

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, January 23, 2023.

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

Dr. John Freeman, Chairman
Maxwell Barr, Vice-Chairman
Adrian Calvio, Secretary – in-person and by phone
Dr. Marisha Beck – by phone
Mark Morgan
Ben Zeichick

Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, Ed.D., President
Dr. Amy Burchett, Ed.D., Executive Vice-President
Pam Callan, Provost, San Angelo
Danny Campbell, Provost, SWCD
Monica Castro, Executive Dean, Lamesa
Brenda Claxton, Chief Fiscal Officer/Controller – by phone
Eric Hansen, Chief Technology Systems/Data Security Officer – by phone
Rhonda Kernick, Chief Human Resources Officer
Brenda Madore, Chief of Staff/Institutional Advancement Officer
Fabian Serrano, Chief Operations and Safety/Security Officer
Bryan Stokes, Chief Institutional Effectiveness Officer
Steve Smith, Chief Business Officer/Internal Auditor

Others present were:

Lee Bryant, Security
Roger Cline, *Big Spring Herald*
Emma Garcia, Executive Assistant
Terry Hansen, Chief Special Projects Officer
Cindy Smith, Dean Student Success/Public Information Officer
Amber Stokes, SACSCOC Liaison
Jan Thomas of Logan, Thomas, and Johnson – by phone

Chairman Dr. John Freeman called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. in accordance with Texas Government Code Section, 551.045 with Dr. John Freeman, Maxwell Barr, Ben Zeichick, Adrian Calvio, and Dr. Sparks located in the Fireplace Room in the SUB on the Big Spring campus with Dr. Marisha Beck participating via telephonic connection. 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 a remote connection utilizing a toll-free number for audio purposes. The public was also entitled to participate and address the Board onsite. The meeting was recorded and is available on the website.

Trustees moved into executive session at 10:34 a.m. under Personnel/551.074 to discuss the Board Self-Evaluation. The executive session was closed at 11:50 a.m.

After a brief recess for lunch, Chairman Freeman reconvened the regular meeting at 12:39 p.m. Adrian Calvio then participated remotely.

Maxwell Barr led the invocation. Chairman Freeman welcomed guests. The public was invited to address the Board. There were no comments.

Next, Trustees considered routine matters including the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 12, 2022, financials for December 2022, monthly reports of auxiliary services, personnel matters, and an internal audit report. Mr. Zeichick made the motion to approve the routine matters. Mr. Barr seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Trustees moved to New Business. The first item was Visioning/Future Directions.

Next, Dr. Sparks shared the COVID-19 Response Status #33 to date that is on the website. There were no changes to the *Open Howard College* Plan. Reports will continue until the state of emergency has been ended by

the Governor.

Next, Trustees considered a resolution recognizing the Dora Roberts Foundation for their sustained support. They recently donated \$192,000 that will continue to fund (2) Nursing Faculty positions, provide student scholarships, and furnish infrastructure improvements at the Howard College Rodeo Arena. Mr. Barr made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Next, Trustees considered a resolution thanking Mark McLaughlin for his generous donation to the San Angelo Area Foundation that created an endowed fund that will provide scholarships to Howard College San Angelo campus students. Mr. McLaughlin is a well-respected San Angelo leader and this gift will Make Dreams Real for many students in San Angelo. Mr. Zeichick made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Barr seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Next, Trustees considered a motion in support of the recommendations made to the Texas State Legislature by the Texas Commission on Community College Finance. The same resolution is being passed by several Boards throughout the State and shows support for proposed funding model updates that are designed to improve equity in the system. Mr. Zeichick made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Trustees moved to the second item, Performance Measures/Outcomes.

Next, Dr. Sparks informed Trustees that the Howard County Leadership Summit will be held February 28, 2023, in the Coliseum from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Planning is in progress for the event, which will bring many of the governmental boards and other entities in Howard County together to share information. Trustees will attend to represent the College.

Next, Trustees reviewed the preliminary Audit Report. Jan Thomas of Logan, Thomas, and Johnson, led Trustees through highlights of the report and draft financial statements. She reported that overall, everything had remained fairly consistent with some expected variability in grants received due to COVID-19. At this time, there are no findings. Dr. Sparks clarified some details on a lease held by the College and congratulated Brenda Claxton and her team on a job well-done. Jan Thomas thanked the Board and related her appreciation for the helpful culture that exists at Howard College.

