

**NAVARRO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**OCTOBER 22, 2020 MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

The Navarro College Board of Trustees met in the Cook Education Center on Thursday, October 22, 2020 following a USDA Grant Award Ceremony and Reception. All Trustees were in attendance including: Chairman Phil Judson, Vice Chairman Billy Todd McGraw, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Aldama, Trustee A. L. "Buster" Atkeisson, Trustee Faith Holt, Trustee Loran Seely and Trustee Kim C. Wyatt.

**Others in attendance included:**

Dr. Kevin G. Fegan	District President
Ms. Sina Ruiz	Vice President, Enrollment Management and Instl. Studies
Ms. Teresa Thomas	Vice President, Finance and Administration
Ms. Marcy Ballew	Vice President, Human Resources
Dr. Carol Hanes	Vice President of Academic Affairs
Ms. Maryann Hailey	Vice President, Student Services
Dr. Harold Housley	Vice President, Operations and Instl. Advancement
Mr. Michael Landers	Athletic Director
Ms. Stacie Sipes	Director of Marketing and Public Information
Ms. Susan Womack	Senior Research Analyst
Ms. Leslie Smith	Executive Assistant to the District President
Mr. Guy Featherston	Dean, Waxahachie Campus and Health Professions
Ms. Jeanette Underwood	Dean, Midlothian Campus and Dual Credit
Mr. John Boswell	Corsicana/Navarro County Economic Development Director
Mr. Brandon Richards	Duke Energy
Mr. Troy Reed	Ernst & Young LLP
Mr. Evan Horn	Ernst & Young LLP
Rev. Ed Monk	Member, Corsicana ISD Board of Trustees

Other staff and guests were also present.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Judson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone present and asked Trustee Seely to begin the meeting with a prayer.

**Board Announcements**

No announcements were made.

**Open Forum Time**

There were no requests to address the Board.

**Consent Calendar –**

- a. Minutes – September 17, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting**
- b. Board Policy DFD – Employees - Title IX Sexual Harassment (TABLED)**
- c. Board Policy FFE – Students - Title IX Sexual Harassment (TABLED)**

Trustee Judson announced Board Policies DFD and FFE in the Consent Calendar were being tabled for additional revisions leaving the minutes from the September 17, 2020 as the only item in the Consent Calendar. He requested a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended.

Trustee Aldama moved to approve the Consent Calendar as amended and the motion was seconded by Trustee McGraw. The Consent Calendar was approved by a unanimous vote.

**Consider Revision to Board Policy BAA – Board Legal Status – Composition, Responsibilities, Powers and Duties – Board Self Evaluation Schedule**

Vice Presidents Dr. Carol Hanes and Marcy Ballew presented Board Policy BAA regarding the process for Board self-evaluation, which was started last year to meet SACSCOC requirements. The revision to Board Policy BAA establishes that the Board will conduct a self-evaluation every even-numbered year. This will require the Board to conduct another self-evaluation this year (2020) and every other year thereafter.

It was noted the questions in the self-evaluation survey have been amended based on feedback received last year. A link to the 2020 self-evaluation survey will be posted in BoardEffect on Friday, October 23, 2020 and an email sent to notify Trustees to complete the survey by November 5. Responses to the survey will be confidential and the results will be aggregated and presented at the next Board of Trustees meeting on November 12, 2020.

Trustee Seely moved to approve the revision to Board Policy BAA. Trustee Wyatt seconded the motion and the decision was unanimous.

**201 - Update on Enrollment**

Vice President Ruiz presented an update on enrollment. Fall 2020 enrollment was certified the previous week with a decline of -10.86% in semester credit hours. Credit Only semester credit hours declined by -10.67% and Dual Credit semester credit hours declined -11.41%. An analysis of the fall enrollment will be conducted and shared during the November Board meeting.

Dr. Fegan stated out of the 50 community colleges in Texas only Odessa College had enrollment growth this fall, and was up 9-10 percent. Average fall semester enrollment for community colleges was down 10% in Texas as well as across the United States. Four-year institutions on average were down 1-2%; with some reporting they were down significantly – mostly in graduate programs. Dr. Fegan stated colleagues involved in the Texas Pathways Institute will share information next month on the more dramatic impact COVID has had on lower socioeconomic classes compared to higher socioeconomic classes.

