

**HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APRIL MEETING**

Minutes of April 25, 2023

The 417th meeting of the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, both in person and remotely with Chair Robert W. Gilbert, Jr. presiding.

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| MEMBERS PRESENT (in person) | Robert W. Gilbert, Chair Charles Epstein Trustee George Ted Hebert Nayroby Rosa Vanessa Smith Ivonne Vidal Eleanor Williams |
| MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom) | Yolanda Johnson Evan Plotkin |
| MEMBERS ABSENT | |
| ALSO PRESENT (in person) | Janet Aracena, Alan Bloomgarden, Saúl Caban, Karen Desjeans, Veena Dhankher, Mayra Diaz, Kim Florek, Robert Greeney, Raúl Gutiérrez, Jeff Hayden, Kim Hicks, Jane Johnson Vottero, Olivia Kynard, Jane Lerner, Vanessa Martinez, Sharale Mathis, Lindsay Providenti, Kris Ricker Choleva, Evelyn Rivera Riffenburg, Christina Royal, Narayan Sampath, Shannon Sarkisian, Amanda Sbriscia, Laurel Schlegal, Cindi Schroeder, John Sieracki, Tom Stewart, Kim Straceski, Renee Tastad, Bob Truskowski, Lori Wayson, Charlotte Wilinsky, Allison Wrobel and Chris Yurko |
| ALSO PRESENT (via Zoom) | Shakara Acoff, Cassandra Alexander, Robert Awkward, Susan Bacchiocchi Misco, Steve Bailey, Diane Beers, Pesha Black, Sylwia Boryczka, Amy Brandt, Beth Breton, Mark Broadbent, Maria Camacho, Oleya Cherkasin, Camile Close, Julissa Colón, Scott Conrad, Patrick Cook, Jackie Dailey, Mary Dixey, Eric Farrell, Kelly Galanis, Hope Gamble, Adina Gianelli, Michaela Goodenough, Christine Gosselin-Miller, Sheila Gould, Stacy Graves, Maura Henry, Heng Hing, Andrea Hojnacki, Yesnia Jusino, Patricia Kennedy, Terri Kinstle, Johanna Lebron, Lauren LeClair, Naomi Lesley, Nathan Leveille, Arvard Lingham, Nate Mackinnon, Abby Mahoney, Paul Manijak, Anne Mistivar, Anne Morales Medina, Will Murphy, Matt Noyes, Deb O'Connor, Lea Occhialini, Megan Pereira, Andrea Picard, Angela Provart, Marjorie Reilly, Michelle Riberdy, Monica Rocha, Ross, Debra Roy, Claire Sanders, Doug Scanlon, Nic Schwab, Linda Scott, Shannon Shatos, Carol-Ann Smalley, Jeannette Smith, Carole Sterritt, Alek Sudol, M. Tiffany, Gail Vivian, Michelle Williams, Gina Yarbrough, Sarah Yuntis, and unidentified participants. |
| MEETING CALL TO ORDER | At 8:08 am, the meeting was officially called to order by Chair Robert Gilbert. Roll Call Attendance: Trustee Epstein Yes Trustee George Yes Trustee Hebert Yes Trustee Johnson Yes, Via Zoom Trustee Plotkin Yes, Via Zoom |

