

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 525  
JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

1.0 Call to Order      The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College Illinois Community College District #525 held at, Joliet Junior College, 1215 Houbolt Road, U Building Auditorium, Joliet, IL was called to order by Chairman Wunderlich at 5:32 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. This meeting is being conducted pursuant to and in compliance with Governor Pritzker's Guidelines and applicable Executive Orders.

1.0.1 Roll Call      Trustees      Nancy Garcia Guillen  
Present      Jake Mahalik  
Electronically: Betty Washington

Trustees      Maureen Broderick      Alicia Morales  
Present on site: Dan O'Connell      Bob Wunderlich

Student Trustee  
Present on site: Ian Wilkinson

Welcome      Chairman Wunderlich welcomed the guests to the Joliet Junior College regular monthly Board meeting.

Pledge      Student Trustee Ian Wilkinson led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.0.5 Public Comments      Chairman Wunderlich read the following comment: JJC Board of Trustees, My name is Xavier, a resident of Joliet and a former Alumnus of Joliet Junior College. I am calling on you to censure and remove Vice Chairwoman Maureen Flanagan Broderick. On social media, Vice Chairwoman Broderick echoed unsubstantiated reports regarding the Insurrection in early January 2021. I am not comfortable with a person who lacks media literacy skills and doesn't respect the democratic process in a position of power. Thank you for your consideration,

1.1.1 GEDC Tax Abatement      President Mitchell indicated that Mr. Jeff Heap will be addressing the Board on the GEDC request. Mr. Heap stated that the Grundy Economic Development Council held a meeting for discussion and review of the tax abatement request for a 300 megawatt solar project that will encompass 2,670 acres along interstate 55 between Gardner and Dwight. The total investment is near \$318 million with a taxable value of the project expected to be \$24.7 million. Initially the company had requested a 75% abatement for three years; however, it has been negotiated to an 80% abatement for one year and a 20% abatement for the next year with a maximum of \$2 million. The negotiated abatement has been accepted by Blue Sky Solar Energy. The current taxes are \$4,239, first year taxes with 80% are estimated to be \$14,490, second year taxes are estimated to be \$56,867 and after abatement is over the estimated taxes are \$69,620. Trustee Broderick asked how the percentages for each of the

taxing bodies are calculated. Mr. Heap commented that usually we are used to seeing the grade and high school districts receive between 60 to 70 percent. This project is so large in square footage that it could straddle into different school district boundaries so that is why you are seeing a lower percentage for the schools. Even though the entire project would be in our district, the college only represents three percent of the tax bill.

- 1.1.2  
Climate Jobs  
Illinois
- President Mitchell introduced Dr. Kent Bugg, Superintendent of Coal City School District #1. Dr. Bugg thanked the board for the opportunity to address them this evening. Climate Jobs Illinois is a package of policy recommendations to transform Illinois to a 100% clean energy economy by 2050. In addition to supporting solar and wind power installations, the recommendations include support for nuclear power to prevent their closings thereby guaranteeing adequate baseload power generation and saving an estimated 24,000 jobs. Dr. Bugg reviewed the ten point plan to accomplish the Climate Jobs Illinois initiative. JJC currently receives about \$1.6 million in taxes from the Dresden Nuclear Power Plant and the rest of the taxing bodies in the Dresden receive substantial tax money as well. The potential closing of the Dresden Power Plant as announced by Exelon is very concerning to us. Included in the attachments the Board received is a draft letter of support by the college for your consideration and the letter of support from the Fair Assessment Information Resource Committee (FAIRCOM), which the college is a member of. The Board was in favor of submitting a letter of support on behalf of Joliet Junior College.
- 1.2  
Moment  
of Silence
- A moment of silence was observed for members of the College family, students, community leaders, or relatives thereof, who had passed away since the last meeting.
- 1.3
- Chairman Wunderlich thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight.
- 1.3.1  
Proclamation  
Senator  
Pat McGuire
- Chairman Wunderlich read the Proclamation recognizing Senator Pat McGuire for his outstanding service to our district and the state of Illinois, as well as his dedication to education and Joliet Junior College. Trustee Broderick moved, seconded by Trustee Morales that the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College approve the resolution recognizing and honoring Senator Pat McGuire on his years of service to the State of Illinois and for his enduring commitment to the people of our district. Senator McGuire thanked everyone for this recognition. Senator McGuire commented that he has been blessed to know JJC in four ways: as a student-taking classes in the 70's, 80's and 90's; as a spouse of a nursing instructor, Laura McGuire; as an employee and most recently as a state senator. When Governor Pat Quinn visited City Center Campus on October 11, 2012, he had been a state senator for eight months. The shell of the building was up and we were standing on pea gravel and Senator McGuire indicated that he got really revved up in introducing the Governor, which must have rubbed off on him because in his remarks he indicated that he was going to release twice the amount of money that we had been told that he was going to release. However, it took many years and great effort to get the state to release all of the money promised by Governor Quinn for the completion of the City Center Campus. Senator McGuire stated that he learned a lesson in persistent and his teachers were Dr. Judy Mitchell and JJC's lobbyists in Springfield, Julie Curry and Brent Hassert. It has been a pleasure to serve JJC which has been in his and Laura's lives for 50 years. Senator McGuire thanked JJC for their service and for the recognition this evening.
- 1.4.1  
Proclamation  
African  
American  
History
- President Mitchell indicated that we have a proclamation designating February 2021 as African American History Month in Illinois Community College District 525. The proclamation will be read by one of JJC's Students, Frimpong Boateng. Mr. Frimpong Boateng read the proclamation designating February 2021 as African American History Month in Illinois Community College District 525.

