



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
March 27, 2019**

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC, Center) met, in open session at 12:00 p.m., on March 27, 2019. The meeting was held in the Hope/Smith Classroom at the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center; Ms. Mattie Cowan, Chairman, presided.

ATTENDANCE

SVHEC BOARD of TRUSTEE ATTENDEES

Ms. Mattie Cowan
Mr. Doug Lee
Mr. Tom Raab
Mr. Peter Blake
Mr. Jay Burnett
Mr. John Lee
Dr. Ken Perkins
Dr. Al Roberts
Senator Frank Ruff
Mr. Dennis Witt
Dr. Charlette Woolridge *via phone*
Delegate Tommy Wright

REGRETS

Delegate James Edmunds
Dr. Betty Jo Foster
Mr. Paul Nichols

Other Attendees

Dr. Cheryl Terry, DCC
Ms. Audrey Burges, Office of the Attorney General
Ms. Katrina Powell, SVHEF Executive Director
Mrs. Deb Halasz, SVHEF Operations Manager
Mr. Ryan Garrett, SVHEF Chairman

SVHEC STAFF MEMBER ATTENDEES

Dr. Betty H. Adams, SVHEC Executive Director
Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens, Chief Workforce Development Officer
Mrs. Brenda Terry, Chief Financial and Operations Officer
Mrs. Susan Wilborn, SVHEC Executive Assistant and Board Clerk
Mrs. Hope Harris-Gayles, Associate Director of Student & Partner Development
Mr. Nelson Stevens, SVHEC Technology Manager
Ms. Virginia Byrd, Administrative Support Specialist
Mrs. Robin Mardre-Garrett, HR, Operations & Maintenance Administrator
Mrs. Catherine Stevens, Grants Mgmt. & Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Brian Jackson, Director of Workforce Training Programs
Mrs. Meagan Owen, Workforce Training Resource Specialist

AGENDA ITEM: CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mattie Cowan, Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. Madam Chair then asked the Board Clerk to call the roll, after which it was determined a quorum was present.

Charlette Woolridge joined the meeting by phone. She called in from Lawrenceville, VA and needed to call in due to an earlier meeting running over.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- *The minutes of the December 5, 2018 Board Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Mr. John Lee, seconded by Mr. Jay Burnett and duly carried.*
- *The minutes of the December 5, 2018 Executive Committee meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Dr. Ken Perkins, seconded by Mr. Doug Lee, and duly carried.*

AGENDA ITEM: REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Dr. Betty H. Adams

Dr. Adams brought the Board's attention to the upcoming Completion Ceremony which will be held on May 15th with Secretary of Commerce & Trade Brian Ball serving as guest speaker.

She shared the results from two recent reports/studies. Findings from the SVHEC Economic Impact Study indicates the SVHEC's statewide economic impact is \$66.1 M with \$57.9M of that in southern Virginia. The Halifax County Community Assessment reports that citizen input consistently ranks SVHEC as one of Halifax County's strongest assets.

Dr. Adams then gave a brief presentation which was provided to staff and partners at the March State of the Agency Address. She noted that the Agency is in very good shape. Enrollment in the technical training programs are growing and Community College enrollments are up 27% this semester on the SVHEC campus. Other talking points from the presentation include the following:

- Several safety breaches over the past year have led the Center to recognize a need to improve safety awareness among staff, partners, instructors and students/trainees. Consistent safety protocols are being established and DHRM will be doing a safety assessment for the entire agency in the near future.
- STEM-H outreach activities, primarily focused on the K-12 population, raises awareness about the well-paying STEM-H jobs in the region and how training for these jobs is available at the Center. The biggest STEM-H outreach effort this year is the Career Tech Academy (CTA). In the first year, the CTA enrolled 32 high school juniors and seniors, and 31 remain on track to complete. The CTA is a collaboration between Halifax, Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Public School Systems, DCC, SVCC and the Center offering students the opportunity to earn industry credentials and dual enrollment credit in Information Technology and Mechatronics Programs.
- The R&D Center is relocating to Imperial Lofts, doubling its current space in the Innovation Center. This new space includes offices, two commercial bays and room for light manufacturing. The R&D Center is partnered with Southside Outreach and the Town of South Boston on the Poplar Creek Homes Project, a planned LMI Community. This "community" will involve single family homes and duplexes with solar panels and micro grids and a child care option. The transportation project will be folded in as well as workforce

training. The R&D Center also is currently working on a grant for the EDA I6 Challenge. This grant funds a range of program and services with a focus on innovation based, high growth entrepreneurship for services such as technology advisement, market evaluation and access to early stage capital. A requirement of the Grant is evidence that the Board has approved for the Center to pursue this type of grant. Grants for the Center of Nursing Excellence, the Business of Art & Design and Workforce Services have all been approved previously by the Board through resolutions. Dr. Adams asked the Board to approve a resolution to allow the Center to proceed with this grant. The Executive Committee met and recommends the Board approve the resolution.

