

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM AND IN-PERSON AT THE MICHAEL J. GRANT CAMPUS
BOARD ROOM, LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (LRC)
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

The meeting was held on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom and in-person in the Board Room of the LRC on the Michael J. Grant Campus.

PRESENT:

E. Christopher Murray	Chair
James Morgo	Vice Chair
Shirley Coverdale	Second Vice Chair
Gordon Canary	Secretary
Theresa Sanders	Trustee
Gemma deLeon-Lopresti	Trustee
Priscilla Zarate	Trustee
Zachary Frost	Student Trustee
Dr. Edward Bonahue	President
Louis J. Petrizzo	Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Alicia O'Connor	Deputy General Counsel
Ashley Pope	Deputy General Counsel
Dr. Mark Harris	V.P. for Business and Financial Affairs
Mary Lou Araneo	V.P. for Institutional Advancement
Shady Azzam-Gomez	V.P. for Information Technology Services
Dr Patty Munsch	Interim Assistant V.P. for Student Affairs
Dr. Lauren-Tacke-Cushing	Associate V.P. for Academic Affairs
Angelica Rivera	Assistant V.P. for Employee Resources

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 9:02 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Murray.

Chair Murray moved onto the recognition of guests. President Bonahue acknowledged and thanked Kevin Peterman, Dante Morelli from the Faculty Association and Nick DeBello and Christian Limbach from AME.

Chair Murray called for a motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting and convene the Board of Directors meeting at 9:03 a.m. Trustee deLeon-Lopresti so moved, Trustee Sanders seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Murray called for a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting and reconvene the Board of Trustees meeting at 9:06 a.m. Trustee Coverdale so moved, Trustee deLeon-Lopresti seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Murray requested a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Morgo so moved, Trustee Coverdale seconded. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

Chair Murray introduced Dr. Mark Harris, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, to present the College Budget and Financial report. The financials presented are for the month ending August 31st, representing transactions from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. For the next few months, the financial team will be working on reporting final entries, as well as working with the internal auditors to ensure proper accounting and reporting of all the transactions. Similar to last year, one of the challenges we had was with the proper treatment of HEERF, primarily because the grant was new and reporting requirements were unique. We expect that this year will be a little easier because we have gone through a fiscal year-end closing that included HEERF, but there are still some transactions that we need to further consult with the audit team. Therefore, the numbers in the financial statements are subject to change. For 2021, the total budgeted revenue, without grants, was \$205.3 million, however, the preliminary projection for the fiscal year is about \$222.4 million. Without HEERF support, and the ability to successfully use the allocation of the funds, the College would have possibly have been reporting lost revenue of about \$8.0 million, with revenue reduction in tuition and fees of approximately \$5.4 million, and the state cut of \$2.6 million. Just to note, almost every single revenue-fee category declined by an average of 16.4%.

As indicated before, the cost mitigation efforts yielded positive financial results. To budget, personnel-related obligations are 11.7% lower; supplies items are lower by 13.3%, with an overall expense reduction of 5.6% (unchanged from last reporting period, but subject to change after final external audit review). As the College gets closer to finalizing the numbers for FY'21, they will be in a better position to provide a more accurate fund balance number.

In regards to HEERF III, the total funds that the College is eligible to utilize by May 2022 is \$45,320,205, of which, \$22,747,465 must go to students and the remaining balance of \$22,572,740 can be utilized by the institution.

For the student portion of HEERF, the College plans on disbursing 40% during the fall 2021 semester, 40% for the spring 2022 semester, and then use the remaining 20% to provide additional support to students who have extenuating circumstances due to COVID-19.

The institutional funds can be used for lost revenue, incremental costs related to COVID-19, such as COVID testing for students, faculty, and staff, mental health and wellness, additional student grants, and the implementation of evidence-based practices to assist students.

In regards to cash flow, VP Harris reported that the College's liquidity still remains strong, compared to previous years where they might have had some serious discussions about the remaining liquidity.

