

# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vernon College  
January 8, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Vernon College met on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 11:30 a.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 Mrs. Jamie Chapman, Mrs. Meg Heatly, Mr. James Brock and Mr. Daryl Wolf.

Others present were Dr. Dusty Johnston, President; Mrs. Mindi Flynn, Vice President of Administration; Mrs. Shana Drury, Vice President of Instructional Services; Dr. Criquett Chapman, Vice President of Student Services; Dr. Brad Beauchamp, Director of Institutional Assessment, Planning, and Effectiveness/SACSCOC Liaison; Mrs. Bettye Hutchins, Dean of Instructional Services; Ms. Michelle Alexander, Director of Institutional Advancement/Executive Director, Vernon College Foundation; Andrea Sanchez, Director of Continuing Education; Mr. Kevin Holland, Director of Campus Police; and Ms. Mary King, Administrative Secretary to the President. Guest present was Mr. Mike Chacanaca of the *Vernon Daily Record*.

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

### Consent Agenda

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve the Consent Agenda containing the *Minutes of the December 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting* and the *President's Monthly Travel Expense Report*. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – Chairman Ferguson stated this time will be used for the Public Hearing on the tax abatement request by Blue Summit II Storage. No one from the public was present to speak during the hearing.

### Action Item A

Mrs. Flynn presented the *Financial and Investment Reports as of December 31, 2024*. Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock, to approve the Vernon College year to date and monthly financial and investment reports as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item B

Dr. Johnston presented the *TASB Legal Policy Updates* for review and consideration of *TASB UPDATE 48 Local Policies*. Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, approving to add, revise, or delete (LOCAL) policies as recommended by TASB Policy Service and according to the Instruction Sheet for TASB Localized Policy Manual 48. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item C

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the Tax Abatement Application with a three-year tax abatement schedule for Blue Summit II Storage, LLC for year 1 at 100%, year 2 at 75%, and - year 3 at 25% as presented by Dr. Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item D

Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly to approve the resale of the following Tax foreclosure property held in trust by the City of Vernon - Parcel R4520, winning bidder is Consuelo Guerrero in the amount of \$100.00.

President's Report/Board Discussion Items – Dr. Johnston reminded the board of the email he sent regarding the registration information for the Board of Trustees Institute, *Charting the Path Forward: Strategic Governance for Growth and Innovation*, at the Westin Domain in Austin on February 27 – 28 if anyone is interested.

The president reminded the board that February is time to have the President's Evaluation and they will have the paperwork by the middle of January to start that process. The president also stated we are close to having the open discussion on the investigation of the Madison Crossing Apartments. Lawyer, Chris Lehman has been working on it and is able to come and give an update in February or March.

#### Residence Hall Renovation

Dr. Johnston reported he visited with Architect Rick Sims recently who is working hard and moving forward. Rick stated we are about two weeks behind. He will send us an updated timeline and contractor proposals in time for the March meeting. Dr. Johnston will meet with Rick next week, to go over some ideas he wants to share.

2025-2026 Tuition/Fee increase Discussion – Dr. Johnston discussed the 2024-2025 Tuition and Fee increase by mentioning we have not increased the fees in three years. After receiving the Governors' Directive that he will not support an increase in tuition and fees at any college or university in Texas and after a discussion with the President's team, it was decided not to increase tuition and fees again for the 4<sup>th</sup> year.

Student Success Data Fact – Dr. Beauchamp presented the CB 116-Individual Graduate Follow-up Results for 2024, as the Student Success Data Fact for this month. As a reminder, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) sends out the CB 116 report. This gives colleges the opportunity to find students' success after graduation that the Coordinating Board was not able to find. A follow-up report is sent back to THECB that improves our student success rate above 80%. The list was not as long this time so we didn't have to track as many. We were above that 80% this time except for two majors.

Athletic Scholarship report – Dr. Johnston presented the Athletic Scholarship Report for the fall 2024 semester. This report is presented every fall and spring. It shows the amount of money invested in scholarships, the number of students brought in with those dollars, and where the programs stand as far as availability of funds. We have been very fortunate in the last few years to not go over the dollars allotted.

2024 IT Management review – Dr. Johnston presented Run Business Solutions (Runbiz) IT Management Annual Review for 2024. The report shows that there is a lot of activity in Vernon College's IT Operations. Some of the challenges are keeping up with it. There are cost increases for anything related to Cybersecurity or Information security. Costs for insurance, implementing measures to keep information safe, platforms, and virus protection for our institution. Starting September 1, we have gone to a Co-managed program with Runbiz, who is the major part of our IT operation, and Information Systems and Technology department by adding two or three people under Vice President Roxie Hill's leadership, to take care of one-on-one operational problems. He also stated we dedicate about 6% of our budget to IT related activity.

Student Highlight - Ms. Andrea Sanchez, Director of Continuing Education presented Nomi Ariel as the student highlight this month. Nomi is a student in the current Massage Therapy Program. She attended the A.D.N. program at VC and graduated in May 2015. After COVID 19, she was burned out and faced with a lot of hardship so she decided she needed a change in life. She came back to VC where she loves the faculty and staff and has a good relationship with students. She decided to try the Massage Therapy program. She is an excellent student and will complete the program in June of 2025.

Dr. Johnston presented the Upcoming College Events:

- (1) On-site Final Registration: Vernon and Wichita Falls – January 7, 2025
- (2) Spring 2025 Kick off all-employee professional development – Vernon campus – Thursday – January 9, 2025
- (3) Faculty professional development – Skills Training Center – Friday – January 10, 2025
- (4) Spring 2025 Classes begin – Wednesday, January 15, 2025
- (5) Vernon College Foundation Quarterly Board Meeting – CCC – Thursday, January 16, 2025
- (6) February Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – Vernon campus – Wednesday, February 12, 2025
- (7) TCCTA Conference – Houston, TX – February 20-22, 2025
- (8) Vernon College Foundation On-line Auction – March 4-6, 2025

Dr. Johnston gave an Athletic Events update – some athletic schedules were presented.

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

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock, to approve the personnel changes as recommended by Dr. Johnston and detailed on item 6 B Personnel Information Sheet. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Employment

1. Lauren Loskot, Coordinator of Dual Credit – Century City Center, effective January 1, 2025
2. Alli Fleming, Classified III, Administrative Assistant-Athletics, effective January 1, 2025

Closed Session: Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to go into closed session at 12:15 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.

Open Session: Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to reconvene at 12:35 p.m. in open session. The motion carried unanimously.

Action: None

There being no further business Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

*Ann Wilson*

~~Mr. Bob Ferguson, Chairman~~

*Ann Wilson - vice Chairman*

*Betsy Smith*

Mrs. Betsy Smith, Secretary