

**BITTERROOT VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
11:30 AM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024
Virtual Meeting Held Over Zoom**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present:

Trustee Carrie Guarino. Chair
Trustee Jean Butler. Vice Chair
Trustee Sue Smith. Secretary
Trustee Darwin Ernst
Trustee Jennifer Johnson

Absent:

Trustee RAN Pigman

BVCC Management Consultant Jamie Ogden
BVCC District Clerk Katie Grey, absent

Trustee Candidate Richard Donovan

2. Review, Revise, and Approve Agenda (Action) – A motion was made by Trustee Jean Butler, seconded by Trustee Jennifer Johnson, to approve the agenda. With no discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with five (5) votes.

3. Public Comment/Correspondence on Items Not on the Agenda - none

4. New Business (Action)

A. Recommendation to vote on trustee vacancy nominee Richard Donovan for the Board of Trustee seat vacated by Paul Ashcraft, the seat being filled until the next school election (May 7, 2024) at which time district voters will hold an election for the remainder of the unexpired term (until May 2026) – A motion to vote on the trustee vacancy nominee was made by Trustee Johnson and seconded by Trustee Butler.

The Board resumed discussion of the candidate. Trustee Johnson expressed concern regarding Nominee Richard Donovan's focus on serving his Resiliency Engineering project. Referencing the BVCC Boardmanship/Legal Obligations established in November of 2021, Trustee Johnson said Donovan's stated intention to use his trusteeship to forward his project is incongruent with the charge and authority of BVCC trustees.

Trustee Butler commended Donovan's enthusiasm about his project and expressed appreciation for his interest in BVCC. Trustee Butler said her greatest concern was timing, with an important focus on the levy vote in four months and the immediate work at hand. She said she feels the nominee's goals are far ahead of noting the where the BVCC is right now but would hope to work together in the future.

Trustee Sue Smith and Trustee Darwin Ernst agreed. The nominee is not a good fit for the Board of Trustees at this time, they said. Chair Carrie Guarino noted concerns with the link between Nominee Richard Donovan's engineering project and the role of a trustee. She said BVCC needs a voice for all students. Chair Guarino Board of Trustee comments and invited comments from the nominee. Nominee Richard Donovan said he appreciated the board and did not dispute their interpretations. His desire for a trusteeship, he said, is to promote his project as the focus of BVCC. He is offering the project as a vehicle for the BVCC to succeed. As he prepares grant funding for the project, Donovan said the official title of trustee is the only authority that exists with BVCC, therefore the only route forward for advancing the project with BVCC.

With no further discussion, Chair Guarino called for a vote on appointing trustee vacancy nominee Richard Donovan. Secretary Smith conducted a roll call vote. Trustees voted unanimously with five (5) votes against appointing the nominee.

5. Adjournment – Trustee Smith made a motion, seconded by Trustee Butler, to adjourn the meeting. With no discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with five (5) votes. Meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM.

Carrie Guarino

Trustee Carrie Guarino, Board Chair

2/5/24

Date

Jean Butler

Trustee Jean Butler, Board Vice Chair

2/5/2024

Date