

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2023, 10:00 A.M.**

The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees (also referred to herein as the Board) held a meeting at 10:01 a.m. on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, in the Board Room of the Alabama Community College System building in Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called in accordance with Act No. 2015-125.

**PRESIDING: MR. LLEVELYN RHONE
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rhone. Chairman Rhone thanked the State Board of Education and Nick Moore, who attended on behalf of Governor Ivey, for attending the annual joint meeting between ACCS and the State Board of Education. Dr. Eric Mackey addressed the Board. Dr. Mackey was joined by Vice President of the State Board of Education Tracy West. Dr. Mackey commended the entire ACCS for its work in higher education. Dr. Mackey recently attended a conference in Denver, Co. at which Alabama was featured for the work between K-12 and the community college system. Whereas the majority of community colleges are seeing a decrease in enrollment, Alabama is continuing to see an increase in enrollment. Dr. West also addressed the Board and thanked them for the invitation to attend the meeting.

The invocation was delivered by Pastor Chris Searcy of Fresh Anointing House of Worship and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

Mr. John Mitchell
Mr. Llevelyn Rhone
Ms. Valerie Gray
Mr. Goodrich Rogers
Mr. Britton Lightsey
Mr. Jeb Shell
Mr. Ron Houston
Mr. Tim McCartney
Dr. Yvette Richardson

Also present was Mr. Jimmy H. Baker, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. Absent was Governor Kay Ivey.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Shell, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Minutes of the November 8, 2023 meeting as presented without discussion.

SECTION VII **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no individuals registered to speak during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

SECTION VIII **COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT**

President Keith Brown thanked the Board for allowing him the opportunity to spotlight Jefferson State Community College. President Brown presented a video and afterwards discussed many programs and initiatives offered by the College including, dual enrollment, fast-track non-credit program, the line worker program with Alabama Power company and future distribution center and customer service programs with Alabama Power, Jeremiah's Hope Southside Training Center, CDL Program, Histology Technician Program, Funeral Service and Culinary Program. Jefferson State recently unveiled its Students Success Program which offers wraparound support for students, such as mental health counseling, peer to peer support, food pantry and emergency grants to assist students with expenses that might impede them moving forward with their education. Jefferson State is in the process of building a Workforce Development Center with plans to open in late 2024.

Chancellor Baker commended and thanked President Brown for his work at Jefferson State and for his leadership to the state as the whole as one of the Senior Presidents.

SECTION IX **(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)**

ADOPTED

CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE **APPROVAL OF MISSION STATEMENT**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board unanimously approved the current mission statement of Calhoun Community College.

LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE **APPROVAL OF MISSION STATEMENT**

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Shell, the Board unanimously approved the current mission statement of Lawson State Community College.

COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
APPROVAL OF MISSION STATEMENT

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Houston, the Board unanimously approved the current mission statement of Coastal Alabama Community College.

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
2024-2025 BUDGET REQUEST

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Ms. Gray, the Board unanimously approved the 2024-2025 budget request for the Alabama Community College System and the Alabama Community College System Office.

Fiscal Consideration: \$655,022,903 - Operations Request from the Education Trust Fund (ETF)

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
GARAGE LIABILITY INSURANCE

On motion by Mr. McCartney, second by Mr. Shell the Board unanimously authorized the purchase of garage liability insurance coverage by required colleges under a policy recommended by the Chancellor for the coverage period November 15, 2023 and ending November 14, 2024.

Fiscal Consideration: \$16,440.60 – Current Unrestricted Funds

SECTION X
(INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ADULT EDUCATION, FACILITIES,
FISCAL, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT)

ADOPTED

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADDITION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Houston the Board unanimously approved an additional instructional site for Chattahoochee Valley Community College at East Alabama Medical Center

Fiscal Consideration: None

LURLEEN B. WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CONSTRUCTION OF TRADES LAB

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. McCartney the Board unanimously authorized Lurleen B. Wallace Community College to proceed with the project named Construction of Trades Lab.

Fiscal Consideration: \$3,500,000.00

JEFFERSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS OF BETHUNE-DERAMUS HALL AND GEORGE LAYTON BUILDING

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rogers the Board unanimously approved Civil Bid Package change order number three for the project named Jefferson State Community College Exterior Improvements of Bethune-Deramus Hall and George Layton Building..

Fiscal Consideration: \$ 44,893.00

GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BEVILL CENTER SHINGLE ROOFING

On motion by Mr. McCartney, second by Mr. Rogers the Board unanimously approved change order number one for the project named Gadsden State Community College Bevill Center Shingle Roof located on the campus of Gadsden.

