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BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
533 College Road  
Selden, New York

February 11, 2009  
8:30 a.m.

BEFORE:

WILLIAM D. MOORE, Trustee/Chair

REPORTED BY:

THERESA PAPE, Court Reporter/Notary Public

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P R E S E N T :

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WALTER C. HAZLITT, Trustee/Vice Chair

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JERRY KANE, Trustee/Secretary

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ERNESTO MATTACE, Trustee

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BELINDA ALVAREZ-GRONEMAN, Trustee

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DAVID OCHOA, Trustee

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PAUL V. PONTIERI, JR., Trustee

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SAUL R. RENCHEL, Trustee

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AVETTE D. WARE, Trustee

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A B S E N T T R U S T E E S :

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LORI CORRAR, Student Trustee

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A L S O P R E S E N T :

DR. SHIRLEY ROBINSON PIPPINS, President, SCCC

GEORGE GATTA, Interim President, SCCC

MARY LOU ARANEO, Vice President for  
Institutional Advancement

JOANNE BRAXTON, Associate Vice President for  
Campus Affairs

JAMES CANNIFF, Vice President for Academic and  
Student Affairs

CHARLES STEIN, Vice President for Business and  
Financial Affairs

ILENE KREITZER, Executive Director of  
Legal Affairs

\*\*\* All other interested parties

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Board of Trustees Meeting

(WHEREUPON, this proceeding convened at 8:30 a.m. Off-the-record discussions ensued, after which the following transpired:)

(Time noted: 8:39 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Good morning. It's February 11th, welcome to the day.

Saul, would you lead us in the pledge to the flag, please.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

TRUSTEE OCHOA: Way to go, buddy.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Good morning. Nice to see you all here this morning. A full compliment of trustees, save our student trustee who is hanging in there and carrying that baby and, hopefully, we'll get good news soon that she's had a healthy baby, she'll be up on her feet. But she's -- she's doing what she's got to do. So we miss her -- and she e-mails regularly with Belinda, and through Belinda to me, her best wishes for everyone, and she really wishes she could be with us.

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Board of Trustees Meeting

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Let's get to business, shall we?

I'll entertain a motion to approve our minutes of our Board of Directors Meeting from October 16th.

TRUSTEE MATTACE: So moved.

SECRETARY KANE: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: We have a single Resolution, 2009.A1, for a new staff position.

Is there any discussion or, I -- I suppose, maybe some information the board can have on this position?

MR. GATTA: Executive Dean Walters --

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Pardon?

DEAN WALTERS: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Ah, good morning.

DEAN WALTERS: Essentially, this proposed change came as a result of the title change and broadened responsibilities in having Mary Ryder function as the Dining Services and Bakers Workshop Director.

This upgrade would allow for

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existing staff to have more of a managerial role in the campus operations. Mary Ryder, with her new role, is expected to split her time between the two operations. This now requires her to consistently be off campus and more involved with the day-to-day operations of the Bakers Workshop. So this proposed change creates an opportunity to have a backup system in place.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Any questions from the board?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: I move the resolution.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Thank you.

Second to that?

SECRETARY KANE: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: All in favor?

ALL: "Aye."

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Okay. We're onto our Association Finance Report.

DR. BRIGHT: Marvin Bright,

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Board of Trustees Meeting

Associate Vice President of Student  
Affairs.

Good morning, everyone.

TRUSTEE ALVAREZ-GRONEMAN: Good  
morning.

TRUSTEE WARE: Good morning.

DR. BRIGHT: I'm going to bring you  
the College Association Finance Report  
for the fall 2008.

The fall 2008 student activity fees  
collected met the fall projections. All  
fall 2008 revenues ended on target.  
This is illustrated by a net profit of  
\$600,000, which would be carried over to  
anticipate any increases from the spring  
revenue. As you know, as you move into  
the spring, we have major projects with  
advancement, commencement, and a lot of  
end-of-year ceremonies.

