



**BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 14, 2022 ~ 5 p.m. ~ TEDC – Blue Ridge Conference Hall

Item

MEMBERS PRESENT	Brianna Allen, Vivian Bolaños, Cathy Childress, Steve Dozier, Dr. Clay Eddleman, Chip Gould, Dr. Jeremy Gibbs, Mark Isabelli, Kelly Leonard, Mike Pressley, Jim Rasmussen and Dr. Brian Weaver
MEMBERS ABSENT	Betty Gash, Nathan Kennedy and Duke Woodhull
OTHERS PRESENT	Lisa Adkins, Kathy Allen, Carolyn Alley, Kirsten Bunch, Lee Anna Haney, Dr. Jessica Harrell, Dr. Laura Leatherwood, Glenda McC Carson, Dr. Chad Merrill, Dr. Sarah Parlier, Tammy Pryor, Dr. Scott Queen, Ben Rickert and College Attorney Dean Shatley
CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME	<p>Chairman Chip Gould called the meeting to order at approximately 5 p.m. Dr. Leatherwood recognized three new employees: Director of Teaching and Learning Dr. Sarah Parlier, Director of Research and Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Jessica Harrell and incoming Director of Marketing and Communications Ben Rickert. Each one approached the podium and introduced themselves to the trustees.</p> <p>Dr. Leatherwood introduced a short video clip featuring Blue Ridge students to “remind everyone why we do what we do.” A link to the entire video was emailed to the trustees on March 15.</p>
ETHICS STATEMENT	Chairman Gould read the Ethics Statement. No conflicts were reported.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Chairman Gould called for an addition to the agenda: A Resolution of Recognition of President Leatherwood. Dr. Weaver moved to approve the meeting agenda with the addition. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rasmussen and carried without opposition.
RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION	Chairman Gould read aloud a Resolution of Recognition of President Leatherwood being chosen NC Community College’s 2022 President of the Year. A framed copy of the Resolution was presented to Dr. Leatherwood and a copy is made a part of these minutes.

APPROVAL OF
CONSENT
AGENDA

A motion was made by Dr. Gibbs, seconded by Ms. Bolaños, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed without opposition.

COMMITTEE
REPORTS

Facilities Committee

Dr. Chad Merrill was called on to report on construction and facilities projects. Dr. Merrill referenced the detailed written reports posted to the meeting web page and spoke about the following:

- Capital and major capital projects; including new photos of the Patton Project
- Expecting to move in to the new Patton Building in June
- Demolition of Arts & Sciences and General Studies buildings to be completed by the end of September
- Permanent power to be connected to the Public Safety Training Facility (PSTF) by March 18
- PSTF equipment has been ordered
- Tentative plans for a PSTF ribbon cutting event in late April

Dr. Leatherwood reported on efforts in Transylvania County to spread awareness of the college since the January board meeting. She announced that the new Executive Director for Transylvania Economic Alliance has been hired: Burton Hodges, formerly of the Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development. The Transylvania County Commissioners should now move forward to form a committee to study the impact of Blue Ridge Community College in the county. This committee would be charged to make a recommendation to the Commissioners as to future construction of a new campus for the college in the Brevard area. She also mentioned that she will be presenting the college budget request to the Transylvania County Commissioners at their meeting on March 28 and invited interested trustees to attend.

Finance and Investment Committee

Committee Chairman Kelly Leonard called on Associate Vice President Carolyn Alley to assist with the Finance Committee's report.

- Ms. Alley began with the financial statements at January 31, 2022:
 - State and County budgets, including new allocations
 - Institutional Funds Analysis, including fund deficits
 - Short Term Investment Fund balance
- Ms. Alley also referenced and commented on:
 - College Budget including Form DCC 2-1 and SGA budget
 - College Budget Resolution totaling \$38,734,422
 - Financial Statement Audit for the year ended June 30, 2021

- A few adjusting journal entries but no findings (clean)
- Entire audit report posted to the meeting web page for further review

After all questions were answered and by direction of the Finance and Investment Committee, Mr. Leonard moved to approve the College Budget, including the Budget Resolution, SGA budget and DCC 2-1. As the motion came from Committee, no second was needed. The motion passed without opposition.

