9. State Policy Agenda and Budget Request

- **Governor's Proposed FY2025 State Budget-** Fichtner reviewed a detailed analysis of the Governor's FY2025 proposed budget including the following changes from last fiscal year:
 - a. \$20 million decrease to Community College operating aid
 - b. \$1.187 million increase to Community College fringe benefits
 - c. \$10 million decrease in TAG
 - d. \$13.5 million decrease in Summer TAG
 - e. 1.787 million increase to Pay it Forward
 - f. \$1.6 million decrease to Some College No Degree
 - g. \$200,000 decrease to College Readiness Now
 - h. \$900,000 decrease to County College-based Adult Centers for Transition
 - i. \$4 million decrease to CCOG pilot for Vocational Schools
 - j. \$300,000 decrease to the Hunger-Free Campus Program.
- **Council Budget Priorities-** after discussion the presidents came to the consensus that the FY2025 budget priority is to seek restoration of the \$20 million in Operating Aid through the legislature. At this point in time, we need to begin to work on budget strategy for the next administration.
- **Proposed strategy / timeline-** Fichtner reviewed an aggressive budget strategy and time line with the presidents, including the following priorities:
 - a. Outreach to news media
 - b. Mobilizing presidents for the public budget hearings
 - c. Mobilizing students, alumni, trustees, faculty, staff, and partners to testify at the public budget hearings
 - d. Assigning a lead college for each member of the legislature- this is to ensure full coverage, but all presidents should reach out to the local district leaders.
 - e. Hold virtual briefings with all affinity groups, and a special briefing with the Institutional Advancement group focused on outreach and coalition building.

10. Legislative Update*

Fichtner reviewed the updated legislative report and bill tracking list prepared by Heidkamp and Jenkins. Fichtner highlighted Bill S339/A466: Mandates that the boards of trustees for State colleges, universities, and county colleges include two members who are employees of the institution. Fichtner informed the committee that the Council staff will work with the presidents in the districts of the bill sponsors (Sen. Diegnan, Sen. Greenstein & Asm. Daniels) to reach out to them to discuss community college concerns with the legislation.

11. Collaborations/Operations Committee Update

- **Proposed Revisions to the Auditing and Accounting Standards***

By motion of Steve Rose, and seconded by Mary Zimmermann, the revisions to the Auditing and Accounting standards were approved without amendments.

12. Trustee Leadership Academy Update

Fichtner reported that two trustee training sessions were conducted on January 11th and 30th with the help of ACCT. The sessions and presenters were great. Thirty trustees went through the training. More training will be made available this Fall/Winter.

13. Upcoming Council Events and Convenings

Fichtner reviewed the following upcoming events with the Council:

- NJ Scholars Celebration – April 25, 2024 (Trenton, NJ)
- Legislative Days – May 9, 2024 (Trenton, NJ)
- Council Meeting – June 11, 2024 (Atlantic City, NJ)
- NJ Community College Opportunity Summit – June 11 – 13, 2024 (Atlantic City, NJ)

Pathways Year 2 Progress Updates

- Pathways Collaborative: Infrastructure and Energy (Off Shore Wind)– March 18, 2024 (Virtual)
- Pathways Collaborative: Manufacturing & Supply Chain (Aseptic Processing & Bio-Manufacturing)– March 19, 2024 (Virtual)
- Pathways Collaborative: Health Services (Patient Care) – March 19, 2024 (Virtual)
- Pathways Collaborative: Infrastructure and Energy (Construction)– March 22, 2024 (Virtual)
- Pathways Collaborative: Infrastructure and Energy (Electric Vehicles)– March 22, 2024 (Virtual)
- Pathways Collaborative: Technology and Innovation (Data & Computer Science) – March 25, 2024 (Virtual)
- Pathways Collaborative: Manufacturing & Supply Chain (Manufacturing & Supply Chain Logistics)– March 28, 2024 (Virtual)

Meeting Adjourned.