Vice President Ruiz continued her report stating Fall 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week classes, which is considered part of Spring 2021 for reporting purposes, began Monday. Enrollment was projected to be down -10% but was only down -4.34% in semester credit hour enrollment. Most of the decline was made up by Dual Credit enrollment. Many ISD partners delayed fall enrollment with plans to do more in the spring semester. Vice President Ruiz noted this is the first time enrollment numbers have been better than the enrollment projection (-10%). Enrollment in Winter Mini, Spring 16-weeks, and Spring 1<sup>st</sup> 8-weeks is currently ahead 37.13%. She stated pre-registration was opened a month earlier giving a head start on numbers compared to last year.

Chairman Judson inquired if additional calls are being received from the public asking what is available. Vice President Ruiz responded calls have been about "normal" and shared there is a lot of outreach being done to reach prospective students. Dr. Fegan added that compared to the fall semester offerings which were 70% online and the remaining a combination of hybrid classes or CTE (Career and Technical Education), there is a significant change in spring course offerings with 70% being offered as face-to-face and 30% as online or hybrid courses. The demand for face-to-face classes remains to be seen. Dual credit enrollment is another opportunity with Texas Education Agency (TEA) pushing for students to return by November 1. Dr. Fegan stated many community college presidents across the state are anticipating enrollment to be down for the spring and some have already made the decision to remain online.

Trustee Wyatt asked if students living on campus have to take online courses too. Dr. Fegan responded they could have all online courses depending on the courses they chose to take.

Chairman Judson thanked Vice President Ruiz for her report.

**301 - Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Agreement with Pisgah Ridge Solar LLC**

Mr. Brandon Richards, Duke Energy and Lead Developer for Pisgah Ridge Solar LLC, Mr. Troy Reed and Mr. Evan Horn from Ernst & Young LLP presented the request for a tax abatement agreement with Pisgah Ridge Solar LLC.

Mr. Richards introduced Duke Energy, which is headquartered in Charlotte, NC stating it is a large company, over 100 years old, that operates both traditional and renewable energy plants. He stated Duke Energy Renewables is the division that focuses on wind and solar projects throughout the country to offset reliance on natural gas and coal. The company normally "sets up shop near existing coal shops" to help boost energy when demand is high. Pisgah Ridge Solar is a 250 megawatt solar project, their largest, and will be located near Pisgah Ridge outside of Richland, TX. Once completed, the project is expected to generate enough energy to power 50,000 homes per year. Their target in-service date is the end of 2022, possibly 2023. Mr. Richards stated there has been very strong landowner interest which helped them target this area. They are a non-regulated utility and do not have power of eminent domain so they have to secure leases with landowners. They will sign agreements for approximately 2,000 acres near current electric lines which will serve as transmission lines. By locating between two

coal power plants, one which has been retired, they will have over 1,000 megawatt capacity that needs to be filled.

The local economy and community will benefit from this large local investment. Local workforce will be sought to fill short-term jobs for the construction of the project for approximately 1 to 1 ½ years. Long-term, 1-2 positions will be required to oversee the facilities. Mr. Richards stated they are interested in working with Navarro College and creating a synergy between different departments. They are interested in showing students their facilities and helping them understand solar operations.

The solar market is highly competitive. Mr. Reed stated he and Mr. Horn work on the incentive side to understand if the project "makes sense financially and economically." The tax abatement agreement will potentially lower operating expenses and allow the company to offer the best price and the best opportunity to succeed.

Chairman Judson inquired if Duke Energy's intention for this project is "to package and operate it or package and flip it." Mr. Richards responded it is their intent to develop, own and operate it for the life of the project. He stated they want to be part of the local community and he will always be available to landowners if they have any questions or concerns.

Trustee Aldama asked about the length of construction and Mr. Richards replied approximately one to one and one-half years. Trustee Atkeisson asked for clarification of the terms of the tax abatement agreement being requested. John Boswell responded the request is for a 100% abatement, equivalent to 70%, with the same amount paid every year for 10 years, as opposed to a declining value.

Trustee Aldama moved to approve the tax abatement agreement with Pisgah Ridge Solar LLC and Trustee Holt seconded the move. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Judson congratulated them and expressed appreciation for sharing information about all the intricacies of the solar industry. He stated this business model and footprint is "new to us" with only six working facilities in the entire state of Texas.

Mr. Richards thanked him and stated they would like to bring Trustees to the construction site when it is started.

