

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BLINN COLLEGE**

**Board Room  
Third Floor, Administration Building  
Blinn College, 802 Green Street  
Brenham, Texas**

**Regular Meeting, Tuesday, June 12, 2007**

The Board of Trustees convened at 7 p.m. in the Board Room with the following members present: Mr. Steve M. Westbrook, President, presiding; Mr. Norwood Lange, Secretary; Dr. Henry J. Boehm, Jr., Mr. Don Jones, Mr. L.J. Lacina, Jr. and Mr. Leon Toubin.

Board members not present: Mr. Atwood C. Kenjura.

Members of the college staff in attendance were: Dr. Donald E. Voelter, President; Mr. John D. Barkman, Dr. John D. Harris, Dr. Daniel J. Holt, Dr. Debra R. LaCour and Dr. Barbara L. Pearson, vice presidents; Mr. Scott Baehren, Mr. Tex Davis, Ms. Becky Garlick, Mr. Robert Henrichsen, Mr. Dennis Kocich, Ms. Margie Kovar, Ms. Barbara Moore, Mr. Brad Nies, Mr. Guadalupe Reyes, Mr. Scott Smith, Mr. Daniel Villanueva, Ms. Ann Weir and Dr. Michel Zuch.

Also registered as in attendance were: Mr. Charles Thielemann, Mr. Frank Wagner, KTTX-KWHI; and Mr. Gary Engel, *Brenham Banner-Press*.

**ITEM 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN AND TEXAS FLAGS**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Westbrook. The pledges were led by Mr. Westbrook and the prayer was led by Mr. Dennis Kocich.

**ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Charles Thielemann distributed a list of questions to members of the Board (a copy is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*) and made comments about his belief that the Board and staff do not make financial decisions on solid financial data.

**ITEM 3. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND LIST OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MAY 31, 2007**

Dr. Holt reviewed the financial statement and list of checks for the period ending May 31, 2007 (copies of the list of checks and the financial statement are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). He then answered questions from the Board.

**ITEM 4. REVIEW AND ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MAY 8, 2007, MEETING**

On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Lange, the Board voted to approve the *Minutes* of the May 8, 2007, meeting.

**ITEM 5. REVIEW AND ACTION TO AWARD BID FOR SERVICES OF AN INDEPENDENT AUDITING FIRM**

Dr. Holt reviewed a bid tabulation for proposals (RFP #057-1) from CPA firms to conduct the independent audit for the college for a three-year contract beginning with the 2006-07 school year (a copy of the bid tabulation is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). On a motion by Mr. Toubin, seconded by Mr. Lacina, the Board voted to award a three-year contract to the firm of Lott, Vernon and Co., P.C. to conduct the audit for the total amount of \$124,550.

**ITEM 6. REVIEW AND ACTION TO AWARD BIDS FOR:**

- (A) **PAINTING OF EXTERIOR OF DORMITORIES ON THE BRENHAM CAMPUS;**
- (B) **EXTERIOR WOOD CONSTRUCTION AND MASONRY REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS ON THE BRENHAM CAMPUS**

(A) Dr. Holt reviewed the bid tabulation (Bid #544) for painting the exterior of six residence halls on the Brenham campus and recommended awarding the bid to M&M Waterproofing & Restoration of Houston, with possible addendums to the bid (a copy of the bid tabulation is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Toubin, the Board voted to approve the bid to M&M Waterproofing & Restoration in the amount of \$43,900.

(B) Dr. Holt reviewed the bid tabulation (Bid #545) for exterior wood construction and masonry repairs to seven buildings on the Brenham campus (a copy of the bid tabulation is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). One of the bidders (Butch's Waterproofing) bid on six of the seven buildings and the second bidder on only four of the buildings. On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Toubin, the Board voted to award the bid to Butch's Waterproofing of Houston in the amount of \$54,247 since it was the more complete bid.

