

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EASTERN IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
March 14, 2011**

The Board of Trustees of the Eastern Iowa Community College District (Merged Area IX) met in Regular Session on March 14, 2011, in the Ellis Vetter Room at 306 West River Drive, Davenport, Iowa. President Robert Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following directors present: Kendra Beck, Dr. Joseph D'Souza, Mary Lou Engler, Bill Phelan, Milton Shaw, Shirley Stewart. Absent: John Frampton.

The Board conducted a public hearing on the 2011-2012 Budget Estimate. No one appeared to speak for or against the budget estimate, and President Gallagher closed the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Director Bill Vetter, District IX, had resigned from the Board at the February 21, 2011, Regular meeting due to his relocation out of District IX. President Gallagher reported that he had met with a potential replacement and is recommending that the Board appoint Michelle Garvin of Wilton, Iowa, to complete the unexpired portion of Director Vetter's term.

Director Phelan moved, seconded by Director Stewart, to appoint Ms. Garvin to fill the District IX vacancy for the remainder of the term. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Board members welcomed Ms. Garvin, and President Gallagher administered the oath of office. Director Garvin took her seat at the Board table.

Minutes from the February 21, 2011, Regular Board meeting had been mailed to the Board members for their review. Director Beck moved, seconded by Director Shaw, to approve the minutes as submitted. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Several members of the audience asked to address the Board. Todd Hackett, owner of Todd Hackett Construction in Muscatine, spoke about Agenda Item 12, under which the Board will be asked to reject all bids received for the Career Assistance Center/West Davenport Center project. Mr. Hackett stated that after the low bidder, Precision Builders, withdrew its bid, his company was asked by the architectural firm if they would be willing to honor their original bid as it stood. He responded that they would indeed, and several subcontractors for the bid were present to reiterate their support for this bid. Mr. Hackett stated that the recommended course of action – to reject all bids and request new ones – will put all bidders at a disadvantage because everyone will know each other's numbers. He would like the Board to award his company the contract. Subcontractor Steve Weindruch noted that each company had put many hours into the bid process, the recommended course of action goes against common practice, the quality of the project may suffer because of it and it could lower the credibility of the college. Another subcontractor stated that there is great

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subcontractor support for this bid from Todd Hackett Construction and that the project will provide many local jobs.

Director Phelan presented an IACCT update. He reported that the state general aid is still undecided and that while there is support for community colleges on both sides of the political aisle, the state budget situation may make it hard for them to provide as much aid as needed. Lobbyists are still hopeful that the \$5 million mid-year rescission may be restored. The IACCT Board decided to keep its officer terms at one year, rather than changing to two-year terms. The new IACCT office building in Des Moines is still experiencing HVAC issues; litigation may be a future step. Some Board meetings in the coming year will be held via Webinar; face-to-face meetings will be scheduled quarterly. Director Phelan congratulated Chancellor Pat Keir on her presentation to IACCT on the “new normal” for community colleges. He asked Board members to please give him questions and information to take to these meetings, as he wants to represent the entire Board.

Staff reports were presented. Chancellor Keir noted that state funding is still up in the air and that odds are not good for an increase in next year’s state general aid. Gary Mohr, executive director of external affairs, explained that the Senate has increased their community college aid request to \$168 million, which is \$24 million higher than the House request. The Speaker of the House has indicated he may agree to amend the House request to \$159 million. The next step is for the parties to begin negotiations.

Jeff Halterman, director of the Reach to Achieve initiative, reported on the current student success rates, the initiative’s mission and strategies and the team’s initial activities. He also gave an overview of the Title III grant-funded goals and activities. Chancellor Keir noted that while EICCD success rates are at the bottom in Iowa, they are at the national average. Improvement is critical.

