

BITTERROOT VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: 5:30 pm
Chair Marci Smith Trustee Sue Smith
Trustee Don Gardner Trustee Janet Woodburn
Trustee RAN Pigman Trustee Carrie Guarino
Trustee Chad DeLong

Nancy Bussiere, District Clerk – via Zoom
Victoria Clark, Transition Services Contractor

Public:

Terry Nelson, Bitterroot Valley Community College Foundation-via Zoom
Candy Lubansky, Bitterroot College Advisory Council-via Zoom
Wendi Fawns, Valley Oak Education Resource Center – via Zoom
Angela Zito – via Zoom
John Grant, Bitterroot College Advisory Council
Dixie Stark, Executive Director, Literacy Bitterroot
Chris Rowles, Bitterroot Valley Community College Foundation
Kierstin Schmitt, Bitterroot Valley Community College Foundation

2. Review, Revise, and Approve Agenda (Action)
 A. Trustee Pigman requested a suspension of the rules to discuss the University of Montana’s mandate which requires attendees at a BVCC board meeting held at the Bitterroot College to wear masks. Trustee Pigman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Woodburn, to suspend the rules for the purpose of a discussion. With no discussion and no public comment, the motion passed with seven (7) “yes” votes. Trustee Pigman expressed his interest in an optional mask policy for BVCC meetings held at Bitterroot College. No motions were made; no action was taken. Suspension of rules ended. Trustee Woodburn made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gardner, to approve the agenda for the February 7, 2022, regular meeting of the board of trustees. With no discussion and no public comment, the motion passed with seven (7) “yes” votes.
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3. Public Comment/Correspondence on Items Not on the Agenda
 A. Dixie Stark expressed her deep respect for the actions of BVCC’s trustees and asked that the levy requested be kept below ten (10) mills.
4. Presentations (Information) – None.
5. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Trustee Pigman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gardner, to approve the Minutes from Regular Meeting, January 3, 2022, to approve the Minutes from Work Session Meeting, January 19, 2022, and to approve the Warrant List for January 2022. With no discussion and no public comment, the motion passed with seven (7) “yes” votes.

6. Reports/Announcements (Information)

A. Chair’s Report- None.

B. Secretary’s Report – None.

C. Clerk’s Report – None.

D. Bookkeeper’s Report- None.

E. Communications Committee

i. Levy Education Special Committee

a. Chair Marci Smith reported Spiker Communications is working diligently, including working with Victoria Clark to gather testimonials to use in advertising materials. CCTV, which targets audiences by zip code, will be used for advertising. Spiker will provide trustees with a video to show at presentations. Spiker will monitor newspaper op-eds and social media in March and April to gauge reactions and sentiments to the levy. Direct mailings will go out around the same time as the ballots. Trustee Marci Smith has buttons and yard signs ordered for handing out during levy education presentations.

F. Building and Grounds Committee

i. Trustee Pigman reported possible alternative locations for the new college, all of which can be connected to the city of Hamilton’s water/sewer system.

ii. Trustee DeLong will join this committee.

G. Finance and Audit Committee

i. Trustee Guarino will join this committee.

H. Human Resources Committee

i. Trustee Guarino will join this committee.

7. Unfinished Business (Action) – None.

8. New Business (Information and Action)

A. Recommendation to approve resolution for trustee and mill levy election for May 3, 2022

i. Trustee Pigman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Woodburn, to discuss the appropriate mill levy amount for the election on May 3, 2022. Trustees provided their thoughts on a mill levy number that would fulfill the obligations of the draft budget and provide the college with a conservative reserve. Considerations included residents’ disinclination to an increase in their taxes, the trustees’ responsibility to ensure funding for a successful college that meets its promises, the value of a mill against the

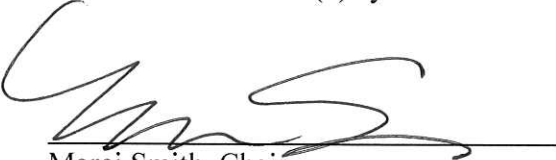
median house value in the district, and the critical nature of a successful election for the continued existence of the new community college. Public comments were heard and included the importance of a single digit mill number, the community's support of a new community college, concerns of the vote failing, and the importance of a mill levy number that will adequately fund a new college which delivers the planned programs. Trustee Sue Smith made a motion, seconded by Trustee Guarino, to approve an election resolution for a trustee election and a 9.75 mill levy election for May 3, 2022. With no further trustee discussion or public comment, the motion passed with seven (7) "yes" votes.

- B. Recommendation to approve extension with amendments of transition services contract with Victoria Clark (Attachment A)
 - i. Trustee DeLong made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gardner, to approve extension with amendments of transition services contract with Victoria Clark. Trustees discussed the timeline of the accreditation process. Clark stated BVCC's accreditation candidacy paperwork could be discussed at the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) June 2022 meeting if BVCC's paperwork is submitted in April 2022. Alternatively, if BVCC paperwork for the June 2022 NWCCU meeting cannot be completed in time, NWCCU representative Selena Grace believed submitting the required candidacy paperwork at the January 2023 NWCCU meeting would still allow for BVCC to be able to open its doors in fall 2023. There will be discussions with potential accreditation partners over the next two months. With no further trustee discussion or public comment, the motion passed with seven (7) "yes" votes.

9. Policy Adoption and Review (Action) – None.

10. Adjournment

- A. Trustee Sue Smith made a motion, seconded by Trustee Guarino, to adjourn the meeting. With no further trustee or public discussion, the motion passed with seven (7) "yes" votes. The meeting ended at 8:05 PM.



Marci Smith, Chair

3/7/2022
Date



Don Gardner, Secretary

03/07/2022
Date