

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MICHAEL J. GRANT CAMPUS, BRENTWOOD, NY
BOARD ROOM, LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
DECEMBER 8, 2022

The meeting was held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Learning Resource Center in Brentwood, NY.

PRESENT:

E. Christopher Murray	Chair
James Morgo	Vice Chair
Shirley Coverdale	Vice Chair
Gordon Canary	Secretary
Belinda Pagdanganan	Trustee
Priscilla Zarate	Trustee
Kevin O'Connor	Trustee (arrived 4:50 pm)
Zachary Frost	Student Trustee
Dr. Edward Bonahue	President
Louis J. Petrizzo	Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Alicia O'Connor	Deputy General Counsel
Alla Brodsky	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. Liesl Jones	V.P. for Academic Affairs
Dr. Patty Munsch	V.P. for Student Affairs
Kaliah Greene	Interim V.P. / Executive Director, Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness
Angelica Rivera	A.V.P. for Employee Resources

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 4:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Canary.

Chair Murray called for the recognition of special guests. Dr. Bonahue introduced, Legislator Jim Mazzarella, Chair of the Education and Labor committee, he thanked him for being present and said he was a strong supporter of the College. He also introduced and thanked Legislator Stephanie Bontempi for being present. Dr. Bonahue then welcomed student Jose Riquelme, President of the Ammerman Student Government and Ms. Melanie Morris- Carsch, Assistant Director of Sustainability.

Dr. Bonahue asked Ms. Morris-Carsch to give an update on the College's new solar installation certificate program that was launched this semester. Ms. Morris-Carsch

said that the office of Workforce and Economic Development, in collaboration with local industry, had been asked to develop a training program for solar installers. This was a four-week program, fifty hours, and included a paid externship at a local solar company. She noted that at first it was quite a challenge; they built the program from scratch, with no curriculum, no instructor, no training equipment. She thanked all those involved in the development of the program, including Joe Kraft from Plant Operations and Professor James Leopard from the HVAC program. The last piece of this puzzle was the local Department of Labor. Using funding from Suffolk County Department of Labor, they were able to pay the tuition for all thirteen students. The first cohort of students launched on October 18th and completed the program on November 10th. They all earned an OSHA 10 certificate, as well as a Suffolk County Community College Completion Certificate and a fall prevention safety certificate. After the completion of the program, six of the students got an offer for jobs at local solar companies; a few others stayed employed with their solar company - she noted that they already were employed and had just been seeking additional training.

Ms. Morris-Carsch then introduced Mr. Christian Arevalo, one of the students of the program to give some insight on his experience in the program. Mr. Arevalo said the class which had been taught by Brian Karp was wonderful. During the externship, he was able to experience what the job was like, which he felt was the most helpful, because he is a very hands-on learner. He added that Professor Karp did a great job showing them the kind of material that they would be working with which was very helpful while they were participating in the externship. Mr. Arevalo was hired by SUNation after he completed the program, and he is very grateful for this opportunity which he learned about through an email that was sent out by the College.

Dr. Bonahue asked Mr. Arevalo if he had any suggestions on how to improve upon or expand the program now that he had completed it. Mr. Arevalo said he really liked the fact that they were actually able to build roofs. They learned what the material was about, which he felt was very useful. He said if there was a way to expand on the hands-on experience he felt that would be most beneficial for the students.

Ms. Morris-Carsch said she just wanted to mention a few other student experiences from the program. There was a father and son duo, Gabriel and Nicolas Gomez - they took the class together to learn how to install solar panels for their family construction business, and are now excited to start offering that as an addition in their business. Another student - Jon Tyler - worked as a commercial solar installer at EmPower Solar prior to the class, and he wanted to move into residential solar. Upon completion of the course, he moved into the residential service department, and received a pay increase. Ms. Morris-Carsch thanked everyone who supported the program, and said they hoped to continue to grow the certification program and enroll more students. The next cohort of students will begin in March of 2023.

Trustee Canary thanked Ms. Morris-Carsch and said best of luck to Mr. Arevalo. He added hats off to the outstanding faculty who were able to put the program together from nothing and have it be highly successful.