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| | <p>Trustee Rosa Yes Trustee Smith Yes Trustee Vidal Arrived at 8:14 am Trustee Williams Yes Chair Gilbert Yes</p> |
| CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS | <p>Chair Gilbert asked if any consent agenda items needed to be moved to the regular agenda, and there were no items to be moved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Minute for Board of Trustees Meeting of March 28, 2023 • Report of Personnel Actions dated April 25, 2023 • To empower the President of the College to approve all personal actions prior to the next meeting • To provide annual authorization to Narayan Sampath, Vice President of Administration and Finance, and Curt Foster, Comptroller, to sign legal documents on behalf of the College. • Committee Reports <p>A motion was made by Trustee Williams, and seconded by Trustee Hebert to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.</p> <p>Roll Call:</p> <p>Trustee Epstein Yes Trustee George Yes Trustee Hebert Yes Trustee Johnson Yes Trustee Plotkin Yes Trustee Rosa Yes Trustee Smith Yes Trustee Vidal Arrived at 8:14 am Trustee Williams Yes Chair Gilbert Yes</p> |
| REPORT OF THE CHAIR | <p>Chair Gilbert shared the highlights since the last meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He participated in the recent American Association of Community Colleges' Conference held in Denver, CO. He was very proud that three individuals from our College were nominated in their respective categories from over 1,100 community colleges across the country. • The recent announcement of a \$10 Million Gift from Peg and Gary Wendlant is the largest gift to a community college in Massachusetts and the second largest in the United States to a community college. Thank you to Amanda's Team in making this happen. |
| PRESIDENT'S REPORT: | <p>President Royal echoed Chair Gilbert's gratitude and thanks to the Institutional Advancement Team in stewarding our donors and engaging our alumni over time.</p> <p>President Royal reminded the Trustees that today was the "Together HCC Campaign to Change Lives" and hoped that everyone will make time today to make a donation to the College. The College has an audacious goal this year of 400 donors.</p> |
| PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION: | <p>Chair Gilbert provided an overview and summary of the search process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2022, the College signed a contract with The Pauly Group, |

- represented by Angela Provart, President.
- November 2022, Search Committee was formed with 21 members; and meetings were held on campus with constituency groups.
- December 2022, the Position Profile was approved by the Community and the Board of Trustees, and published at the end of December.
- January 2023, applications were received.
- February 20, 2023, the posting closed; and the Committee evaluated the 50 applications.
- March 2, 2023, the Committee identified nine semi-finalists.
- March 22, 23, and 24, 2023, the Committee interviewed the nine semi-finalists; and selected four finalists to visit the campus.
- April 6, 10, 11 and 13, 2023, the four finalists participated in an all-day visit on campus with constituencies from across campus, that included a Zoom interview with Commissioner Ortega and the Secretary of Education, and ended the day with an interview and dinner with Trustees.

Trustee Williams reported that the Search Committee has completed their review of applicants and reported to the Board the following four candidates to be considered for election as our fifth President:

- Noemi Custodia Lora
- Tony Hawkins
- Arlene Rodriguez
- George Timmons

Chair Gilbert informed the Board that the presidential selection decision will include two phases: First, the Board will deliberate over the candidates with each Board member being called upon in alphabetical order and each will have the opportunity to identify and discuss his/her top candidate for the position. During this phase, no vote will be taken. Second, following the Board’s deliberations, a vote will be taken to select the next President of Holyoke Community College. All deliberations will be conducted in open session. At the conclusion of the Board’s deliberations, Chair Gilbert has the discretion to ask for further deliberation and discussion or ask for a motion to end deliberations. He then invited Karen Desjeans, as the Board Liaison, to proceed by calling on the Trustees in alphabetical order to begin the deliberative process. Chair Gilbert asked each Trustee to select the candidate they feel is their number one.

Candidate Selection #1:

| | Dr. Noemi Custodia Lora | Dr. Tony Hawkins | Dr. Arlene Rodriguez | Dr. George Timmons |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Trustee Epstein | | | 1 | |
| Trustee George | 1 | | | |
| Trustee Hebert | | | .5* | .5* |
| Trustee Johnson | | | | 1 |
| Trustee Plotkin | 1 | | | |
| Trustee Rosa | 1 | | | |
| Trustee Smith | | | | 1 |
| Trustee Vidal | .5* | | | .5* |
| Trustee Williams | | | | 1 |
| Chair Gilbert | | | 1 | |
| | 3.5 | 0 | 2.5 | 4 |

*Trustee selected two candidates

Trustees then further discussed candidates and the qualities that would make them a great leader. Chair Gilbert asked for public comments and several employees (both in person and via Zoom) took the opportunity to share their thoughts with the Board.

A motion was made by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Trustee Hebert to end deliberations.