There were no fault deficits for  
the Childcare Center or the Bakers  
Workshop. In fact, the Bakers Workshop  
weekly either ended on target, meaning,  
breaking even, or bringing in an actual

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profit. This is contributed to very effective marketing efforts for the student advancement, and also expanding the menu to include hot foods.

The spring 2009 numbers will be available after the final census date for the spring, which will be February 28th. And our current spring expenditures are on target, and we see no overspending.

If there are any questions, I'll entertain them.

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Hearing none, thank you.

Okay. We're done with our association hat, take them off, if you didn't know you were wearing them.

Put on your trustees hat, and I'll entertain a motion to approve our minutes of our January 8th and 15th meeting.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: So moved,  
Mr. Chairman.



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Board of Trustees Meeting

SECRETARY KANE: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: All in favor?

ALL: "Aye."

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Okay.

Item G: You all should have gotten in your packets, in the mail, a list of the proposed capital projects.

I will entertain a presentation on that.

MR. STEIN: Paul Cooper is going to be offering a presentation on the capital program, and he'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Thanks, Chuck.

MR. COOPER: Good morning. My name is Paul Cooper, I'm the Director of Facilities.

We're not going to go over all 38 projects that are in this book, this is a very brief presentation. I won't even have time for the inappropriate slides you've come to expect from me.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Well, I guess you're done.

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(Laughter)

DR. PIPPINS: Well, I was looking forward to that, Paul.

MR. COOPER: This is the Workforce Development and Technology Center building now under construction on the Grant Campus (indicating). This is a really wonderful building; inexpensive, very energy efficient. It will be our first LEAD-certified building, and one of the very few buildings in the world where the building reflects what's being taught inside of it. The building interacts with the curriculum. I can't wait until the end of the summer when I can show you the actual building and what's being taught inside.

Next slide.

MR. MATUS: (Complying)

MR. COOPER: As requested by the county executive, we are not requesting any new capital projects, we are just requesting some changes to last year's project.

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Board of Trustees Meeting

There are seven changes. Five of them, we're just requesting that projects be advanced.

Renovation of Kreiling Hall (indicating), we're requesting funding be moved from 2011 to 2010 so we can start the design, because we're getting ready to start the design on the new science building, which needs to be done before Kreiling Hall can be renovated.

Renovations to the Sagtikos building, we're asking for an advance in design from subsequent years to 2011. In the county's capital program parlance, subsequent years is anything beyond the two years of the program. And we're asking an advance in construction from subsequent years to 2010.

The health and sports facility, we're requesting an advance from subsequent years to 2011 for design, and in construction from -- from subsequent years to 2012.

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Board of Trustees Meeting

Next.

MR. MATUS: (Complying)

MR. COOPER: Cooling systems, which is air-conditioning systems for many buildings, we're requesting an advance in design from the subsequent years to 2010, and construction funds from subsequent years to 2011.

The learning resource center at Grant, again, we want to advance design funds to 2010, and construction funds to 2011.

Security notification project, we submitted it at what we thought the actual cost would be, the county included it in their budget last year at a lower cost. We reestimated the cost and we -- we're asking for the full amount of funding we believe we need. And the same thing with the infrastructure project, we did a fairly careful estimate, and what we believe we need is \$13,550,000. And we're also asking that they fund it over three

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years, spread out from 2010 to 2012.

That's it. Any questions?

CHAIRMAN MOORE: That was short.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: What's the chance of this coming to pass? All these changes, I mean.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Chuck may weigh in on that with an opinion.

MR. STEIN: This is submitted to the county executive's budget office. They will do their analysis and then submit a recommended program to the legislature. The legislature will analyze it, probably after their budget review office goes over each project. It should be noted that these projects have been supported by the budget review office in the past, and we will, of course, be working with them as we go through this process.

The capital program doesn't get formally adopted until June, I believe. That's the process. The county executive submits it over to the

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legislature, I believe, in April -- late April, then it goes through some public hearings over the legislature, and then I think it's -- I think it's June when it gets adopted.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: Have --

MR. STEIN: Somewhere in that vicinity.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: Have we already got commitment from the state on their portion of the capital programs for these projects?