Month Trustee Broderick moved, seconded by Trustee Morales that the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College approve the African American History month proclamation as read. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Wunderlich thanked Mr. Boateng for reading the resolution.

1.4.2 Proclamation Career and Technical Month President Mitchell indicated that Dr. Amy Gray would be reading the CTE proclamation this evening. Dr. Gray read the proclamation designating February 2021 as Career and Technical Education Month in Illinois Community College District 525. Trustee Broderick moved, seconded by Trustee Morales that the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College approve the Career and Technical Education month proclamation as read. The motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Broderick, Garcia Guillen, Mahalik, Morales, O'Connell, Washington and Wunderlich. Student Trustee Wilkinson favored the motion.

1.4.3 Retiree Kubbins Trustee Morales read the proclamation honoring Retiree Lawrence Kubbins. Trustee Broderick moved, second by Trustee Garcia Guillen that the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College approve the resolution honoring Retiree Lawrence Kubbins which acknowledged his loyal and dedicated service to Joliet Junior College for over 16 years of service as an adjunct faculty member from 2004 to 2021. The motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Broderick, Garcia Guillen, Mahalik, Morales, O'Connell, Washington and Wunderlich. Student Trustee Wilkinson favored the motion.

1.4.4 Retiree Wright Trustee Broderick read the proclamation honoring Retiree Carter Wright. Trustee Morales moved, second by Trustee Mahalik that the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College approve the resolution honoring Retiree Carter Wright which acknowledged his loyal and dedicated service to Joliet Junior College for over 24 years of service as an adjunct faculty member from 1994 to December 2020. The motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Morales, O'Connell, Washington, Broderick, Garcia Guillen, Mahalik and Wunderlich. Student Trustee Wilkinson favored the motion.

1.4.5 Faculty Dr. Bob Marcink, President of the Faculty Union thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak this evening. Dr. Marcink's report was as follows: First, I want to ask for your indulgence. My report will be a little longer than usual tonight. As many of you know, I have been doing this a long time. I will probably struggle a little with a variety of emotions this evening, which is why I have some notes.

Before I get into the meat of my comments, I want to note that I have great respect for this Board and how it has operated as a whole over the years. I have tremendous respect for Chairman Wunderlich and his willingness to always seek the right solution for the college and the community. In his more than four decades of service, he has always been a voice of reason on this board.

I have always been frank with the board in my comments, but I have generally opted to coax and nudge and inform. But tonight, as the representative of the fulltime faculty, I have to challenge you. Before I do, I have to tell you about an incident that I recently became aware of, one that sickened and angered and saddened me. It is something I could not even imagine happening even five years ago. I learned about this when I was speaking to a friend last week. We were discussing how we are all stretched to the limit emotionally and physically when she told me about an incident involving her son, a JJC alum whom I know. My friend happens to be an African-American woman. Her son happens to be one of the gentlest souls you will ever meet, if you ever have the privilege. I would like to describe an incident involving a young African-American alum who was doing cold calls as a salesman in an Illinois community. This young man, dressed in business attire, was chased from a business by its owner who called him a "N" word and told him to "get the hell out of my

store.” The young man left the store, and shortly thereafter as he came of another business, he was confronted by the previous owner and several others who yelled racial epithets at him and chased him to his car tossing bottles, cans, and whatever they had in their hands at him. This wasn’t 1947 in some backwater town in Mississippi. This was 2020, less than 90 miles from where we are gathered. Can you imagine how that mother must have felt? Can you imagine how she feels sending her son, her sons, into that world every day? We know these people are out there. They have always been out there. But what could radicalize them to the point where they would attack a young man simply because of the color of his skin? And believe that they could do it with impunity? In broad daylight? On Main Street? I believe the answer is simple—Fringe right media and social media have spread misinformation for years, and this is the result. I’m not talking about legitimate conservative media. I am talking about the fringes. If we didn’t know before, we know now—WORDS MATTER. THEY HAVE CONSEQUENCES. We don’t spew hatred in a vacuum.