Chair Murray asked VP Harris if it was a fair to say that there was no guarantee that in the 2022-2023 budget the federal funding very well may not be available. VP Harris confirmed that was correct and based on the College's federal stimulus funding, the College is required to use the funding by May 2022. The College plans to ask for an extension. However, given the obligations that the College has in terms of student support, mental health, evidence-based activities for students, and a big part for loss of revenue based on the disruption of COVID, the College will not have an issue utilizing the proceeds. So, unless the federal government implements another stimulus, the funding will not be there prior to the close of the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Chair Murray asked what the deficit would be currently without the federal funding. VP Harris said it would be at least an \$8 million deficit. Chair Murray noted that while things are good now, the College will have challenges next year.

Trustee Canary asked what was the outstanding amount of tuition in arrears. VP Harris said the College's potential write-off for Fiscal 21, was a bad debt of about \$1.2 million. One of the disadvantages that the College had this year, based on the mandate from the Governor's office, is that it could not send past due accounts to collection. The good news was the College was able to reduce some of the outstanding balances for students who were at the College starting March 2020 and beyond. He added that his team, along with other members of the College, are working to see how best to make payment arrangements for some of these students so that they can reduce their balance and have the ability to re-register for classes if they choose to.

Trustee Zarate asked VP Harris when he mentioned the word extension, if it was also considered a rollover of funds for the following year. VP Harris said to clarify the College is asking for the ability to spend the funds beyond May 2022, an extension of one year. If the College is granted the extension, that would give them the ability to draw down the funds until May 2023.

Trustee Zarate added that in the K-12 level, the New York State Department of Education tends to oftentimes grant the extension of the funds to be utilized by the school districts. She said it has been done in New York City for many years and was wondering if they have the same policy when it comes to the college level. VP Harris said the difference is the US Department of Education has to grant the College the extension because they were the ones provided the funding, and not the State.

VP Harris moved on to review the resolutions being presented with financial impact. Item one, the standard monthly service payment to Suffolk County for the employee health insurance for the month of August was \$2,829,218.71, and is in line with what the College has seen for the past few months based on the adjusted rates. Item number two, are the budget transfers. The first batch for \$57,270, 2nd batch for \$26,626, the 3rd batch for 40,000, and then the 4th batch for \$122,376. These transfers will allow for blanket purchase orders to be established by the departments and to capture the expenditures in the right buckets. The final transfer of \$15,617 is to allow for the performance of electrical work for the auto tech lift at the Ammerman Campus.

Chair Murray called for a motion for the approval of College Resolutions 2021.52 through 2021.55. Trustee Canary so moved, Trustee Sanders seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM 1

RESOLUTION NO. 2021.52 - Approving Monthly Sponsor Services for Suffolk County Community College

WHEREAS, the State University of New York Regulation No. 602.7 requires the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees to review and approve all Sponsor provided services and their estimated value in advance of the service being rendered, and

WHEREAS, the regulation also requires the approval of the payment of each Sponsor Service satisfactorily performed, and

WHEREAS, health insurance is considered a Sponsor Service, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the health insurance payment to the County of Suffolk in the amount of \$2,829,218.71 for the month of August 2021 (*Attachment I*) is hereby approved by the Board of Trustees.

ITEM 2

RESOLUTION NO. 2021.53 - Approving Budget Transfers

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has established a policy on the authorization of budget transfers, and

WHEREAS, according to said policy, budget transfers must be authorized by a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, the Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs recommends the budget transfers on *Attachment II* as necessary for the operation of the College, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the budget transfers shown on *Attachment II* are hereby authorized and approved.

ITEM 3

RESOLUTION NO. 2021.54 - Awarding a Contract for the Construction of a Plant Operations Building on the Michael J. Grant Campus

WHEREAS, a capital project to construct a Plant Operations Building on the Michael J. Grant Campus (CP2144) has been approved by the County of Suffolk and the State of New York for funding, and funds have been appropriated by the Suffolk County Legislature, and

WHEREAS, the College will provide additional funding for this project, and

WHEREAS, public bids for the construction of the Plant Operations Building on the Michael J. Grant Campus were solicited and opened on April 22, 2021, and

WHEREAS, these bids were reviewed, and the qualifications of the lowest responsible bidder were checked by the Consultant of Record, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the College President or his designee is authorized to enter into a contract with Stalco Construction Inc. in the amount of \$3,529,200.00 for the construction of a Plant Operations Building on the Michael J. Grant Campus, upon such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the College General Counsel.

