

The Board of Trustees of the Howard County Junior College District met for a special meeting in Room 5 of the Lamesa Campus at Howard College in Lamesa on Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

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

Maxwell Barr, Vice-Chairman
Adrian Calvio, Secretary
Dr. Marisha Beck
Mark Morgan
Ben Zeichick

Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, Ed.D., President
Dr. Amy Burchett, Ed.D., Executive Vice-President
Pam Callan, Provost, San Angelo
Monica Castro, Executive Dean, Lamesa
Luci Gabehart, Dean of Instruction, Big Spring
Rhonda Kernick, Chief HR Officer
Brenda Madore, Chief of Staff/Institutional Advancement Officer - recorder
Fabian Serrano, Chief Operations and Safety/Security Officer
Steve Smith, Chief Business Officer/Internal Auditor

Others present were:

Terry Hansen, Chief Special Projects Officer
Cindy Smith, Dean of Student Success/Public Information Officer
Shannon Stuteville, Executive Assistant

Special guests present:

Amy Baker, High School Counselor, Lamesa ISD
Bryan Busby, EMT Instructor, Medical Arts Hospital
Melissa Casarez, Board Member, Lamesa ISD
Mona Ferguson, Executive Director, Lamesa EDC
Bobby Gonzalez, City Council, Lamesa EDC/LEAP Board President
Joe Hines, City Manager, City of Lamesa
Dale Hansard, President, Caprock Credit Union
Nora Juarez, HC Alumnus
Zach Leonard, Lamesa ISD College & Career Readiness
Angela Martinez, Director, Dawson County Library
Judy Morales, student
Freddy Olivarez, CEO, Medical Arts Hospital
David Ritchey, Superintendent, LISD
Connie Smith, Spouse of Dr. Wayne C. Smith
Ashley Tidwell, President, Lamesa Chamber of Commerce
Donna White, HC Foundation Board of Directors, Lamesa

Prior to the meeting and as part of this focused meeting's purpose, board members, administration, and special guests introduced themselves and then participated in a tour of the Lamesa campus.

After a short recess for lunch, Trustees convened for the special meeting.

Vice-Chairman Barr called the special meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. The meeting was open to the public in Room 5 and through remote connection utilizing a toll-free number. The meeting was recorded and will be available on the website. Minutes will also be available on the website. Mr. Barr led the invocation.

Next, Dr. Sparks provided an overview of the focused meeting's purpose, referencing the self-evaluation completed by the Board in strategic planning earlier in the year. During that planning they determined to increase Board presence at each of the four campuses in the district. Dr. Sparks explained that the meeting held today would provide a focus on the Lamesa campus, students, and operations. However, since the Lamesa campus is not located within the taxing district, the board would not conduct any regular business.

Trustees moved to New Business, President's Report.

Next, Dr. Sparks discussed the resolution expressing gratitude to the Lamesa community for leadership and service provided during the COVID emergency. She highlighted that this resolution had received approval during the regular board meeting on October 23rd and was consistent with similar resolutions acknowledging other communities in the Howard College service area. Dr. Sparks proceeded to read the resolution, which specifically named the City of Lamesa, Dawson County, Medical Arts Hospital, Lamesa ISD, the greater Lamesa community, and various leaders by name. Following this, Vice-Chairman Barr presented a framed copy of the resolution to representatives and Dr. Sparks gave each a signature Howard College dark chocolate bar.

Next, Dr. Sparks fondly remembered the acknowledgment of a remarkable figure in the community, Dr. Wayne C. Smith. She related that Dr. Smith's profound impact on Dawson County and his dedicated advocacy for the Lamesa campus's growth were truly a blessing. Although a bench was dedicated to Dr. Smith during the 75th celebrations, it was deemed insufficient to honor this exceptional friend of Howard College. Consequently, the College recently engaged in discussions with Judge Foy O'Brien, since the County owns the building and lets the college use it at no cost, obtaining permission to name a classroom after Dr. Smith. On that very morning, a plaque had been installed outside the designated classroom. Southwell, in collaboration with Terry Hansen, successfully ensured the plaque's timely delivery, which would be unveiled shortly after the meeting. Dr. Sparks then presented a framed copy of the plaque to Mrs. Connie Smith, Dr. Smith's wife, to take home as a token of gratitude, along with a Howard College dark chocolate bar.

Next, Trustees moved to Visioning/Future Directions.

Next, Monica Castro, Executive Dean of the Lamesa campus, gave the State of the Lamesa Campus address. She extended her gratitude to the Board of Trustees and attendees for joining the meeting and provided a concise overview of the state of Howard College Lamesa, celebrating its 51 years of service. Monica acknowledged the tremendous support received from Dawson County and the community, detailing various facility improvements, grants, and community contributions that have enhanced the campus. She also discussed the campus's strong partnerships with local high schools and the impressive outcomes of the dual credit program. Monica mentioned changes in the state's funding model for community colleges and the introduction of the FAST money program. She highlighted the campus's student services, including tutoring, well-being support, and the Student Success Fund. Looking ahead, Monica shared plans for the EMT program and continued offerings of CNA and GED classes, emphasizing the importance of expanding dual credit participation among economically disadvantaged students. She concluded by expressing gratitude for the support and welcoming questions from the audience.

Next, Dean Castro introduced Lamesa graduate Judy Morales, a non-traditional student from Lamesa who works full-time at the local school district. Judy is passionate about realizing her dream of becoming a teacher. Judy shared that she had stepped away from higher education several years ago. However, each time Monica encountered her in the community she would ask, "When are you coming back?" It was this encouragement that ultimately motivated Judy to re-enroll and recently complete her associate's degree. Judy is now continuing her educational pursuits.

Next, continuing with the Lamesa campus focus and in alignment with Board strategic priorities, Dr. Sparks reviewed the most recent Lamesa Student Roundtable results. She gave Trustees background information on student roundtable procedures and the care that is taken to respond in a timely way to student comments and concerns. She then discussed specific comments brought up by students at the Lamesa campus.

Next, continuing the focus on the Lamesa campus, Terry Hansen provided an update on the Facilities Master Plan and shared specific findings related to the Lamesa campus. Terry began with a brief overview of the Master Plan work and the history of its use. He reported that progress on the work was moving quickly, and they had received nearly 500 responses to the survey instrument to date, a substantial improvement compared to the last survey distribution in 2007. This valuable data will be analyzed to inform recommendations in the final report. Additionally, Terry supplied each Trustee and all of the visitors with a QR code for the Facilities Master Plan survey, allowing them to provide their input for the Lamesa campus. He also asked them to share the QR code with anyone in the community who may have feedback to share. Dr. Sparks emphasized that the input from stakeholders is very valuable and that the Master Plan is used consistently to drive improvements.

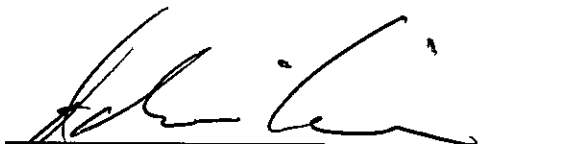
Next, the public was invited to address the Board. There were no comments.

Before concluding, Dr. Sparks invited attendees to gather outside the distance learning classroom for the unveiling of the plaque honoring the Dr. Wayne C. Smith Distance Learning Classroom immediately after the close of the meeting.

There being no other business, Trustees adjourned at 1:10 p.m.



Dr. John Freeman, Chairman

Maxwell Barr, Vice-Chairman

Adrian Calvio, Secretary
By Brenda Madore