

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMMITTEE AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Sledge Board Room and via Zoom
Sandhills Community College
October 4, 2021, 5:00 pm**

PRESENT: Trustees George Little, Chairman; Larry Caddell, Vice Chairman; Joe Clendenin, Secretary; Gary Evans; Tim Carpenter; Dr. Sandy Stewart; Connie Lovell; Gene Horne

STAFF: Brenda Jackson; Ron Layne; Doug Smith; Dwight Threet

REMOTELY VIA ZOOM CALL: Trustees Vincent Gordon; Irish Pickett; Helen Probst Mills; Dr. John Dempsey; Heather Lyons; Dr. Rebecca Roush; Dr. Julie Voigt; Avery Campbell, SGA President; Mishell Marshall, SGA Vice President; Dr. D.J. Farmer; Lindsey Farmer; Doug Smith; Germaine Elkins; Dr. Twana McKnight; Andi Korte; Libba Thomas; Nevius Toney; Jessica Locklear

Chairman Little called the Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He read the statute regarding conflicts of interest and asked the Board if there were any potential conflicts with the agenda items to be discussed. Hearing none, Mr. Little proceeded to the next item of business.

Mr. Caddell asked that a modification be made to the Buildings and Grounds Agenda under item “C” to show an update regarding the Randy Saunders property adjacent to the College. Mr. Caddell also asked that a closed session be added under the heading of “Other Business”. Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clendenin made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Dempsey submitted a special enrollment report. He called on Mr. Layne to present information regarding a poll that was taken by staff, faculty, and members of the community asking for opinions and ideas related to enrollment and retention. Ms. Farmer and her team were instrumental in compiling information from the survey, which offered a \$100 prize for 20 of the participants. Funding for the \$100 prizes was made available through Ms. Elkins and the Foundation. Ms. Farmer and Mr. Layne reviewed the results of the survey as well as additional efforts being made to increase enrollment and retention. Ms. Elkins reported that a final survey was conducted where faculty and staff were asked for their suggestions regarding enrollment and retention. Listening sessions were held on the Pinehurst and Hoke campuses. A multitude of valuable information was received as a result of the sessions. Discussion ensued regarding

continued and future efforts to increase and retain the student population. Dr. Dempsey will meet with VPs to review all information and develop a course of action.

Ms. Campbell presented the Student Government Association (SGA) Report. Ms. Campbell reported that she believes the SGA plays a significant role in student enrollment and retention. Students are more likely to remain in school if they have a social aspect acting as a support system that helps them plan and achieve goals. In recent months the SGA has been successfully engaging students. Ms. Campbell reported the formation of new clubs on campus as well as various activities for students.

Mr. Horne reviewed the Financial Report as well as the State and County Bond Funds through August 31, 2021, with no Board action required.

Mr. Horne said that a \$500 stipend will be awarded to part-time employees in the month of October. Federal funds will be allocated for these stipends. No Board action is required.

Financial statements for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 have been prepared and submitted to the North Carolina Office of the State Controller. Ms. Jackson said that the financial statements are prepared once a year. A pdf was included in the Board package.

Mr. Evans reported for the Personnel Committee. Mr. Evans asked Board members to review Personnel information. No Board action was required.

Mr. Evans called on Chief Threet to submit the Annual Security Report (ASR) for 2021. Chief Threet reported that the new campus camera system installation has been completed at the Hoke Campus and will be completed by month's end at the main campus. There were no incidences of crime to include in the Annual Security Report in 2021.

Mr. Evans made a motion to allow for the continuance of the process to prepare the Policies and Procedures manual for future approval. Mr. Caddell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Jackson announced that Wendy Dodson will be retiring but will be on hand during the first quarter of 2022 to assist in the transition. Candidates will be interviewed within the next two weeks for the Senior HR Director position.

Dr. Stewart called on Dr. Roush to report information for the Educational Programs Committee. Dr. Roush reported that Teacher Prep Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees began this fall. Students are enrolled in these classes and scholarships are being awarded to students. Also, in the fall of 2022, two construction-related programs will begin, which are Building Construction Tech and Construction Management. The Board-approved Associate of Fine Arts in Theater and CT Technology programs have not begun, but resources will hopefully be available to begin the programs in the fall. Dr. Stewart offered praise to Dr. Roush for working diligently to create these programs, which will in turn help enrollment numbers.

Mr. Clendenin reported for the Planning Committee and asked that the Board approve the College Strategic Plan (CSP). Mr. Clendenin congratulated Ms. Farmer and her staff for their efforts to develop the CSP. He emphasized the importance of the document as it serves as a guide to realize where the College has been and where it needs to go. Ms. Farmer thanked the Board members for their input on the CSP and reviewed information regarding the report. Discussion ensued regarding initiatives to increase the African American presence on campus. Mr. Gordon reported that the Green Initiative was added to the BASE initiative with hopes that the College might be able to take advantage of some of the resources that might be made available. He added that there was an excellent kick-off to the Brothers Achieving Success in Excellence (BASE) program with 15 students in attendance. Dr. McKnight reported that three training sessions have taken place for faculty and staff who have signed up to be BASE coaches.

