

**ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**October 8, 2015**

The Board of Trustees of Illinois Valley Community College District No. 513 convened a regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2015 in the Board Room (C307) at Illinois Valley Community College.

**Members Physically Present:** Melissa M. Olivero, Chair  
Michael C. Driscoll, Vice Chair  
Larry D. Huffman, Secretary  
Laurie A. Bonucci (entered the meeting at 6:37 p.m.)  
Jane E. Goetz  
Everett J. Solon  
Austin M. Burnette, Student Trustee (entered the meeting at 7:04 p.m.)

**Members Absent:** David O. Mallery

**Others Physically Present:** Jerry Corcoran, President  
Cheryl Roelfsema, Vice President for Business Services and Finance  
Sue Isermann, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Walt Zukowski, Attorney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Dr. Driscoll and seconded by Dr. Huffman to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kelly Klobucher, Boyd Palmer, and Jay Baxter were present to support the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Illinois Valley Community College. Kelly handed out letters from other businesses expressing their concerns of the possible closure of the SBDC. The presenters believe the program is vital to the economic recovery of the region and fills a niche for community members starting entrepreneurs or small businesses. These people are looking for someone to help them get started and that is where the SBDC comes in. The program has been in existence for over thirty years and if there ever was a time that the SBDC was needed, it is now.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Mr. Solon and seconded by Ms. Goetz to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

The following items were approved in the consent agenda:

Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2015 Board meeting

Approval of Bills - \$2,169,212.57

Education Fund - \$1,348,261.59; Operations & Maintenance Fund - \$130,084.07; Operations & Maintenance (Restricted Fund) - \$14,072.60; Auxiliary Fund - \$392,678.91; Restricted Fund - \$42,261.01; Audit Fund - \$10,750.00; and Liability, Protection and Settlement Fund - \$231,104.39

Treasurer's Report

Personnel

Approved the stipends for pay periods ending September 5, 2015 and September 19, 2015

Bid Results – Multi-purpose Paper

Accepted the bid of \$22,414.59 from Midland Paper – Wheeling, IL for multi-purpose paper

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Corcoran reported Jamie Gahm was the 2015 recipient of the weTRaIN Joan Simon Lifetime Achievement Award. weTRaIN is the Illinois Community College Training Resource and Information Network. Although Jamie has been involved with this specific organization for a number of years, she has been serving business and industry in the IVCC district since 1985 when her career began in IVCC's Dislocated Center; after four years at the DWC, she was named director for business and industry services, then director of continuing education. Jamie is one of the most recognized faces of the college across the district, very active with chambers of commerce and economic development groups. Under her leadership, the business training center has flourished providing customized training to many industries, meeting both initial start-up and ongoing training needs. Jamie also helped spearhead the development of the Chief Manufacturing Executive (CME) Group which was instrumental in obtaining the \$500,000 Illinois Network for Advanced Manufacturing (iNAM) Grant to promote advanced training in high wage, high demand manufacturing fields. She also played a key role in IVCC receiving a NSF Advanced Technological Education \$563,000 Grant titled "Preparing A New Workforce for a Sustainable Economy" which drove the development of two renewable wind energy certificates and a capstone AAS degree in Engineering Technology. She is the past president of the Streator Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, treasurer for the LaSalle County Economic Development Committee, secretary of the North Central Illinois Council of Governments and has served on three chamber boards. She was the 2000 winner of the weTRaIN Professional of the Year Award and is a member of the Illinois Council for Continuing Education and Training. As Jamie prepares for her retirement at the end of the calendar year, we thank Jennifer Scheri, her protégé, for nominating her for this well-deserved recognition. Dr. Corcoran noted the College has a team of eight attending a three-day strategy forum event in Oak Brook this week, part of the requirement that goes with choosing AQIP as our pathway to accreditation. Along with Board chair, Melissa Olivero, other members include Dr. Deborah Anderson, Bonnie Campbell, Jill Urban-Bollis, Mark Grzybowski, Glenna Jones, Kathy Ross and Dr. Corcoran. Dr. Anderson is the College's resident expert on this subject and Dr. Corcoran is pleased with her knowledge and leadership. The team will be discussing matters pertaining to accreditation with the Board Planning Committee when that group meets later in the month. The Council of Presidents assembled in Champaign for two days last week and Dr. Corcoran can say without any reservations that the concern they shared