ITEM 4

RESOLUTION NO. 2021.55 - Authorizing the Acceptance of a Gift from the Suffolk Community College Foundation

WHEREAS, the Suffolk Community College Foundation, Inc. is the recipient of certain paintings of the artist Mari Lyons, valued at \$102,800, and

WHEREAS, the Foundation wishes to further donate this artwork to Suffolk County Community College for display in the College's art galleries and other appropriate campus locations, and

WHEREAS, the President's office and the Campus Executive Deans have been consulted and have indicated a desire to display this artwork for the benefit of the College's faculty, staff and students, as well as for the public, at large, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the College's acceptance of certain paintings of the artist Mari Lyons from the Suffolk Community College Foundation, Inc., for

display on the College campuses, and extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Lyons Family for this generous donation.

ITEM 5

RESOLUTION NO. 2021.56 - Appointing a Director to the Board of Directors of the Suffolk County Community College Center for Social Justice and Human Understanding, Inc.

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Suffolk County Community College *Center for Social Justice and Human Understanding* provides that whenever a vacancy shall occur on its Board of Directors, it shall be filled by the selection of a new Director in the same manner and for the unexpired term of the predecessor in office, and

WHEREAS, a vacancy on the Board of Directors, in the category consisting of the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Suffolk County Community College, or his/her designee, exists due to Trustee deLeon-Lopresti's intent to relinquish her role as such designee, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that Priscilla Zarate, the designee of Chair Murray, is hereby appointed to serve as a Director and member of the Board of Directors of the Suffolk Community College *Center for Social Justice and Human Understanding*, and be it further

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the Bylaws of the *Center for Social Justice and Human Understanding*, Director Zarate, shall serve without a term.

Chairman Murray moved to the committee reports and called for the Student Success Committee report. Student Trustee Frost said the Committee met on September 8th. The conversation related to ideas that will help the College meet goals with student success. Currently they are learning about establishing a One Stop Center. This would be a location modeled after The Hope Center at Temple University. The College will be calling it the Shark Center. College staff are examining different models that would benefit the College and they will be meeting with the founders of The Hope Center from both Temple University and Westchester Community College. The Center would be a resource center that students can come into and be connected with any resources they may need, whether it be the hardship fund to access the food pantry or even coordinating things with their professors. They are also looking into the idea of being virtual. Virtual would be a lot less expensive, and a lot more accessible for the students, where all they have to do is sign into the Zoom room or eChat and meet up with one of the staff members and they can get coordinated from there.

Chair Murray called for the Personnel Committee Report. Trustee deLeon-Lopresti said the Committee met on Monday, September 10th via video conference. The purpose of the meeting was twofold, the Committee wanted to review the status of the vendors for the presidential evaluation and also wanted to review the presidential goals for the next fiscal year. Present at the meeting were herself, Trustee Coverdale, Angelica Rivera,

Ashley Pope, and Genevieve Rippe. The committee discussed follow-up information provided in response to the committee's questions posed to the lower cost vendor who submitted a proposal for services related to update and distribution of the presidential evaluation stakeholder surveys. The committee recommended that the lower cost vendor be engaged to provide the requested base expenses. The committee will reevaluate the necessity of engaging the vendor or issuing a new solicitation for any optional services following update of the stakeholder survey instruments. She and Trustee Coverdale requested that the other members of the committee be polled for availability to hold the next Personnel Committee meeting on Friday, October 1st at 8:30 a.m. via video conference. Angelica Rivera, Ashley Pope, and Genevieve Rippe were thanked for their efforts and excused from the meeting.

The committee then reviewed draft presidential goals and will provide an update to Dr. Ed Bonahue. Once agreed upon, the document will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the October meeting.

