

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY MARCH 13, 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, March 13, 2024, in the Peinhardt Conference Center at Wallace State Community College- Hanceville, 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 Reverend John Richter of St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church 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. John Mitchell
Mr. Tim McCartney
Mr. Ron Houston
Mr. Jeb Shell
Dr. Yvette Richardson (via phone)

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. Shell, second by Mr. Houston , the Agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Ms. Gray, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Minutes of the February 14, 2024 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. Karolewics introduced a presentation spotlighting Wallace State Community College - Hanceville. She stated she is excited about the future as a member of the Alabama Community College System. She thanked Jessie Cobb, who created a video showcasing the college and its theme of “Becoming” one of the 24 diamonds of the Alabama Community College System, in line with the System’s Diamond Jubilee.

After the video presentation, Dr. Karolewics introduced a former student of Wallace - Hanceville, Captain Aaron “A.J.” Mathis, who graduated from the college’s fixed-wing aviation program in 2015. Captain Mathis began his career as a professional pilot at PSA Regional Airlines where he accumulated enough flight hours to qualify for a captain’s position at a major airline. However, he wasn’t old enough at age 20 to join a major airline at that time. After attaining his goal of joining United Airlines, he had to wait until age 23 to upgrade. Today, he is 28 years old and is qualified to fly Boeing 757’s and 767’s internationally and flies to 20 European destinations. He is now paying it forward by establishing a scholarship at Wallace State to help other aspiring pilots with the high cost of flight training.

Captain Mathis spoke briefly about his success story, progressing from an initial fear of flying as a child, to a successful commercial airline pilot. He stated that because he was not the best student in school and was from a middle-income family in Pell City, Alabama, he wasn’t sure how he could afford to see his dream of flying come true. Before his last year of high school, he went to the local airport seeking advice and he met his future flight instructor, who encouraged him to go to Wallace State. He said discovering Wallace State was the greatest pivotal moment for him. He was accepted into Wallace State and received \$5,000 from the Richard Caretti Career Technical Scholarship. From that point forward, he realized that he had a clear path to his dream career. Wallace State gave him purpose, inspiring him to focus and turn his GPA from 2.8 to a 3.4. He now donates \$1,000 per year, and plans to donate \$2,000 per year, back to Wallace State to help other students afford flight school.

Captain Mathis stated that he lives his dream every day now, and he thanked Wallace State for providing a pathway forward for him.

SECTION VIII
(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

ADOPTED

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MISSION STATEMENT

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Shell, the Board approved the revised Mission Statement of Chattahoochee Valley Community College.

**LURLEEN B. WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MISSION STATEMENT**

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Shell, the Board approved the current Mission Statement of Lurleen B. Wallace Community College.

**SNEAD STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MISSION STATEMENT**

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board approved the revised Mission Statement of Snead State Community College.

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
POLICY 623.01 BACKGROUND CHECKS**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board adopted the revised Policy 623.01-Background Checks.

**GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EQUIPMENT PURCHASE**

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Shell, the Board authorized the President of Gadsden State Community College to expend \$659,500 to purchase training equipment for the new Advanced Manufacturing Center.

Fiscal Consideration: \$659,500 (\$433,000 CTE -Advanced MFG and Fame Equipment Grant and \$226,468 Appalachian Regional Commission Grant)

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

**WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - HANCEVILLE
APPROVAL OF CAMPUS HOUSING APPLICATION WITH NON-REFUNDABLE
APPLICATION FEE**

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board authorized Wallace State Community College-Hanceville to transition from a campus housing application that incurs a

\$200 refundable deposit to a campus housing application that requires a non-refundable application fee of either \$100 (fall/spring) or \$50 (summer).

Fiscal Consideration: \$20,000.00

LURLEEN B. WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE IN WELDING

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board approved Lurleen B. Wallace Community College's application for an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Welding, to be implemented Fall Semester 2024.

Fiscal Consideration: The College estimates that no new sources of funds are required to support the program and \$228,582 will be available through tuition to support the program.

NORTHEAST ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE IN DENTAL HYGIENIST

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board approved Northeast Alabama Community College's application for an associate in applied science degree in Dental Hygienist, to be implemented Fall Semester 2024.

Fiscal Consideration: The College estimates that \$1,124,000 is required to support the program and \$1,162,624 will be available through extramural and tuition to support the program.

SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
VALLEY CAMPUS CARMICHAEL BUILDING PHASE I RENOVATION

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board authorized Southern Union State Community College to proceed with the renovation of the project called Valley Campus Carmichael Building Phase I Renovation.

Fiscal Consideration: \$2,404,409.00 2023 Legislative Funds

JEFFERSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HAROLD C. MARTIN BUILDING LAB AND CLASSROOM RENOVATION

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board authorized Jefferson State Community College to proceed with construction of the project named Jefferson Campus Martin Building Lab and Classroom Renovation.

