

**CCC&TI Board of Trustees, Watauga County Commissioners
and Watauga Board of Education
Joint Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

The Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Board of Trustees met in joint session with the Watauga County Commissioners, and the Watauga Board of Education on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Student Services Center on the Watauga Campus.

Board members present were:

Larry W. Taylor-Chairman, Ronald Beane, Wongalee Thomas, James Sponenberg, William "Bill" Stone, Ann E. Smith, Joel Carroll, Dale Hamby, Candis Hagaman, William Winkler, Lowell Younce, Brianna Swanson-SGA

Board members absent were:

Jerry T. Church, Alvin W. Daughtridge, Christopher Barlowe

Watauga County Board of Education members present:

Dr. Gary Childers-Chairman, Dr. Scott Elliott- Superintendent

Watauga County Commissioners:

Deron Geouque-County Manager, Charlie Wallin, Carrington Peralion

CCC&TI Staff and others present were:

Dr. Mark Poarch-President, Randy Ledford, Donnie Bassinger, Dena Holman, Susan Wooten, David Holman, Donna Church, Edward Terry

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Taylor and the invocation was given by Trustee Ronald Beane.

**ETHICS
STATEMENT**

Trustee Joel Carroll reviewed the following Ethics Statement with the board:

*In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Board today? If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved.
(N.C.G.S. 138A-15 (e))*

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Taylor welcomed all Trustees and guests to the meeting. The Board of Education and Commissioners expressed their gratitude for the partnerships with the college. Dr. Poarch and Chairman Taylor expressed their gratitude for the partnerships and all that they accomplish. Dr. Poarch thanked the Commissioners for the trustees they appoint to the college board.

WATAUGA REPORT

Steve Melton gave an update on some of the events that have taken place on the Watauga Campus within the last few semesters. He also presented student success stories, gave an overview of the program status and announced that there has been a slight increase in enrollment.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Ann Smith and seconded by Bill Stone to approve the April Meeting Minutes (**Attachment A**) as presented. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee: No report

Athletics Committee:

Committee Chairman Joel Carroll reported that we have had a great year in our athletics. He thanked Jeff Link and Dena Holman for all their work with our athletics department. He announced that our softball team finished 33/11. Our baseball team is one of eight teams to qualify for the Division III World Series Championship that will be held in Greenville, TN. The team is currently 47 and 7. He congratulated Coach Frank Pait for being named Coach of the Year. Academically we have graduated 24 student athletes with a grade point average of 2.96 or higher.

Building and Grounds Committee:

Committee Chairman Bill Stone informed the board that the Building and Grounds Committee met for two full days to interview prospective architects for the new health sciences building and for the expansion of the Occupational Training Facility on our Watauga Campus. After reviewing information from various architectural firms, Bill Stone, on behalf of the committee, made a motion to approve McMillianPazdenSmith Architectural Firm for the project to expand the Occupational Training Facility on our Watauga Campus. The motion carried.

Committee Chairman Bill Stone, on behalf of the committee, made a motion to award the project for the new health sciences building construction to ClarkNexsen Architectural Firm. He also announced that the health sciences building will be the most complicated, technical facility that we have ever tried to build, and we need a firm that can handle the technical aspect of the building. The motion carried.

Committee Chairman Bill Stone presented, for information purposes, the Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes for April 19, 2022 as shown in **Attachment B**.

Donnie Bassinger distributed a copy of the athletic field site drawing (**Attachment B-1**). Donnie gave an overview of what the project will require. The estimated cost of the field as presented by the drawing will be around 1 million dollars. He also explained that just the field without most of the features shown in the drawing will be approximately \$750,000. Chairman Stone asked all present to keep in mind that we don't have any more green space, and we desperately need it. All agreed that Dr. Poarch will look into any funding sources that may be available to help with the cost of the field.

Chairman Stone presented an update of the ASU Agreement as shown in **Attachment B-2**. He informed the board that the current agreement is ending and this is a copy of the revised agreement. Dr. Poarch informed the board that they have already approved a facilities use agreement with ASU in October 2021. The current agreement stated that ASU would pay for ½ of the instructional position, but when we asked for signatures, they wanted to be involved in the hiring and evaluation of our employees, so we went back to ASU and said that rather than them pay for ½ of the position, they needed to pay what the policy states. So, they would pay \$15 to \$30 per credit hour and the cost could go up from there. Attachment B-2, is the agreement from the university system and community college system, so the only thing that changes is charges between the two entities. The agreement will run through June 30, 2024. A motion was made by Chairman Stone to approve the agreement as shown in Attachment B-2. The motion carried.

Curriculum Committee: No report

Finance Committee:

In the absence of Committee Chairman Jerry Church, Billy Ralph Winkler made a motion to approve the State Budget Transfers for April 1-30, 2022 (**Attachment C**) as presented. The motion carried.

Billy Ralph Winkler made a motion to approve the Interim Financial Summary Report for April 2022 (**Attachment C-1**) as presented. The motion carried.

