

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
AMMERMAN CAMPUS, SELDEN, NY
ALUMNI ROOM, BROOKHAVEN GYMNASIUM
JANUARY 18, 2024

The meeting was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Alumni room of the Brookhaven Gymnasium, in Selden, NY.

PRESENT:

Shirley Coverdale	Vice Chair
Gordon Canary	Vice Chair
Belinda Pagdanganan	Trustee
Kevin O'Connor	Trustee
Gemma deLeon-Lopresti	Trustee
Priscilla Zarate	Trustee
Dr. Edward Bonahue	President
Ashley Pope	General Counsel
Alla Brodsky	Deputy General Counsel
Sara Gorton	Interim V.P. of Business and Financial Affairs
Mary Lou Araneo	V.P. for Institutional Advancement
Shady Azzam-Gomez	V.P. for Information Technology Services
Dr. Patty Munsch	V.P. for Student Affairs
Dr. Irene Rios	Interim V.P. for Academic Affairs
Kaliah Greene	Interim V.P. / Executive Director, Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness
Angelica Rivera	V.P. for Human Resources

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 9:16 a.m.

Vice Chair Coverdale moved to recognition of guests. Ms. Wickliffe-Campbell introduced Legislator Jim Mazarella, Legislator Kevin McCaffrey, Tyler Cobe representing Legislator Bontempi; Nick DeBello from AME, Tom Lupo representing the Comptroller's office and Angel Rivera representing the Presiding Officer's office.

Vice Chair Coverdale requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Pagdanganan so moved, Trustee O'Connor seconded. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Coverdale introduced Sara Gorton, Interim Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, to present the College Budget and Financial report for the month of December 2023. Ms. Gorton reported that the auditors are reaching the end of the FY23 financial audit. All year-end adjusting entries have been made and they are working on a new GASB pronouncement implementation as well as some single audit work. They anticipate the audit to be completed by the end of February, however she is not sure that they will have the report available for review until the March meeting. The FY23 financial statements that were submitted for year ended August 31, 2023 represent 12 months of the fiscal year and are unaudited figures, however they feel that they're very close to what are going to be the final audited figures. The summary statement of revenue expenditures and changes in fund balance for the year ended August 31st. The total operating revenue was \$192,442,401. The total operating expenditures were \$204,805,298, which resulted in a fund balance usage of \$12,362,897. The budgeted fund balance was originally \$13.6M, the College was able to find a savings in additional revenues and cost saving measures that allowed it to recoup over \$1.2M in fund balance; leaving the fund balance as of 8/31/23 at \$31,621,000.

Ms. Gorton reviewed the FY'24 budget update. She noted the figures are as of December 31st, however they are getting updates daily. Fall tuition revenue came in just under budget at about \$500,000. The College is currently tracking about 90% in full time spring revenue, and about 85% in part-time spring revenue. Registration is ongoing, and the College is anticipating to be closer to those numbers given late start and micromester that start as late as March. Student fees are tracking close to budget and the College continues to see some increases in interest income and facilities usage for rentals. In regards to costs factors, the College's largest expenditures are salaries and benefits and they are closely looking at those numbers, and monitoring vacancies as they come up and reviewing more strategically the need to fill them. The College is expecting to yield about \$1.4M in savings from vacancies. The College will continue to monitor and look for other cost saving measures. Some of the unknown costs for the College are utility costs that can vary depending on the weather. The College was informed that EMHP costs have not increased as of January 1st, and actually slightly decreased -- a little under 1% -- which will result in some savings for the rest of the year. The budgeted fund balance usage for FY'24 was \$12.8M, however with the current projections it is estimated at about \$10.5M.

For the FY'25 budget update, Ms. Gorton reported the College sent out the call letters to the campus Executive Deans and to VPs. They will be scheduling budget meetings in February and anticipate coming up with a balanced budget working through cost saving measures and possible revenue opportunities.