Chair Murray called for the Foundation report. In the absence of Trustee Pagdanganan, Dr. Sylvia Diaz, Executive Director of the Foundation, would report. The Foundation was happy to celebrate the great success of its 37th Annual Golf Classic which was held on Monday, August 30th at the Southward Ho Country Club. Dr. Diaz thanked all of the many sponsors for the support of that event and because of that support they did reach 103% of their goal. This year they honored Steven A. Milner who is a Foundation board member and the President and CEO of U.S. Mortgage Corporation. Dr. Milner, his family, and his wonderful professional colleagues stepped up and donated generous gifts in support of students. Dr. Diaz gave a special thanks to Dr. Bonahue for joining and making his debut driving around in the afternoon in his golf cart greeting all the players.

The Foundation was also happy to join the Board of Trustees in hosting a welcome reception for Dr. Bonahue at the new Fine Arts Center. Dr. Bonahue was able to network with elected officials, members of the community at large, and many of the College's automotive partners and alumni.

Dr. Bonahue was also welcomed this month as a member of the Board of Directors of the College Foundation and he committed to helping the Foundation engage alumni and help maintain their connection to the College, as well as supporting Foundation events through philanthropy, student mentorship, and internship activities.

The Foundation is also grateful to the family of the late artist Mari Lyons for their gift of art to the College, a vast collection. The collection is valued at over \$100,000. The inspirational artwork brings the gift of color, texture, and light into the College community, and they are grateful for the Lyons's family for their generosity and exemplary support of Suffolk's promising students. She especially thanked campus Associate Dean Slava Babenchuk for her introduction to the Lyons family.

The Foundation is also pleased to announce a new Suffolk automotive technology scholarship. The Smithtown Acura and Nardy Honda Automotive Technology Scholarship will provide thousands of dollars annually to select students enrolled in the Honda PACT program. Dealership proprietor Robert Certilman is delighted to support this scholarship. He's the owner of Suffolk's oldest Honda dealership founded by his father, Bernard Certilman. This will provide generous support to students as they jump-start their careers in the automotive technology program and Honda PACT program.

Trustee Canary asked where the College planned to display the new artwork. Dr. Diaz said that a lot of it would be displayed in the LRC, however VP Araneo had a great idea of allowing the library to lend the paintings out to maybe some of the other libraries and high-traffic areas of the College. They will be working on a plan to ensure they are displayed. There will also be an opportunity to have the donors come in for a private reception.

Chair Murray called for the Student Trustee Report. Student Trustee Frost said he recently decided to open up a line of communication with the individuals in student government. He will be meeting with them on a monthly basis, giving student government the chance to voice any concerns or float around any ideas that they may have. He plans on extending this to include campus leaders, as well, where he will choose five to six of the highly participated clubs on each campus and invite the leaders to attend the monthly meetings.

Student Trustee Frost had the first meeting with student government yesterday and it went well; they voiced some concerns and ideas. He plans to do this on all three campuses. Trustee Canary asked him if there was any feedback from the students getting back on campus, getting back into the new year where things have changed. Student Trustee Frost said everyone seemed to feel good to be back on campus. The complaint he heard was not being able to get through to the health office very quickly, being on hold for a long while and long lines. One other concern was the cafeteria - the lack of kosher foods. He plans on doing an inquiry and see how much demand there is for kosher foods and come up with possible suggestions.

Chair Murray moved onto the Chair's report. He made a motion to appoint Trustee Priscilla Zarate as the representative to the Board for the Center for Social Justice and Human Understanding. Student Trustee Frost seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Chair Murray suggested the Board return to having a Board retreat in November, to give them the opportunity to also meet with the Foundation Board. The retreat would start at 8:30 a.m. and go through lunch, he added they would work on some possible dates and agenda for the day. Chair Murray noted he is also determined to get the Facilities Committee back off the ground and, hopefully, he will have good news about that at the next Board meeting. He said Trustee deLeon-Lopresti had brought up the issue about having Board representation at the Strategic Planning meetings and he agreed the Board should be included in that process. Trustee deLeon-

Lopresti has agreed to be one of the representatives and he said someone perhaps from the Executive Committee, as well. He asked Dr. Bonahue to ensure they be included in that process. President Bonahue agreed, and said the Strategic Planning Council would be meeting the following week and they would identify activities for the semester and he would be grateful for the Board's participation.

