

**COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**JUNE 29, 2016**



**COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD  
JUNE 29, 2016**

A Special Meeting of the Coconino Community College District Governing Board was held in the Board Room at the Lone Tree Campus at 2800 S. Lone Tree Road, Flagstaff, Arizona 86005. Board Chair, Ms. Patricia Garcia, called the meeting to order at 5:55 pm.

PRESENT: Patricia Garcia  
Lloyd Hammonds  
Patrick Hurley  
Marie Peoples  
Nat White

ABSENT: None

Also Present: Dr. Colleen Smith, CCC President, Dr. Monica Baker, Mr. Dan Begay, Ms. Colleen Carscallen, Mr. Ryan Cole, Ms. Allison Eckert, Mr. Brian Harris, Mr. Larry Hendricks, Ms. Veronica Hipolito, Mr. Jeff Jones, Mr. Shaun McKernan, Ms. Suzzanna Rodriguez, Mr. Steve Peru, Ms. April Sandoval, Mr. Scott Talboom, Mr. Richard Travis, Ms. Mary Talentinow, and Ms. Jami Van Ess.

Reports, summaries, background material and other documents referred to in these minutes can be found in the June 29, 2016 documents file.

**Follow Up**

- None

**Important Dates**

August 24, 2016

Joint District Board and Foundation Board Meeting

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Patrick Hurley moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Nat White asked if the Board would consider moving Action Items C and D forward in the agenda. Mr. Lloyd Hammonds seconded the motion as amended. Mr. Patrick Hurley accepted the amended motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**A. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Mr. Scott Talboom introduced Ms. Conina Vanek, Arizona Daily Sun; Mr. Richard Travis, Triadvocates, and Mr. Steve Peru, CCC Steering Committee and Citizens Review Panel Member. Mr. Alan Maguire introduced Mr. Fred Rosenfeld, Legal Counsel.

**B. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Steve Peru gave public comment related to the override/educational outreach effort. It has been his pleasure and honor to be on the committees related to an item on the agenda tonight. Education is the resource that creates options for individuals at every stage and provides options for future. Mr. Peru supports the Board moving forward with an educational outreach/override effort because it will provide more opportunities for individuals from every walk of life and every age. From his heart to yours, he is committed to the College and encourages the Board to take the step to seek support from the community.

### **C. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **City of Fredonia Intergovernmental Agreement** – Dr. Dudley Gardner

Dr. Dudley Gardner presented the City of Fredonia Intergovernmental Agreement. Mr. Jim Hunter, Director of the Page Instructional Site, worked with the City of Fredonia to see if the College could use their library to host classes and offer a broader spectrum of education in this area.

Mr. Lloyd Hammonds moved to approve the City of Fredonia Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. Dr. Marie Peoples seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### **Membership in the Arizona School Alliance for Workers' Compensation, Inc.** – Ms. Jami Van Ess

Mr. Ryan Cole, Director of Operations from the Alliance Trust, joined the meeting to answer questions on this agenda item.

Ms. Jami Van Ess presented an action item for the College to become a member of a trust that provides workmen's compensation insurance. This is similar to our trusts for health insurance and general liability insurance. Ms. Van Ess felt that this was the best time to join the trust as it offers savings in our workmen's compensation premiums as well as an increase in the benefits offered.

Mr. Cole answered questions on the Alliance Trust including how many school districts and community colleges are members, the availability of the nurse triage service, and whether the Flagstaff Unified School District is a member.

Mr. Nat White made a motion to accept the recommendation that the District Governing Board authorize the College to become a member of The Arizona School Alliance for Workers' Compensation, Inc. and authorize the President to sign the agreement, resolution or other paperwork related to participation in the Alliance Workers' Compensation coverage pool. Mr. Patrick Hurley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### **Discussion and Possible action to adopt a resolution pursuant to A.R.S. §42-17202 calling for an election on a proposed district levy limit override** – Ms. Patricia Garcia

Mr. Hammonds started the discussion on this topic by offering his views. He likes the idea of implementing the override when the current secondary property tax expires but thinks the College needs more funding than just continuing the amount this tax would provide. He would

suggest an additional amount equivalent to \$1 or \$2 per \$100,000 of assessed value. This amount would provide for the fiscal needs of the College in a stronger way than continuing the amount of the existing secondary tax. If we start the override after the current secondary tax is completed, we are looking nine years out so need to make sure we request an adequate amount for what we need to do. Mr. Hammonds feels that starting the override at two different times and for two different amounts would be perceived as a double hit to tax payers. Mr. Patrick Hurley supported Mr. Hammonds comments.