MR. STEIN: On most of them, we are pursuing the security funding with the state, at this point.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: On the rest of them --

MR. STEIN: The rest of them are in -- are in the state program, yes.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: Thank you.

TRUSTEE MATTACE: What kind of window do we have then as far as time in the state? How long are we guaranteed the money before we --

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Board of Trustees Meeting

MR. STEIN: It was in their  
five-year program --

TRUSTEE MATTACE: Five-year- --

MR. STEIN: -- stretching out to  
2013.

TRUSTEE MATTACE: Okay.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: And we're going  
full steam ahead with the Luna Research  
Center --

MR. STEIN: Oh, yes.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Nobody's freezing  
anything out.

MR. STEIN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Thank you.

This is going way too easily.  
Either we're not aware of something, or  
everyone's really doing their job.  
That's great.

All right. So we turn to our  
resolutions.

We've got nine items. Is there any  
questions or comments on any of them?

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: The one  
question I have, Mr. Chairman, Item 3

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and Item 4, are they related at all? Is there any connection between those two?

DR. PIPPINS: Nina's here.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Good morning.

MS. LEONHARDT: Nina Leonhardt, Associate Dean for Continuing Education.

Item 3 allows us to deliver GED educational services in the community; Item 4 allows us to deliver the test to whomever would like to register and take the test. So they're not related in the sense that they're the same program, but they're related in that they provide GED services.

TRUSTEE PONTIERI: Excuse me just for a question.

When you say "in the community," Patchogue-Medford used to do that, where they used to go to -- whether it be another school district, whether it be -- if I wanted to do something in the Village of Patchogue, I could come to you, and you would provide the teacher, you would provide the space, and you



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would work everything out?

MS. LEONHARDT: Years ago, we were partners with Patchogue-Medford --

TRUSTEE PONTIERI: Right.

MS. LEONHARDT: -- when we first began our GED program. For this particular program, we have four partners in the community throughout Suffolk County. We are partnered with the family service league, we are partnered with PRONTO, the Comsewogue Adult Program, and we're partnered with HALI, Hands Across Long Island. So those are our partners for this specific program.

If you need further assistance in Patchogue, give us a call and we can arrange for that to occur through our regular program.

TRUSTEE PONTIERI: Is there a bilingual program in there?

MS. LEONHARDT: We're not allowed, according to the state, to provide such a program.

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TRUSTEE PONTIERI: Okay. Thank you.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: Paul, there's a very aggressive, and by that I mean positive program, that we have at -- at the Community College in ESL. And the PRONTO of Long Island Outreach is primarily -- because of -- the object of this service area is very Latino in terms of monolingual Spanish. And they've had great success in connecting their needs to the Grant Campus ESL program, which is really superb, and the GED program, because once folks become bilingual and effective in those -- in the coursework, it's a win, win, win. So the ESL component may be separate, but it's quite an experience. And twice a year we get invited to -- to go to their graduation ceremony, and it's really neat to see the diversity of -- of the -- of the participants. I thought primarily Hispanic students, believe me, it's -- it's global like the

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United Nations. It's quite impressive.

They do a bang-up job, but the GED component that Community College does in partnership, as indicated by our colleague, are really fantastic and it's worth looking into, I believe, for some of the concerns I think that you're trying to provide leadership in your community --

TRUSTEE PONTIERI: Okay.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: -- in our community.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: Excellent.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Any other questions, comments, concerns on any of the resolutions?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Hearing none, I'll entertain a motion to approve Resolutions 2009.6 through 2009.14.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: So moved.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: All in favor?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

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CHAIRMAN MOORE: All in favor?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

CHAIRMAN MOORE: All in favor?

ALL: "Aye."

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Thank you.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: We've only had one  
cup of coffee, take it easy, will you?

TRUSTEE MATTACE: My head's  
spinning, we're moving so fast.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: This is true.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: Slow down.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Slow down. Okay.  
Don't worry, we've got plenty to  
discuss. So we will -- we will slow  
down, if not, bog down later.