Vice Chair Coverdale called for a motion to approve College resolutions 2024.01 to 2024.08. Trustee Canary so moved, Trustee O'Connor seconded, the motion to approve resolutions 2024.01 to 2024.08 was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024.01 - Approving Monthly Sponsor Services for Suffolk County Community College

WHEREAS, the State University of New York Regulation No. 602.7 requires 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 \$3,520,725.14 for the month of October 2023 (*Attachment I*) is hereby approved by the Board of Trustees.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024.02 - Accepting a Grant from the State University of New York, for a Project Entitled “High Needs Nursing Funding for Simulation”

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant in the amount of \$80,000, from the State University of New York (SUNY) for a project entitled “High Needs Nursing Funding for Simulation,” for the period of September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the College will utilize the grant funding for the purchase of simulator equipment, medical equipment, and sensory props for four existing nursing simulation labs on its Ammerman Campus and four existing nursing simulation labs on its Michael J. Grant Campus, which support lab courses for both the Registered Nursing AS and Practical Nursing programs, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a grant, in the amount of \$80,000, from the State University of New York for a project entitled, “High Needs Nursing Funding for Simulation,” for the period of September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024, is hereby accepted, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized and empowered to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract with the administering agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2023-2024 College operating budget be amended to reflect this grant award.

Project Director: Dr. Cheryl Shaffer, College Associate Dean of Nursing

RESOLUTION NO. 2024.03 - Amending the College Operating Budget for a Grant Award Increase from the State University of New York for an Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarship Program (ESDHSP)

WHEREAS, the 2023–2024 College operating budget provides \$10,750 from the State University of New York for an Empire State Diversity Honors Scholars Program (ESDHSP),” for the period of September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the College has been awarded an additional amount of \$250, bringing the total amount of the grant award to \$11,000, and

WHEREAS, the increase will provide additional funds to eligible award recipients from the ESDHSP, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2023–2024 College operating budget in the amount of \$250 to provide for the increase in the grant award, and

WHEREAS, matching ESDHSP funds awarded to students on a dollar-for dollar basis, in the amount of \$11,000.00 is required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the 2023-2024 College operating budget be amended to reflect an increase in the amount of \$250, from the State University of New York, for the Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarship Program, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized and empowered to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract or amendment with administering agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel.

Project Director: Joanne E. Braxton, College Dean of Enrollment Management, Student Affairs

RESOLUTION NO. 2024.04 - Accepting a Grant Award from the State University of New York (SUNY) to Carry Out a Project Entitled “SUNY Apprenticeship Operations Support Program”

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant award in the amount of \$45,000 from the State University of New York (SUNY), to carry out a project entitled “SUNY Apprenticeship Operations Support Program” for the period of December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the College will work with other community colleges, the Manufacturers Association of Central New York Alliance, and NYS DOL apprenticeship training

representatives to support and coordinate activities of the program throughout the region, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a grant award, in the amount of \$45,000 from the State University of New York to carry out a project entitled, "SUNY Apprenticeship Operations Support Program," for the period of December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2026, is hereby accepted, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract with administering agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2023-2024 College operating budget be amended to reflect this grant award.

Project Director: Laura Galletta

RESOLUTION NO. 2024.05 - Accepting a Grant Award from the Peconic Estuary Partnership Hosted by the SUNY Research Foundation of Stony Brook University to Carry out a Project Entitled "Estuary Partnership 23-24"

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant award in the amount of \$10,000 from the Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP), hosted by the SUNY Research Foundation at Stony Brook University (SBU), to carry out a project entitled "Estuary Partnership 23-24," for the period of February 1, 2024 to July 31, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the project will provide funds to assist the PEP, a non-profit organization associated with SUNY Research Foundation at SBU, in monitoring alewife populations at the fish pass on the Peconic River in Grangebél Park and Woodhull Dam, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, and

RESOLVED, that a grant award, in the amount of \$10,000 from the Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP), hosted by the SUNY Research Foundation at Stony Brook University (SBU), to carry out a project entitled "Estuary Partnership 23-24," for the period of February 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024, is hereby accepted, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract or subaward agreement with administering agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2023-2024 College operating budget be amended to reflect this grant award.

