

## COUNTY OF HOWARD

The Board of Trustees of the Howard County Junior College District met for a regular meeting in the Fireplace Room in the Student Union Building on the Big Spring site and by telephone conference call on Monday, September 27, 2021.

The following members of the Board and District Administration were present:

Dr. John Freeman, Chairman  
Maxwell Barr, Vice-Chairman  
Dr. Marisha Beck  
Michael Flores  
Ben Zeichick

Cheryl T. Sparks, Ed.D., President  
Amy Burchett, Ed.D., Executive Vice-President  
Danny Campbell, Executive Dean, SWCD by phone  
Pam Callan, Executive Dean, San Angelo by phone  
Brenda Claxton, Chief Fiscal Officer/Controller  
Eric Hansen, Chief Technology Systems/Data Security Officer by phone  
Rhonda Kernick, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Fabian Serrano, Chief Operations and Safety/Security Officer  
Steve Smith, Chief Business Officer/Internal Auditor

Others present were:

Julie Bailey, Chief of Staff  
Jason, Peyton and Brooklyn Beck, guests  
Lee Bryant, Security  
Monica Castro, Executive Director/Lamesa by phone  
Roger Cline, *Big Spring Herald*  
Emma Garcia, Executive Assistant  
Terry Hansen, Chief Special Projects  
Cindy Smith, Dean Student Success/Public Information Officer  
Shane Taiclet, District Director Administrative Services by phone

Dr. Sparks explained procedures of the telephonic meeting. Chairman John Freeman called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. in accordance with Texas Government Section, 551.045 with Dr. Freeman, Marisha Beck, Michael Flores and Ben Zeichick with Dr. Sparks located in the Fireplace Room in the SUB on the Big Spring campus. Roll call was taken by voice response with no Board members participating virtually. Based on the suspended proceedings of the Open Meetings Act in accordance with Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code, the meeting was open to the public through remote connection utilizing a toll-free number for audio purposes and visual presentation available on the website. The public was also entitled to participate and address the Board onsite. The meeting was recorded and will be available on the website.

Maxwell Barr led the invocation. Chairman Freeman welcomed guests Jason, Peyton and Brooklyn Beck. The public was invited to address the Board. There were no comments.

Next, Trustees considered routine matters including the minutes of the regular meeting on August 30, 2021, and special meeting on September 20, 2021, monthly financials for August 2021, monthly reports of auxiliary services, personnel matters, and an internal audit report. Mr. Barr made the motion to approve the routine matters (see attached). Mr. Zeichick seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Trustees moved to New Business. The first item was Visioning/Future Directions. Recently appointed At-Large Trustee Marisha Beck signed the Statement of Officer and took the Oath of Office.

Next, Trustees considered foundation appointments. Mr. Flores made the motion to appoint Dr. Beck to the San Angelo Foundation. Mr. Barr seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Next, Dr. Sparks shared the required training for Dr. Beck.

Next, Dr. Sparks shared the COVID-19 Response Status #17 to date that is on the website. There were no changes to the *Open Howard College Plan* this month.



Next, Trustees considered the strategic planning calendar for 2021-2026 (see attached). Mr. Barr made the motion to approve the calendar. Mr. Zeichick seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Next, Trustees were updated on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary events planned for September 30. Dr. Sparks also shared that the HC Theater department was presenting the play that night at 8:00 p.m. in the Black Box.

Next, Dr. Sparks updated Trustees on the status of the U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture Grant Award/Veterinary Technician Program expressing hope we would know something soon and indicating the need to be prepared to launch the effort as soon as possible.

Next, Dr. Sparks shared that Howard College had been given official notice of the termination of the GEO Partnership with Howard College. The last day HC will provide services will be October 31, 2021.

Next, Trustees considered a resolution for Dr. Wayne Smith who passed away in October 2020. Dr. Smith served the Dawson County community as a leader and mentor. He was a life-long educator preparing students for a better quality of life while teaching evening classes for the Howard College Lamesa campus for twenty-three years and serving as the Lamesa campus administrator for a brief time. Dr. Smith was an early advocate for the Lamesa campus, resident historian and life-long visionary for the campus and served on the Lamesa Directorate. A scholarship has been established in his memory. He will be honored at the Lamesa campus event on September 30. Mr. Flores made the motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Barr seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Trustees moved to the second item, Performance Measures/Outcomes. Dr. Sparks presented preliminary enrollment and contact hours for fall (see attached).

Next, Cindy Smith presented the annual report on the Quality Enhancement Plan: LEADS.

Trustees moved to the third item, Monitoring. Trustees considered some new and realigned positions across the district as presented by Dr. Sparks to include the new Veterinary Technology Chair/Faculty member which is pending grant approval. In addition, two part-time faculty positions were consolidated into one full-time welding position at SWCD. There were some realigned positions explained for the San Angelo AEL program as well as transfers in process relative to the GEO matter. Mr. Zeichick made the motion to approve the positions. Mr. Barr seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

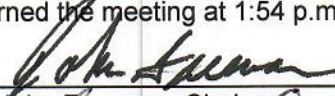
Next, Trustees considered nominations for the Howard County Appraisal District Board ballot. Mr. Zeichick made the motion to nominate Mark Barr. Mr. Flores seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Next, Trustees were updated on construction/renovation projects on the Big Spring/SWCD roof projects and the status of the insurance claim for hailstorm #3. Trustees considered the submission of an Attorney General Opinion request. Mr. Zeichick made the motion to grant authority to the college law firm to request an Attorney General opinion on behalf of the Board to get a variance of the 25% change order cap under Texas Education Code 44.0411 (d) in order to allow the contractor to address recent hailstorm issues. Mr. Barr seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Next, Dr. Sparks reviewed the Board calendar of significant events. She shared thank you notes and recognition from the Nursing School Almanac that ranked the Big Spring ADN program 1<sup>st</sup> and LVN program #7 as well as the San Angelo ADN program #25 and LVN program #23 in Texas.

Lastly, Dr. Sparks shared updates on legislative matters in regard to community colleges seeking legislative allocation of federal funds to support capacity-building efforts by community colleges in communities across Texas. Trustees discussed the Association of Community College Trustees Annual Congress and opted to attend virtually if that option is available.

There being no other business, Chairman Freeman adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

  
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Dr. John Freeman, Chairman

  
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Adrian Calvio, Secretary  
By Julie Bailey