Fiscal Consideration: \$574,483.00

**ENTERPRISE STATE & SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGES
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CHANCELLOR TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS AND
EXECUTE FINAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
PROJECTS**

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Shell, the Board authorized Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker to immediately commence negotiations of the final terms and conditions of the construction contract for the above identified project and upon completion of negotiations to award and execute final construction contracts to commence the project.

**CENTRAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OLD LIBRARY DEMOLITION**

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Houston, the Board authorized Central Alabama Community College to proceed with Change Order #2 (two) for the project named Old Library Demolition. The change order is for the purchase of exterior LED pedestrian light poles for the campus at Alexander City.

Fiscal Consideration: \$373,410.00

**GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RENOVATION OF WALLACE HALL CLASSROOM AND THEATER ENTRANCE
IMPROVEMENTS**

On motion by Mr. McCartney, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board authorized Gadsden State Community College to proceed with the project named Renovation of Wallace Hall Classroom and Theater Entrance Improvements. The scope of work will renovate the classroom wing and provide exterior improvements to the building.

Fiscal Consideration: \$9,546,018.00

**SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MARTIN CAMPUS SOFTBALL COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS**

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board authorized Shelton State Community College to proceed with the project named Martin Campus Softball Complex Improvements. The scope of work includes new spectator seating and press box, new concessions, public restrooms, new backstop and associated netting, and complex landscaping.

Fiscal Consideration: \$2,772,850.00

LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HVAC EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board authorized Lawson State Community College to approve Change Order 1 (One) for the project named HVAC Equipment Replacement. The scope of work includes the installation of one-for-one replacement of mechanical units located on the Lawson State Community College campuses located at Bessemer and Birmingham.

Fiscal Consideration: \$159,100 (change order amount)

TRENHOLM STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EXECUTIVE PARK CAMPUS PROPERTY PURCHASE

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Houston, the Board authorized the Alabama Community College System on behalf of Trenholm State Community College to purchase property adjacent to Executive Park Dr., Montgomery, AL 36116.

Fiscal Consideration: \$248,200

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - HANCEVILLE
HANCEVILLE CAMPUS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board authorized Wallace State Community College to proceed with the construction project named Hanceville Campus Drainage Improvements. The project scope will upgrade and replace degraded and failing storm drainage systems across the campus.

Fiscal Consideration: \$1,022,276.00

J.F. DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
BUILDING 500 RENOVATION PHASE II

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board authorized Drake State Community College to proceed with construction of the project named Building 500 Phase II Renovation.

Fiscal Consideration: \$3,886,094

SECTION X
PERSONNEL

NONE

SECTION XI
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Chancellor introduced Dr. Neil Scott who began by highlighting and commending how well Wallace State makes a good first impression to visitors. Dr. Scott gave a brief update on Spring 2024 enrollment. Per Dr. Scott, there are currently 78,242 students registered for Spring courses, which is 6,040 more than final numbers for Spring 2023 - an increase of 8.37%. He added that 21 out of 24 colleges are ahead in head count. He further added that 37,721 more credit hours were produced this spring than last year, an increase of 6.1%, and 22 out of 24 colleges are ahead in credit hour production. Dr. Scott credited the Presidents for their role in bringing about the increase in enrollment numbers.

Dr. Scott also stated that Summer 2024 applications received so far are about 3.75% more than this time last Spring. These are mostly transient student applications. Over 38,000 applications have been received so far for Fall 2024, almost 3,300 more than same time last year, which is a 9.5% increase. We are ahead in all application types for Fall, but most significant increases are first-time freshmen - 10.8% ahead, transfer students - 5.4% ahead, and dual enrollment students - 9.36% ahead. Dr. Scott stated these are very encouraging numbers.

Chancellor Baker introduced Dr. Kathy Murphy, President of Gadsden State, who thanked the Board for approving the renovation of the Wallace Hall classrooms. She stated that when she walked through them several years ago, she remembered the deplorable conditions. She also thanked Mark Salmon for his request to rebid work at Gadsden State against her desires. She stated that despite her request to move forward with first bids, Mr. Salmon convinced her to allow new bidding, which resulted in a savings of \$732,000.

Chancellor Baker added that due to years of neglect in maintenance, many schools have serious problems and repairs cannot be made overnight. He thanked the Board for approving almost \$300,000,000 in construction that has been accomplished over the last several years and added that students learn better when they are in a pleasant and comfortable environment.

Chancellor Baker further added that the Legislature has been very supportive of the Community College System. Future plans are to be more aggressive in discussing the System's relationships with over 5,300 businesses, small and large. Per Chancellor Baker, our job is to make sure we offer every opportunity we can, and we will aggressively begin a process of letting the communities know more about our role in training future employees for the labor force.

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Trustee Rogers briefly introduced Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, President of Athens State University. He commented that she is doing a fantastic job at Athens State.

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, April 10, 2024. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Chairman

Chancellor