

CONSENT AGENDA NO. 6A-1

Approval of Minutes of the December 3, 2019 Work Session

It is recommended that the Board approve the minutes of the December 3, 2019 Work Session.

The Board of Trustees of Dallas County Community College District held a Work Session on Tuesday, December 3, beginning at 9:17 a.m. in the lower level, room 007. This meeting was convened by Chair Diana Flores.

Board Members and Officers Present

Ms. Monica Lira Bravo

Ms. Charletta Rogers Compton (joined meeting at 11:35 a.m.)

Ms. Diana Flores (chair)

Mr. Wesley Jameson (vice chair)

Dr. Joe May (secretary and chancellor)

Mr. Phil Ritter

Mr. JL Sonny Williams

Ms. Dorothy Zimmermann

Members Absent

None.

1. **Certification of Notice** posted for the meeting by Chancellor Joe May.

2. **Citizens Desiring to Address the Board**

None.

3. **Discussion of 2020-21 Strategic Priorities and Challenges**

Facilitator: Mary Brumbach

- Mary reviewed current strategic priorities and outlined specific challenges and data, starting the focus was very much on the importance of skills.
- Vice Chair Jameson asked how we compared to other institutions, in terms of tuition reimbursement opportunities for employees. Dr. May answered that most of the large organizations provided student tuition; unfortunately, much of it was going to out-of-state institutions. He stated that this is an area where we really need to expand.

- Mary and Dr. May spoke about the trends that emphasize more on skills than degrees. They also saw an increase in companies “locking in” schools for their employees to attend as opposed to employees choosing. Dr. May mentioned there was a need to develop a new transcript that highlights skills in addition to courses; there is a demand for industry-based certificates, but we need to focus on how to bring skills and certification together in a meaningful way.
- Trustee Ritter asked, if based on this demand by employers, was it required that we provide through the current accredited academic environment or were we looking at alternative ways that were more flexible and efficient. Dr. May responded that the fastest growing providers were not accredited. Our goal, as a public-supported institution, was to keep our eye on the trend in which providers have strong bonds with companies like Google, where they are able to deliver relevant, embedded training that employers need. Trustee Zimmermann mentioned complaints she’d heard where more education didn’t necessarily translate into what was needed and applicable in the workplace, such as interpersonal skills.
- Chair Flores asked, when programs were going in the direction of certificate first, where did core students come in, who want an Associate degree or to transfer to a four-year college. Dr. May responded that although there are programs which focus solely on getting a job, our degree programs that transfer need to start to focus early on, as to what field or job is being sought, as opposed to leaving that up to the four-year institution.
- Vice Chair Jameson asked how the transition to more skills-oriented education fits with 30x60TX and completion, which we also need to consider. Dr. May answered that a planning session in Austin on December 17 would discuss those concerns.
A compression planning session would be led by Mary and her team, where the Coordinating Board, Texas Workforce Commission, TEA and some colleges were invited to look at industry-based certification tracking and apprenticeship programs. The Chancellor stressed that three key factors that employers look for knowledge, skills and experience, must all be dealt with in an intentional way, for success.
- Mary and the group discussed income disparity and partnering with other entities to address challenges students have with housing, transportation and food insecurity. Dr. May stated that our expertise needs to be in bridging dotted lines on behalf of the students through partnerships.
Trustee Ritter added that we need to have a strategic conversation, sooner rather than later, on what we could do across all seven campuses

overall, on the issue of housing, as part of a bigger conversation around big bond issues. The group agreed.

Chair Flores asked if we were making a dent in the food insecurity student barrier. Dr. May answered that it was being addressed as a budgetary issue, and by continuing partnerships with the experts.

Trustee Bravo asked if there was an emergency fund for students who could not pay their rent. Pyeper Wilkins stated that the Foundation and the colleges have raised money to support an emergency aid fund for situations where a student may be caused to drop out of school due to a short-term financial emergency. Administration of these funds were a challenge of scale. Foundation partnered with a firm which had developed an emergency aid app with which a student could quickly complete an application.

- Trustee Ritter asked what the interface looked like for the student who enrolled and connected with a DCCCD Navigator; was there a single person assigned for every student? Dr. May replied that they were not currently assigned to every student, but to every Promise student. He added that the interaction was student centric and technology-based, and that the students have really bonded with their navigators/success coaches.

Mary noted that the technology was really adept at asking how we could help the student and addressed needs, including social services. We were still working on a “warm hand-off” with a call center to follow up with students. Trustee Zimmermann suggested the term of service or care center and the group agreed.

- Trustee Ritter asked Dr. May to touch on the topic of faith-based organizations clinical A.I. Dr. May stated that we were partnering with Parkland’s Pieces Tech, a software platform linking patients with community services including referring students to us for enrollment, but also allowed us to do referrals to other agencies.

Mary stated it was about us being a part of the support matrix that helped students access more than just healthcare. Dr. May continued that faith-based organizations were really combined with our work with community-based organizations in a variety of ways such as reinforcing the Promise program and facilitating students’ completion of federal forms.

- Chair Flores mentioned that she recently made a presentation on the Dallas Promise at Grand Prairie High School and that the college advisors who were present received training from Advise Texas. She recommended the District look into this training for our advisors, as well.

- The group discussed the District's strategies around how to connect the colleges to ensure a cohesive model.
- Mary reviewed the working draft of the Strategic Priorities which included current and emerging issues as follows:
 - Impact Income Disparity Throughout Our Community
 - Streamline Navigation to and Through Out System and Beyond
 - Strengthen the Career Connected Learner Network and Implement One College Organization

4. Executive Session

None.

5. Adjournment

The Work Session was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Captioned video and transcripts for DCCCD Board Committee Meetings, Work Session and Regular Board Meetings are available at our website, www.dcccd.edu/boardmeetingslive, under the Archived Videos section.