



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 21, 2023  
Oakland Community College  
Auburn Hills Campus G240  
2900 Featherstone Road  
Auburn Hills, Michigan**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**2. ATTENDANCE**

Present:

Pamela S. Jackson, Chair  
Kathleen A. Bertolini, Vice Chair  
Susan Gibson, Secretary  
Pamala M. Davis, Trustee  
Christine M. O’Sullivan, Trustee

Absent:

Shirley J. Bryant, Treasurer  
Edward D. Callaghan, Trustee

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Jackson asked if there were any items to add or remove from the agenda. There being none, Trustee Gibson MOVED to approve the agenda, and Trustee Bertolini seconded.

AYES: Bertolini, Davis, Gibson, Jackson, O’Sullivan

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

4.1. January 10, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

**A – ACTION**

Trustee Gibson MOVED to approve the January 10, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee O’Sullivan seconded.

AYES: Bertolini, Davis, Gibson, Jackson, O’Sullivan

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

4.2 January 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

**B – ACTION**

Trustee Gibson MOVED to approve the January 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Trustee Bertolini seconded.

AYES: Bertolini, Davis, Gibson, Jackson, O’Sullivan

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

## 5. COMMUNICATIONS

### 5.1. Community Comments

Mark Sackett, an elementary teacher in Troy, spoke to the Board regarding adding baseball to its Athletics Program. Mr. Sackett originally addressed the Board on this topic at their October 2022 regular meeting. He indicated he was told by OCC’s Athletic Director that there wasn’t an interest. However, Mr. Sackett offered he would be available to answer any questions the Board may have regarding this matter.

Randy Ston, current Board member on OCC’s Foundation and retired faculty member, noted he came from Michigan State University and helped start OCC. He also expressed his concern about the recent events at Michigan State University.

### 5.2. Student Government Report – no report

### 5.3. Academic Report

#### 5.3.1. Academic Senate Update – no report presented

#### 5.3.2. Provost Update

Provost Jennifer Berne recognized the tragedy of yet another act of senseless violence in Michigan public education. Many in our community are personally and irrevocably affected by the violent loss of life 15 months ago in Oxford and on February 13 at Michigan State University.

She continued that while it will be difficult to move on, one way is to understand that the work we are doing in teaching and learning in public safety, health care, mental health/social work, early childhood education, foreign language, the arts, sciences and the critical thinking work going on in every classroom at OCC will spur the changes that are so desperately needed.

Dr. Berne stated that we are working with the whole community to support our returning students through MI reconnect. This state program guarantees free community college for any student over 25 years of age and is especially eager to engage those adults who have some college, but no degree. In exchange, institutions have to look more closely at the effect of their developmental coursework in English and Math, agree to find more generous and creative ways to award credit for prior learning, and to take as an institutional commitment to appreciably increase completions for all students.

Dr. Berne was pleased to announce that OCC was awarded a grant to concentrate on work in student success, dual credit, and mobility education. This multi-million, multi-year grant from The Balmer and Wilson Foundations will allow us the opportunity to institutionalize and mechanize some of the research proven student success measures that we have merely begun. These include reliable outreach to our K-12 partners to help meet their needs for students to graduate high school with some college credits, concentration on early alert to intervene early when students struggle academically, and rapt attention to gateway courses that tend to make or break a student pathway to success.

Finally, the state has recognized the severe impact that interrupted schooling has on the incoming class of freshman, so we are participating in an academic catch-up program for incoming OCC freshman to experience academic supports, a taste of coursework, career counselling, technology assistance and an immersive introduction to college. Along with our colleague community colleges in

Michigan we hope this will make a difference for these students and teach us what students need for success.

Dr. Berne and Chancellor Provenzano addressed questions from the Board regarding an assessment program to address students who may need additional assistance, the formation of a safety committee, OCC's threat assessment program, and having a presentation from Public Safety at the Board's Special Meeting in April.

