

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10, 2024, 10:00 A.M.**

The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees (also referred to herein as the Board) held a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 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.

The invocation was delivered by Dr. Neal Hughes of the Montgomery Baptist Association and followed by the pledge of allegiance.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

Mr. Llevelyn Rhone
Mr. Goodrich Rogers
Mr. Britton Lightsey
Ms. Valerie Gray
Mr. Tim McCartney
Mr. Ron Houston
Mr. John Mitchell
Mr. Jeb Shell (via phone)
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. Lightsey, the Agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Minutes of the December 13, 2023 meeting as presented without discussion.

**SECTION VI
PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

SECTION VII
COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Jeff Goodwin, President of Northwest-Shoals Community College, introduced via video Candace Robinson a graduate of Northwest-Shoals Nursing Program. Ms. Robinson came to Northwest-Shoals from a shelter as a single mother of 2 school age children. Ms. Robinson's desire to become a nurse stemmed from her son having open heart surgery when he was four days old. Ms. Robinson explained that her path to becoming a nurse was difficult at times, but the faculty and staff at Northwest-Shoals provided her with the support she needed to complete her degree. The faculty assisted Ms. Robinson in being awarded a scholarship that is sponsored by proceeds donated by the instructors. Mr. Robinson expressed her gratitude and thanks to everyone at Northwest-Shoals for helping to make her dream of becoming a nurse a reality.

SECTION VIII
(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

ADOPTED
WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - HANCEVILLE
CULLMAN LEASE PROPERTY FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board approved and ratified the President of Wallace State Community College – Hanceville's entering into a lease agreement with NA Properties, LLC d/b/a Rehau for the use of Rehau's R&D Building by the College as a workforce training facility. The initial term of the lease is twelve months with an option in favor of the College to renew for an additional twenty-four months.

Fiscal Consideration: The annual lease amount is \$189,300. Total estimated annual budget for lease, utilities, insurance, lawncare, pest control, property taxes, janitorial services and supplies is \$312,708.

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

None.

SECTION X
PERSONNEL

Charlene Finkelstein introduced the following new employees:

Jim Mankowich - Systems Manager
Lewis Jackson - Virtual Desktop Administrator
Kaitlyn Stuart - Director of Fiscal Services
Rachael Lusco - Manager of Course Development Projects and Initiatives for the
Innovation Center
Matthew Tice - System Facilities Manager

Chancellor Baker made a recommendation that Dr. Aaron Milner be appointed as President of Coastal Alabama Community College.

Mr. David O'Brien introduced Dr. Milner and provided a brief overview of Dr. Milner's background.

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Shell the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Aaron Milner as President of Coastal Alabama Community College.

Chancellor Baker commended Dr. Milner for his work in the Saraland School District where they are ranked 8th in the state in math and reading test scores.

Dr. Milner thanked Chancellor Baker and the Board for entrusting him with the responsibility to lead Coastal Alabama Community College and stated he is looking forward to working with the faculty, staff and administrative team in assisting students to fulfill their dreams. Dr. Milner is looking forward to working with the other college Presidents. Dr. Milner thanked his family and friends that attended the Board meeting in support of him, including his sons Matthew and Michael and wife Jennifer.

SECTION XI

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Dr. Neil Scott gave an enrollment update. In the Fall 2023 semester, ACCS institutions enrolled over 83,000 students which is a 6.2% increase over Fall 2022 and had a credit hour production of 720,963 which is a 4.6% increase. There were 18,243 workforce registrations, 13,812 adult education registrations and 31,245 non-credit registrations. As of January 10, 2024, there were 74,750 students registered for credit programs for Spring 2024, which is an 8.47% increase over Spring 2023. There are 650,016 credit hours currently registered for Spring 2024 which is a 6.35% increase.

Mark Bailey gave an update on Public Safety. ACCS currently has 23 functioning police departments. In addition to doing professional development within the system, the departments are going to be working locally to provide training in rural areas for crime scene investigation, ethics, sex crimes, child abuse, crisis negotiation and violence de-escalation. Mr. Bailey advised that the response to the training offerings had been positive with over 300 people signing up for the classes being taught.

Dr. Chris Cox gave a report regarding efforts to improve labor force participation. Dr. Cox advised that almost 50% of high school graduates do not seek any postsecondary training. It is Dr. Cox's belief that it would be beneficial to engage students as early as ninth grade. Dr. Cox believes that there should be an introductory prep class for ninth graders to make them aware of what opportunities are available and continue those classes through high school. Engaging and training these students would enhance labor force participation as these students seek postsecondary training once they graduate.

SECTION XII

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

SECTION XII

(DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING)

The next Board meeting will be held in Montgomery at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Chairman

Chancellor