Fiscal Consideration: \$84,908.12

TRENHOLM STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EXECUTIVE PARK CAMPUS – RENOVATION FOR HEALTH CARE AND CULINARY

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Lightsey the Board unanimously authorized Trenholm State Community College to proceed with the demolition and abatement bid for the project named Executive Park Campus Renovation.

Fiscal Consideration: \$722,000.00

CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EYSTER BUILDING RENOVATION FOR STEAM IMAGINATION CENTER

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. McCartney the Board unanimously authorized Calhoun Community College to proceed with the project named Eyster Building Renovation for STEAM Imagination Center.

Fiscal Consideration: \$3,759,287

NORTHWEST-SHOALS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PHIL CAMPBELL CAMPUS RENOVATION

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. McCartney the Board unanimously authorized Northwest-Shoals Community College to proceed with the Gym Bid and the Building 309 Roofing Bid for the project named Phil Campbell Campus Renovation.

Fiscal Consideration: \$8,120,604 (Total Project Cost)

SECTION X
PERSONNEL

David M. O'Brien, Esq. advised that the Board is required to consider the resignation of Dr. Chris Cox as President of Shelton State Community College. On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. McCartney the Board unanimously accepted the resignation of Dr. Chris Cox as President of Shelton State Community College.

SECTION XI
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Dr. Neil Scott gave an update on enrollment. Fall 2023 enrollment is up 6.34% in headcount and 4.78% in credit hours. This is the highest headcount since 2013. Dr. Scott discussed the categories of students and which ones have the greatest increase. There has been an increase in enrollment in every age group, including 61 and over. The percentage of students that needed remediation decreased by 4%. Dr. Scott advised that 96% of students enrolled in ACCS institutions are in-state. The ACCS has had a 4.6% enrollment growth over the last five years, despite the decrease in 2020 due to covid. Enrollment for Spring 2024 is 6.82% ahead of last year and Fall 2024 is currently reflecting an 11.88% increase.

Ebony Horton advised that the Live the Mission segment would be featured every three to four months wherein College's would highlight initiatives in place to serve the state beyond academics.

Clinton Bourgeois and Russell Moore discussed the ACCS's title sponsorship of the Alabama High School Athletic Association Football Championships. This opportunity allowed ACCS to showcase all 24 ACCS institutions. Mr. Moore advised that Alabama had the highest rated PBS APT ratings across the U.S. Further, ACCS will also be a sponsor of the basketball championships that will take place in February and March of 2024. Mr. Bourgeois reported that again each of the colleges will have multiple commercials that run during the basketball championships.

Ms. Horton commended the communications team for their work and stated she is honored to serve with such a gifted and talented group.

President Shackett discussed an initiative at Southern Union State Community that gives CDL students the opportunity to work on their driving skills and to help the community. CDL students provide a delivery service to the East Alabama Food Bank and Heart of Alabama Food Bank Montgomery. Students gain practical experience in picking up and delivering freight. Normally students are trained in empty trucks, but this opportunity allows them to receive training in fully loaded trucks. This initiative has saved East Alabama Food Bank approximately \$37,000 over the last 3 years. Additionally, Southern Union's crew will check out the Food Bank trucks to ensure they are properly maintained and in good working order. East Alabama Food Bank hired a Southern Union graduate to run their transportation.

President Jackie Screws, along with Dr. Sherri Taylor and Mr. Ben Hicks, discussed a program at Chattahoochee Valley Community College wherein the athletic program partnered with Friends of Jaclyn Foundation whose mission is to improve the quality of life for children battling pediatric brain tumors and other childhood cancers. The athletic department adopted 4 year old Griffin who has cancer. Griffin was welcomed to the college with a spirit line, cheers and cake. Griffin and his siblings were presented gifts by the athletic teams and Griffin was made a honorary Pirate.

President Danny Long discussed Enterprise State Community College's community choir and orchestra. Dr. Ken Thomas and Ms. Ashley Gresko spearhead these efforts which are unfunded and done outside their regular faculty hours. Dr. Thomas thanked President Long for the opportunity to host the community choir and gave a short background for this initiative. Ms. Gresko advised that the community orchestra is a new ensemble on campus. It is a free ensemble that students and adults participate in. The youngest player is 7 and the oldest is 73. A side by side approach was used for the production of Handel's Messiah wherein professional musicians are paired with students. Dr. Thomas discussed performances with Auburn University which included a trip to perform in London.

SECTION XII

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

SECTION XIV
(DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING)

The next Board meeting will be held in Montgomery at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:37.

Chairman

Chancellor