After learning about this disgusting event, I have subsequently learned that some of our own students of color are concerned about returning to campus. After watching the attack on our Capitol and democracy two weeks ago, many of them simply don’t know what to expect when they enter public spaces. It’s not JJC, it is the environment that we are all living in. They are legitimately afraid.

As much as many of us want to feel optimistic about the future with a new administration in place—I feel that optimism—we cannot expect Washington to solve this problem with new laws. WE need to act. WE need to call out the lies and misinformation and radical behavior when we see it. This is a LOCAL problem. We need to let our neighbors know that this divisive, inflammatory language is NOT ACCEPTABLE. We need to let them know that open expressions of hatred are NOT ACCEPTABLE IN A CIVIL SOCIETY.

After the attacks on the Capitol two weeks ago, Trustee Broderick posted on Facebook. One said, “And turmoil to hit on 1/20/21...be prepared you Biden supporters.” The other repeated a fringe right claim that the agitators were members of Black Lives Matter and Antifa, a claim even top Republicans in Congress have debunked. So, I am calling on this board to do the tough thing, not the safe thing. It is not good enough to just distance the board from those remarks. I am asking you to denounce them. It’s not good enough to say, “We can’t do anything.” I don’t buy that. I am not asking you to denounce a colleague, I don’t know what is in her heart or even whether she understood the potential ramifications of her comments when she wrote them, or what she was feeling at the time. Frankly, I don’t care. At minimum, her words were irresponsible; at worst, dangerous. I believe this board must denounce the language and the irresponsible use of that language because words matter. Right now, YOUR WORDS MATTER.

I will now read the short, prepared remarks that represent our position on this issue. Our council at JJC is joined by Bill Briggs, president of AFT Local 604, and the local’s executive board, of which I am a member: As faculty at a community-based institution that prides itself on its diversity and inclusion, we feel compelled to respond to recent Facebook comments made by one member of our Board of Trustees, Maureen Broderick. While our membership has a wide-range of political views, we cannot stand by when a board member writes incendiary posts on Facebook and uses her platform to spread misinformation about the terrible attack on our Capitol on January 6. We call upon the Board of Trustees to denounce Trustee Broderick’s inflammatory language directed at Biden supporters and her repetition of thoroughly debunked conspiracy theories regarding Black Lives Matter and Antifa participation in that attack.

I know there are differing political views on the board and in this room. That is healthy. We also have a variety of political views represented in our faculty union. But I hope that one thing we can all agree on going forward is that any speech by a public official, by a member of this board, that inflames and potentially incites must be called out. It has no place in a civil society. And the same thing should happen in school boards and city councils and county boards across this state. Thank you for the opportunity to address you this evening.

1.4.5  
Adjunct  
Faculty Report

Chairman Wunderlich indicated that Ms. Laurel Dieskow is with us virtually this evening. Ms. Dieskow gave the following report: Over the last 10 months, I have either submitted written reports or no reports at all, recognizing the complications of having virtual meetings and trying to keep things as simple as possible. But the events of the last two weeks have brought me here tonight. On January 6<sup>th</sup> I watched and was deeply disturbed by the violence at the Capitol. This morning I watched as a new president was sworn in to office on those same Capitol steps. And in the last few days I have also started communicating with my students starting the new semester, and I couldn't help but be encouraged by their enthusiasm and optimism. So, it is in this context, that I decided that it is important to reaffirm our values and commitment to our students, our colleagues, and our communities. This is a public institution of higher education. We need to be clear to all that we are working with a common purpose. When students come to JJC they must know that they will be consistently welcomed and supported in the pursuit of their goals. To do any less is a violation of our trust as public educators. I understand that adjuncts are only one part of the picture, but I want to publicly reaffirm that we are fully committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for all members of our diverse student body. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board this evening.

1.5.1  
Regular  
Meeting

Trustee Broderick moved, seconded by Trustee Mahalik that the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held on December 9, 2020 be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Broderick, Garcia Guillen, Mahalik, Morales, O'Connell, Washington and Wunderlich. Student Trustee Wilkinson favored the motion. Chairman Wunderlich indicated that Trustee Washington had called his attention to a discrepancy in the Electoral Board meeting minutes. When those meeting minutes are approved by the Electoral Board members Trustee Washington's concerns will be addressed and the minutes of that meeting will be corrected.