Chair Murray called for a motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting and convene the Board of Directors meeting at 4:12 p.m. Trustee Morgo so moved, Trustee Canary 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 4:16 p.m. Trustee Coverdale so moved, Trustee Frost seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Murray requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Morgo so moved, Trustee Pagdanganan seconded. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

Chair Murray introduced Mark Harris, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, to present the College Budget and Financial report. Dr. Harris began with an update on FY'22. As indicated at the last Board meeting, the auditors have started the field work and he is hoping that he will be able to report out in January on the estimated fund balance use. There is an opportunity for the College to use some additional HEERF funds, which means using less fund balance. The auditors are evaluating cost and revenue assumptions for those additional funds. When the FY'22 budget was submitted, the College was looking at about \$4.2M use of the fund balance. The College took some steps to mitigate that number. Once the auditors have looked at the assumptions that the College made, we will have a better sense of what the financial results are for FY'22.

In regards to the FY'23 budget, the financial statements that were submitted are for the month of November, the first quarter of FY'23. Based on current enrollment, there is no surprise that the projected revenue would be down. Overall, revenue to budget is less by \$2.9M, however overall costs are down by about \$1.9M. Originally, the College had projected about \$13.6M use of fund balance for FY'23. Then, because of how the fall semester shaped up, it is now at \$15.5M of projected use of fund balance. As a stopgap measure, we have asked the departments to reevaluate their budgeted costs related to personnel services, tools and equipment, as well as other variable costs to see if there are opportunities for cost reduction. Again, the projected use of fund balance is too early to determine, and may change as we assess each month.

Dr. Harris reviewed the cost variances to budget. Due to inflation, the College's utilities are about \$1M higher than what was anticipated. We are hoping that over the next half of the FY'23 we will be able to reduce some of those costs so that they get in line with what was budgeted and potentially reduce the use of fund balance for FY'23.

Dr. Harris gave an update on HEERF. The College is currently in the last phase of it, which is HEERF III. The College has approximately \$3.7M left of HEERF on the student side. He has been working with Dr. Munsch on block grants for students, which

would represent the second of the last disbursement of about \$2.7M that is planned for December. The remaining balance will be disbursed in spring 2023.

In preparation for the FY'24 budget, and similar to FY'23, we will be developing a budgetary framework that will focus on actionable strategies that will be geared toward retention, student success, operational efficiencies, and revenue growth, that will help the College inch closer to a balanced budget. Budget templates will be provided to cabinet officers by December 16, to be completed and returned to Finance by January 31, 2023, with budget reviews taking place thereafter. At this point, the College does not know the percentage increase that will be set by the County, or the funding model that will be adopted by SUNY.

Dr. Harris reported that there weren't any resolutions this month. Typically, he would have presented the EMHP payment, but the College has not received the reconciliation for October and November and they are working to get those files. Part of the issue is because of the cyber-attack the County is dealing with and they are having difficulties getting those numbers.

Chair Murray said he had a couple of questions with regard to the use of the fund balance. Assuming the worst case scenario, which is \$15.5M use of the fund balance, what would that fund balance look like after that. Dr. Harris replied assuming the use of about \$3M in 2022, the fund balance is then at about \$38.4M, and with the use of another \$15.5M that would bring the fund balance down to \$22.9M to start FY'24 - a little bit more than 10% of the total operating budget.

Chair Murray said with regard to the utility costs, he understood it was a big unanticipated increase. A few years ago the College had retained a company that would try to ease out as much savings as possible, and was there any thought of doing that process again.

Dr. Harris said one of the benefits from having Cenergistic was behavioral change. The components from Cenergistic that were embraced, for example, was the hiring of Energy Specialists, which the College still employs. The last couple of weeks the College has begun to reenergize working with the campuses and different departments to look at ways in which it can maximize savings. Part of the struggle is determining whether or not the increase is primarily because of kilowatt usage or is it because of inflation. There have been some other discussions about looking at other energy efficient strategies and projects that the College can undertake to be more aggressive with how much it can reduce our kilowatt usage.

Trustee Morgo asked what the College paid Cenergistic and what the savings were for the College. Dr. Harris, in looking back to the contract that was signed in 2013-2014, indicated that there were savings. Cenergistic did benefit more than the College did. Because of changes that the College had to make and still maintains, some of those behaviors have helped to reduce kilowatt usage. The key thing with energy savings is really working with the campuses and the Plant Operations Directors to look at specific

buildings, look at usage and scheduling, not just in the winter, but also in the summer to see how the College can either reduce the use of some buildings or maximize the use of some buildings.

