

LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
August 31, 2009

Special Meeting
Adopted Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Hollister, Proctor, Smith, Woods, Canja
Absent: Lavery, Rasmusson

Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Limited Public Comment Regarding Agenda Items

Liz Dune: Good evening, I'm Liz Dune, AFT Michigan Staff Representative. Tonight I am speaking on behalf of the LCC Labor Coalition. My comments are in regards to the lease of the Mason Airport property. Our first concern is regarding the process for the lease and the lack of transparency. When Dr. Knight first arrived at LCC he promised transparency and openness. All we have seen are closed session meetings and lack of compliance with college policies and procedures. For example, the move to Mason Airport and the resulting lease were discussed during public comment at the August 20th Board of Trustees meeting, but has never been put on the Board agenda and may be voted on tonight. We believe that the Board will discuss the lease tonight in closed session and bring it back as a resolution to be voted which is a violation of the Open Meetings Act, and does not allow for open discussion between the Board and the public. We heard our colleagues and their support of the Mason Airport lease on August 20th and the benefits to the Aviation Maintenance program. However, due to the uncertainties of the economy for this state and the college we expect that the Board will delay the lease until LCC has financial stability on this five year lease. Less than 60 days ago this Board approved the fiscal year 2010 budget which included the immediate layoff of 19 employees and gave notice to 3 counselors due to quote "financial necessity." We have not heard of any improvement in the College's or the State's financial status in this interim

period, neither have the layoff notices been rescinded. Given this, we cannot imagine how the Board can support \$800,000 commitment at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Dr. Knight: I know many of you here across the campus and the region are still reeling from the death of our LCC colleague and friend, Bill Petry. Bill was a well loved and highly respected long term LCC mathematics professor who died on Monday, August 24th in a tragic bicycle accident. He is survived by his wife Julia, Chair of the LCC Social Science Department and his son Hisham. Bill's life was full and his talents and interest were many.

Continuing on a somber note I would also like to inform you that on Sunday, LCC's Director of Retention and Grants, faculty member Carol Harton, a 22 year LCC employee, died as a result of a stroke following an aneurism which she had suffered several days before. Carol was a highly respected employee, mentor and friend to many. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her son Chris and sister, Sherri Forrest, both LCC employees. In order to properly honor their personal and professional contributions I would like to recommend that the Board of Trustees prepare resolutions to honor these long time employees at our September 21 meeting.

Also, we are deeply saddened by the death of John Havranek, an accomplished artist and sculpture who worked part-time in the performing arts seam shop as a carpenter. John, who was in his first year of employment at LCC died last week of a heart attack. He was 57 years old.

I would like to ask the Board of Trustees and the audience to join me in a moment of silence in memory of these three members of the LCC family.

[Silence]

On a more positive note, I would like to congratulate Denise Harris and her team on another successful Caribbean Fest on August 22nd. The Caribbean Fest is one of our more popular community celebrations and we plan to continue it next year. We hope that Denise will agree to organize it next year as she has done in the past to assure another successful event. Thank you.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Woods and supported by Trustee Smith to approve resolutions in honor of Bill Petry, Carol Harton and John Havranek.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Hollister, Proctor, Smith, Woods, Canja

Nays: None

Absent: Lavery, Rasmusson

The motion carried.

Closed Session

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Smith and supported by Trustee Hollister that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the sale or lease of real property and to discuss a written legal opinion.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Hollister, Proctor, Smith, Woods, Canja

Nays: None

Absent: Lavery, Rasmusson

The motion carried.

The Board entered into closed session at 6:15 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:37 p.m.

Roll call:

Present: Hollister, Proctor, Smith, Woods, Canja

Absent: Lavery, Rasmusson

Chairperson, Committee and Board Member Report

Committee Report – Audit Committee Report

Chairperson Canja postponed this agenda item for the Chair of the Audit Committee to present at the next Board Meeting.