Closed  
Session

Trustee Broderick moved, seconded by Trustee Mahalik that the Board of Trustees, Joliet Junior College, move to a closed session for the reasons of 2 (c ) ( 1 ) , 2 ( c ) ( 5 ) and 2 ( c ) ( 11) (6:20 p.m.) The motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Broderick, Garcia Guillen, Mahalik, Morales, O'Connell, Washington and Wunderlich. Student Trustee Wilkinson favored the motion.

Return to  
Open Session

Trustee Mahalik moved, seconded by Trustee Morales that the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College return to regular session at 7:17 p.m. Ayes: Mahalik, Morales, O'Connell, Broderick, Garcia Guillen and Wunderlich. Student Trustee Wilkinson favored the motion. (Trustee Washington was not present for roll call due to technical issues, but rejoined the meeting at 7:28 p.m.)

1.6  
Communications

No further communications have been received.

1.7  
Agenda

Trustee Broderick moved, seconded by Trustee O'Connell that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Broderick, Garcia Guillen, Mahalik, Morales, O'Connell and Wunderlich. Student Trustee Wilkinson favored the motion.

1.8 Consent Agenda Trustee O’Connell moved, seconded by Trustee Mahalik that the items identified as consent agenda items be approved. Trustee Garcia Guillen requested that agenda item 4.5 be pulled from the consent agenda.

- 2.1.1 President recommends approval of appointment of assistant controller
- 2.2.1 President recommends approval of the resignation of one full - time associate professor of English, Philosophy & World Languages
- 2.9.1 President requests acceptance of the report on replacement of full-and part-time classified employees, as presented
- 4.1 The President recommends approval to pay the listing of bills for the period ending December 31, 2020 as presented
- 4.2 The President recommends approval to award bids/contracts as follows under Business Services:
  - 4.2.1 Consortium-Office Supply Desktop Delivery Program
  - 4.2.2 Consortium-Respiratory Therapy Furniture
- 4.3 Treasurer’s Report
- 4.4 Financial Report
- Approval and Third Reading of Board Policies
- 8.2 13.07.00 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise

The motion carried unanimously. Ayes: O’Connell, Broderick, Garcia Guillen, Mahalik, Morales and Wunderlich. Student Trustee Wilkinson favored the motion

4.5 Dual Credit Fees Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Mahalik that the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College approve the Dual Credit Fees. Trustee Garcia Guillen requested that President Mitchell provide information on what is required for a tuition waiver scholarship at JJC. President Mitchell requested that Dr. Amy Gray further explain the process. Dr. Gray indicated that this scholarship is for students that take dual credit courses and then matriculate to JJC. The fees that they pay for the classes go toward their classes at JJC. Trustee Garcia Guillen asked if there were any other requirements. Dr. Gray commented that all they need do is matriculate to Joliet Junior College. Trustee Mahalik indicated that his recollection is that this is how the agreement was set up originally. Dr. Gray stated that was correct. The motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Morales, O’Connell, Broderick, Garcia Guillen, Mahalik and Wunderlich. Student Trustee Wilkinson favored the motion.

6.0 Language Interpretation Options President Mitchell commented that she would like to follow up with the Board on the language interpretation options. At the last meeting President Mitchell tasked Jim Serr and Kelly Rohder Tonelli to continue to evaluate and investigate options for signing at the Board Meetings and the transcription following the meetings. President Mitchell thanked them for their work on these issues. We addressed how many languages we should be converting and what that demand looked like within our district. We used the American Community Survey of Five Year Estimates as a source for this information. Within Will County and the CMap region the breakdown is as follows: Will County, English 79.9 percent and CMap Region, English, 68.7 percent; Will County, Spanish, 12.3 percent and CMap Region, Spanish, 18.4 percent; after that we fall down to Slovak at 1.5 percent; and Chinese, .5 percent. President Mitchell is recommending moving forward with the translation of the minutes in Spanish using a JJC staff member with a pay rate of \$16 per hour for translation. In the future, we could also hire a full-time employee who could be utilized across campus for converting English documents into Spanish or any other language needed. This employee could help Communications and Marketing, our DEI Group, Human Resources and would be a cross functional position. The recommendation for this year is to utilize our current staff for translation of minutes and agenda into the Spanish language. We can track the costs of translation, to possibly