Project Director: Kellie McCartin, Assistant Professor, Marine Biology

Note: No full-time personnel

RESOLUTION NO. 2024.06 - Amending the College Operating Budget to Reflect an Increase in the Grant Award from the New York State Education Department, for the Liberty Partnership Program (LPP)

WHEREAS, the 2023–2024 College operating budget provides \$450,000.00, including indirect costs, in anticipation of a grant award from the New York State Education Department, for the Liberty Partnership Program (LPP), and

WHEREAS, the award is to be increased in the amount of \$72,864.00, bringing the total amount of the grant award to \$522,864.00, including indirect costs, and

WHEREAS, the Liberty Partnership Program at Suffolk County Community College represents a cooperative effort between the College and the Longwood Central School District to provide a unique, comprehensive and supportive environment for at-risk students, and

WHEREAS, no matching funds are required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the 2023–2024 College operating budget be amended to reflect an increase in the amount of \$72,864.00, including indirect costs in the amount of \$5,640.00 from the New York State Education Department for the Liberty Partnership Program, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract amendment, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel.

Project Director: Arlene Jackson

Note: No full-time personnel for amendment
In-kind contribution required

RESOLUTION NO. 2024.07 - Amending the Exempt Salary and Benefit Plan to Clarify the Benefits Schedule

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Suffolk County Community College has the authority to establish personnel policies, set terms and conditions of employment, and make compensation and benefits determinations for College employees who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement (“Exempt employees”), and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2009, the Board of Trustees adopted the Exempt Salary and Benefit Plan for College’s Exempt employees (the “Plan”), which Plan has since been updated, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees now wishes to update the Plan for the purpose of clarifying the existing employment benefits available to Exempt employees, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the revised Exempt Salary and Benefit Plan in accordance with *Attachment II* hereto, to take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024.08 - Excused Absence by a Member of the Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, Chair Christopher Murray is unable to attend the January 18, 2024 meeting of Suffolk County Community College's Board of Trustees due to a conflicting employment-related commitment; and

WHEREAS, Chair Murray has requested that such absence be designated by the Board of Trustees as an excused absence, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that Chair Murray's absence at the January 18, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting is an excused absence.

Vice Chair Coverdale called for the Committee reports.

Trustee O'Connor reported for the Budget & Finance Committee. The Committee met and reviewed in greater detail the information that was presented earlier by Ms. Gorton. He said the results of the budget reflect the College's administration team working together to control costs. There are some unknowns with the preliminary budget with regard to County and State support, but there is a structural deficit that exists with the loss of HERFF funds. The Committee will continue to meet and he felt it was a good first start. He thanked the finance team for doing a great job in pulling together numbers and presenting the trends.

Trustee Pagdanganan reported that the Student Success Committee met on January 9th and welcomed this month's presenter Tom Law, Coordinator for Special Programs and Scholarships. Mr. Law has been working in conjunction with Northwell Health Community Scholars since 2022 to provide financial support for tuition, fees, books, meals and a variety of wrap-around support services for students. This includes academic and career advising, mentoring and networking opportunities with other professionals. The program aims to provide educational and career opportunities for students interested in professional careers. Students received the opportunity to participate in internships, job shadowing, and other professional experiences. This May, the College will have sixteen students from this program ready to graduate with their Associates, another six will graduate by the end of the year, and the rest are on track to do the same in the next two to three semesters. Northwell is currently working with

sophomores from Bay Shore and Brentwood school districts, to continue with this program, into Suffolk Community College after their high school education is complete.

Trustee Canary reported that the Governance Committee met on January 16th. General Counsel Ashley Pope gave a status update on the successor document management platform, advising the Committee that BoardDocs provided a web demonstration of their system to members of the Colleges IT department, Gail Kenehan and herself. The IT department is vetting all security aspects to be sure they would be fully compliant with the College's current requirements and standards. A backup replacement could be to utilize the Microsoft Teams program. GC Pope advised the Committee that the Board of Trustees self-evaluation survey results were received from Scantron and have been emailed to the committee earlier that day. Trustee Canary requested that GC Pope share the results with the full board so that discussion may be had at either the upcoming board meeting or the board retreat. The timeframe for the 2024 self-evaluation was also reviewed, a recommendation for a one-time modification to the upcoming timeframe will be presented to the full board for its consideration in February. A discussion was had about the Board of Trustee email addresses and accompanying proposed policy. There were no additional changes from the committee and he requested that the policy be circulated and recommended to the full board, and email address implementation to be included for appropriate discussion at the retreat. The Committee would like to have the policy on the February Board of Trustees agenda. GC Pope shared with the Committee the redlined Bylaws. Discussion was had about the changes proposed regarding requirements for and types of minutes that can be utilized in accordance with New York State Open Meeting Law. It will be more cost effective to use the video recording, which includes captioning and the ability to generate a transcript. These are available faster to meet requirements for posting until written summary minutes are generated. The conversation then moved to the language being proposed for the public participation section of the Bylaws. Discussion was had about methods for registering requests to address the Board and allotment of time on Board agendas for same. The Committee agreed with the proposed changes and asked GC Pope to share the draft Bylaws with the full Board. The Committee decided to defer discussion of the draft Policy on Policies to the next meeting, since only two trustees were present at the meeting. The next governance committee meeting is scheduled for February 13th. Agenda items will include Policy on Policies, Bylaws, and Board portal replacement.

