

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Sledge Board Room or via Zoom  
February 1, 2021, 5 pm**

**PRESENT:** Trustees George Little, Chairman; Joe Clendenin, Secretary; Gary Evans

**STAFF:** Dr. John Dempsey; Heather Lyons

**ZOOM:** (trustees) Irish Pickett; Helen Probst Mills; Gene Horne; Tim Carpenter; Dr. Sandy Stewart; Connie Lovell; Vincent Gordon; Megan Ramsey, SGA President; (staff) Brenda Jackson; Ron Layne; Lindsey Farmer; Kellie Shoemake; Dr. Rebecca Roush; Germaine Elkins; Dr. Kirk Lynch; Dr. Twana McKnight; Joe Brown; Andi Korte; Nevius Toney; Jessica Locklear; Doug Smith

Mr. Little called the meeting to order at 5 pm. He read the statute regarding conflicts of interest to the Trustees and asked the Board if there were any potential conflicts with the agenda items to be discussed. Hearing none, Mr. Little proceeded to the next item of business.

Ms. Lyons administered the Oath of Office to appoint Tim Carpenter as a Board member. Mr. Carpenter affirmed his acceptance.

Mr. Little made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Little asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Clendenin made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Ramsey reported for the Student Government Association (SGA). Ms. Ramsey introduced herself to the group and provided information regarding student activities. Events in January included an automobile caravan to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Painting Under the Pines, and numerous volunteer projects. An important SGA goal is to involve students at both Pinehurst and Hoke campuses.

Ms. Jackson reported for the Buildings and Grounds Committee in Mr. Caddell's absence. The Hoke Center project was discussed in the previous Board meeting regarding the \$28M School of Science and Math building project. The Hoke Board of Education received a \$10M grant towards the construction of the project. The Board previously agreed to support the project and

that the full 10 acres of the Upchurch land most recently donated to the College would be transferred once full funding is achieved. Letters were sent to the Board of Education and to the Department of Instruction informing them of Board support. The process of donating the land, which requires State Board approval, will commence once full funding requirements are met.

An update of the purchase of the Hoke land will be discussed in closed session.

Ms. Jackson presented a Foundation Hall update. A pre-bid meeting was held on January 28 via Zoom. Over 50 contractors and sub-contractors participated. A walk-through was held on Friday, January 29, for anyone who wished to attend. All bids will be opened on February 11 at 3 pm. Board approval will be required to proceed with the contractor so that bonds can be issued on February 17. A voice poll will be sent to Board members requesting approval on February 12.

Mr. Horne presented the Finance Committee report. Mr. Horne asked for approval of student fees. Dr. Roush reviewed fees requiring approval to include EMS and aviation courses. Mr. Horne made a motion to approve fees for 2021-2022. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jackson reported in Ms. Thomas' absence that there was a budget callback of 1.1% in the amount of \$258,000. This amount had been anticipated and was accounted for in the College's planning.

Mr. Horne reviewed the Financial Report through December 31, 2020. Ms. Jackson congratulated Ms. Thomas on her efforts to use all budgeted funding, resulting in a \$2 return of unused funds to the system office.

Mr. Horne reviewed the status of State and County Bond Funds through December 31, 2020.

Mr. Evans report

Mr. Clendenin reported for the Planning Committee. Mr. Clendenin called on Ms. Farmer and Mr. Layne to report on two new College initiatives, minority to minority mentoring, and work force training with a trucking logistics exploration feasibility study. Ms. Farmer said that the minority to minority mentoring would follow the same format as the veteran to veteran program. Tramaine Pride will lead this new initiative. Ms. Farmer reported that a \$250,000 grant has been received through Continuing Education and the Canon Foundation to support the trucking logistics exploration feasibility study. The study will focus on transportation, communication, and logistics. Sandhills Community College will collaborate with Central Carolina and Randolph Community Colleges during this study.

Mr. Clendenin asked if the Board had questions regarding the College Strategic Plan that was mailed to each member prior to the Board meeting. Ms. Probst Mills asked if the Board might participate in training programs regarding inclusiveness and awareness. Mr. Little replied that the training should be obtained through state and national organizations during trustee training events.

Dr. Dempsey shared thoughts regarding belonging, inclusiveness, and retention on the college campus.

Mr. Clendenin made a motion to approve the 2020-2024 College Strategic Plan including edits. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Layne presented an SCC athletics update.

Ms. Pickett reported that having recently been designated chair of the Student Affairs Committee, she and Ms. Shoemake haven't had time to meet. A report will be available at the April Board meeting. Ms. Shoemake offered an update on the support of the campus military population and the quiet space initiative that will soon be in place.

Ms. Elkins reported for the Foundation. Numerous donations were received throughout the Christmas holiday and year's end. Phone calls and notes of appreciation are being sent to donors who made contributions. The semi-annual Foundation Board meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, April 19, 2021, at 4 pm. Irish Pickett will be inducted as a Foundation Board member. New members Bobby Allen, Reverend Paul Murphy, and Bob McCann will be in attendance.

Dr. Dempsey presented the President's Report. Dr. Dempsey reported that the College has received an estate gift of approximately \$3M. The entire amount of the estate gift will be used towards the betterment of the students. New campus signage is now in place. Dr. Dempsey congratulated Kirk Lynch, who chaired the signage project, for a job well done. The College will explore a TeleMed health care plan to be made available to students. Representatives from First Health will be on hand to present plan information at the April Board Retreat. The plan will be available to those students who wish to participate, and there is no specific number of students required in order for the plan to be made available. Dr. Dempsey asked the Board to approve

honorary doctorates to Dale Haney and Thomas Geer, SCC graduates who are White House landscape employees. Patrick Dougherty, stickwork artist, will fashion art to be placed at the entrance to Sandhills Gardens. Mr. Haney and Mr. Geer are to be invited to attend a ceremony for the dedication of Mr. Dougherty's artwork, and at that time will be awarded the doctorates as two of Sandhills Community College's most distinguished graduates. Steve Scott, former president of Southwestern, Lenoir, and Wake Technical Community Colleges,