Lastly, Chair Murray complimented Dr. Bonahue, saying he had received tremendously positive feedback from Dr. Bonahue's outreach to various people, and everyone was appreciative of the efforts he was making to meet the civic leaders, business leaders, governmental leaders, and putting forth a good face for the College.

Chair Murray moved to the President's report. Dr. Bonahue thanked Chair Murray for his kind comments and said it has been a pleasure to represent the College and to meet so many community leaders. He thanked all those who attended his welcome reception the previous evening. He noted it was a great turnout with many government officials, business and community leaders, including many from the automotive group. The College has been getting strong support from many of those dealership associations, and they recognize that the College's automotive program is one of the College's flagship programs. Dr. Bonahue also had the pleasure to meet Foundation Board directors and President Emeritus Sal La Lima. He said he will continue to reach out and connect with community leaders with whom the College can partner in student success and community and economic development.

Dr. Bonahue gave an update on the intertwined issues of enrollment and reopening amidst COVID. As of last week, the College ended the main part of Fall registration with headcount and FTE enrollment down 14% from the previous year. In an informal survey taken by College business officers, this was among the higher declines in the State. Not one community college reported an increase but some colleges were down only 4%, 5%, 6%. Nassau Community College was down 8%. A few of the upstate colleges were down as much as 15-16%. As a reminder, he noted the College has added more Late Start Fall sections than usual in the hopes to modestly pick up some enrollment. However, they continue to focus on enrollment as a strategic priority, keeping in mind the many different audiences that the College needs to serve and not be reliant just on the traditional full-time high school graduates. The College is trying to understand how enrollment was impacted by the SUNY mandate that every student who comes to campus must be vaccinated. The College has just under 10,000 students registered for on-campus class. The mandate applies to all of them and the deadline for students turning in their confirmation of vaccination is September 27th. The College has worked through the list of 10,000 students. As of last night, the College was down below 1,000 students in credit classes and with a few hundred in noncredit classes. He thanked the College's nursing staff and the Student Affairs professionals, who are working through that list. The Eastern Campus has been completely cleared and the College is close to getting the Grant and Ammerman campus cleared, however the College may have a significant number of students ,without vaccination information

come September 28th. Recognizing this, SUNY earlier this week organized a presidents' call and Chancellor Malatras indicated that he supports having a grace period, especially for community colleges and those serving part-time students, commuting students and first-generation students. Additional information from SUNY suggests that they may grant a 10-day grace period. He hopes this will give an alternate chance to perhaps of having a leave of absence and then a potential reinstatement.

Dr. Bonahue then gave a brief update on the Wyandanch Rising Project. He thanked Trustee Sanders for bringing him up to speed on the College's long-term efforts to look at the possibility of partnering with Suffolk County, the Urban League, and other stakeholders in a project that could bring some workforce development activity to a terribly underserved part of Suffolk County. He visited a property in Wyandanch, where the College could potentially take up residence as a rental. He continues to try to get the lay of the land and also met with Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer and Suffolk County Commissioner of Labor Rosalie Drago, both of whom are committed to this project. Commissioner Drago shared some preliminary numbers about the amount of workforce training that could be delivered. Those numbers were based partly on those who are unemployed in workforce and partly on students graduating from underserved high schools not only in Wyandanch but in the schools surrounding the area. He and Commissioner Drago are planning on getting together again not only to discuss Wyandanch but also, in his view, a major opportunity for the College is to work more closely with the Department of Labor to identify wins for clients who need jobs and where the Department of Labor can provide basically vouchers for workforce training that can be applied to the College's programs that qualify under EEO.

At the reception he also had the opportunity to meet for the first-time county Legislator Jason Richberg. He's also reached out to Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre and via Trustee Canary, Senator Boyle's office and exchanged emails with Tom Dolan from the Town of Babylon IDA. He will be reaching out to the Superintendents as well, for what will be a comprehensive advisory committee of stakeholders that the College can convene and who can support the College in terms of a strategy for making the Wyandanch project work. He hopes that with the support of an advisory committee, they can complete a needs analysis, a comprehensive work plan, envision what kinds of deliverables the College wants to offer in partnership with the County. He believes the College can play a leadership role, along many community stakeholders at the table. He asked the Trustees for their suggestions and recommendations going forward on how to proceed to make the College's participation in this project a success.