Trustee DeLeon-Lopresti reported for the Personnel Committee. The Committee met on December 20, 2023 and held a discussion regarding a renewal of the College's agreement with Scantron in order to conduct an evaluation of the College President. The current agreement with Scantron expires on January 31, 2024, and there is an option to extend the agreement for one additional year. Upon discussion, it was the Committee's recommendation that the agreement with Scantron should be extended. The Committee reviewed the timeline for the present Presidential evaluation process as provided by College policy and will finalize a timeline with Scantron in January.

Trustee Zarate reported for the Advocacy Committee. She reported the Committee did not meet, however there have been ongoing email conversations. They are in the process of planning for Advocacy Day. Advocacy Day is an opportunity for some of the College's students to attend and meet elected officials and speak about their experiences at the College and advocate on behalf of the of the institution. The Committee is awaiting to hear from the Higher Ed Committee and SUNY testimony to follow up with advocacy actions.

Trustee Canary reported for the Facilities and Technology Committee. The annual Physical Resources Subcommittee met on January 10th. The subcommittee meets annually to do a comprehensive review of all of the capital project needs, ongoing projects, future projects and emergency needs. The agenda included: results from last year's capital program cycle, projects submitted for state support, status of existing capital projects, capital needs beyond existing programs, the 2025-2027 County capital program submission recommendations, and a question and answer period. The status of major existing capital projects was discussed. Commissioning and punch list work continues on the Renewable Energy and STEM Center. Work remains on the new Plant Operations building at the Grant campus with a significant punch list as well as a commissioning and fire marshal approvals pending. The Eastern Campus warehouse rebid is over budgeted. Quotations are being solicited from College and County contract holders for general construction, concrete electrical work as an alternate path to advancing the project within our estimated budget. The Eastern Campus Boiler Replacement Project continues with submittals and procurement of equipment. The timing of the demolition of the existing boilers will be discussed further with the mechanical contractor to protect the College against potential supply chain issues associated with the delivery of the new boilers. Design services have been solicited through an RFP for the new Automotive Technology Center at the Grant Campus. Projects eligible for additional funding in 2024 include construction funds for the Automotive Technology Center, South Cottage renovations, Caumsett Hall renovation, design funds, and infrastructure funds. New project requests were discussed, including the next phase of the infrastructure project as current list of needs exceeds the funding being allocated in 2024. These needs include roof replacements, parking lot repairs, exterior stairs and handrails, as well as building HVAC and electrical distribution system upgrades. The future of the Culinary Arts Center in Riverhead and potential solutions through capital investments were also discussed. This year's capital program submission will be voted on by the Board at its February meeting and must be submitted to the County by February 16th.

Trustee Pagdanganan reported for the Foundation. The Foundations 2023 independent audit has again revealed a flawless effort to steward the charitable funds raised through the Foundation. The auditing firm advised that they again did not find any internal control matters that were identified as material weaknesses and thus issued an unmodified opinion of the financial statements. In December at the 2023 Automotive Technology Career Fair, Empire Automotive Group presented two students with \$5,500 scholarships. Each student received \$5,000 for tuition and \$500 for tools. The company is a longtime supporter of the College's Automotive Technology program and CEO