Public Comment

Stephen Blake: Mr. President, Madame Chair and ladies and gentleman of the Board. My name is Stephen Blake and I was one of the 19 people that were laid off in June. I was laid off from public safety. I got laid off on June 16th and when I was laid off they took away my email even though I was still at part time employee teaching at West Campus as a lab tech. I got it back but my email has been messed up every since. It's not working right and IT has not been able to fix it. I began at that time having my email sent to my private email. I was getting notices about jobs and I applied for a job with the fitness center. I was on vacation and I got a notice and I made arrangements to come back from vacation early for my interview. I was called two days before the interview and

was told that that it was cancelled and I couldn't interview for the position. They had messed up and my interview was cancelled and that I would be notified later. I have not heard anything since and that was near the end of July 1st, early part of August. I did apply for unemployment. My last pay check was on July 16th. I was paid up until that day. They shorted my hours and I had to contact HR and Payroll to get my hours fixed. My last pay check would have been July 31st. I went ahead and applied for unemployment. I was red flagged. I had to contact the person at the end of the week to get that straightened out. In mid August, 2 weeks ago Friday, I got a call that LCC had paid me for 80 hours that I wasn't suppose to get paid for and they wanted their money back. I said that was okay. However when unemployment looks you up, they can see with your social security number which caused another red flag so I was delayed in getting my unemployment again. I tried to do my unemployment today. My call in time is 9:00 am – 10:00 am. I called and the computer wouldn't let me enter. I got onto LCC's website, I am still able to get into my pay stubs, and found out the reason I was flagged was because last Friday they paid me \$34,376.54. I already had an appointment with HR today because I was notified that they have 2 part-time police positions. I was a police cadet, a police officer, a detective and a sergeant at the Lansing Police Department where I served 25½ years. I came here and was a part-time police officer; full-time police officer and police sergeant here where I served for 12½ years before I got laid off. They had a part-time position opening. As a matter of fact, 2 of them. They notified me because I was one of the 19 laid off. My understanding was that Chief Imeson and Lieutenant Manus didn't apply for it. I did apply for it; more than qualified for it. It was made public today. I had a feeling in my heart that would not hire me. Don't know the reason why. I made an appointment with HR and spoke with somebody at 3:00 pm this afternoon in HR. I said I've applied for the position, I'm qualified for it but I will not be hired for that position. I don't know what the reason is. At 4:00 pm I found out both positions have been cancelled. They're not going to hire two officers. One of the reasons I was told was that they didn't want to hire me. Regardless of that, my unemployment has been flagged again because you paid me John Lightener's severance pay. Why you gave me John Lightener's severance pay I don't know. It certainly is frustrating for me trying to get unemployment and trying to make a house payment. For the first time in 38 years I'm going to be late on a house payment because I can't fix the unemployment until Thursday. It is due on the 1st and they only give you so much of a grace period and it takes 3 to 5 business days for it to be deposited from unemployment into your account. I am very frustrated that is why I am here. I just wish LCC would either hire me back for the jobs that I'm qualified for or just stop screwing with me.

President Knight apologized to Mr. Blake for the college's mistakes. He offered to meet with him at his office Wednesday morning.

Mr. Blake agreed to meet with Dr. Knight Wednesday morning at 8:00 am. Mr. Blake stated that Joyce Snow is the person he has been working with in HR since being laid off. He also stated that he gave the college permission to debit his account for the \$34,000 and has in turn saved the college \$38,000 for the budget.

Chairperson Canja apologized for what Mr. Blake has been going through and stated that she appreciated that he had come forward to share his experience with the Board.

Board Comments

Chairperson Canja stated that Trustee Smith is featured in this month's addition of Greater Lansing Women magazine.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Hollister and supported by Trustee Woods to authorize the administration to negotiate the acquisition of real property as discussed in closed session.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Hollister, Woods, Canja

Nays: Proctor, Smith

Absent: Lavery, Rasmusson

The motion failed.

Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Proctor and supported by Trustee Smith that the meeting adjourn.

Ayes: Hollister, Proctor, Smith, Woods, Canja

Nays: None

Absent: Lavery, Rasmusson

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.