

**Blue Ridge Community College
College Board Meeting
September 13, 2023**

Board Members Present

- Ms. Kelly Blosser
- Ms. Debra Callison
- Robin Crowder
- Ms. Janet Ewing
- Ms. Sandra Hernandez
- Ms. Capitola "Cappie" Hull
- Mr. John Matherly
- Ms. Cathy Welsh

Board Members Absent:

- Mr. John Butler
- Ms. Vermell Grant
- *Staunton Appointee not yet named*

College Staff in Attendance:

- Dr. John Downey, President of the College and Secretary of the Board
- Ms. Anastasia Triplett, Vice President of Finance and Administration
- Dr. Dave Urso, Vice President of Student Affairs
- Ms. Amy Kiger, Executive Director of the BRCC Educational Foundation
- Ms. Sandi Belcher, Executive Assistant to the President
- Ms. Donna Ladd, BRCC Full-time Faculty English Instructor

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Downey welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:24 pm.

Elections of Board Leadership

Mr. Matherly made a motion for the nomination of the Board Chair: Ms. Debbie Callison. The motion was seconded by Ms. Welsh and passed unanimously. Next, Mr. Matherly made a motion for the nomination of the Vice Chair: Ms. Cathy Welsh. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ewing and passed unanimously. With that vote, Ms. Callison took over conducting meeting business.

Moment in Mission

Dr. Downey introduced Ms. Donna Ladd, a Full-time Faculty English Instructor at BRCC. Ms. Ladd talked about the importance of General Education English courses and how they teach students critical thinking skills. She related examples of how this impacted students' lives. Some discussion followed.

Approval of May 10, 2022 Minutes of Proceedings

The motion was made by Mr. Matherly and seconded by Ms. Hull and was passed unanimously.

Finance and Facilities Committee Report

Ms. Triplett reported that the committee voted to have Mr. John Butler remain as Chair, approved the minutes from the May 10, 2022 meeting, and reviewed the Financial reports. In Mr. Butler's absence, Ms. Triplett reviewed the Budget reports from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 and then reviewed the Budget reports from July 1-August 31, 2023. **The committee recommended these reports for approval and be filed for audit. This was approved unanimously.** Ms. Triplett went on to report on the renovations that have taken place on campus and there was a short discussion on future renovation projects.

Curriculum and Student Affairs Committee

Dr. Urso asked Ms. Ewing to report for the committee. She stated that without a quorum, the committee had to bring the action items to the full Board for approval, and she suggested that Dr. Urso go over each one. Dr. Urso reported that there were the five Consent items be voted on as a group and then suggested the same for the three Action items. **Ms. Blosser made a motion to approve all five Consent items on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ewing and passed unanimously.** Next, **Ms. Welsh made a motion to approve all three Action items on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Blosser and passed unanimously.**

Personnel Report

Ms. Triplett reviewed the Personnel Report.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Urso distributed and reviewed the enrollment report, noting that BRCC is the only community college in the state to improve in both FTEs and FF numbers.

Educational Foundation

Ms. Kiger reviewed the Foundation reports, which includes the Blue Ridge and All Funds Comparison reports. In addition, Ms. Kiger also included a balance sheet that highlighted the growth of funds for the Foundation between June 2022 and June 2023. She also included some examples of how the Foundation supports various college programs.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Approval for alcohol on campus for the Foundation Spring Fling fundraiser was passed unanimously. The President's Institutional Priorities were reviewed. Mr. Matherly moved that they be approved. Ms. Blosser seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Downey asked that each Board member sign and date a Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement form. All Board members present did so. Ms. Belcher sent the form to those Board members absent. Report from the President: Dr. Downey reported that he had recently presented his annual Community Breakfast Series. In it, he stated that BRCC is ranked the 6th best community college in the state and the 2nd best in 19 different measures. He also announced that the state budget was approved, which gives employees an additional 2% raise and also authorizes \$2.77 million to build a new truck driving range. In addition, Eric Fitzgerald has been hired to start an Agricultural Certificate program at the college.

Public Input

No members from the public were in attendance.

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ms. Sandi Belcher