#### 5.4. Chancellor's Comments

Chancellor Provenzano commented on the following:

- Welcomed the following new employees:
  - Sara Bowman, Program Director – Paralegal
  - Carly Byrne, Academic Testing Coordinator
  - Joel Carrier, Faculty – Machine Tool Technology
  - Gabrielle Helm, Laboratory Technician
  - Kara Mayden-Argo, Program Director – DMS
  - Tanya McFadden, Executive Director of Health Professions/Dean of Nursing
  - Mara Phillips, Grants Coordinator
  - Le Anna Sosnoski, Education Training Specialist
  - Christina (Tina) Kostiuk, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, who was in the audience (start date February 20, 2023)
  - Christina Ayar, Vice Chancellor for External Affairs, who was in the audience (start date February 27, 2023)
- The following retirees were recognized for their years of service:
  - Edward Bowie, Custodian - 24 years
  - Dianne Smothers, Secretary - 12 years
  - Also acknowledged was Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Bobbie Remias, who will be retiring on March 31, 2023. Ms. Remias has been with OCC since July of 2017 and has led our financial services, facilities, public safety and environmental health and safety teams over those years, addressing a pandemic, focusing on capital improvements such as the new C Building at Auburn Hills and the groundbreaking at Royal Oak, as well as achieving numerous governmental finance and accounting awards along the way. These are but a few of Ms. Remias' accomplishments while at OCC, and she will be greatly missed.
- Employer of Choice – Outstanding People
  - An OCC social media “Shoutout” was posted to the individual who was playing the piano so wonderfully at the Auburn Hills Student Center. Our social media team was able to identify the pianist as OCC's own Heather Smith who works in Accounts Receivable – Financial Services.
  - OCC alum Jennifer Tomina joined OCC as a College Completion Coach for the Michigan College Access Network's (MCAN) College Completion Corps. In her position, Ms. Tomina serves a campus-defined cohort of 100 to 150 first-generation, low-income students to focus on staying in college and earning their degree.
- College of Choice – OCC Student Success
  - More than 10,000 OCC students have saved more than \$1 million using low or no-cost course materials since the College began tracking Open Education Resources usage in Winter 2020. This faculty-led initiative provides students with free textbooks, courses, modules, videos, labs, assignment and assessments, which statistics reveal those students taking advantage of this program have a higher completion rate.

- College of Choice – Outstanding Programs - Foundation
  - OCC ice carvers took home first and third place at the Rochester Fire and Ice Festival on January 21. Student Ethan Martinbianco finished first place with his Humming Bird in Flight, and Al Singleton’s Flying Fish took third place.
  - Northwestern Michigan College’s Great Lakes Maritime Academy (GLMA) and OCC announced a new partnership creating a pathway toward a Bachelor of Science in Maritime Technology – Engineering Officer Program. The agreement allows students to attend OCC for one year with 37-38 credits and then transfer to the GLMA to complete the program. During their time at GLMA, students will receive an associate degree from OCC via a reverse transfer agreement. Additionally, these students will have the ability to complete the GLMA program requirements and earn the Engineering Office Bachelor of Science degree and an unlimited horsepower merchant marine officer’s license within 36 months of entering the program.
- College of Choice – Events
  - Winter Welcome Back Week events were held at all five of our campuses earlier this month. Students were able to meet with representatives from various student groups, as well as employees offering student service assistance, while enjoying a glass of hot chocolate, cookies, and OCC merchandise.
  - OCC is celebrating Black History Month with special events, including the virtual African American Read-In, Culinary’s “A Taste of Heritage, History & Hope” lunch buffet, “Words Matter” three-part series, and “Racial Harmony Where Do We Go from Here?” Zoom event.
- College of Choice – OCC in the Media
  - As always, numerous media coverage in the press and online (Report on file)