### **302 – Consider Approval of September 2020 Financial Statement**

Vice President Thomas presented the September 2020 financial statement for approval. She stated budget amendments for September 2020 totaling \$3,947,887 were all related to grants that were rolled over from fiscal year 2020 or grants that just received budget amounts from the issuing agencies. The final 2020 budget has been added to the statements to show the budget at year end. She noted several significant amounts in other local income account for the large revised budget: \$250,000 donation from Navarro Foundation; \$250,000 donation from Community National Bank; \$500,000 from the sale of the Fairfield building; and \$500,000 from

a cashed certificate of deposit to fund the purchase of new buses. In addition, federal grants includes over \$4 million in CARES dollars. 2020 Disbursements included disbursements for the CARES dollars, renovations for E-sports and the nursing simulation labs, and capital expenditures made at year-end (i.e. buses, computers ,software, PPE, etc. )

Vice President Thomas noted federal grants are up again due to the rollover of the CARES dollars and other federal grants. Plant and Maintenance increases from last year are due to the timing of accounts payable reversals, additional cleaning required because of COVID, and an increase in insurance premiums for 2021.

A review of the Comparative Summary of Sources and Disbursements showed Educational and General (E&G) Revenue was down \$645,477 compared to September 2019 due to the decline in enrollment. Total E&G resource allocations decreased \$625,133. Overall, for the month of September, revenue exceeded resource allocations by \$1,087,791.

Vice President Thomas stated Leadership budget meetings were recently held to work toward reducing resource allocations between now and December to offset the reduction in tuition and fees and room and board. The reductions will be presented at the November Board meeting.

Dr. Fegan stated a new sheet showing year-to-year for the month will be added to the financial report. He added that resource allocations have already been reduced \$1.2 million and will be shared at the November meeting.

Trustee Holt moved to approve the September 2020 financial statement and Trustee Atkeisson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

#### **304 - Review Preliminary October 2020 Financial Statement**

Vice President Thomas stated there was no preliminary activity to share for the month of October 2020.

#### **501 - Update on Personnel**

Vice President Ballew presented an update on personnel activity. She reported the following appointments have been made since the last Board meeting:

- Brianna Sears – Business Advisor S.B.D.C.
- Rickey Ragan – Criminal Investigator – Campus Police
- Teresa Stewart – Admissions Specialist/Recruiter
- Debbie Richardson – Culture of Caring Coordinator (11/02/2020)
- Ariel Apolinario – Head Volleyball Coach (10/26/20)

The following exits were announced during the period from September 25, 2020 to October 22, 2020:

- Shelley Benton – Assistant Deli Cook
- Susan Nall – Associate Professor of Licensed Vocational Nursing

- Adrienn Amaro – Assistant Volleyball Coach

Vice President Ballew stated Michelle Smith, Marketing Specialist, had submitted her plans to resign but earlier that day announced her decision to stay. There was no other activity to report and Vice President Ballew concluded her report.

#### **601 - District President's Report**

##### Upcoming Events

Stacie Sipes shared highlights of upcoming events through November 2020. Dr. Fegan stated Navarro College is committed to holding a Veterans Day ceremony on November 11<sup>th</sup> because of its founding history. He also commended Dean Mims and the Mexia Campus for a successful Fall Festival held earlier in the week that had great community involvement. He added that approval was sought from the local mayor before the event was conducted. He continued stating a decision to hold "Beauville" on the Corsicana Campus is still pending and will be made at a later time.

##### Navarro College 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update

Ms. Sipes presented an update on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary stating an Executive Committee has been determined and will hold its first meeting Friday, November 6, 2020 to begin planning. Members of the committee include: H.M. & Carole Davenport, David & Linda Timmerman, Belinda Adams, Miran Sedlacek, Camesha Busby, John Gantt, Lauren Bedsole, Dr. Colby Cottongame, Lee Auvenshine, Lane Grayson, Dr. Kenneth Martin, Courtney Vandiver, Dr. Harold Housley, Jared Gordon, Guy Featherston, Amanda Morrison, and Stacie Sipes.

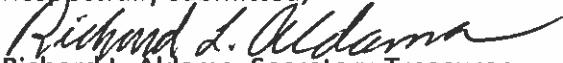
Dr. Fegan stated the executive committee represents the four campuses and five counties and individuals with breadth and depth with Navarro College. Additional committees and individuals will also be involved. A formal announcement will be made in March 2021 and first event will be held Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> (Navarro College Day - the first day classes were held) and events will run through May 2022.

Dr. Fegan concluded his report thanking trustees for their participation in the USDA Grant Award Ceremony earlier and at the Foundation's Scholarship Donor Luncheon held earlier in the week.

##### **Announcement and Adjournment**

Trustee Judson acknowledged the presence of Father Ed Monk and thanked him for attending. He then announced the next Board of Trustees meeting will be held Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cook Education Center and asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Aldama moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee McGraw seconded the motion; the decision was unanimous. Chairman Judson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard L. Aldama, Secretary-Treasurer  
Navarro College Board of Trustees