with the Audit/Finance Committee on September 29 regarding State of Illinois budget-impasse implications for IVCC is the same across the Illinois Community College System. With no budget IVCC has received no state funding and, worse yet, once a budget is approved community colleges have been told to be prepared not to see any funds for five to six months. The situation is not good and Dr. Corcoran is concerned that IVCC may not see any state funding in fiscal year 2016. He is not comfortable sending a message to those most in need that some of their financial aid for the spring is in jeopardy and just like the Audit/Finance Committee chair said so well last week, the students should not suffer because of a problem that is not their fault. Other community colleges may not be in a position to cover MAP grants for the spring semester and Dr. Corcoran fully understands that, however, he thinks the focus should always be doing everything the College can to provide access to high-quality programs and services that positively change peoples' lives. Giving people a chance is what it's all about in life and access to financial aid is one of the key reasons why students choose to enroll at IVCC. They need what the College has to offer and the College needs the credit hours. Dr. Corcoran noted later in the meeting, the process will begin of preparing a 2015 tax levy for action next month and he would respectfully ask that the Board allows the administration to prepare it with the state's financial situation in mind and the need for access to working cash. Dr. Corcoran noted Cory Tomasson recently reported that Sarah Tipton has been elected to the SGA as Freshman Representative and Ellen Herrmann and Lexi Scarpaci will handle Freshman Programming Board responsibilities. Dr. Corcoran congratulated Sarah, Ellen and Lexi on the election results and thanked them for their leadership.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dr. Larry Huffman reported the Audit/Finance Committee met on September 29 with the auditors, Wipfli, LLP of Sterling. He referred to several pages of the Financial Report where the history of expenses and revenues are identified over the past ten years. The audit is "clean" or "unmodified" which means no reportable findings. Included with the audit was a Business Advice Letter. The letter contained suggestions from the auditors to avoid future problems. The Committee asked Dr. Corcoran and his staff to respond to these suggestions which were also included. The College stood behind the MAP awards for the fall semester. It is the Board's understanding that some colleges will not cover MAP awards for the spring semester. The Committee suggested that IVCC cover the MAP awards for the spring semester. The College needs enrollments and does not want to abandon the students. The problem that exists with state funding and the fact that it could get worse, the need for working cash is evident. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility of raising funds to operate a comprehensive, quality institution. Local taxes are restricted on what the College can levy. Working cash may be the only place to provide the Board the flexibility to do what they are statutorily charged to do.

Austin Burnette asked Dr. Corcoran to read his letter: "In my discussions with student trustees across the state (not just at the community college-level, but at the public university-level as well), I have seen much anger at the disruption in MAP Grant funds. The strength of these feelings has swelled to such a level that a statewide day of action is planned in Springfield later this month. Many of my colleagues are angry at their administrations for faltering on the provision of these funds, and I do not blame them. While I do not pretend to know the financial situation of all public colleges in Illinois, I am very familiar with the financial situation of college students in the state. These funds are essential to countless students. It is because of this that I support the extension of MAP funding through the spring.

If IVCC pledges to continue funding MAP, it will have far-reaching effects. At a time when nearly all public bodies of higher education remain undecided on this matter, IVCC has the opportunity to set the tone, to be a model and a leader. Our decision would not simply be the best decision for our district, our students, and our bottom-line in the long-run, but also for students across the state. A decision to fund MAP is a strong statement that has the potential to exert peer pressure on other public institutions, and student governments from Cairo to Chicago would applaud our efforts. We have the opportunity to make a difference and stand up for our students, and I trust that we will do the right thing, especially with Dr. Corcoran's initiative on this issue.

Secondly, my opposition to large tuition hikes is well-known. But, when combined with budget tightening at the administrative level and with reaching our maximum tax levy, asking **all** stakeholders, including students, to do a little more is not unreasonable; however, cutting MAP funding would render any such request for a tuition increase baseless. To take away a large portion of financial aid and then to ask those students who were not turned away because of socioeconomic status to pay more is adding insult to injury. I echo Dr. Huffman's sentiments that it would be grossly unfair to punish students for the state's inaction.

For the reasons I have laid out, I could not more emphatically agree with the recommendation of both the Audit-Finance Committee and of Dr. Corcoran that MAP Grant funding must be continued. If, when action is brought before us on the matter, the Board approves the continuation of MAP funding, the leadership and vision shown would make the sentence "I am an IVCC Eagle" more worthy of pride than it already is. Thank you for all the thought and consideration that this issue duly deserves.

The Board Planning Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 3 at 5:45 p.m. in the Board Room.

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF THE 2015 TAX LEVY**

It was moved by Mr. Solon and seconded by Dr. Huffman to authorize Dr. Jerry Corcoran to begin preparing the 2015 tax levy. Motion passed by voice vote.

#### **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES – PROJECT SUCCESS – LOCAL MATCH**

It was moved by Ms. Bonucci and seconded by Mr. Solon to approve the annual \$10,000 transfer from the Education Fund (Fund 01) to the Restricted Fund (Fund 06) for the Student Support Services grant for FY2016. Motion passed by voice vote.

#### **PURCHASE REQUEST – BUILDING D CLASSROOM FURNITURE**

It was moved by Dr. Driscoll and seconded by Ms. Bonucci to purchase the furniture for the Building D classrooms and labs from multiple vendors in the amount of \$16,988.44. Motion passed by voice vote.

#### **TRUSTEE COMMENT**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Ms. Bonucci and seconded by Ms. Goetz to convene a closed session at 6:58 p.m. to discuss 1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; 2) probable litigation; 3) collective negotiations; 4) student discipline; and 5) closed session minutes. Student discipline was added to the reasons to go into closed session. Motion passed by voice vote.

After a short break, the Board entered closed session at 7:05 p.m. On a motion by Ms. Goetz and seconded by Dr. Driscoll, the regular meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m. Motion passed by voice vote.

**CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

It was moved by Ms. Goetz and seconded by Ms. Bonucci to approve and retain the closed session minutes of the September 10, 2015 Board meeting. Motion passed by voice vote.

**OTHER**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Olivero declared the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

---

Melissa M. Olivero, Board Chair

---

Larry D. Huffman, Secretary