**ITEM 7. REVIEW AND ACTION TO AUTHORIZE A CHANGE ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE CONCRETE ROADWAY AS PART OF THE BRYAN CAMPUS PARKING LOT REPAIR PROJECT**

Dr. Pearson reported on the status of the work on the parking lot and roadway rehabilitation project on the Bryan campus. She recommended approval of a proposed change order with Brazos Valley Service of Bryan, Texas, in the amount of \$487,960.75 to extend the new concrete roadway to the main entrance of the Bryan campus for the additional amount of \$48,960.75 (a copy of the proposed change order No. 1 and a drawing of the proposed extension is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). On a motion by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Toubin, the Board voted to approve the change order.

**ITEM 8. REVIEW AND ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATION TO SEEK AND AWARD BIDS FOR PAINTING, NEW CARPET AND MINOR REPAIRS FOR JAMES ATKINSON, MEMORIAL AND SOLONS RESIDENCE HALLS ON THE BRENHAM CAMPUS TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE FALL 2007 SEMESTER**

Dr. Holt asked the Board to authorize the administration to use surplus funds from the current year budget for painting, new carpet and minor repairs for James Atkinson, Memorial and Solons residence halls. He answered questions from the Board about the amount of money to be spent. Dr. Holt indicated the cost is not clear (dependent upon the time the facilities are available and funds available) but hopes to do as much as possible. He estimates the repairs will last about three years. On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Lange, the Board voted to authorize the administration to spend current year budget

funds of an unspecified amount for painting, carpeting and minor repairs on Brenham campus residence hall repairs.

**ITEM 9. REVIEW AND ACTION TO WAIVE TUITION AND FEES FOR THE EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM AT BRYAN HIGH SCHOOL**

Dr. Pearson reviewed the background of the Early College High School, the current status of the project and a request from the Bryan ISD for Blinn College to waive tuition and fee charges for the high school students taking courses in the dual credit program. She answered questions from the Board on how the program works. She reported on a list of other colleges and high schools in the state that are operating the same program and have waived tuition and fees or provided facilities (a copy is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). Under this program, the Bryan ISD is providing the facility and paying for the instructor. Blinn College will be able to claim the student contact hours for state reimbursement. She noted there was an 80 percent pass rate in a similar program in Houston. On a motion by Mr. Toubin, seconded by Dr. Boehm, the Board voted to approve the request. Mr. Toubin asked the media to note that the cost of the program and the tuition and fee waiver are not being paid by Washington County tax payers.

**ITEM 10. REVIEW AND ACTION TO: ADOPT UPDATES (UPDATE 22) TO LEGAL AND LOCAL POLICIES OF THE BOARD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TASB POLICY SERVICE**

Mr. Barkman reviewed the need for the Board to adopt Board Policy Manual Update #22 as provided by the policy staff of and recommended by the Texas Association of School Boards Policy Service to reflect changes in the law and other legal requirements. On a motion by Mr. Lacina, seconded by Dr. Boehm, the Board voted to approve and adopt the Update. A copy of the summary of the changes approved is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*.

The Board recessed from 9:12 until 9:25 for a break.

**ITEM 11. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dr. Voelter reported on the following:

- a. The previously approved change in the regular meeting date for the Board from the second to the third Tuesday of the month will go in effect beginning with the September meeting. Schedule conflicts of several members of the Board made an earlier change impossible;
- b. The new LVN transition program on the Schulenburg campus has enrolled nine students, and a welding class on the Brenham campus in May enrolled seven students;
- c. The Board members are invited to attend the Washington County Legislative Forum on June 19 featuring State Senator Glenn Hegar and State Rep. Lois Kolkhorst; and
- d. The establishment of the M.H. and Irene Ehlert Memorial Scholarship by Melvin H. Ehlert, Jr., Jeffrey Ehlert and Scott Ehlert in memory of their grandparents. Mrs. Ehlert taught English at Blinn and Mr. Ehlert served as the Washington County school superintendent. The scholarship will be awarded to students majoring in education who demonstrate financial need.