The Resolution to approve the Center to apply for the EDA I6 Challenge Technology Grant was approved unanimously upon a motion by Mr. John Lee, seconded by Mr. Ken Perkins and duly carried

- The Center will launch a new HVAC program in May. Local employers have been asking for this program for several years, and the Center is working with HVAC employers to develop the curriculum. The first cohort is full with a waiting list for the second cohort to start. Peter Blake stated the HVAC program is eligible for the Workforce Credential Grant Program, created by the General Assembly under Senator Ruff's leadership and the provisions of the Code section require the Board to approve the program to be offered at the Center.

Upon a motion by Mr. Peter Blake, seconded by Mr. John Lee and duly carried, the Board unanimously approved, pursuant to the provisions of the Workforce Credential Grant Program, that the non-credit workforce program, HVAC@SVHEC shall be offered by the Center.

- Trainees in SVHEC Workforce Training Programs are completing programs at an 89% completion rate and enjoy an 87% employment rate within twelve months of completion.
- Microsoft, through the Foundation, has given \$45,000 in scholarships funds to pay the full tuition for IT Academy students accepted into the Microsoft Scholars Program. Microsoft also has pledged \$200,000 to expand the IT Academy facility, which will allow an expanded curricula. Because Microsoft funds cannot be used for personnel, a matching grant request is being made to the Tobacco Commission to provide funds for the staff required to teach the expanded programs.

The Center is building capacity in the region through a various other programs and projects. Funded through a Dollar General Grant, the Volunteer Literacy Program provides Adult Basic Education and ESL through a cadre of dedicated volunteers. The Center is engaged in recruiting for and supporting nursing education provided by our degree granting partners. The Center is working with Longwood University to offset the shortage of public school teachers through the Teach for Tomorrow Project and also working with ODU on the Career Switcher Program. Three buses have been purchased for the Transportation Project which will open two new rural routes, one in Halifax County and one in Pittsylvania County. Both will be served by Danville Transit. SVHEC has led this project since 2014. MBC and Microsoft have asked the Center to collaborate on the SoVA Innovation Hub. MBC will build a new building in downtown South Boston. It will serve as MBC Headquarters, but also provide co-working spaces and cater to digital education and building digital pathways. The Center has been asked to provide some of the programming.

The next SVHEC Board meeting is scheduled for June 5th; this date is also the date of the next Tobacco Commission meeting. Several Board members and SVHEC staff will need to attend these meetings, so the Executive Committee has suggested to move the Board meeting to May 2 immediately following the Board retreat.

Upon a motion by Senator Frank Ruff, seconded by Dr. Ken Perkins and duly carried, the Board unanimously approved, to change the next Board meeting from June 5, 2019 to May 2, 2019 immediately following the Board Retreat at Berry Hill Conference Center.

The goal of the Board Retreat will be to lay out the fundraising plans and learn how both Boards can be supportive. The retreat will be from 10:00 – 2:00 at the Berry Hill Resort and Conference Center.

Agenda Item: Financials, Mrs. Brenda Terry

Mrs. Terry reported the roof replacement continues to move forward and the Center is working with the Department of Real Estate Services through any contract issues to make sure all forms are in place and filled out correctly.

Agenda Item: Standing Committee Reports

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Mattie Cowan, Chairman of the Executive Committee, noted that Dr. Adams has reported on what the Executive Committee discussed in their meeting which included the safety issues, HVAC program and EDA I6 Grant.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee did not meet this quarter.

PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

The Committee did not meet this quarter.

Agenda Item: Halifax Educational Foundation, Mr. John Lee

Mr. Lee reported that “change” continues to be the operative word at the Foundation. The SVHEF is currently conducting a comprehensive review of policies and bylaws. The committees have been restructured to be more effective and strategic. The financial strategies are being reviewed and re-evaluated, and new marketing strategies are being developed. All of this is a by-product of the new focus on fundraising. The Foundation has a new focus, new ideas and new leadership, which is resulting a new culture and enthusiasm at the Foundation.

He then gave a presentation on the Branding & Marketing Project.

Agenda Item: Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to address.

Agenda Item: New Business

Madam Chair appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of Mr. Jay Burnett, Mr. Tom Raab and Dr. Charlette Woolridge to bring back to the Board at the June (May) meeting nominations for the position of Chairman.

Agenda Item: Public Comments

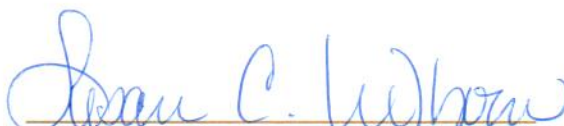
No public comments were presented.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.



Ms. Mattie Cowan, Chairman



Mrs. Susan Wilborn, Board Clerk