consider a part time or full time position in FY '23 budget based upon need. Funds for both would come from a line item within the Board budget. The other item that we need Board direction is on the sign language interpreter. It had been suggested that we could use a student to do the signing; however, our recommendation is to have a JJC, ASL certified individual do the interpretation at the Board meetings. President Mitchell commented that with the pandemic still in place, would we want to wait until we are back in-person to begin with the sign language interpreter. Chairman Wunderlich commented that he feels we should use a staff member for the translation of the minutes into Spanish. Chairman Wunderlich feels that we may want to wait on the interpreter until we are back to meeting in person as it may be difficult to capture with some being virtual and some in person. Trustee Broderick asked if the costs involve travel time for the ASL interpreters. President Mitchell indicated that she does not believe we pay for travel time for our current interpreters. The annual cost estimates are based on two hour board meetings and if our board meetings go over two hours, we will need to hire two interpreters. President Mitchell commented that her recommendation is to wait until we are back to in-person board meetings for the hiring of the interpreter. Trustee Broderick agreed with the recommendation. Trustee Garcia Guillen thanked Dr. Mitchell for doing the research on these initiatives. Trustee Garcia Guillen is in favor of hiring an individual to do the translation of our materials in different languages. Trustee Garcia Guillen would like to begin as soon as possible with the interpreter attending our Board meetings in February as there are various ways to accomplish this even though many of us are attending the meetings virtually. This would allow community members to engage and understand the material at a higher level. Trustee Garcia Guillen indicated that she feels we can do more than what was proposed this evening. Trustee Morales indicated that she concurs with Trustee Garcia Guillen. If we are intentional about Diversity and Inclusion, with the key word being intentional, it is important to do what we can so that more of our community members can understand our college's mission. District 86 middle schools are 80 percent Spanish which is a feeder into the Joliet Township High Schools. As we know, the JTHS schools are one of the largest feeders to Joliet Junior College. The demographics in Joliet, Will County and surrounding areas are definitely changing and if we can engage parents, it will definitely benefit the college by increasing enrollment. We need to remember that this is an investment, not an expense in our community. Trustee Morales stated that she supports the college looking for monies to pay for the interpreter to translate the meetings real time and to have a sign language interpreter present as well. President Mitchell commented that she would like to make sure she is clear on what is being recommended by the board this evening. We should investigate and have the ASL signer even at the virtual meetings, if possible. The translation of the minutes will be done by our staff with extra pay and we will track it for a year to decide if it warrants a part time or full time position. It could be built into the budget for FY22 if funds become available or into the FY23 if the demand is there. We will continue to work on options for real time meeting availability.

7. There were first readings on board policies in the packet.  
New Business

8. There were second readings on board policies in the packet.  
Old Business

9.1 Trustee Garcia Guillen indicated that there was an Executive Board meeting today, so there is not a report this evening. The next full board meeting will be in March.  
Foundation Report At the last meeting she was having technical issues and was unable to provide highlights from the Leadership Congress in October, but has those highlights this evening for the Board. Chairman Wunderlich asked Ms. Mulvey if she would like to add any comments

from the Foundation this evening. President Mitchell stated that Ms. Mulvey will be presenting information at the board workshop next Wednesday.

9.2  
ICCTA

Trustee Broderick indicated that the ACCT National Legislative Summit will be held February 8 – 11<sup>th</sup>. There is a price break if we have four or more attend the conference and at this time we have Dr. Mitchell, Kelly Rohder-Tonelli and myself attending. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Ms. Tierney know. This coming Friday at 2 p.m. there is a virtual meeting on tips for successful virtual meetings with our federal policy makers. We will be arranging virtual meetings for the Legislative Summit with our legislators. On February 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a virtual meeting on timely policy priorities for community colleges at 1 p.m. If anyone is interested please email Trustee Broderick and she will give them further information. We had the ACCT Central Region Coordinators meeting with Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin. Discussions were on lobbying efforts; guidance during the pandemic; technology challenges during pandemic; federal and state funding under new administration; who the new secretary of education will be; and concerns on the vaccine roll-outs with some colleges being distribution centers.

Trustee Broderick stated that ICCTA discussed that IBHE has asked for a \$1.2 billion budget request, which is a four and one-half percent increase from last year. These funds would be general funds, excluding retirements. Enrollment is up slightly by .2 percent overall statewide; \$50 million for MAP funding was included in budget; state reps are skeptical about increasing funding due to the pandemic; budget going to general assembly and then on to the Governor. It was noted that there is not opposition to budgeting and investing in higher education, rather the concern is revenue sources and where the money will be coming from. Trustee Broderick stated that last month she gave her report on the ACCT conference that she attended and asked if Trustee Morales and Trustee Garcia Guillen would like to share their report at this time, as our policy states that we report back to the board on what we learned at the conferences we attend. Trustee Morales commented that she did not participate in the conference; therefore, she does not have a report. Trustee Garcia Guillen was present but on mute. Chairman Wunderlich stated that perhaps the report can be given at a later time. Trustee Broderick indicated that she would like to ask President Mitchell to share additional information at this time.