All right. Chuck, our College  
Finance Report, if you please.

MR. STEIN: Yes. In your packets  
you'll see a finance report, and I'd  
like to draw your attention to our  
revenues. We're doing fairly well in --  
in most areas, except we have to take  
something into consideration now in our  
financial report.

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As you know, the State of New York has been going through a process of examining its current fiscal year, and they resolved that issue about a week and a half ago. At which point, they said there would be no midyear change to our base state aid. However, the state's new fiscal year begins April 1st. That means that the first quarter of the state's budget year is our fourth quarter in our current year. And the governor has proposed in the new state budget, that we experience a \$300 per FTD reduction. That would equate to about \$1.3 million of lost revenue for the quarter. The finance report you have in front of you reflects that reduction.

We've taken steps, as was explained at the retreat back in November, and in anticipation of the state action, and those activities are reflected in the expenditure side of the report, and we continue to examine as we go forward.

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As you know, the budget that we submit to the county for next year is submitted in April. This board will approve that at this April meeting. And as part of that submission, we also look at our estimates for the current year, and we will continue to look at them as we proceed to determine where we will land in a year in relation to state action and our own action.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: How much is that total, again, for that -- for the quarter; 1.4?

MR. STEIN: The quarter would be \$1.3 million.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: 1.3? Okay.

MR. STEIN: One of the other things that the state did release this year, early on, was some categorical aid which totaled about \$113,000. So, in total, we're estimating at this point a potential of \$1.4 million-plus of lost state revenue.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: Yeah.

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MR. STEIN: And as -- again, as we explained at the November retreat to the board, Dr. Pippins and the administration recognized that there would be potential state problems early on, and we put together a plan to deal with it. So the report that you have in front of you shows us dealing with those issues and moving forward.

We'll have a much more detailed report as we come into the March period when we talk about next year's budget, and -- and a presentation to the board, and then, of course, the actual presentation for vote at the April meeting.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: But we will be looking at the budget for next year in -- at our March meeting; correct?

MR. STEIN: Yes.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: In this month's meeting, we received, Mr. Chairman, the -- the capital report really early so that we could actually look at it at

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our leisure. In other words, I had it like last week, it was very helpful.

Chuck, to the best of your ability, if you could send that to us early in the process, giving us at least one good weekend in advance of the meeting --

MR. STEIN: Yeah.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: -- it helps a lot. If -- it just -- if we have any questions, we can obviously start the process of -- of the conversation.

MR. STEIN: We -- we -- we did get this out to you as early as we could, the capital proposal.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: Yeah.

MR. STEIN: One of the problems is we didn't get the forms from the county to fill out the capital proposal until the middle of January. So it was a real rush job to put it all together.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: I'm sure that was --

MR. STEIN: And --

TRUSTEE OCHOA: -- an oversight,



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not to worry; right?

Thank you.

DR. PIPPINS: Just so you know  
what --

MR. STEIN: Thank you.

DR. PIPPINS: -- the SUNY  
Presidents -- potentially, I continue to  
lobby and try offset some of these  
proposed budget cuts, and I think that  
will be the position, at least, through  
February that we will do whatever we can  
to make sure that the community colleges  
do not experience proposed cuts. I  
think it's wise to continue to  
anticipate that they might occur, but  
our stance at this point is that we will  
continue to work with our  
representatives and do everything we can  
to make sure that we do not experience  
those cuts.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: I think that's  
prudent.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: The bottom  
line is that it's going to -- it's going

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to -- all this is going to be reflected  
in what it costs the students to attend,  
and --

DR. PIPPINS: Right.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: -- and  
that's -- I don't think you have any  
other alternative. They're going to  
bear the burden, which is unfair.  
Especially with the concept of a  
community college. You know, what it's  
supposed to encourage and entice and  
make available to individuals who can't  
afford to -- I mean, \$52,000 a year for  
a -- a -- you know, a -- a regular  
college to go away, you know, is  
unbelievable.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Private  
institutions.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: That's what  
it is.