Trustee Zarate commented that she felt the Wyandanch Rising Project was a wonderful project and is a project that is very much needed in the Town of Babylon and Wyandanch, especially the school district community. The school district community has gone through a demographical change where there is now 50% Black and 50% Hispanic. She added that when thinking about the workforce, she thinks it's important to look at people who represent that community to serve and support the students so that they can have academic success. She said she applauded Trustee Sanders and

everyone that has been involved in the project because it is very much needed for the community.

Trustee Sanders said this was a project that has been in the making for a while and they hope to bring it to fruition with leadership of the College as a huge stakeholder in making it a reality.

Trustee Sanders then asked Dr. Bonahue, in regards to the State mandate that students be vaccinated if on campus, if they had the option to switch to virtual enrollment if they cannot show proof of vaccination. President Bonahue responded that it was an option in the first two weeks of the semester. However, at this point, almost week four makes it a little bit trickier to just switch a student automatically. It would be more advantageous for a student to switch to a Late Start Fall class that starts in October. He noted one encouraging point, the College started the semester with just under 10,000 students in on-campus classes and that number has not decreased very much. The College has only lost a few students from those on-site classes, but no more than 1%.

Trustee Morgo thanked Dr. Bonahue for his report, saying it was comprehensive, clear and concise. First, he noted it was great to see President Sal La Lima last night, who is 90 years old and was doing well. Secondly, he said the 14% decline was troubling, particularly because it's one of the largest declines among the State community colleges. He said when Dr. Bonahue mentioned that he was trying to see if there is a correlation between that and the vaccine mandate, he would surmise that if there were, it would be throughout the system because the whole system has that vaccine mandate. He asked Student Trustee Frost if in talking to the student body, if the enrollment decline was ever discussed. Trustee Morgo added that the thought of unpaid tuition, was particularly annoying while also having a decline in enrollment. Student Trustee Frost said it was not something that had been discussed amongst his peers, and he would definitely bring it up in their discussions to see if maybe there is a reason why. He added that a potential possibility might be some students have work taking a priority, given the current job market. Some may really need to work in order to pay for food, family, and education may not be a huge priority for them at the time. Lastly, Trustee Morgo said he echoed what everyone else said about the Wyandanch Rising Project. He said the College's involvement is deeply consistent with its mission to serve the underserved, offering any help if needed, and that it was good that Legislator Richberg was there last night, since he represents that area.

Trustee Canary commented that in regards to the Wyandanch Project, he had recently attended a meeting with four civic associations from Wheatley Heights, Dix Hills, Belmont Lake Estates, and Wyandanch, including elected officials and Legislator Richberg, Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre and Richie Schaffer were there. He said they are starting a new initiative and this is the first time that many civics have come together with this focus on trying to make improvements in the Wyandanch community. There is a high degree of frustration with something that has been, unfortunately, almost systemic in the community with absentee landlords, commercial building property

owners, who don't care about the community and they only care about their own financial picture, letting their buildings become run-down. They are letting tenants in there with unsavory operations that are harmful to the community. The civic associations are trying to figure out why there is this widespread loitering in the community where male adults who should be working are hanging out in parking lots and creating this unsavory site in the community. The associations are looking for government help and they are looking for a new effort in the community to try to tackle these problems and issues. Trustee Canary feels that an announcement should be made that the College is going forward and is going to try to bring workforce development into the community, where the College would have a presence in the community, listening, and sharing its concerns.

President Bonahue continued with his report. He referenced the new SUNY system-wide fact book that he had sent the trustees. The fact book has some comparative data about the institutional performance of community colleges. He had wanted to review some of the information in it but said, due to its complexity, it deserves some time for exploration and questions. He asked if they would support adding it to their retreat agenda in November. Chair Murray agreed.