On a motion by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Ms. Bolaños, the board approved the Financial Statements Audit for the year ended June 30, 2021. The motion passed without opposition.

COLLEGE REPORTS

President's Report

Dr. Leatherwood referenced her written report which was published on the meeting web page and paused for related questions. She covered several topics in her verbal report including:

- Trustee and Foundation Director Jim Rasmussen will be the keynote speaker for the May graduation ceremonies.
- Presentation at the Henderson County Commissioners meeting on March 16; topic is workforce and college efforts to train and support local companies
- NC Community College System Legislative Agenda
 - Covers the next three years
 - Focused on two key items:
 - Employees – people that do the work and their value
 - Students – capacity to do the work and their value
 - Advocate for these priorities with our legislators
- Changes to legislative maps going forward:
 - Transylvania County will be aligned with Jackson and Swain Counties
 - Henderson County will be aligned with Polk and Rutherford Counties
- Rapid Response – Continental Shut Down; moving operation overseas
 - Blue Ridge team is working with 150 people left at Continental
 - The employees qualify for Trade Adjustment Act benefits; they can get paid while getting an education
- Reviewed Workforce Short Term Credentials handout
- Skilled Trades Lease
 - Unable to find location to run classes in Transylvania County; will be turning attention back to Henderson County campus

- Will be cited when presenting the college budget request to Transylvania County Commissioners at the end of March; punctuates the necessity for a new campus in Transylvania County so that the college can start needed programs
- Chief of Staff
 - Several positions have been added across the college to respond to our growth
 - Now adding a much-needed position in the President's Office
 - Preliminary discussions were held with members of the Executive Committee

In conclusion, Dr. Leatherwood paused for any final questions and thanked the trustees for their continued support of the work of the college.

Educational Foundation Report

Vice President Adkins provided the following updates:

- The college's website was recognized with a Gold 2022 AVA Digital Award
- FREE college will continue for 2022-23
- Look for new ads with the theme NEW JOBS ON THE HORIZON
- Launch of new scholarship portal for students
- Community Ambassador Alumni Breakfast slated for May 4
- Foundation budget process for the coming fiscal year is underway
- Keeping a close watch on endowment funds in light of current events

Student Government (SGA) Report

SGA President Brianna Allen reviewed the SGA report and commented on several recent student events.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gould reminded everyone that the Board of Trustees Retreat had been rescheduled from March 14 to May 9, 2022. The retreat will begin after the conclusion of the regular May board meeting, which is scheduled to start at 11 a.m. at the GE Current Institute.

NEW BUSINESS

As Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Leonard shared that a survey link would be sent by email on March 15, so that trustees may indicate their interest in serving as an officer as well as which board committees they would like to serve on during the coming fiscal year. The Nominating Committee will meet in April to review the responses and formulate their recommendations for officers and two seats on the Executive Committee. These recommendations will be presented for vote at the regular board meeting in July.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Gould shared that a link to the annual board self-evaluation survey would also be sent on March 15. He asked for 100% participation and encouraged trustees to add meaningful comments.

The Blue Ridge Community College Board of Trustees entered closed session at approximately 6 p.m. on a motion pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), to prevent the disclosure of confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115D-27, and 318.11(a)(3), to prevent disclosure of confidential attorney-client communications. The motion was made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Dr. Gibbs, and passed without opposition.

Closed session ended at approximately 6:20 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Rasmussen. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bolaños and carried without opposition.

COMMENTS AND
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gould paused for final comments from board members. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:24 p.m.

John B. "Chip" Gould, Chairman

Dr. Laura B. Leatherwood, Secretary