

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025 6:00 PM
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

I. WELCOME

1. Meeting was Called to Order at 6:00 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 July 25, 2024 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	Daniel Money	Sheetal Ranjan
Bergen			
Brookdale	David Stout	Barbara Horl	
Camden	Lovell Pugh Bassett		
Essex			
Hudson			
Mercer	Deborah Preston		Lawrence Nespoli
Middlesex	Mark McCormick		Chrissy Buteas
Morris	Anthony Iacono		
Ocean	Pamela Monaco		
Passaic			
Raritan	Michael McDonough		Michael Goldberg
Rowan at	Michal Cioce		
Burlington			
Rowan at South			
Jersey			
Salem	Michael Gorman	Ida Bowen	Dot Hall
Sussex	Cory Homer		
Union	Margaret		Mary Zimmermann
	McMenamin		
Warren			

There were 20 voting members of the Council who were present during the business meeting, constituting a majority and quorum.

Council Staff: Aaron Fichtner, Megan Swieconeck, Linda Scherr, Maria Heidkamp, Jacob Farbman, Jessica Britt, and Mikal Jenkins

Special Guests: Robert Swisher, Supplee Clooney and Company (Council Auditor)

2. Introduction and Announcements- Chair Sheetal Ranjan

II. Business

3. Approval of Minutes

By motion of Margaret McMenamin, and seconded by Barbara Gaba, the minutes of the of November 11, 2024 Executive Committee meeting; November 18, 2024 Council meeting; December 16, 2024 Executive Committee meeting; January 27, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting; and February 17, 2025 Executive Committee meeting were approved without amendment. Cory Homer and Michael Goldberg abstained.

4. Acceptance of Council Financial Statements

By motion of Deborah Preston, and seconded by Lovell Pugh-Bassett, the Council accepted the financial statements for November 2024, December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025. Cory Homer and Michael Goldberg abstained.

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 28, 2025, the Council's NJ Cash Management Fund holdings are \$2,702,828.

6. Action: Acceptance of NJCCC FY2024 Audit

By motion of Dot Hall, and seconded by Anthony Iacono, the Council accepted the NJCCC FY2024 Audit.

7. Discussion: Proposed NJCCC Bylaw Amendment- Refocus and Rename Economic Mobility Committee

Fichtner and Lovell Pugh- Bassett reviewed the proposed bylaw amendment with the Council members including the proposed rewritten charge. Further the committee is recommending that its name be changed to the Economic and Community Vibrancy Committee to reflect this broader mission and charge. In addition, the committee is recommending that the Council's Advisory Committee on Racial and Social Justice be merged into the Economic and Community Vibrancy

Committee. This By-Law Amendment will be officially considered at the June 16, 2025 Council meeting.

III. STRATEGY

8. State Budget

- **Governor's Proposed FY2026 State Budget**

Fichtner reviewed the Governor's proposed budget with the Council. The budget includes the following cuts: 1. Community College Operating Aid- \$20,000,000; 2. CCOG - \$7,280,000; 3. Student Success Incentive Fund- \$2,500,000; 4. Center for Adult Transition- \$1,800,000; 5. College Readiness Now- \$136,000; 6. DSP Career Development - \$500,000 (Total Community Colleges Cuts- \$32,216,000.) The Workforce Consortium Pathways funding was kept level at \$6,000,000.

- **Proposed Strategy and Timeline**

Fichtner reviewed the strategy which consists of relentless engagement with the Legislature; increased involvement of student leaders, college leaders, trustees, and community partners and supporters; and getting partners involved including business, social justice, and community-based organizations, and counties.

- **Budget Hearings Update**

As budget hearings dates are set, the Council staff will reach out for presidents, trustees, and students to testify accordingly.

9. Upcoming Council Events and Convenings

Fichtner reviewed the following with the Council members:

- Trustee Leadership Academy – March 25 and 27, 2025 (Virtual)
- Student Leadership Summit – April 25, 2025 (Brookdale Community College)
- Council Meeting – June 16, 2025 (Virtual)
- NJ Community College Opportunity Summit – June 4 – 6, 2025 (Atlantic City, NJ)

Meeting Adjourned.