Trustee Morgo asked what happens when HEERF is done and the College can't use it as a cushion for the fund balance. Dr. Harris replied that May 16, 2023 is when the College is allowed to incur any related expenses that it could claim from the remaining \$5.1M from the institution side of HEERF. For the FY'24 budget, the College has to factor in at least a deficit at a minimum \$5.1M to work from the gap analysis, plus whatever potential fund balance use for FY'23.

Chair Murray called for a motion for the approval of College Resolutions 2022.65 through 2022.67. Trustee Morgo so moved, Trustee Pagdanganan seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022.65 - Appointing A Member to the Ethics Board for the College Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, the purpose of the *Board of Trustees Code of Professional Ethics* includes providing guidance to the members of the Board in the exercise of their fiduciary duties; providing a procedure for disclosure of potential conflicts of interest; establishing minimum standards of conduct; and creating an Ethics Board for the Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, the *Code of Professional Ethics* is intended to supplement, but not replace, any state laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to trustees of community colleges in New York State, including the NYS Public Officers Law and the NYS General Municipal Law, and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 2017.16, the Board of Trustees appointed three members to the Ethics Board to serve staggered terms of 3, 4, and 5 years, respectively, and

WHEREAS, the five-year term of Ethics Board member the Honorable Madeleine A. Fitzgibbon expired on March 15, 2022, thus creating a vacancy on the Board, and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees recommends appointing the Honorable C. Randall Hinrichs to the vacant position on the Ethics Board, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Honorable C. Randall Hinrichs is hereby appointed to serve as a member of the Ethics Board for the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees for a term commencing December 8, 2022 through March 15, 2027.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022.66 - Accepting a Grant Award from the New York State Department of Education, in Partnership with Longwood Central School District, to Implement a New York State Early College High School (NYS-ECHS) Program

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant award in the amount of \$414,528 from the New York State Department of Education, in partnership with Longwood Central School District, to implement a New York State Early College High School (NYS-ECHS) Program for the period September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2027, and

WHEREAS, in partnership with Longwood Central School District, the program is designed to increase high school graduation and postsecondary degree completion rates, and increase the number of college graduates pursuing careers in computer science fields, especially among historically underrepresented and /or economically disadvantaged students, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, and

RESOLVED, that the College President or his designee is hereby authorized and empowered to execute a contract, in such form as shall be approved by the Office of Legal Affairs, in the amount of \$414,528 from the New York State Department of Education, in partnership with Longwood Central School District, to implement a New York State Early College High School (NYS-ECHS) Program for the period September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2027.

Project Director: Lisa Calla, Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs

Note: No full-time personnel

RESOLUTION NO. 2022.67 - Approving a Major Change Order to the Contract for the Construction of the Renewable Energy and STEM Center on the Michael J. Grant Campus

WHEREAS, V.R.D. Contracting, Inc. was awarded a contract (“Contract”) to construct the Renewable Energy and STEM Center on the Michael J. Grant Campus, and

WHEREAS, work which was not anticipated under the terms of the Contract or shown on the design drawings is required, consisting of relocating a sprinkler head in the telecommunications closet; modifying two acid neutralization tanks to fit inside cabinetry; adding 208v power for the elevator sump pump; modifications to hot water heaters; and power for the water purifier; and

WHEREAS, at this stage of the construction, the College estimates that sufficient contingency funding remains in the project budget for the unanticipated work, and

WHEREAS, the additional work described herein increases the Contract with V.R.D. by more than thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00), thus constituting a major change order as defined in the College's *Procurement Policy*, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such policy, all major change orders require the approval of the Board of Trustees, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a change order in the amount of \$48,723.02 to the Contract with V.R.D. Contracting, Inc. for additional work to be performed for the construction of the Renewable Energy and STEM Center on the Michael J. Grant Campus, is hereby approved, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the College President or his designee is authorized and empowered to execute the necessary documentation, as approved by the College's Office of Legal Affairs, reflecting the change order and the nature and cost of the additional work so authorized.