## 6. MONITORING REPORT

### 6.1 Fall Monitoring Report

Chief Strategy Officer Steve Simpson teed up the Fall 2022 Monitoring Report presentation for Director of College Strategy Institutional Effectiveness Kristin Carey-Li. Dr. Simpson noted as they prepared the Fall Monitoring report, two stories emerged that are seemingly contradictory. We continue to experience a slight enrollment decline year after year, which is built into our financial model forecast. Since that fact has not changed, we need to look at right-sizing our organization and square footage to our schedule as to how and where we offer courses. However, there are a lot of pluses in this report as we exceeded and outperformed our expectations for Fall showing that the steps we are taking are having an impact at the institution. The issues that we faced prompted us to make the decision regarding Highland Lakes Campus. The initiatives we are undertaking with the Strategic Plan capture more students who will come here for the duration of their studies, to capture the adult market, to capture the niche markets through online education. These remain priorities to continue to address these challenges.

Some of the topics addressed by Ms. Carey-Li included:

- Board Ends
- Fall Semester KPIs
- Enrollment Trends
- Retention and Equity of Persistence
- Double Graduation Rate – How we get There
- Strategic Action Projects
- Prior Year Comparison

Chair Jackson thanked Dr. Simpson, Ms. Carey-Li, and their team for all of the hard work they put in.

Trustee O’Sullivan MOVED to receive and file the Fall 2022 Monitoring Report. Trustee Bertolini seconded.

AYES: Bertolini, Davis, Gibson, Jackson, O’Sullivan

NAYS: None  
(Report on file)

Motion Carried

## 7. ACTION ITEMS

### 7.1 2023-2024 Tuition Rates

**D – ACTION**

Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Bobbie Remias presented a PP presentation where she discussed the proposed tuition rates with the Board and provided the College’s rationale for the increases.

As Ms. Remias will be retiring the end of March, she took the opportunity to thank the Board and Chancellor Provenzano for their leadership of this great institution and being willing to make the difficult decisions, and for their patience and kindness, and for their faith in the Administrative Services team. She also thanked the audit and construction committee members, as well as her fellow Executive Council members, colleagues, and especially her team members who things couldn’t have gotten accomplished without them. Ms. Remias concluded that she has had six wonderful years here at OCC.

Trustee Davis MOVED the Board of Trustees adopt the following tuition rates effective for the Fall 2023 semester:

\$107.00 per contact hour for In-district students  
\$205.00 per contact hour for Out-of-district students  
\$110.00 Student Service Fee – no increase

Trustee O’Sullivan seconded.

AYES: Bertolini, Davis, Gibson, Jackson, O’Sullivan

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

## 8. INFORMATION ITEMS

### CONSENT CALENDAR – INFORMATION ITEMS

As there was no separate discussion called for Information Items 8.1 through 8.5 on the Consent Calendar, Chair Jackson asked for a motion to receive and file these reports. Trustee Gibson so MOVED, and Trustee Bertolini seconded.

AYES: Bertolini, Davis, Gibson, Jackson, O’Sullivan

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

- 8.1. Finance Quarterly Report
- 8.2. College Facilities Quarterly Report
- 8.3. Information Technology Quarterly Report

**C - INFORMATION**  
**D - INFORMATION**  
**E – INFORMATION**

- 8.4. OCC Foundation Quarterly Report
- 8.5. Strategic Plan Update  
(Reports on file)

F - INFORMATION  
G - INFORMATION

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR – INFORMATION ITEMS**

**9. BOARD COMMENTS**

The Board welcomed our new Vice Chancellors Tina Kostiuk and Christina Ayar.

The Trustees also noted that Vice Chancellor Bobbie Remias has been amazing during her time here at OCC and thanked her for her service.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Jackson asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Gibson so MOVED, and Trustee O’Sullivan seconded.

AYES: Bertolini, Davis, Gibson, Jackson, O’Sullivan

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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Cherie A. Foster

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Pamela S. Jackson, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Gibson, Secretary

**Mission:** OCC is committed to empowering our students to succeed and advancing our community.