

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BLINN COLLEGE**

**Student Center Building - Rooms 2 and 3  
Blinn College, 1007 Walter Schwartz Way (formerly West Second Street)  
Brenham, Texas**

**Special Meeting, Tuesday, November 23, 2010, 12:00 p.m.**

The Board of Trustees convened at 12:02 p.m. in Rooms 2 and 3 of the Student Center with the following members present: Mr. Atwood C. Kenjura, President, presiding; Mr. Leon B. Toubin, Vice President; Dr. Henry J. Boehm, Jr., Mr. Douglas R. Borchardt, Mr. L.J. Lacina, Jr., and Mr. Norwood Lange.

Board members not present: Mr. Steve M. Westbrook, Secretary.

Members of the College staff in attendance were: Dr. Daniel J. Holt, President; Dr. Robert Brick, Dr. John Harris, Dr. Debra LaCour, and Dr. Van Miller, Vice Presidents; Dr. Ted Raspiller, Provost Brazos County Campuses; Ms. Cathy Boeker, Executive Administrator of External Affairs; Mr. Thomas Brazzel, Ms. Leslie Ellis, Ms. Rebecca Garlick, Ms. Kristina Janes, Mr. Stanley Kubicek, Mr. Richard O'Malley, Mr. David Rehr, Ms. Karla Roper, Ms. Allene Schmitt, Mr. Jeff Tilley, and Dr. Mark Workman.

Also registered as in attendance were: Judge Carolyn Bilski, Austin County Judge; Mr. Chris Coffman, City of Sealy Manager; Mr. C.H. Harvey, TFE Company, Inc.; Ms. Kim Meloneck, Executive Director of Sealy Economic Development Corporation; Mr. Nick Tirey, City of Sealy Mayor; Ms. Ashley Tompkins, *Sealy News*; Mr. Leroy Zapalac, Citizens State Bank President; and the following Blinn students representing the Sealy Campus: Aaron Chavez, Charlotte Gebhardt, Gretchen Huidix, Mary Isnes, Lindsay Knesek, Gabby Luetge, Meagan McNicoll, Roberto Nieto, Debbie Panzica, Laura Parker-Fox, Jarrod Ryan, Juan Rodes, Denver Smith, Greg Stilts, and Krista Woedell.

**ITEM 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kenjura.

**ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Nick Tirey, City of Sealy Mayor, wants to keep Blinn College in Sealy and wants to grow the community with the College. He expressed concern about reports of positive numbers for the campus in the spring and was surprised by the thought of closure of the Sealy Campus. The City of Sealy did not raise taxes because of the anticipated Blinn maintenance tax. He expressed feelings of disappointment and betrayal. He stated that if the college plans to pull out of Sealy, the Board should let the citizens know so they can try to move to another community college district.

Ms. Allene Schmitt, Blinn College Sealy Campus Academic Advisor, communicated personal stories of a few Blinn students in Sealy and the positive affect it made for the students.

Ms. Debbie Panzica, Blinn College Sealy Campus Student, shared her personal story of opportunities the Sealy Campus gave her with the fast track program. She asked the Board to consider the decision before them and consider all opportunities.

Judge Carolyn Bilski, Austin County Judge, expressed her disappointment that the citizens of Sealy will not have the opportunity to take a maintenance tax to the voters. She expressed the community's desire to have Blinn College's physical presence in Sealy. Judge Bilski also asked the Board to let the community know up front if they do not intend to continue to operate in Sealy.

Mr. Leroy Zapalac, Citizens State Bank President, expressed frustration and disappointment that the Sealy Campus numbers are different than were previously presented.

Mr. Jarrod Ryan, Blinn College Sealy Campus Student, told the Board that the College has done a good thing in Sealy with the campus. He presented petitions to the Board in support of the Sealy Campus (copies of the petitions are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

Mr. Kenjura read a statement regarding the Board's policy concerning public comment.