Chair Murray called for the Governance Committee report. Trustee Canary advised that a Governance Committee Meeting was held on Monday, December 5, 2022, via Zoom. Present at the meeting were Committee Chair Gordon Canary, E. Christopher Murray, Chair; James Morgo, Vice Chair; Edward T. Bonahue, President; Gail Kenehan, Recording Secretary. The meeting was called to order by Governance Committee Chair Gordon Canary. Committee Chair Canary shared with the Committee that he had a discussion with Deputy General Counsel Alicia O'Connor in which they felt it would be beneficial, at this time, to include other members of the College community to have an in-depth discussion on the Association's Governance Structure. It was suggested that the Student Trustee, Vice President of Student Affairs, President of the Faculty Association and the Association Director of Business Affairs be invited to the next Governance Committee meeting to get their input. The Committee agreed, and invites will be sent out shortly. There were no new topics brought up during open discussion. Agenda items identified for the January Governance Committee meeting include: Continued discussion, review and analysis of the Association's governance structure. The next Governance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Committee Chair Canary adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Chair Murray called for the Advocacy Committee update. Trustee Zarate said the committee did not meet, however she wanted to share and remind the committee members that the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT), along with the New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP) put out an advocacy platform which aligns with the College's advocacy about the 100% allocation to the floor funding, as well as the 4% increase to help offset inflationary impacts, contractual obligations and other costs.

Chair Murray called for the Facilities Committee report. Trustee Morgo said the committee had not met, however he wanted to echo what Dr. Bonahue had already alluded to, that John DeMaio has done a superb job with getting the change orders approved over the last couple of months, getting the vendors paid and getting the job moving ahead under very difficult circumstances for the STEM Center. The anticipated completion date for the building is still February/March.

Chair Murray called for the Foundation report. Trustee Pagdanganan reported the Foundation has distributed more than \$500,000 in scholarship support college-wide. This year, they had 1,256 students apply for scholarship support using the College's online system known as Academic Works. Of the total, 898 applicants were from the continuing student population and 358 were new students. Students received scholarship awards thanks to the Foundation's individual and corporate donors, as well as faculty, staff, alumni and friends. Students in need often arrive at the Foundation office seeking assistance. Staff there is trained to assist with addressing basic needs of food insecurity and transportation challenges. This year, through the Foundation's partnership with a charity on Long Island, they were able to share thousands of dollars' worth of supermarket gift cards to students in need throughout the fall semester. Then, just in time for the start of the holiday season, Stop & Shop supermarkets provided \$100 gift cards to support students and their families. Additionally, the Foundation acquired transportation vouchers from Suffolk Transportation, which provided students with free access to County buses.

In 1974, Sister Mary Ann Borrello, a professor at Suffolk, established the State's first campus-based food pantry at Suffolk. This year, during November and December, the Foundation issued an appeal for the support of Sister Mary Ann's Helping Hands Fund, seeking to raise donations to support the College's food pantries. The response has been generous, enabling the Foundation to provide food to students and their families during the holiday season. Also, generous corporate partners at Riverhead Building Supply provided a challenge grant for the construction of a new theatrical stage at the Shea Theater in time for the recent production of Noises Off. With Riverhead Building Supply donating hundreds of linear and square feet of lumber, fasteners and more, the theatre department, under the direction of Professor Charles Wittreich, was able to identify additional matches to support and complete the project.

A celebration of the life honoring the late professor of theatre, Richard Johnson, has been scheduled for Sunday, April 16, 2023 at the Shea Theatre on the Ammerman Campus, following the student performance of The Comedy of Errors. Details will follow. Lastly, she reminded everyone that year-end giving provides individual donors with tax savings while simultaneously encouraging investment in charitable organizations and to please consider making a generous donation or a charitable gift to the Suffolk Community College Foundation. Contributions must be received at the Foundation by December 31st to qualify for charitable deduction on 2022 tax returns.

Chair Murray called for the Student Trustee report. Student Trustee Frost reported he attended the Academic Assembly meeting on Tuesday on the Grant Campus, and was

pleased to learn that the tutoring center on the campus is at max capacity - a good sign that students are returning to campus and utilizing the services the College provides. There is actually a need for more tutors, and he has spoken to Trustee Zarate; she may have someone who can help. He also had the chance to meet with Nate Cocosta, Treasurer and Emily Lucana, President of Student Government on the Grant Campus. They discussed future initiatives and how they can expand and improve communications with the other SGA leaders for future projects. He was pleased to learn that seven of the College's students were chosen to participate in an art competition hosted by SUNY in Albany.