Dr. Marie Peoples also agreed with Mr. Hammonds and would be in favor of asking for an additional \$1 to \$2 over the current secondary tax amount. There is a theme that we have limited course options, limited locations, limited faculty, the highest tuition, and she is not in favor of raising tuition further. Dr. Peoples would like to see an aggressive marketing campaign and pursue what we really need to be the best we can and better serve our constituents.

Mr. Patrick Hurley supports Mr. Hammonds and Dr. People's comments. He would like to go into executive session to consult with legal counsel. If we are not successful in 2016, this effort could be offered again in the 2018 special election which gives us a longer window of opportunity if needed. Mr. Hurley feels that we need to go for more than just the amount equivalent to continuation of the current secondary property tax and would support going for an additional amount of \$1.50 to \$2.00 more.

Ms. Garcia asked Mr. Maguire to summarize some of the items covered in the Work Session and Mr. Maguire gave a brief summary of that presentation.

Dr. White offered a suggestion that the Board decide on the year, vote on that and move on to other decisions like how much to go for. The Board would like to have additional discussion but they are supportive of starting the override in 2019 when the current secondary property tax expires. Mr. Hammonds feels that we would have to be able to address the question of why we are waiting to start the override to counter the perception that we may not need the funds if we can wait for an override.

Mr. Hurley questions whether it is possible to have an override that starts with a small amount now and increases after the secondary property tax expires. Mr. Hurley suggests discussing this in executive session for consultation with legal counsel.

Mr. Hammonds has some questions for legal counsel for how things would be worded in the ballot.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** At 6:32 pm a motion was made by Mr. Patrick Hurley and seconded by Mr. Lloyd Hammonds to enter into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for discussion or consultation for legal advice with its attorney.

### **RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION**

Mr. Patrick Hurley motioned to reconvene in open session and Dr. Marie Peoples seconded the motion. The meeting resumed in open session at 8:08 pm.

The documents file for this meeting includes a sample resolution and sample ballot. Mr. Hurley would like to suggest some changes to these documents and have the Board consider the date the override would start. Mr. Hurley asked the Board to consider that this override begins in tax year 2019 when the current secondary property tax expires. The override election will take place this year but would not be implemented until tax year 2019 which coincides with our current bond/secondary property tax rate in the approximate amount of \$2 million expires. This information should become part of the resolution and ballot language. Mr. Hurley deferred to other Board members who wished to suggest changes to the resolution and ballot language.

Mr. Lloyd Hammonds would like to add an additional whereas to the resolution that mentions that we are striving to enhance CCC services throughout the County and would recognize Page, Tuba City, Williams, and other areas we serve. The addition should specifically mention Page, Tuba City, and Williams.

Dr. Marie Peoples would like to add an additional whereas that talks about the importance of lifelong learning. Dr. Peoples also suggests that we remove other institutions' names from the resolution and have it focus solely on CCC and our offerings. Dr. Peoples would also suggest adding a whereas that focuses on the economic benefits that community colleges bring to the County.

The Board decided not to word smith the ballot language and resolution, but would entertain an idea of how to craft a motion to move forward with these changes and allow our attorney, advisor, and President to make the changes that the Board discusses.

The discussion then moved to the dollar amount for the override. Mr. Hurley suggested \$3.75 million. Ms. Garcia is more comfortable with \$3 million, but could be convinced, if we do not implement this tax until 2019, that this would be an actual increase of about \$1 million. The \$3 million would include continuation of the bond that will expire and an additional \$1 million.

Dr. White is leaning toward repurposing the current revenue from the bond. This will not bring us up to the funding level of other community colleges of our size but does represent a significant funding increase. This will allow us to increase certain programs, enhance others, and add some programs that were cut. Dr. White is also trying to be cautious of the fiscal burden this places on taxpayers in the County. He feels that this amount is what it takes to move us out of the downward spiral of austere budgeting, cuts, and raising tuition to one of taking a step forward on good financial footing to provide the services our county desires.

