

THE OFFICIAL MINUTES

The Big Bend Community College Board of Trustees held a Special Board Meeting August 15, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the ATEC Hardin Community room in Building 1800 on the Big Bend Community College campus.

1. Call to Order

Present: Anna Franz
Jon Lane
Stephen McFadden
Juanita Richards via conference phone
Thomas Stredwick

3. President's Retirement

President Leas provided his notice of retirement, effective June 30, 2020, to Board Chair Stephen McFadden. Chair McFadden acknowledged receipt of the letter and thanked President Leas for accomplishing many of the goals he was tasked with when he was hired in 2012. He also said there are additional goals to meet before June.

Motion 19-29 Trustee Anna Franz moved to approve President Leas' retirement. Trustee Thomas Stredwick seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Set Presidential Search Workshop

Board Chair McFadden discussed presidential search options. The board had four months in which to conduct the last presidential search in 2012, and the trustees were pleased with the outcome. Board Chair McFadden thanked President Leas for providing his notice of retirement early to allow more time to conduct a presidential search. Board Chair McFadden shared that he would like to schedule a special board meeting in September focused on the presidential search process and identifying internal or external processes to discuss further at the regular board meeting on October 10. He asked that the trustees send their available dates in September to Melinda, and the special meeting date will be set.

Trustee Anna Franz asked for information about the search framework used in 2012. Trustee Jon Lane will get presidential search materials from ACT. Chair McFadden asked that staff identify other colleges who have hired a president recently and request information about updated search processes. He advised that the search for a president is intense work, and he wanted to start early to avoid a rush. President Leas stated about half of the community college presidents in WA the past five years have retired and new presidents have been hired. Trustee Jon Lane said the average tenure of a community college president is 5 to 7 years.

Board Chair McFadden said that he and Vice Chair Anna Franz prepared a letter for the campus yesterday. Chair McFadden thanked President Leas and the entire staff and faculty for their accomplishments and advised there is more to do in the next year.

Trustee Jon Lane asked for VP Kim Garza's thoughts about the presidential search. She advised that every college is different and many choose internal searches while others choose to hire a consultant. Hiring a president is one of the most important trustee roles.

Trustee Thomas Stredwick recognized Dr. Leas's approach to others, thoughtfulness with decisions, and collaborative style. Trustee Jon Lane said some of the local challenges BBCC is facing are also happening around the state and nation. He said he appreciated Dr. Leas very much. Trustee Anna Franz concurred with Trustee Lane; she said she helped hire Dr. Leas, and he was an excellent choice.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.



Stephen McFadden, Chair

ATTEST:



Terrence Leas, Secretary