Roll Call:

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|------------------|-----|
| Trustee Epstein | Yes |
| Trustee George | Yes |
| Trustee Hebert | Yes |
| Trustee Johnson | Yes |
| Trustee Plotkin | Yes |
| Trustee Rosa | Yes |
| Trustee Smith | Yes |
| Trustee Vidal | Yes |
| Trustee Williams | Yes |
| Chair Gilbert | Yes |

After deliberations, Chair Gilbert suggested that the Board eliminate one candidate so the Board can focus the vote on two candidates. The next roll call for a vote for the top candidate and this vote will be recorded. With a majority, we will have the next President of the College.

Candidate Selection #2:

| | Custodia Lora | Hawkins | Rodriguez | Timmons |
|------------------|---------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Trustee Epstein | | | 1 | |
| Trustee George | | | | 1 |
| Trustee Hebert | | | | 1 |
| Trustee Johnson | | | | 1 |
| Trustee Plotkin | 1 | | | |
| Trustee Rosa | 1 | | | |
| Trustee Smith | | | | 1 |
| Trustee Vidal | | | | 1 |
| Trustee Williams | | | | 1 |
| Chair Gilbert | | | 1 | |
| | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 |

Chair Gilbert moved that the Board of Trustees end its deliberations and proceed with a vote to select its final candidate for appointment of the fifth President for Holyoke Community College. The Motion shall require a recorded roll call vote, and a majority vote of the Board is needed to pass the Motion.


Roll Call:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Trustee Epstein | George Timmons |
| Trustee George | George Timmons |
| Trustee Hebert | George Timmons |
| Trustee Johnson | George Timmons |
| Trustee Plotkin | George Timmons |
| Trustee Rosa | George Timmons |
| Trustee Smith | George Timmons |
| Trustee Vidal | George Timmons |
| Trustee Williams | George Timmons |
| Chair Gilbert | George Timmons |

Chair Gilbert asked for a motion that the Board of Trustees unanimously

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|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|--------------|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|------------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| | <p>recommend to the Board of Higher Education the appointment of Dr. George Timmons as the next President of Holyoke Community College, and that the Board of Trustees authorize Chair Gilbert to negotiate with Dr. George Timmons over the specific terms and conditions of his appointment as President (i.e., start date, salary, etc.). Trustee Vidal made the motion and it was seconded by Trustee Williams.</p> <p>Roll Call:</p> <table> <tr><td>Trustee Epstein</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee George</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Hebert</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Johnson</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Plotkin</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Rosa</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Smith</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Vidal</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Williams</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Chair Gilbert</td><td>Yes</td></tr> </table> | Trustee Epstein | Yes | Trustee George | Yes | Trustee Hebert | Yes | Trustee Johnson | Yes | Trustee Plotkin | Yes | Trustee Rosa | Yes | Trustee Smith | Yes | Trustee Vidal | Yes | Trustee Williams | Yes | Chair Gilbert | Yes |
| Trustee Epstein | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee George | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Hebert | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Johnson | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Plotkin | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Rosa | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Smith | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Vidal | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Williams | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chair Gilbert | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING</p> | <p>On a motion by Trustee Hebert and seconded by Trustee George it was VOTED to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Roll Call:</p> <table> <tr><td>Trustee Epstein</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee George</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Hebert</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Johnson</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Plotkin</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Rosa</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Smith</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Vidal</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee Williams</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Chair Gilbert</td><td>Yes</td></tr> </table> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.</p> | Trustee Epstein | Yes | Trustee George | Yes | Trustee Hebert | Yes | Trustee Johnson | Yes | Trustee Plotkin | Yes | Trustee Rosa | Yes | Trustee Smith | Yes | Trustee Vidal | Yes | Trustee Williams | Yes | Chair Gilbert | Yes |
| Trustee Epstein | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee George | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Hebert | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Johnson | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Plotkin | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Rosa | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Smith | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Vidal | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trustee Williams | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chair Gilbert | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

 CDAC0916A5464E4...
 Ivonne Vidal,
 Secretary Board of Trustees

5/26/2023

DocuSigned by:

 D1FC1283608C487... 5/29/2023

Approved: Robert W. Gilbert, Jr., Chair