**ITEM 12. REPORTS:**

- **EXISTING BOARD POLICY BD (LOCAL) ON PROCEDURES FOR SETTING THE AGENDA FOR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**
- **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**
- **ENROLLMENT AND HOUSING NUMBERS FOR THE SUMMER I SEMESTER**
- **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**
- **GOALS AND ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR THE SEALY CAMPUS FOR 2007-08**

- **STATUS OF THE PROPOSED DETENTION POND PROJECT ON THE BRYAN CAMPUS**
- **ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

Mr. Barkman reviewed current Board policy BD (Local) on the establishment of the agenda for meetings of the Board and gave a summary of the policies of several other Texas community colleges. He noted that the Blinn College policy contains apparently conflicting language as to the final authority on what items are to be included (a copy of the current policy is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). The Board asked that the policy be redrafted to eliminate conflicting language and be brought back for consideration at the July meeting of the Board.

Dr. Holt reported on summer projects to repair and update Brenham campus facilities and the need to make firm decisions about the future of some of the buildings. He noted that he relies on Dr. Pearson for the list of projects on the Bryan campus. Mr. Toubin stated that the most important project on the Brenham campus would be a recreation center for students. Dr. Boehm stated his support for a recreation center. Mr. Jones asked that there be a special meeting to discuss the needs for the Brenham campus repairs. It was informally agreed that the administration would update a future facilities list and include estimated costs.

Dr. Harris reviewed preliminary enrollment and housing occupancy numbers for the Summer I semester. A copy of his report is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*.

Dr. Voelter reported on the actions of the Texas Legislature related to Texas community colleges (a copy is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). He reported that a bill was passed that limited the number of course drops a student can take. Since the limit is cumulative of all courses a student takes at Texas institutions of higher education, the colleges are facing a major data gathering and keeping issue.

Dr. LaCour and Mr. Scott Baehren reported on the newly developed goals for the Sealy campus for the 2007-2008 school year (a copy is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). Mr. Baehren noted that various government and school leaders in the Sealy area are meeting soon to discuss possible financial support for the Sealy campus. He indicated the campus will need to attract students from outside the immediate Sealy area in order to have an adequate student base. He reviewed various initiatives for workforce education, Ed-to-Go, lifelong learning etc., and reported on a summer program for young people on the Sealy campus. He noted that most Sealy area citizens indicated on a survey that they wanted the college to offer technical and workforce education and efforts are being made to offer such programs. He projected the Sealy campus could sustain an average of 200 traditional students on campus for the next two or three years. He answered questions from the Board about core curriculum offerings.

Dr. Voelter reported that the City of Bryan is again considering moving forward on construction of a detention pond on the Bryan campus. He reminded the Board that the City of Bryan would pay the cost of the project and that the college could use the site for sports activities for much of the year.

Dr. Voelter reported on the records and achievements of the college athletic teams for the 2006-07 academic year (a copy is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). Mr. Lacina asked about the status of replacement of athletic director Greg Hinze. Dr. Voelter indicated that the administration is looking at assigning the task to an existing athletic staff member. Mr. Lacina also asked about the different divisions of junior college athletics. He noted that many small colleges had gone to non-scholarship athletic programs with good success. Dr. Voelter reported that Tyler Junior College baseball was now a division III school.

**ITEM 13. RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION (AS AUTHORIZED BY GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.101)**

The public session was recessed at 9:26 p.m.

**ITEM 14. CLOSED SESSION**

- (A) **EVALUATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL (GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.074)**
- (B) **DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY IN BRENHAM, BRYAN AND SCHULENBURG (GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551.072)**

**ITEM 15. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

The public session was reconvened at 10:07 p.m.

**ITEM 16. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

- (A) **REVIEW AND ACTION ON FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONTRACTS**
- (B) **REVIEW AND ACTION TO PURCHASE, EXCHANGE OR LEASE REAL PROPERTY IN BRENHAM, BRYAN AND SCHULENBURG**

On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board voted to accept the resignations of Mr. Greg Hinze, Athletic Director, Brenham campus, effective June 15, 2007; and Ms. Lisa Oggero, Lead Counselor Disability Services, Bryan campus, effective June 15, 2007.

On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mr. Toubin, the Board voted to employ new faculty and professional staff on one-year contracts for the remainder of the current school year and the 2007-2008 school year (a copy of the list of persons employed is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

**ITEM 17. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lange, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.



Mr. Steve M. Westbrook  
President



Mr. Norwood Lange  
Secretary