

**Official Proceedings of the  
Alpena Community College Board of Trustees Special Meeting**

July 16, 2015

Roger C. Bauer Board Room, Charles R. Donnelly Natural Resources Center  
665 Johnson Street, Alpena, MI 49707

The Alpena Community College Board of Trustees met for a special session on July 16, 2015, in the Roger C. Bauer Board Room, Room 400 of the Charles R. Donnelly Natural Resources Center.

Chairman Briggs convened the workshop at 7:00 p.m.

Present: John Briggs, Teresa Duncan, Marc Ferguson, Joseph Gentry II, Lisa Hilberg, and Tom Townsend. Absent: Florence Stibitz.

Seated at the Board Table: President Don MacMaster and Board Secretary Jay Walterreit.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Townsend that the agenda be approved; seconded by Trustee Hilberg.

Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**Introduction of Guests and Public Comment**

Two guests were in attendance: Nicole Grulke, Alpena News, and Nick Brege, ACC administration.

**Communication(s)**

Chairman Briggs mentioned he has received a letter from the auditors informing him the audit of the 2014-15 fiscal year had begun.

**Action Items**

**2.635 Natural Resources Center Boiler Replacement**

Trustee Townsend gave an overview of the proposed new boiler system. He explained that replacing the old boiler was the first stage which will produce cost savings, and the new system will be able to accommodate another boiler to meet additional future needs. An audit will need to be conducted to gauge future heating and cooling needs in the building.

Trustee Gentry asked if the project can be completed before classes start. ACC Facilities Director Nick Brege noted that the vendors who bid on the project were confident they could finish the project prior to August 24. He also noted a stipulation which would require the vendors to conduct noisy or disruptive activities on weekends or outside of class times if they were still working when classes start.

Trustee Duncan made the motion and Trustee Hilberg seconded the motion which reads as follows:

The Board of Trustees authorizes appropriate College officials to contract with Weinkauf Plumbing and Heating Inc. to install three Lochinvar boilers and remove and dispose of the existing boiler at a price not to exceed \$96,221.

Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Abstentions: 1 (Townsend). Motion passed.

### **Board Discussion**

Chairman Briggs asked President MacMaster to update the trustees on several issues.

MacMaster noted a positive response from the Higher Learning Commission reviewers who visited the campus in June. The reviewers have recommended ACC for approval. MacMaster said the initial report was positive; some work needs to be done, but the College has made it over the first big hurdle.

Trustee Duncan asked if the time was right for the College to begin marketing the Electrical Systems Technology bachelor's degree. President MacMaster promised to contact the HLC to get their feedback on when the College can move forward with publically promoting the program.

MacMaster then mentioned recent discussions with two proponents of bringing a university to Alpena. A meeting with the two proponents and Chairman Briggs and President MacMaster had taken place, and the conversation at that meeting touched upon some of the challenges involved, which included funding.

Chairman Briggs mentioned some research he had done on how other Michigan universities had started. His findings indicated that most universities started as private institutions or as branch schools. No community colleges have transitioned into universities.

Trustee Townsend pointed out that ACC is the school farthest from any Michigan university. He also mentioned his interest in seeing the College do a good job handling the Electrical Systems Technology bachelor's degree program because it may help pave the way for adding other bachelor's degree programs in the future. He also noted ACC has property which could be used in a variety of ways, and that Ferris State University had started out at a technical college.

Trustee Gentry asserted that the most likely location for a new university in Northern Michigan would be in Gaylord, closer to the population centers of Traverse City, Petoskey, etc. He also opined that ACC would struggle to find credentialed instructors.

Trustee Ferguson asked if ACC still has a partnership with LSSU; it was mentioned that LSSU has a new administration which is more amenable to partnerships.

Trustee Hilberg wondered if there were ways to enhance our relationship with UM-Flint to expand the nursing program.

Trustee Ferguson wondered if baccalaureate activities should be added to ACC's vision and mission statements. President MacMaster noted that community colleges are currently only authorized to offer baccalaureate degrees in four areas, and to expand on that mandate would take a move by the legislature.

Ferguson also mentioned the emergence of online education as an impediment to bricks-and-mortar school expansion. It would be risky, he asserted, to expand buildings, etc., without solid programs and business models.

Trustee Gentry offered that many people in our area have strong opinions about adding a university in the area, so the ACC Board of Trustees and administration needs to be careful to consider all aspects of the subject.

Trustee Hilberg recalled seeing educational attainment numbers for Northeast Michigan and wondered if College staff could recirculate that information. Secretary Walterreit offered to find the information and distribute it to the trustees.

All of the trustees agreed they are in favor of more educational opportunities in Northeast Michigan.

President MacMaster wrapped up the subject by suggesting to the trustees that it might be advantageous to invite the university proponents to a trustee workshop to hear their thoughts and further discuss the idea. The trustees agreed; some discussion occurred as to when a retreat might be called, but no decisions were made.

### **Next Regular Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 7 p.m. in the Roger C. Bauer Board Room, Room 400 of the Charles R. Donnelly Natural Resources Center, 665 Johnson Street, Alpena, MI 49707. Please note this date differs from the date first advertised in the Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar.

### **Adjournment**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Jay Walterreit  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees  
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