DR. PIPPINS: Speaking of going  
away, I think most -- most of the  
colleges around the state -- I think  
Suffolk will probably be the last, our

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putting in place dorms, because they feel they're losing students, because they want that dorm experience. So I -- at the last President's meeting, we went around the table. Almost all of the colleges are at least experiencing looking at that.

If you remember, when we were looking at charge backs, we were losing students. Not necessarily in Nassau, but for places where they (inaudible). But I told them that we probably would be the last one. So --

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Well, if -- if we consolidate to one campus, then maybe we can use dorms. You have to drive away to get there, that's my point. Never mind.

Okay. Thank you, Chuck.

You should have all received, at some point, in your packets the board's self-assessment forms. I thank those of who have filled them in and sent them back. Those of you who haven't, step to

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the plate and get them off to me. And if I have all the responses back in a timely fashion, I'll make a report to -- what we think of ourselves at our next meeting.

I think that's all right, so there we go. Don't just pat yourselves on the back, you know, if there's something we got to do better, let's air it out. Don't hesitate to criticize.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: Well, wait a minute, you -- you required us to put our name on the darn thing.

No, I'm kidding you.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Have the -- have the courage of your convictions.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN MOORE: All right.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: Mail it to New York City.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: I'll fill it out in Spanish; okay, Walter.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: That'll take me a while.

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There's no good time to do what we're going to do, so let's do it now. We have a special presentation for Dr. Pippins. This is her last meeting with us as president of this institution, and the board has a gift for her.

And, Shirley, if you'd join me for a minute, I'm happy to present that to you.

DR. PIPPINS: I thought that was a cake, but I was trying to figure out what kind of cake you would wrap that I could actually eat.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Teri tells me that you're --

DR. PIPPINS: Oh, wow.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: -- you're packed, so we had to put this back. I'm saving the bubble wrapping --

DR. PIPPINS: I will carry this with me.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Well, then that's

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fine, too.

"To Dr. Shirley Robinson Pippins,  
in recognition of your leadership,  
professionalism, and dedication while  
serving as President of Suffolk County  
Community College, November 2003 through  
February 2009, with sincere appreciation  
from the Board of Trustees, good luck  
and God speed."

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Shirley, from one  
preacher's kid to another, excuse the  
reference, Meister Eckhart was a German  
theologian in the 13th and 14th  
centuries said when you're giving  
prayer, sometimes you don't know what to  
say, just say thank you.

When it comes to turning to  
Dr. Pippins and the time she's spent  
here, and what she has done for this  
institution, for what she's done for the  
people who've worked with her, for what  
she's done for each of us, I don't have  
the words. I'll follow Meister

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Eckhart's wise lead and say thank you.  
We could list on and on and on your  
accomplishments, and many people will.  
I won't.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN MOORE: I like to hear  
myself talk, but not that much.

It has been a delight. The college  
is -- is so much better for your time  
with us, your service to us. We're  
going to miss you horribly, but I  
understand that you have (inaudible) in  
D.C., and we're not going to cut the  
line.

DR. PIPPINS: Restaurants and --  
and we can have lunch or dinner, I'd  
love to see you.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: We're going to  
come down and visit, and we're going to  
depend upon you as guidance and help for  
us. And I'm not --

I could ramble on and on and on,  
but I just want to thank you. It's been  
an incredible experience, and this

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county will come to understand that more and more as the days go by. We've got challenges ahead, but you've positioned us in such a way that we're ready to take those on.

DR. PIPPINS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Thank you.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN MOORE: And I did leave it at a point where it's roundtable time, so if our fellow trustees have any words, come and join us, please. You can say them standing or you can say them sitting down, but now -- now is your turn to talk about college business or whatever's on your mind.

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: Well, God speed.

DR. PIPPINS: I got the pan, Walter.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN MOORE: All right.

TRUSTEE MATTACE: Okay.