President Mitchell indicated that Dr. Cecil Lucy is working with Cara Anderson and the Will County Health Department for the college to be a site to administer the vaccines once they become available.

At the December 9, 2020 Board meeting, Vice Chairman Broderick provided a very detailed report from her attendance at the ICCTA and ACCT meetings, some areas of notable interest. Although not typical, I would like to share a few highlights or responses from JJC's great work which aligns with her report. President Mitchell commented that she will forward this information to the Board of Trustees after this evenings board meeting.

COVID and CARES Act - JJC has distributed all CARES act funding to our students, in addition to the tremendous support provided by the JJC Foundation: scholarships, laptop computers, food and internet gift cards, and opportunities for free classes continue. Employees will not be furloughed in fiscal year 2021 due to the willingness of the unions to reassign employees to assist in areas of greatest need throughout the college, showing a commitment to support students and our enrollment initiatives. Updates are provided to the Board of Trustees through multiple media outlets: president's Monday reports; employee newsletter; all employee email messages; communications & marketing pieces; and, through the college's website.

Ethics & Accuplacer Tests – further information will be emailed to you. Pathway Improve Graduation – further information will be emailed to you.

#### Strategic Planning and President's Priorities

The college's strategic plan will guide the college into the future. It is structured to be broad enough to allow for flexibility, but specific enough to drive activity and support goal achievement. Some of the highlights are below and additional information will be emailed to the board of trustees.

Vision-Joliet Junior College is the first choice for learning, working and cultivating pathways to prosperity. Mission-Joliet Junior College inspires learning, strengthens communities and transforms lives.

Dr. Yolanda Farmer is our senior most Cabinet member who has been designated by the president to provide oversight with the facilitation of Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023. She is charged with facilitating all committee meetings, ensuring continuous improvements and assignments are completed. This past year, due to the COVID pandemic, Dr. Farmer charged the team members to review the goals and metrics within each theme, and make necessary modifications to meet the needs of our students and operations of the college and our district. The college's Strategic Plan supports institutional decision-making and also provides the guidance necessary to develop and monitor the success of subsequent plans, such as: Student Enrollment Management (SEM); Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI); Annual Program Updates (APU); Academic Master Plan (AMP); and our soon to be completed Technology Plan. Committee meetings take place on a quarterly basis where metrics are shared to ensure we keep the momentum moving forward and achieve the goals set out to ensure academic and institutional success. We will be initiating a dashboard for easy information access.

#### Sixty Credit Hour Associates Degree

Associate degrees: The ICCB encourages colleges to keep associate degree programs to 60-68 credits, with the exception of the AAS, which can have up to 72 credits. In the past, having associate degree programs with 70+ credits were not uncommon. This occurred with the AAS's, especially, since the programmatic accreditors have such, robust requirements. To help schools work within the parameters and satisfy both institutional and programmatic accreditors, they developed ranges for each type of degree:

The range of total number of credit hours required for completion of an associate degree curriculum shall be within the following parameters:

i) For the Associate in Arts degree and the Associate in Science degree, a total requirement of not less than 60 semester credit hours nor more than 64 semester credit hours or equivalent; ii) For the Associate in Fine Arts and the Associate in Engineering Science degree, a total requirement of not less than 60 semester credit hours nor more than 68 semester credit hours or equivalent; iii) For the Associate in Applied Science degree, a total requirement of not less than 60 semester credit hours nor more than 72 semester credit hours or equivalent, except in such occupational fields in which accreditation or licensure by a state or national organization requires additional coursework; and iv) For the Associate in General Studies degree, a total requirement of not less than 60 semester credit hours nor more than 64 semester credit hours or equivalent.

Crisis Management -Joliet Junior College currently has an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that is reviewed and updated annually in order to effectively respond to emergencies and/or campus crisis. The EOP is reviewed by the Emergency Response Resource Group (ERRG). The ERRG consists of the President's Cabinet and representatives from Campus Police, Human Resources, Student Development, Environmental Health and Safety, Facility Services, Purchasing and Finance (as necessary). The ERRG is responsible for carrying out the functions of the EOP. The EOP was last reviewed and updated on September 29, 2020.