Dr. Karen Vickers, president of Clinton Community College and vice chancellor for student development, presented the results of the Fall 2010 Student Satisfaction Inventory. This survey is given to a broad range of students every other year. Students are asked to rate a series of items on how important they are and how satisfied they are with the college’s performance on each one. She noted there are no major gaps in satisfaction, but pointed out several areas for improvement. Of the 600 students surveyed, 78% indicated their experience has met or exceeded their expectations and 70% indicated they would enroll again.

A list of personnel items was presented for Board approval. Director D’Souza moved, seconded by Director Stewart, to approve the personnel list as submitted. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

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Mark Kapfer, executive director of economic development, presented two Chapter 260E preliminary agreements: Phoenix Closures, in the amount of \$415,000; and Husco International, Inc., in the amount of \$130,000.

Director Engler moved, seconded by Director D'Souza, to approve the two Chapter 260E preliminary agreements. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kapfer also presented two Chapter 260F retraining agreements: DeWitt Consortium, in the amount of \$50,000; and the EICCD Graphic Arts Business Network, in the amount of \$150,000.

Director Shaw moved, seconded by Director Phelan, to approve the Chapter 260F retraining agreements. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Board was asked to approve one contractual agreement, with Vera French Mental Health for services at Scott Community College.

Director D'Souza moved, seconded by Director Stewart, to approve the contractual agreement. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jeff Armstrong, president of Muscatine Community College and vice chancellor for facilities, presented the background on the Career Assistance Center/West Davenport Center bid process. He recommended that the Board reject all bids received on February 16, 2011, and open the process to bidding again. Mr. Hackett explained how, in spite of a significant subcontractor clerical error that affected the four lowest bids, his company is able to honor their original bid because many of the subcontractors were willing to help. Subcontractor Rich Angler noted that all subcontractors on the job are quality operations. Architect Greg Larrison addressed the Board and noted that the contractor and subcontractors all perform quality work, that both options available to the Board (to award the contract to the next low bidder or to reject all bids and start again) are legal and acceptable. He explained that accepting this bid would create more pressure to maintain quality on this job, but that the rebidding process could become more of a game than a bid as contractors will know each other's original numbers. Rejection of the bids would delay the project by one month.

After discussion, Director Beck moved, seconded by Director Phelan, to allow the low bidder, Precision Builders, to withdraw their bid and to award the contract to the next low bidder, Todd Hackett Construction. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Lana Dettbarn, executive director for administrative services, presented the FY 2011-2012 budget estimate for approval. She noted that it reflects a 1.5 percent increase over

the current year's budget and is calculated assuming no growth in state general aid and slight growth in property tax revenues.

Director Shaw moved, seconded by Director D'Souza, to approve the FY2011-2012 budget estimate. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Financial reports for the month ending February 28, 2011, were presented. It was recommended that receipt of the reports be acknowledged and the reports placed on file.

Director Phelan moved, seconded by Director Engler, to acknowledge receipt of the reports and to place them on file. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Copies of the bills had been mailed to the Board members for their review. Board members were asked to approve payment of the bills as submitted.

Director Stewart moved, seconded by Director Shaw, to approve payment of the bills as submitted. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

During Trustee Comments, Director D'Souza thanked the Board for their graciousness about his absences last year as he pursued flight certification and announced that he did very well on his certification last week.

During Chancellor's Comments, Chancellor Keir informed the Board about potential changes to the Iowa Workforce Development delivery system. The state has proposed to cut back services in this region to one centralized office in Davenport with satellite centers run via technology in Clinton and Muscatine. She stated that IACCT and IACCP have not taken a position on this concept, and Director Phelan noted that it may not have support among the legislators.

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on April 18, 2011, at Clinton Community College, 1000 Lincoln Boulevard, Clinton, Iowa.

The Board was asked to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Director Phelan moved, seconded by Director Engler, to enter into Executive Session. On roll call vote: Ayes: Beck, D'Souza, Engler, Gallagher, Garvin, Phelan, Stewart, Shaw. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:03 p.m. and returned to Regular Session at 10:04 p.m.

President Gallagher adjourned the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

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Approved:

Honey H. Bedell, Board Secretary

Board President