

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vernon College

June 14, 2023

The Board of Trustees of Vernon College met on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 11:30 p.m. in the *Board Room* of the *Osborne Administration Building*, Vernon, Texas with the following present: Mr. Bob Ferguson – Chairman; Mrs. Ann Wilson – Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Betsy Smith – Secretary. Other board members in attendance were Mr. Irl Holt, Mrs. Jamie Chapman, Mr. James Brock and Mrs. Meg Heatly.

Others present were Dr. Dusty Johnston, President; Mrs. Shana Drury, Vice President of Instructional Services; Dr. Criquett Chapman, Vice President of Student Services; Mrs. Mindi Flynn, Vice President of Administration; Mrs. Jackie Polk, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Colleen Moore, Director of Enrollment Management/Registrar; Mrs. Holly Scheller, Coordinator of Marketing and Community Relations; Mrs. Kelly Miller, Student Success Pathway Director; Mrs. Jeanne Ballard, Director of Financial Aid; Ms. Crystal Tate, Director of Distance Education and Learning Technologies; Ms. Stephanie Mescher, Student Success Specialist; Mr. Kevin Holland, Director of Campus Police; and Ms. Mary King, Administrative Secretary to the President. Guests present were Mr. Ashish Patel of Nidihotels, LLC, and, Mr. Bill Humphrey of the *Vernon Daily Record*.

Chairman Bob Ferguson called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Heatly noted a correction to the May 10, 2023 minutes under Action Item C, whereas Mrs. Heatly abstained from voting since she was one of the instructors. It should have read she abstained from voting for the reason that her son is. The correction will be made to the minutes. Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Holt to approve the Consent Agenda containing the *Minutes of the May 10, 2023 Regular Board Meeting* and the *President's Monthly Travel Expense Report*. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – Mr. Holt asked to keep previous board member, Mr. Norman Brints in their thoughts and prayers as he is scheduled for surgery. Mr. Brock wanted to publicly commend all those involved in the Graduation and Nursing ceremonies. Everything went smoothly and he would like to congratulate all those involved.

Action Item A

Mrs. Flynn presented the *Financial and Investment Reports as of May 31, 2023*. Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously

Action Item B

Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the *2023–2024 Updated Handbooks and Manuals* as presented by Dr. Johnston and Ms. Crystal Tate. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item C

Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the *TASB Legal Policy Updates* and the consideration of *TASB Update 45 Local Policies* as presented by Dr. Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item D

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve the resale of the following *Tax Resale Deed* held in trust by the City of Vernon for Parcel R100186, winning bidder Ismael Guerra, in the amount of \$600.00 as presented by Dr. Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

President's Report/Board Discussion Items

Mr. Holt commented that the softball stands could use some rails for the older spectators' ease of going up and down the bleachers. Mr. Brock also stated another bathroom may be needed because players have to use the same bathroom as visitors. Dr. Johnston stated that these ideas would be looked into.

Tax Abatement discussion and request – Mr. Ashish Patel attended the meeting to propose a possible tax abatement in his new hotel project from Vernon College. The company, Nidihotels, LLC plans to develop a new franchise hotel. The value would be \$10 million and will be built on property next to Wal-Mart. He was able to answer questions from the board. This may be an action item at the next meeting.

2023-2024 Proposed Budget Update – Draft 3 – Dr. Johnston presented Draft 3 of the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget. It is still unbalanced. Everyone has worked hard on it. The final number from Austin on state funding may not show up until the end of June. It is a good budget on the expense side. When we receive the State revenue number, it should put us in good shape in balancing the budget. It does include the 1.5% increase in the salary schedule.

Student Success Data Fact – Dr. Johnston presented the Summer Enrollment Update as this month’s Student Success Data Fact. The bottom line is we were down 90 students compared to last summer which equals 11%. Skills Center went up some, there was less use of Acadeum, and the Vernon campus only had two or three classes.

Student Highlight – Ms. Stephanie Mescher, Student Success Specialist, chose to recognize Alfredo Cardona. Alfredo is a non-traditional student. He received his HVAC Certificate back in 2003. He was young, right out of high school and didn’t know what he wanted to do but wanted to get into the work field quickly. He later got a job with Meals on Wheels and decided he wanted to advance in his career with them. Due to his lack in education, he couldn’t advance much. He decided to come back and get his Associate in Applied Science Degree in Business. It took him five years to accomplish this due to his work/life balance. Struggling with his classes, he received help from the Student Success Department and from the ESSI (Emotional Support Services and Intervention) Program. Mr. Cardona graduated with his Associate Degree and now has the opportunity to advance in his job.

Board Retreat Update - Dr. Johnston reminded the Board of the July Board Retreat/Monthly meeting agenda set for July 12, 2023 in the Joe Chat Conference room at Century City Center in Wichita Falls from 9:00 am to 12 noon including a campus tour followed by a regular meeting at 1:00 pm for any action items.

Dr. Johnston presented the Upcoming College Events:

- (1) Vernon College Board of Trustees Retreat/Meeting – Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Dr. Johnston presented the Philanthropic Report/Outside Grants Report.

Dr. Johnston presented the Faculty Senate Meeting minutes.

Personnel – Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the following personnel changes as detailed on Item 6 Personnel information sheet and recommended by the President. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Employments

1. Alli Fleming, Classified III, Administrative Assistant-Athletics, Vernon Campus, effective June 5, 2023
2. Marita “Lupita” Avitia, Classified II, Switchboard/Admissions, Vernon Campus, effective, June 20, 2023

B. Resignations

1. Tammy Vincent, Director of Congregate Meals, effective May 23, 2023
2. Ryan Ferguson, Classified II, Faculty Assistant-Nursing – Century City Center, effective June 13, 2023
3. Gregg Chesterman, Student Success Specialist – Century City Center, effective August 31, 2023

C. Retirement

1. Aletha Newman, Student Loan Coordinator - Vernon Campus, effective August 31, 2023
2. Gene Frommelt, Media Specialist – Vernon Campus, effective August 31, 2023

D. Consider Reappointment and/or Extension of Administrative Staff and Classified Staff for 2023-2024

1. Administrative Reappointments
2. Classified Staff Reappointments
3. Administrative (pending completion of probation)

4. Classified (pending completion of probation)

Closed Session: Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Holt, to go into closed session at 12:35 p.m. in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Subchapter 551.074, to discuss personnel or other items under this section of the Texas Government Code, Texas Open Meetings Act. The motion carried unanimously.

No Action

Open Session: Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to reconvene at 12:45 p.m. in open session. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m.



Mr. Bob Ferguson, Chairman



Mrs. Betsy Smith, Secretary