The EOP includes the following in order to assist with our response during an emergency: Incident Command Structure; Memorandums of Understanding with Partner Agencies; Campus Violence Protection Plan; Pharmaceutical Distribution Plan; Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan; and Behavioral Health Intervention Team Policy

In addition to our EOP and Annual Review, an annual exercise of the EOP is typically conducted. However, due to the real-world event, COVID-19, an annual exercise was not conducted in 2020. The following took place due to COVID-19:

- In March of 2020, the ERRG was convened and the EOP was activated in order to effectively respond to the effects of COVID-19 to Joliet Junior College.
- The ERRG met on a regular basis in order to make decision regarding faculty, staff, students, classes, closure of the campuses, etc.
- The ERRG continued to meet throughout COVID-19 in order to continue to make decisions as the COVID-19 situation evolved. Decisions included the following: Determination of classes (in-person learning vs. virtual learning); Determination of staffing (on-campus vs. virtual work); Implementation of government mandates, executive orders, etc.; Campus closure; Implementing safety procedures; Implementing a contact tracing program; etc.

#### Abolish Remedial Education

JJC has no intention or plans to abolish remedial education. It has its place and many students benefit from these courses. Through Developmental Education, JJC supports both academic and personal growth of under-prepared students through instruction, counseling, advising, and tutoring. Even with these services, many developmental students still face tremendous barriers. And, this shows in the research: Less than one quarter of developmental students in IL complete a degree or certificate within eight years of enrollment into college. While JJC developmental education students fare slightly better, this is still an area we continue to focus on, in conjunction with ICCB. Approximately 41% of students in developmental education courses at JJC become college-ready and just 27% complete a college-level course. It is clear that addressing the needs of developmental students is one of the most challenging and important issues we face. Abolishing these courses is not the answer.

JJC continues to work with ICCB to learn best practices in this area. We have learned that traditional remediation consumes time and money, and often does not accelerate students into college-level courses, let alone increase retention, and lead to college completion. So, we have made the commitment to tackle this challenge in more intentional ways. There is a state completion agenda whereby ICCB has committed to the goal of ensuring that 60% of all adults have a college or career credential by 2025. This goal is only attainable with effective developmental education.

One way to accomplish this goal is through co-requisite courses to which ICCB has committed to scaling co-requisite courses statewide. JJC has attended these workshops. One example is the Co-Requisite Project in 2018 where ICCB and IBHE worked together

to collect data and then double the number of institutions that were offering co-requisite and pathway remedial programs. At JJC, we offer both options. For example, in the Math department, students can take MATH 127 and MATH 094 as co-requisites. In addition, we offer nine customized, direct pathways organized into separate career clusters into easy-to-understand groupings, with the intention of making it easier for a student to choose a major and the associated courses based on their interests and strengths.

Board and CEO, Maximizing Relationships-additional information will be emailed to the Board of Trustees.

#### Outreach to elected officials

Formal meetings with state legislators to review the college's legislative agenda and priorities typically occur in August. Meetings with Liz Brown-Reeves, lobbyist for the Illinois Council for Community College Presidents occur every Friday during the General Assembly working sessions in which Dr. Mitchell and Kelly Rohder-Tonelli attend. All District 525 legislators are invited to large institutional functions each year including the State of the College and Commencement and ribbon cuttings. New legislators are invited to the Main Campus for a tour and meeting with Dr. Mitchell and Kelly Rohder-Tonelli to see the facilities and meet students. Legislators visit Student Government typically once a year to participate in a panel moderated by the students. All JJC students are invited to attend.

President Mitchell indicated that this is a brief synopsis of the ten page report that will be emailed to the Board. Trustee Broderick indicated that she feels it is important to share information from the conferences with the President.

#### 9.3 Student Trustee Report

Mr. Ian Wilkinson indicated that he does not have a power point for the Student Trustee Report this evening, as the students have been on break this past month. Student Trustee Wilkinson indicated that he would like to discuss information he received from Dean Vasquez Barrios concerning his student survey. We spoke about the mental health issues students were experiencing because of the pandemic and lack of interaction with other students and teachers. From the student wellness aspect, Student Trustee Wilkinson commented that he was pleased to see that there was a 91% satisfaction rating from the students with all of the resources that they used and that were available to them. Student Trustee Wilkinson learned that this area is planning on expanding positions from three licensed counselors to four licensed counselors. The case manager coordinator is doing the COVID19 tracer updates and 80% of those traced were affected by COVID19, or about 245 students. The student wellness area is also doing monthly newsletter and podcasts which helps get the word out to the students with resources readily available to them. This information will also be pushed out through iCampus, should be in the course syllabi for our students, which will also help address what Student Trustee Wilkinson learned from his survey: many students were not aware of all the resources available to them through our student wellness center. There is a self-assessment tool titled mindwatch and approximately 385 students took the self-assessment. The top three areas identified were anxiety, depression and stress. This is most likely a result of not knowing what lies ahead and the many uncertainties caused by this pandemic. The students that made appointments with the wellness center were seen at a 95% rate, which means we are very responsive to our students that are reaching out to the college for help. Student Trustee Wilkinson indicated that he is planning on sending out another student response form sometime in February regarding how the semester is starting off, if the changes have been made and if those changes are helping our students. Trustee Broderick asked if Student Trustee Wilkinson would like to be included on the virtual meeting with our

legislators. Trustee Morales indicated that she would like to be included in the virtual meeting as well.