Thomas Lederer is proud to strengthen the company's commitment to Long Island's future automotive workforce. For the new Surgical Technology Program, with personal outreach from the Michael J. Grant Campus Director of Plant Operations, Joseph Frack, the Foundation received a gift of specialized surgical lighting systems from Heartland Medical. The lights will be installed in the clinical laboratory on the campus. The family of Jane Shearer is planning to host an event some time in 2024 that will support the Jane F. Shearer School of Nursing at Suffolk County Community College. A committee is in formation, anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact Maggie Eng-Salvaggio at the Foundation. The Foundation is delighted to announce the expansion of the Gilbert Fund to include students dealing with communication disorders. The Gilbert Fund was established in the early 1970's to assist deaf and hard-of-hearing students. As time passed and advanced technologies emerged, the Fund expanded its efforts to include students studying American Sign Language and those studying to serve as interpreters for the deaf community. The Foundation's Gilbert Fund Committee recently reviewed the Fund's assets and secured Board approval to expand its priorities to include students with broadly defined communications disorders. Lastly, Trustee Pagdanganan asked everyone to please save the date for this year's Golf outing. The Foundation will be hosting the 40th Anniversary Golf classic on June 5th at the West Hampton Country Club in West Hampton Beach.

Trustee Pagdanganan introduced VP Mary Lou Araneo to share the summary of plans being put in place following the departure of Dr. Diaz, former Executive Director of the Foundation. VP Araneo shared that Dr. Diaz was named as Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services and Education in the Romaine administration, and we wish all the best. VP Araneo shared that when she was first hired 21 years ago, it was as Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation, and she is excited to return to this dual role. She and Dr. Bonahue have had extensive conversations with the Foundation's Board regarding the vision for the Foundation moving forward. It is important to her that there be no pause in the work with the Education Without Limits campaign that was kicked off in October 2023. VP Araneo shared with the Board her transition plans with the main focus being a successful fundraising campaign and she is confident in the knowledge that the Foundation's collective focus is based on a shared mission.

Trustee Pagdanganan reported as the Suffolk Community College Association Liaison from the Board of Trustees. The Student Association Board of Directors met on December 20, 2023. The budget revenue expenditures and current balance as of November 30th was discussed and explained by Executive Director, Barbara Hurst. The Board was notified that the year-end audit had begun on December 11th and the Association has been working closely with auditors. New confidentiality forms are being created along with the legal department for Board members to review and sign. Previous forms belong to the Board of Trustees, so now that the Association is a new entity unto itself, new forms are necessary. The Association's Board of Directors wishes a happy retirement to Linda Crispi of the Childcare Center and welcomes Assistant Director Linda Locovare into the interim position.

Vice Chair Coverdale moved to the Chair's report. Vice Chair Coverdale wished everyone a Happy New Year. She said with the first meeting of the year it brings to mind that there are difficult times ahead and as was noted earlier there is a need for fiscal restraint and prudent fiscal management. She said that the Board of Trustees are all fundraisers and advocates for the College and they stand ready to step into that role, and increase their visibility because it is crucial to the success of the College's mission. She wished Sylvia Diaz Godspeed in her new assignment, as well as VP Araneo and Ms. Wickliffe-Campbell as they take on increased responsibilities. She is glad to see that the Board is having a retreat and hopes they will take a good look at the results of their own self- evaluation because some of the statistics and results are very telling. She noted it's good to see that they all feel they are a collegial group respectful of one another's time and differences of opinion.

Vice Chair Coverdale moved to the President's report.

President Bonahue reviewed enrollment. Final FTE enrollment for the fall semester counting all students, in all classes grew by approximately 1.5%. Head count only showed minimal growth. Overall, the total FTE enrollment got the College close to the goal of a 2% increase. He added as always there is room for improvement. For the brief winter session enrollment was flat, marginally up by single digits in both head count and FTE. For the spring semester, the College is trending flat to slightly up on a day-by-day basis. The College expects to have a big onslaught this weekend leading up to the first day of the semester next week.

In regards to Student Affairs, President Bonahue reported the new FAFSA has now been released to the public and families can now get started on their applications. However, the Department of Ed has still not opened the FAFSA to colleges and universities. As a first step. the department of Ed has opened the FAFSA to the large IT companies that provide students records systems and financial aid processing. In the College's case, that is Banner. The company is now working with the Department of Ed to prepare all the screens that colleges and universities will need to process awards. The College looks forward to getting those results from Banner and looks forward to beginning to process awards in February. The College is informing families that FAFSA is open and they can get started on their applications.

