

**Approved Minutes of the
Alpena Community College Board of Trustees Retreat Meeting**
October 9, 2017

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

On Wednesday, October 9, 2017, the Alpena Community College Board of Trustees gathered for a retreat meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Briggs at 2:04 p.m.

Present: John Briggs, Teresa Duncan, Joseph Gentry II, Lisa Hilberg, Susan Stender, Florence Stibitz, and Tom Townsend. Absent: none.

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

Board Discussion

The retreat started with a discussion of a recent inquiry by a community member who is requesting to use College facilities.

President MacMaster outlined the details to date. He pointed out the community member's request to use College facilities based on free speech/First Amendment arguments. The facility would be used for a "controversial comedy" presentation. President MacMaster then outlined his response thus far and touched on College policies.

The trustees discussed the sensitivity of the situation, explored options to respond to the request, and provided recommendations to the President on ideas to pursue before finalizing a decision.

MCCA Directors Meeting on October 6, 2017, at ACC

President MacMaster read a message from a participant in the MCCA Directors Meeting which was very positive about the event, the College, and about Alpena. The trustees were very appreciative and noted the positive direction of the area, Marine Sanctuary, the College's drone program, and statewide awareness of our advances.

Status of the WCCT and Associated Topics

President MacMaster briefly spoke about the WCCT, who is directing it, how it is being used, and recent developments.

Susan Meier MCCA Presentation

The discussion topic then turned to the Susan Meier presentation from the MCCA Summer Conference. Trustee Gentry began the discussion by explaining who Susan Meier is and what she and her company does. Gentry has condensed her MCCA presentation and led the trustees through the content and questions.

Trustee Stibitz and Duncan then led the discussion on fiduciary, strategic, and generative ways of thinking and acting. Trustee Stibitz cited the concept of constructive discontent in bringing up the topic of ensuring that all trustees are encouraged to participate, interact, and contribute in board activities.

Trustee Gentry then led the Boston Museum case study exercise. The trustees explored generative thinking and how it can be used to a greater extent in their personal and group actions. The trustees went on to talk about a range of “board culture” ideas.

At the end of that topic, President MacMaster encouraged the trustees to ask the questions on their minds and he will find a way to follow up in the appropriate way.

Trustee Stibitz looked for a take-away regarding the topic of board discussion. Is there something the Board can do to facilitate more discussion, including generative discussion? Should we move the board discussion to the beginning of the meeting? Could there be a time limit for a topic, and ask each trustee to respond? How to generate the topics? 15-minute time limit? Leave the discussion item in the agenda at the current place? Integrating staff participation was considered; perhaps specific questions for staff could be addressed at the following board meeting through the President’s Report or other ways. Trustee Hilberg asked about how to use the “catalytic questions” mentioned in the Meier presentation in regular meetings to facilitate discussion.

The discussion part of the agenda will stay the same; the topic for discussion will be determined in advance to give the trustees time to research the topic; there will be a 15 minute time limit for discussion on the topic; and appropriate staff can be asked to follow up on questions at the next regular board meeting.

Chairman Briggs suggested we devote the October regular meeting board discussion time to the Equity vs. Equality topic suggested by Trustee Stibitz.

Trustee Gentry brought up the topic of remedial classes and how they are handled by the College. He mentioned the possibility of waiving the fees for students who are successful in the remedial class. The topic of costs and the number of students was investigated. It was suggested that Nick Bancroft can give the October board meeting faculty report to update the Board on his remedial class efforts.

The trustees then discussed food pantries, the personal needs of students, and ways in which the College can connect students with food resources in the area.

Trustee Townsend requested a hard copy of the College audit be distributed as soon as possible.

Trustee Stibitz talked about theatre activities at the College and let the trustees know there is a person who is working on a Fall Semester play. President MacMaster said the College had devoted \$1,000 to that endeavor. He went on to talk generally about student interest or lack thereof in theatre offerings.

There was brief discussion about trustee terms and when the next trustee election will be held.

The trustees talked about the value of an economic impact study, especially in light of the 2018 millage renewal. Trustee Townsend pointed out the College needs to act and think in a frugal way to demonstrate our value to the community. President MacMaster promised to look into providers for economic impact studies. Secretary Walterreit noted a communication plan from the previous millage campaign exists and will used as the basis for a new plan.

The trustees then went through the board meeting planning session agenda. It was agreed that the trustees would like to invite Nick Bancroft to present on his remedial classes efforts. The trustees and president discussed whether an architect recommendation would happen on October 18, or when a special meeting might be called. There is also the possibility for other action items.

President MacMaster briefed the trustees on an upcoming town hall put on by Rep. Bergman to be held on ACC's campus on Monday, October 16.

Trustee Stibitz asked President MacMaster about a social justice program being presented at the College. He will speak to about how the College is funded and the benefit to the community.

The trustees received a brief update on the HLC accreditation visit. President MacMaster said it went very well; now the College is waiting on a statement of fact from the reviewers.

President MacMaster also gave a post-mortem of the MCCA directors meeting at ACC on October 5-6. The trustees agreed the dinner at Art in the Loft was very classy.

Trustee Duncan brought up the Susan Meier presentation again. She wondered if the board would like to bring her here to ACC to host an education program for local boards. Trustee Gentry suggested funding for the event could come from a Community Foundation grant. President MacMaster promised to call the MCCA to see how much Meier cost.

Next Regular Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, in the Roger C. Bauer Board Room, Room 400 of the Charles R. Donnelly Natural Resources Center, 665 Johnson Street, Alpena, MI 49707.

Adjournment

The regular meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:21 p.m.

Jay Walterreit
Secretary of the Board of Trustees
(989) 358-7215