Dr. Bonahue and his senior staff also participated in a seminar supported by SUNY and the Aspen Institute. The College is one of ten SUNY community colleges invited to participate. The purpose of the seminar is to help cabinet level staff and presidents align their view of their college mission with those areas that should be the highest priority goals - student access, student completion and success, and equity. He said they had some great conversations about how to apply those lessons to the College and they agreed that they too often get bogged down in day-to-day operations, and they need more opportunities to look at the big picture and overall institutional strategy. The leadership team agreed to set aside time for themselves to have a retreat and to focus more on how to better align their work with the strategic goals. In July, Dr. Bonahue had emailed the Board that there is a second part of this SUNY and Aspen seminar series and it is designed for boards. The purpose is to identify for boards of trustees opportunities to strengthen board engagement in the student success agenda and for aligning the work of the board to achieve student success and equity goals. The seminar dates have been established and they are particularly targeting board chairs and board vice chairs, although there seems to be some room for proxies or alternates. The dates are November 19th, January 20th, and March 11th, which Dr. Bonahue will forward to Chair Murray and the Executive Committee.

The College received news this week that the Surgical Technology Program received accreditation from CAAHEP, the accreditor for Allied Health Education programs. The College is delighted to have this news because it means that students completing the program are eligible for licensure, and it also puts the College on a path to sustain that program and move it into the main for-credit part of the College.

Lastly, Dr. Bonahue recognized the artwork that had been donated and was on display in the Board Room. He said the illustrations in the Board packet didn't do it justice; it was a tremendous donation that should be enjoyed in person.

He then called upon, Executive Vice President Lou Petrizzo for a special presentation. EVP Petrizzo said it was another bittersweet moment for the College community as this was Deputy General Counsel Ashley Pope's last Board meeting. Ms. Pope will be leaving the College in early October. She joined the College in 2016 with sterling credentials - a Bachelor of Arts degree from Barnard College, Columbia University and a law degree from the Fordham University School of Law. She quickly established herself as an important cornerstone in the Office of Legal Affairs and said anyone who has ever worked with Ashley knows that she's not only a meticulous attorney but she's also a wonderful colleague. Prior to coming to the College, Ashley had worked in the private sector with a law firm that specializes in the representation of school districts on Long Island. That same law firm has made her an offer that she couldn't refuse, and she'll be rejoining that office in October. EVP Petrizzo said everyone at the College, especially those in the Office of Legal Affairs, will miss Ms. Pope because for as great an attorney as she is, she's an even better person. He asked everyone to join him in wishing all the best to her as she pursues a new opportunity in the private sector (round of applause).

Chair Murray said he echoed the sentiments and was sorry to see Ms. Pope go, as she had been a great help to the Board. He wished her good luck in her future endeavors. Ms. Pope, thanked everyone and said it had been wonderful working for the College.

Trustee Canary also thanked Ms. Pope and said she had been critically important to the Governance Committee and they appreciated her meticulous work and approach that she brought to everything and wished her the best in the future.

Trustee deLeon-Lopresti said that on behalf of the Personnel Committee they also wanted to thank Ms. Pope for her tremendous help during a very rocky period, adding that her work was invaluable and they were truly going to miss her, and wished her all the best and continued success.

Chair Murray said that as one of her final acts, she reminded him that pursuant to the Bylaws, if he presents a resolution that is not on the agenda, he has to wait thirty minutes before they can vote on it. Ms. Pope suggested they redo the motion to appoint Trustee Zarate to be the new representative for the Center for Social Justice Board of Directors.

Chair Murray called for a motion to appoint Trustee Priscilla Zarate as the representative on the Board of Directors for the Center for Social Justice and Human Understanding. Trustee deLeon-Lopresti so moved, Student Trustee Frost seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Murray moved onto Roundtable.

Trustee Canary said he wanted to thank the Suffolk County Community College students who showed up on Saturday at the International Beach Cleanup Day. There were over 30 students and support staff, club members who came, and he and Senator Boyle greatly appreciated their efforts. Even the College's mascot Finn was present. He said that every third Saturday of September is International Beach Cleanup Day and for the last few years, Suffolk students have been showing up and it was greatly appreciated.

Chair Murray requested a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Canary so moved, Trustee Morgo seconded, and with all in favor the meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

The Board of Trustees next meeting is October 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Canary
Secretary