Student Trustee Frost said he participated in the Student Trustee meeting hosted by NY Community College Trustees. He said they asked the student trustees to go back to their boards and remind them that the 2023 Community College Legislative Summit in Washington, DC is taking place in February - a great opportunity to meet with lawmakers and advocate for community colleges on a large scale.

Chair Murray moved to the Chair's report. Chair Murray said they are possibly going to plan a Board retreat in January or February. One of the topics for the retreat will be the Board self-evaluation. He said overall, they were very positive, but there are areas where that can be improved, such as connecting the strategic plan for the College.

Chair Murray moved to the President's report. President Bonahue thanked Gail Kenahan for filling in and helping out the President's office while staff was out sick. He then recognized the Governance leaders present, Dr. Dante Morelli from the Faculty Association, Dr. Tat Sang So, from the Grant Assembly, Sean Tvelia from the Guild of Administrative Officers, Josephine Makowski from AME and Jose Riquelme from the Student Government Association. He said he especially wanted to recognize Dante Morelli and Courtney Brewer - they had their first meeting between the Faculty Association and the College to update the Faculty contract, and it was a very productive meeting, and he thanked them for their leadership.

President Bonahue began to review the end of semester enrollment report that was now complete and had been verified by SUNY. He said the report is in line with what the College has been reporting for the fall semester. Overall, enrollment is down just under 3%. He noted some data points, the number of new first time in college students is up, as was the number of students transferring in from other institutions. The chief area of opportunity is to continue to focus on retention, reenrolling the students who have been here the previous semester to ensure that they stay, even while the marketplace becomes very competitive. Among the positive signs, the number of high school students continues to increase from about 4,300 last fall to nearly 4,700 this fall. Continuing Education and workforce also continue to pick up. It was up almost 100% from about 540 to nearly 1,000 enrollments in fall of 2022. He added that applications

for the entire SUNY system were up significantly as a result of free application week statewide. The College has also seen an increase in applications both for spring and fall of 2023. President Bonahue said he was proud to announce that about two thirds of enrollment are back on campus, and they continue to bring more back every semester. In terms of outreach and new student recruitment, he continues to meet with the local high school superintendents and principals. He said that every superintendent and principal that he has met with have said the College has a strong reputation, and the principals would be delighted if more of their students came to the College. Earlier this morning, he met with Brentwood superintendent Rich Loeschner and his high school leadership. Although the College already has a great partnership with Brentwood, they discussed a variety of ways that they could significantly deepen that partnership further in terms of providing workforce opportunities and some cross-enrollment opportunities between the high school and the College. Legislator Mazarella will join him next week for a conversation with Superintendent Coster and Principal Scotto at William Floyd. The College will also be hosting the first of its returns of on-campus meetings for guidance counselors from local high schools tomorrow.

He said as was mentioned earlier facilities costs for utilities have increased by about \$1M, where the College now needs to review where it stands. He has asked the Facilities department to conduct an energy audit. The College will do an energy audit to identify some opportunities to save and also potentially point toward what could be future capital projects related to renewable energies. The plan is to conduct this audit in conjunction with PSEG, because PSEG will reimburse the College 90% of the cost of any audit and if the recommendation is implemented they'll reimburse the final 10%, as well.

Trustee Pagdanganan suggested to also consider National Grid for the gas portion of the audit. Between the two utilities, the College can possibly achieve some savings with their participation and partnership.

President Bonahue reported that earlier this week, the Suffolk County Legislature approved the College's request for State funding for the installation of the solar tree demonstration project. This was in conjunction with National Grid, and he thanked Trustee Pagdanganan for her assistance with the partnership. The bond for the future expansion of workforce building was also approved, and he thanked the Legislature, especially the Education and Labor Committee, for supporting the projects. He also thanked Ben Zwirn for shepherding the projects.

In the area of the College's property leases, he continues to examine carefully whether the College is getting a return on investment for the long-term leases that it is engaged in. They've been communicating with partners, both in Sayville and Riverhead, about the current leases. He believes they may have found a strong win/win solution for Sayville and will follow up with more information.

Dr. Bonahue said it had been some time since he touched base on the request the College received from the Urban League to consider partnering with them on a long-term licensing agreement as part of the Wyandanch Rising project. He has informed

the board chair of the Urban League that while the College is strongly committed to continuing its collaboration with them in a variety of initiatives, including the summer youth employment program, summer internships and serving underserved neighborhoods, the College will not recommend any new long-term leases at this point. He added that while the College is committed to serving the students and families in Wyandanch, as well as other underserved areas of Suffolk County, he feels like it can do that most effectively in the schools. They have met with Wyandanch Superintendent Gina Talbert and high school principal Paul Sibbles, who are very interested in how the College can increase its presence at the high school. They have a two-generation strategy in terms of working both with the students of the school and parents to do more outreach in terms of access to education and workforce opportunities.