Policy and Legislative Committee: No report

Personnel Committee:

In the absence of Committee Chairman Alvin Daughtridge, Trustee Lowell Younce presented, for information purposes, the following employments, retirements and resignations: the employment of Elaine Harmon, Full-time Administrative Assistant, TRIO (**Attachment D**); the employment of Sarah Estes, Full-time Success Coach, TRIO (**Attachment D-1**); the employment of Tori King, Full-time Administrative Assistant, Student Records/Admissions (**Attachment D-2**). The retirement/resignation of Kevin Carswell, Full-time Facilities Specialist (**Attachment D-3**); the resignation of Melinda Laws, Full-time Director/Instructor, Medical Assisting Program (**Attachment D-4**); the resignation of Rosio Caballero, Full-time Housekeeper (**Attachment D-5**) and the resignation of Kaye Frye, Full-time Clinical Coordinator Nuclear Medicine (**Attachment D-6**).

**SGA
REPORT**

SGA President announced that SGA gave out gifts at graduation such as water bottles and T-shirts. She also informed the board that the SGA Elections are now complete and the new SGA President will be coming to the June meeting.

Vice President Dena Holman announced that our baseball team is currently number one in the nation and we are hopeful we will be number one in the playoffs on May 28, 2022 in Greenville, TN. She also informed board members that we started summer semester classes on Monday, May 16, but some classes don't start until May 31st. We are still registering and are slightly up in enrollment. We are also in the middle of our fall registration and it looks like we have 400 new students.

We had approximately 900 students that graduated on Saturday with diplomas, certificates and degrees, but not all students walked across the stage. We held two ceremonies, one at 1pm and one at 4pm. It was great to see the students celebrating again. We still have the CASA graduation, which will be held on May 26.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. Poarch announced that he is super proud of our baseball team, The coaching staff, and the board for supporting baseball and all of our athletic programs. Twenty-four of our athletes graduated with a 3.0 GPA, which is a great job in the classroom and on the field/court.

Dr. Poarch presented, for information, the Civic Center Monthly Report for April 2022 (**Attachment E**), and Letters, News Articles and Board Highlights (**Attachment H**).

Dr. Poarch announced that we have received the official notification that we have been awarded the grant for the Minority Male Success Initiative Funding (**Attachment F**). This will pay part of the salary for the position that serves minorities.

Dr. Poarch thanked all of those who attended the graduation ceremonies and sent a special “thank you” to the Trustees that were our speakers or presented awards. They were Joel Carroll, Candis Hagaman, and Ann Smith. We had approximately 150 students per ceremony. The audience was really powerful. We also integrated the GED and Adult High School students into our ceremonies.

Dr. Poarch gave the following Legislative Update: on July 1, full-time employees will get a 2.5% salary increase, and another 2.5% salary increase is included in the Governor’s proposed budget. The Governor also approved a bonus of either a \$1500 or \$2,000 depending on the person’s annual salary.

Dr. Poarch announced that there were changes for us at the polls. Senator Ballard lost to Ralph Hise in Watauga. Both are great senators. Ralph Hise worked at Mayland Community College for years and now works for UNC-Ashville. Senator Ballard did a lot for us and she is a great friend and champion for the community colleges. Also, for the local changes, there was a change in the County Commissioners in Watauga, but Caldwell Commissioners remain the same. The Caldwell County School Board has changed. Mark Gerson won the primary seat. The short session started today and the legislators are in Raleigh.

Dr. Poarch announced that the Trustee Self-Evaluation forms for 2022 (**Attachment G**) were distributed in your board packets and/or the link to file the form on line has been sent to each board member. All were informed that the evaluation forms are due before the June 22, 2022 Board meeting date.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Taylor reminded the board that the Presidential Evaluation forms are due today, May 18, 2022, and will be discussed by the next board meeting.

All were reminded that their 2022-23 Board Preferences are due to Donna Church by June 15, 2022 (**Attachment I**).

Chairman Taylor appointed the following trustees to the Board's 2022-2023 Nominating Committee: Bill Stone-Chairman, Lowell Younce and Jim Sponenberg.

For information purposes, Chairman Taylor presented the Calendar of Events (**Attachment J**), and the Future Board Meeting dates. Chairman Taylor announced that there will be a change to the June Board meeting date. The June Board meeting date was June 15, but has been changed to June 22, 2022. It was also noted that the July Board meeting that was originally scheduled for July 20, will be changed to July 21, 2022 due to conflicts in President Poarch's schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Poarch announced that Community College Day is scheduled for June 8, 2022 in Raleigh, NC. He asked which of the trustees would like to attend. Dr. Poarch informed the board that there will be a meeting in Raleigh on June 8, at 10:00 a.m. and he is one of the speakers, so he will have to go to Raleigh a day earlier on June 7. Anyone interested in attending were asked to let him or Donna Church know.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Donna Church, Recording Secretary

Ann E. Smith, Board Secretary/Treasurer