9.4  
Buildings &  
Grounds  
Report

Trustee Mahalik indicated that there were no bids this month. We had the pre-bid meeting for the respiratory therapy project with over 1,000 vendors attending, with 30 vendors submitting bids, but we had to postpone this bid due to some adjustments that needed to be done to the bid. The HVAC project bids are due on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The auto shop flooring project was completed last month and lab flooring project will be completed soon. Workday is progressing with HR and Finance being in the testing phase. The staff is becoming more comfortable with this new system.

9.5  
President's  
Report

President Mitchell indicated that she would like to welcome everyone back. All of our employees enjoyed the well-deserved break. Last year was mentally and physical draining and emotional for our employees and students and I look forward to a positive and healthy new year.

We would like the board to see a commercial in English and Spanish. President Mitchell thanked Kelly Rohder-Tonelli and Dr. Mike Hernandez and their teams for the excellent work on these commercials. The Board indicated the commercials were very good.

General Session was a reflection on last year and building our vision and direction for the new year! As always, there was a focus on our students who inspired strength, wisdom and resilience during these times of unrest in our world. Thank you to Eliana Melero, Don Florante, Guadalupe Medina, Luis Guzman, Frimpong Boateng, Chandler Royce, and it was led by our amazing Student Trustee Ian Wilkinson. President Mitchell read the great comments we received from faculty and staff on the student presenters. President Mitchell thanked Student Trustee Wilkinson and the other students for doing such a phenomenal job. This was coordinated through Kelly Rohder-Tonelli.

President Mitchell indicated that Trustee Broderick had suggested that we add a finance committee to the board committees. She and Dr. Lucy support this suggestion and would like to recommend that the Board consider adding it to the committee assignments in April or May, once the new Board is seated. This information will be sent to you electronically.

President Mitchell commented that we have further researched holding the fireworks at the college in July. We have met with the appropriate parties and it was felt that as long as the launching pad was restored to its original condition, they were in favor of the Fireworks.

President Mitchell wished Trustee Morales and Trustee O'Connell a happy birthday.

President Mitchell indicated that last week in my semester address to the campus, we reflected on the totality of 2020 and its impact on our community: the fear, anger, anxiety, death, and injustice—all feelings we experienced personally and deeply. At the same time, I shared many moments in 2020 that encouraged hope from faculty, staff, and students.

In the first few weeks of 2021, we have continued to feel the deep impact of a divided country. I want you to know that as an institution, JJC fosters a climate of mutual respect and inclusion, which includes a strong commitment to diversity and equity for students, faculty, staff and community members. As the college president, I want to state unequivocally that Joliet Junior College does not tolerate violence or injustice. JJC

supports respectful dialogue and exchange of ideas.

In closing, I would like to end my report with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King. It is fitting, given the national observance of his birth on Monday. I think we often look to Dr. King in times of confusion and apprehension. The messages of unity, integrity, and hope he shared in his short life were so impactful that they resonate today. Dr. King said these words in 1964 to a group at Oberlin College: “The time is always right to do what is right.” We will continue to do what is right for Joliet Junior College and the students we serve.

9.6  
Chairman’s  
Report

Chairman Wunderlich wished everyone a happy new year as this is the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College. It is a start of a new President of our Country, President Joe Biden. Chairman Wunderlich read the following statement: I want to thank those who attended the meeting tonight to exercise their right to public comment and share their views. It has been and always will be important to ensure community members have a reasonable opportunity to express their views to this board. I believe my fellow trustees will agree with me that we take everything shared this evening seriously. It is important to clarify that trustees of this board are elected officials. The college president does not have oversight in regards to the actions of the board. Given the comments made this evening, the Board of Trustees in alignment with the Illinois Community College Board and Illinois Community College Trustees Association can address other requests or actions outside of the upcoming April election process. Thank you for your vigilance and support of Joliet Junior College and its commitment to diversity and equity for the college community.

10  
Adjourn

Trustee Broderick moved, seconded by Trustee O’Connell for the meeting to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.