For Academic Affairs, President Bonahue reported that as Dr. Rios began her role as VP for Academic Affairs, one of the first actions she took was to reach out to all of the College's high school partners to be sure those lines of communications are open, especially regarding the Beacon program and the way that high school students are experiencing dual enrollment. The high schools were delighted with this outreach and that someone is listening to them and asking them what is your students experience of

our Beacon program. In terms of new program development, the Surgical Technology degree program opens next week and the new Certified Nursing Assistant certificate is also set to launch in a couple of weeks.

For the Financial update, President Bonahue said as part of the pathway to financial sustainability the College is taking advantage of every position that comes open. With 88% of the College's budget going to the cost of salary and benefits, we look to take advantage of salary savings anywhere that they can find it. He reviewed an employee headcount spreadsheet that is part of the College's budget overview every year. He noted the College reduced the head count over time in every category. The whole College is taking these steps together to right-size staffing at levels it can sustain. Every Vice President, every Campus Dean and every Department are finding ways to reorganize, restructure and reassign duties with a focus on continuing to provide mission critical activities. He also shared with the Board a more detailed report that provides an in-depth look at how the College works to add up the salary savings associated with each position that comes open. Other measures the College is taking to help improve efficiency, it is reinstating more consistent and conservative enrollment management procedures, many of which were in place before COVID. This will improve efficiency and minimize the number of under-enrolled sections.

For the Facilities update, he reported the Facilities Committee has reviewed all of the College's current capital projects. Among the priorities, infrastructure as many of the College's buildings are over 50 years old and require continual maintenance. The Committee had some discussion on the long-term lease of our Culinary building in Riverhead. They discussed several options including the possibility of moving the location of that program, and will model out the costs of different options for the Board's review.

Looking ahead to what the College can expect from the budget season. The Governor's budget released a few days ago maintains floor funding for community colleges and he does not expect that to change through the legislative process. Although, NYCCT and community college presidents put together an aggressive advocacy campaign to point out the disparities in SUNY funding between the community colleges and the state operated institutions, to date that campaign has not gotten a lot of traction in state government. The call letter from the Suffolk County Office of Budget usually comes out in February and the College looks forward to working with County Executive Romaine and the legislature, in preparing for fiscal year 2025. At his inauguration, County Executive Romaine acknowledged that the County has done very well financially in the last couple of years, however, he is very conscious of the County government's long-term financial health.

Lastly, he reported that as they ask each College division and campus to prepare their budgets for next year, the College is asking them to be as conservative as possible. This is not a year that it can support a new and expanded budget and so they are asking the leadership team to look for reductions in all non-essential items. President

Bonahue thanked the board for their support and said he looked forward to the following day's Board Retreat.

Vice Chair Coverdale called for Roundtable. Trustee Canary said he is concerned that financial and banking pundits are calling for concern for mortgage foreclosures again. It seems like a lot of Americans ran up the credit cards and many of them are going into default on their mortgage payments. The banks are greatly concerned with the real estate prospects and the overall real estate picture in New York City with what's happening with the massive amount of vacancies in the commercial sector in Manhattan. He thinks there will be some headwinds that we're going into within the next two years that we need to be concerned with. In the County under the Suffolk County Tax Act, people who don't pay their property taxes, the County has to make good for that, then that gets spread out amongst everybody in the County and that's going to be a hit if these fears come to fruition. He thinks we really need to pay attention to the overall financial picture in the State and the County over the next year and a half. He asked Trustee O'Connor if he had any thoughts. Trustee O'Connor said there are some challenges out there, but he believes that it may be a little overblown. More and more people are back to work, there'll be pockets of issues, but overall the structural deficit exists at the governmental level which will be some of the problems we face.

Vice Chair Coverdale called for a motion to adjourn the meeting and to enter into executive session to discuss the proposed, pending or current litigation and to seek or receive legal advice, which is made confidential by law.

Trustee Canary so moved, Trustee Zarate seconded, and the motion to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session was approved unanimously. With no business to follow executive session the meeting was adjourned a 10:07 a.m.

The Board of Trustees next meeting is February 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Learning Resource Center on the Michael J. Grant Campus, Brentwood, New York.

Respectfully submitted,
Gemma DeLeon-Lopresti
Secretary