Next, Trustees reviewed the revised Annual Investment Report.

Next, Trustees were updated on the SACSCOC Fifth-Year Report that was received earlier in January. Dr. Amber Kelly reported that there was only one finding related to Standard 14.4. Howard College is in compliance, but SACSCOC would like more evidence in the form of documentation. Dr. Kelly is preparing the requested documentation and will submit that soon. Dr. Sparks informed the Board that receiving only one finding showed excellent work by Dr. Kelly and the entire team. We are very pleased with the result. Howard College will continue to improve policies and practices as we prepare for the 10-year Reaffirmation.

Trustees moved to the third item, Monitoring.

Next, Trustees considered RFP #22-013 for (2) commercial passenger busses. The purchase of new busses has been under consideration for some time. Several of the fleet are 25 years old and one bus has nearly 500,000 miles on it. It is difficult to find parts to repair them. Fabian Serrano and Steve Smith explained that a committee of stakeholders had determined that buying new busses would be the prudent course of action after considering all factors. Trustees discussed future travel considerations and large transportation purchases moving forward. Mr. Barr made a motion to approve RFP #22-013. Dr. Beck seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Next, Trustees considered a bid to replace lighting in the Hall Center. The recommended bid from Moyers Group of Lubbock, Texas was received through an interlocal agreement. Mr. Zeichick made a motion to approve the bid. Mr. Barr seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

No catalog or handbook changes were considered.

Next, Trustees considered the auction of Howard County Trustee properties to the highest bidder for cash, without reservation. Mr. Zeichick made a motion to approve the auction of Howard County Trustee properties to

the highest bidder for cash, without reservation. Mr. Barr seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Next, Trustees were updated on construction/renovation projects at Big Spring and SWCD, on roof projects, flood updates, and received information on progress being made on the Library and Music Building renovations.

Next, Trustees were updated on the implementation of the student information system by Eric Hansen. Data validation, modifications, and updates continue. Progress is being made and they are working to determine a "go live" date.

Next, Dr. Sparks reviewed the Board calendar of significant events. Dr. Sparks informed Trustees that Howard College has been selected again by NJCAA as the game of the week for its basketball doubleheader on January 30, 2023. It will be broadcast on ESPN+. The College is building on the great job that was done for the game earlier this month. Archie Myers, previous All-American and 2022 WJCAC Hall of Fame Honoree, will be recognized during the broadcast. Faculty, students, staff, and community are all being encouraged to attend the game and show support. This will be another valuable opportunity to share Howard College and SWCD with a large audience.

The February Board Meeting will be held February 27, 2023.

Next, Dr. Sparks recognized the following college community members:

- The Big Spring and San Angelo AEL Programs were recognized and did well in comparison to others in the state on several matters.
- A dual credit student at Lamesa was crowned Miss Merry Christmas for Lamesa.
- Jan Foresyth, a Howard College retiree, was recently recognized as Howard County Fire Fighter of the year for her efforts on behalf of the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department.

Trustees moved to the fourth item, Board Education and Development.

Next, Dr. Sparks shared that the Texas Association of Community Colleges will meet on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 in Austin. That day Dr. Sparks will also participate in a meeting with legislators and other Presidents of several West Texas Community Colleges. She discussed the release of the House and Senate appropriations bills last week. She also discussed the increased Legislative Appropriation Request that was made on behalf of SWCD.

Next, Dr. Sparks related information surrounding Howard County Day and Community College Day at the Capitol, which both happen to be on January 26. College administrators, college students, and other local groups will be in Austin for the event. Local high school students will join Howard College students in meeting with our elected State representatives to learn about the political process. Trustee Marquez will attend those events and the CCATT New Trustee Orientation on Friday, which is also in Austin.

Lastly, Dr. Sparks reported that the County Group Luncheon, which hosted Representative Darby and Senator Sparks went very well. She also related that the Board of Trustees Institute will be February 21-22. Trustees were encouraged to communicate their availability to attend by the end of the week.

There being no other business, Chairman Freeman adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m.



Dr. John Freeman, Chairman



Adrian Calvio, Secretary
By Brenda Madore