Mr. C.H. Harvey, TFE Company, Inc., accused the Board Chairman of attempting to censor him by reading the public comment statement. Mr. Harvey asked Mr. Kenjura who was ultimately financially responsible for the Board. Mr. Kenjura responded that it was the taxpayers. Mr. Harvey asked if the Administration works for the Board, and Mr. Kenjura answered yes. Mr. Harvey asked if there was a separate investigation into Dr. Holt's actions. Mr. Harvey blamed the Board and the Administration of being arrogant and aloof.

Mr. Greg Stilts, Blinn College Sealy Campus Student, told the Board that if the campus is closed, it will be very detrimental to many people.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **ITEM 3. REVIEW AND ACTION TO NON-RENEW THE LEASE FOR SEALY CAMPUS FACILITIES**

Mr. Kenjura began an open discussion among the Board regarding the lease for the Sealy Campus facilities. The decision was forced before December 1<sup>st</sup> due to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board agenda deadlines. The Administration was notified yesterday, November 22, 2010, that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board would not approve the next step of the maintenance tax process due to expenses exceeding revenues. Mr. Kenjura spoke about the origin of the Sealy Campus and the associated financial decision. Mr. Kenjura expressed a desire to form a Board Committee and explore the options in Sealy.

Dr. Holt told the students that Blinn will continue to service them, but it may be via high school, community center, etc. He told them that there would still be some sort of store front or office in Sealy, and that advisors and faculty would still come to them. Dr. Holt explained the looming state financial picture and reviewed the maintenance tax process. He told the audience that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will not approve the maintenance tax issue to be placed on their agenda because expenses exceed revenues. Dr. Holt expressed that the financial numbers presented to the community were done by the Campus Director and not the CFO of Blinn College, Dr. Van Miller. When the numbers were analyzed by the CFO, it was apparent that the Sealy Campus was losing money.

Mr. Toubin reviewed the history of the Sealy Campus and the current economic conditions both local and state. He reviewed the harsh reality of downsizing. Mr. Toubin invited the students who attend classes during the day to consider attending the Brenham Campus even if it means the College exploring transportation options. He offered his commitment to the Sealy community.

Dr. Boehm asked if the Administration has explored other facility options and if rent at the current facility was the main problem. Dr. Holt responded that the issue is more than rent; it includes utilities, and many other overhead expenses. Dr. Holt expressed to the Sealy community that the Administration does listen to them and will explore, in earnest, alternative options.

Mr. Borchardt thanked the Sealy residents for attending the meeting. He feels that communication has been flawed between the College and the community and wondered if the College was being true to the mission and vision by altering service to the community. Mr. Borchardt said he would like to find a win/win situation for all.

On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Toubin, the Board voted to table the issue to non-renew the lease for Sealy Campus facilities.

All Board members were in favor of tabling the issue.

#### **ITEM 4. REVIEW AND ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATION TO REINSTATE THE POSITION OF FULL-TIME ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**


Dr. Miller distributed Athletic Director job descriptions to the Board (a copy of the job description is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). He reviewed the previous presentation regarding the position. Dr. Miller reviewed the new expectations for the Athletic Director position, such as, fundraising and intramurals. The financial impact was reviewed as well. Dr. Miller asked the Board for a full-time Administrator for the oversight of a \$1,000,000.00 budget. The desire for qualified applicants was discussed.

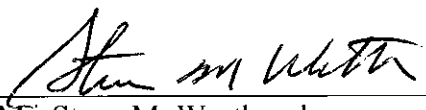
Mr. Toubin asked questions regarding responsibility for items on the job description. Salary range was also discussed.

On a motion by Mr. Lange, seconded by Dr. Boehm, the Board voted to authorize the Administration to reinstate the position of full-time Athletic Director as presented by the Administration.

#### **ITEM 5. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Lange, seconded by Dr. Boehm, the Meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

  
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 Mr. Atwood C. Kenjura  
 President

  
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 Mr. Steve M. Westbrook  
 Secretary