Suffolk County is trying to anticipate student needs and build a workaround arrangement for students who are seeking approval to enroll in community colleges elsewhere in the state. He noted as has been discussed previously, the vast majority of those are at FIT, which is a university, but because they have a two-year program, they still qualify for the chargeback applicable to community colleges. On Monday he reached out to the County Executive's office to ask if they can find a way of reminding those students who might be interested in going elsewhere about the fact that the College is an option and has the lowest tuition on Long Island and has an exceptional lineup of degrees and programs. The College has also reached out to Comptroller Kennedy's office to help in the effort of digging into this data about students who may be leaving the area for other community colleges, have some follow-up with them about where they're going and explore why that may be happening. Unfortunately, because of the cyber-security challenges the County has been experiencing, they have not been able to get back the file with the data needed.

The College continues its work with short-term certificates that carry a certification that leads directly to work. The new Medical Assistant certificate in partnership with Catholic Health that was launched in mid-November now has about fifteen students in the program. In the spring they will be transitioning to clinical placements in medical offices. The research in the Medical Assistant program revealed that there are some other certificates that would bring value to students in the community, including being a certified phlebotomist and EKG technician, for example.

President Bonahue said in looking toward the new year, he wanted to thank the trustees for their time and energy and commitment. He looked forward to getting together possibly in January for a half-day retreat. He welcomed the opportunity to have more time for some extended conversations about strategic initiatives, including enrollment and the financial picture. He and Dr. Harris will be reaching out to schedule the first meetings with Trustee O'Connor for the Budget and Finance Committee to begin conversations about the budget scenario for FY'24.

Lastly, he referred to the Christmas cards at their place, including one that is the card being sent from the Office of the President and the Foundation. Many recipients of the card will receive the solicitation asking to remember the student hardship funds, and just to remember the College at this charitable time of year.

Trustee Morgo commented that Suffolk County students going to other community colleges has been an issue for years. It costs the College enrollment and tuition, but it also costs Suffolk County taxpayers, because they have to pay for that when students leave - Suffolk County charges the Towns where the students reside for the out-of-County tuition expense. One of the things that he suggested was creating a task force to focus on the issue. President Bonahue said that was the reason for contacting the County Executive's office because this doesn't just affect the College; it is also coming back on taxpayers. Trustee Canary said they were never going to solve the problem because there are clearly courses that they want and need to take at Fashion Institute of Technology that the College does not offer and will never offer. He feels SUNY needs to reevaluate that and label them as a four-year institution in order to stop the charging back to the County. Trustee Zarate noted that BOCES has a report under IDW, Instructional Data Warehouse, which shows where high school students are going to which colleges. The College may want to have a conversation with BOCES because it will show where high school students in Suffolk County are heading.

Student Trustee Frost said he wanted to circle back to the Medical Assistant program. He wanted to know what the College was doing with the Medical Assistants once they got their certificate. Could the College circle back to them and bringing them into the Paramedic or Nursing program and get them higher salaries? President Bonahue said that was a great question because for some, the short-term certificates are a quick pathway to employment, however it shouldn't be their ultimate career aspiration. He said it was the College's hope that with something like Medical Assistants, that it's a foot in the door in the healthcare sector that could lead to great opportunities. This could be done, as he mentioned earlier, through the stacking of those credentials, a shorter-term credential, a medium-term credential and hopefully leading to a degree program and eventually, perhaps a bachelor's degree and master's degree. He said that was really the pathway that the College wants to encourage and be part of that whole higher education ecosystem.

Chair Murray moved onto Roundtable. With no comments for Roundtable Chair Murray called for a motion to go in to Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a matter leading to the employment, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of particular College employees. Trustee Morgo so moved, Trustee Pagdanganan seconded, and with all in favor, the Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned a 5:14 p.m.

The Board of Trustees next meeting is January 19, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Alumni Room in the Alumni Room, Brookhaven Gymnasium, Ammerman Campus, Selden, New York.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Canary
Secretary