Dr. Peoples agrees with Mr. Hurley and Dr. White. Dr. Peoples agrees that we need a higher amount to address our fiscal concerns. She also supports Mr. Hurley and respects the survey data. Dr. Peoples is supportive of going somewhere in the middle of these two proposals.

Mr. Hammonds is also supportive of funding somewhere between \$2 million and \$3.75 million. He feels that the amount is not the issue so much as going over the continuation amount of \$2 million. Looking at a decision the voters make this November that will impact the College for nine years, he is very concerned that \$2 million will not be enough funding. He would support a higher amount.

Ms. Garcia mentioned that the ballot will mention that we are asking for \$2, \$3, or \$4 million and we will not be there to explain that one tax is sun-setting and this will mean a smaller increase. We will have the opportunity to educate folks but the ballot will not look any different to voters than previous override efforts.

Mr. Hurley has concerns in going for \$2 million and then having our state funding cut by a similar amount. He feels it behooves us to look at the broader picture and to look further out.

We need to be aware that we have not been successful in previous override efforts. The Board discussed the survey results and levels of support for different funding amounts. We have learned a lot from previous efforts and can address some of the pitfalls and areas where we could improve the educational outreach effort.

Mr. Lloyd Hammonds made a motion that the Board adopt a resolution for an override of the primary property tax levy for the Coconino Community College District in the amount of \$3.5 million to take effect in 2019 and adopt the resolution that has been presented by the administration with the following changes:

1. In the first section, where there is a list of whereas, we would add a whereas to enhance educational services throughout the County
2. Change the one section that deals with the specific mention of universities and talk about promoting university transfer
3. Add a whereas recognizing the importance of lifelong learning
4. Add a whereas detailing the economic benefit the community college brings to the County

That the Board would direct the President, our attorney, and our advisor in this matter, Mr. Maguire, to do the wordsmithing on adopting this resolution and present it to the Board Chair who would be authorized to sign the resolution if she found it to meet the motion. This would apply to both the resolution and a sample ballot.

Dr. Marie Peoples seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion was extensive and began with Dr. Nat White. Dr. White made his case for the most conservative approach but would have to vote in favor of the motion to show unanimity and in support of the arguments for this approach. Dr. White feels that the College really needs the override to pass and also really needs the money it would generate.

Legal Counsel, Mr. Fred Rosenfeld, mentioned that statute requires that resolutions be adopted by two thirds of the Board. Mr. Rosenfeld construes this as four people.

The Board is in consensus that the College needs an override, the date it should start but does not agree on the amount presented at this time.

Ms. Garcia feels that we need to go for a larger amount but that it would be a real disservice to the College if we are not successful in passing an override. She is still more comfortable at the \$3

million level. Ms. Garcia reiterated that this would be a different educational campaign than a continuation effort.

The current motion is for \$3.5 million. The Board can continue discussion, amend the motion, or take a vote.

The Board discussed various funding amounts. Dr. Marie Peoples proposed an amendment to the motion to change the amount of the override to \$3 million to truly do beneficial things for the College. Dr. Nat White seconded the amended motion. Mr. Hammonds accepted the amended motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**Sample Ballot Language** – Ms. Patricia Garcia

This item was discussed in the previous agenda item.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The next District Governing Board meeting will be a retreat on August 4-5, 2016 and a regular meeting on August 24, 2016 (Joint Meeting with the Foundation Board).

The next Foundation Board meeting will be August 24, 2016.

The Board suggested that they meet in July for a work session discussion on the override and is in favor of a phone meeting if needed.

**MEETING EVALUATION**

The Board felt it was a very good meeting and the Board appreciated how everyone interacted in a collegial manner and came to a positive resolution. The Board greatly appreciated all the work done for this effort including the work of our staff, attorney and consultants. Dr. Smith thanked the Board for their hard work and sincere deliberation. The Board expressed true concern for the College by spending the time tonight's discussion took and being so totally engaged.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Lloyd Hammonds made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Dr. Marie Peoples and unanimously approved.

**MINUTES PREPARED BY:**

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Ms. April Sandoval  
Board Recorder

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Mr. Lloyd Hammonds  
Vice Chair/Secretary of the Board

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Ms. Patricia Garcia  
Board Chair