First, I had dropped off some



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paperwork that I had received at our conference for the past couple of days in Washington, D.C. I think it was very successful.

What we were amazed by talking to people on -- how much in common we have with other schools. To the point where we started a conversation and we were talking about, basically, what's happening with Middle States, and the islands were --

TRUSTEE WARE: It wasn't Hawaii.

TRUSTEE MATTACE: No, it's one of the islands. I don't know.

It was -- what it was, was two representatives from the State Department who represented a community college on one of the islands out in the Pacific somewhere, and how they had problems because of the structure of the building falling down and -- to the point where they had -- some of the professors didn't even have bachelor's degrees. And we were just talking and

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talking and talking, and it didn't -- it was amazing how, you know, everything comes in a circle where, when you start talking to individuals, everybody has the same problems. We talked about what was happening in -- in reference to our situation in the future, and we know we have a -- a bright and, hopefully, a progressive future. So I -- it all goes back to Dr. Pippins.

I -- I personally want to thank you for getting a chance to work with you, knowing you, and calling you a friend, and watch an individual who is dedicated to the advancement of this school and its students and the faculty, and the residents of Suffolk County. We have a long way to go, Dr. Pippins, and good luck and thank you.

DR. PIPPINS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Thank you, Ernie.

SECRETARY KANE: I'll keep it simple, we love you.

DR. PIPPINS: Can I just say a few

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words?

CHAIRMAN MOORE: By all means. I figured we do it this way.

DR. PIPPINS: All right.

I thought that -- I was just thinking that -- I guess it was five and a half years ago that I was standing right here (indicating). It's been an incredible journey and really creates a joy because I feel good about the work. There have been surprises, but it's been a wonderful experience.

I thought -- you know, at the foundation's event, I always talk about the ten reasons to brag about Suffolk County Community College, and I thought I'd share with you the ten things that I feel most proud of. Not necessarily in any order.

First is really a fantastic supportive board, that has a self-assessment tool and a formal evaluation process, but really a board that's been willing to make the tough

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decisions. And at every point, we've made them and we've stuck together.

And Walter's even come along. I've won his heart over the course of the five and a half years --

VICE CHAIRMAN HAZLITT: Absolutely.

DR. PIPPINS: -- he even gave me a -- a black skillet to take with me, so I'm taking that with me when I go to D.C.

I'm really proud of the initiatives: The strategic language initiatives, college success, downtown revitalization, the excelsior program. And when I say the "downtown revitalization," yes, I am taking credit for hiring George Gatta.

(Laughter)

DR. PIPPINS: I'm proud of the -- the enhanced relationships, both internal and external. My relationship with the President's council, with all the wonderful people in that group that I've become friends with.

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Externally, despite the inferences in the press and the difficulty with the legislature, I feel we've had wonderful relationships with the legislature. There are always bumps, but when I came in, we hadn't gotten any increases in years. And the legislature has supported us every year, except one -- one year when I couldn't really blame them for not supporting us.

We've had legislator appreciation days. They've been present at different events, and I think we see that return to support of the college, and I think you'll see that in what's happening as the capital projects move forward.

I'm really proud of the improvement in the image of the college. And I say "the image," because as I emphasized before, it should be always (inaudible), all strong people and programs and faculty and staff. But I think people started to see us like that.

I couldn't be more proud of our

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commercials, the materials, they represent the college. There are students now standing in line to get in our honors program, and, you know, our first ACE scholarships.

I would mention downtown revitalization again as a whole separate entity in terms of initiatives and the partnerships that took place there.

I've also watched -- enjoyed watching people grow, and these people would probably be totally embarrassed, but Tina would be right up there on my list of the people that I saw evolve and grow since I've been here.

Fran LaFauci who's not here. I remember struggling through the first legislation presentation days, but now Fran can give a speech and a presentation with the best of them and I'm proud of her.

Laurie Savona who's going back and getting her doctrine. Her face hasn't turned totally red yet, great.

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And Teri, you know, these are the individuals that have come along the way and -- and grown.

And if I were going to mention a group of people, it really would be the maintenance workers, to see them feel more a part of the institution.

The infrastructure, I really can't take credit for that. I thought that was crazy to -- I thought with all the things that we had problems with, why are we going to --

(Laughter)

DR. PIPPINS: -- but as President, I couldn't say that. But now I can say it was a wonderful thing.

But I feel very proud of the music rooms, and the cottage, the auditorium at East, the Eastern Campus Learning Resource Center, and the fact that the Health and Sport facility is still on the agenda. I mean, when I came, people said we shouldn't even have an Eastern Campus, and I feel very proud of that.

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I feel very proud of the reconnection with the alumni, the work that the foundation has done, and probably you can't really see what that means. It was really more of a moving forward with major gift campaigns and reconnection (inaudible), and going to places around the country. I mean, I got more houseman -- he gave me a sweatshirt, he might have been flunking out of school, but he was --

(Laughter)

DR. PIPPINS: And the amazing thing is that actually he was embarrassed, he stressed that when he saw me. He said, I'm embarrassed because of the fact that simply I've been partying too much. And I said, That's not why we picked you, and I expect you to straighten this up and turn it around.

I feel very proud of the \$5 million. Both, to the recognition that it brought to the college and our work, but also the way we rolled it out,



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and the program that we put in place to support the students and the connection that's coming from that.

I also feel very proud of the changing culture of the institution. Again, internally and externally. The all-college graduation, I think the verdict may all -- still be out on that, but it is a good thing.

The one college government, that although we have governments at each (inaudible), they've all come together as one. I think it enhanced private business in the community and there's more respect for the college.

And, finally, I would just like -- some very special moments. I was just sharing this, I was on a panel just last week talking about messages to new presidents, and I was saying, Let me share some of my thoughts as I leave, but they're the moments that stand out in my mind:

One, the Inauguration. I heard all

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the good things and I was there, and what that meant for my family.

I would share the students standing before the legislature and speaking about what they (inaudible) in the community.

The maintenance man, one of the things I tried to do when I first came -- I remember asking Dr. Canniff, because everybody comes to opening exercises. And the answer was this -- because on this campus that meant all faculty, everybody came. And he'd been able to change that. And I'll never forget watching the maintenance man at Grant walk into their first meeting with the President. And, finally, when I was at Grant when they had the farewell ceremony, I made Shawn -- I'm trying not to cry.

When the ceremony was over, the President of the Islamic Association of Americas sat down next to me. And I was telling my friends that, you know, there

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was this box of tissues sitting on the table. And he reached for a tissue, and I thought he was going to give it to me. And he started to tell me how much it had meant to him that I had and this college had embraced them and welcomed them when everybody was scared of them.

And that would be an example -- just some moments that are very special.

And I think I will close almost where my (inaudible) started. I believe that you come to a place for a reason. And I -- I really want you to know I am happy, I didn't want to cry, but it's for a purpose, and I believe we've achieved it. And maybe this will make me feel better:

As a white Irish woman said to me, Mistakes are what you make in progress. She said, He who shakes the tree cannot eat the fruit. And I'm happy to have shaken the tree, I know it will be wonderful fruit.

Thank you.

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Board of Trustees Meeting

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(Applause)

CHAIRMAN MOORE: Well, that concludes the public portion of our meeting. We do have Executive Session stuff to go over, and it's not going to trigger any action after that. So I can't think of a better way to finish up Dr. Pippins's last official meeting with us than as we just did.

So thank you all for being here, nice to see you, and carry on the good work.

I'll entertain a motion to go into Executive Session, we have litigation to discuss.

SECRETARY KANE: So moved.

TRUSTEE OCHOA: So moved.

CHAIRMAN MOORE: That's all in favor, too. Amen.

Fill your coffee cups, grab something to eat, and thank you.

(WHEREUPON, the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, THERESA PAPE, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New York, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription of the stenographic notes taken herein.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage; and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of February, 2009.

---

THERESA PAPE