

**JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE**  
**Carterville, IL 62918**

Minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 530, Counties of Williamson, Jackson, Franklin, Perry, and Randolph, State of Illinois, held at Carterville, Illinois, on May 26, 2009, commencing at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair David Hancock.

The chair directed the recording secretary to call the roll:

John Sanders	–	absent for roll call
Jake Rendleman	–	present
Bill Kilquist	–	absent
Michael Hopkins	–	present
Jim Snider	–	present
John O’Keefe	–	present
Rachel Grasher	–	present
David Hancock	–	present

Also present were: Robert L. Mees, President; Brad McCormick, Vice-President for Business Services and College Facilities; Tim Daugherty, Vice-President for Administration; Julia Schroeder, Vice-President for Instruction; John Huffman, College Legal Counsel; Steve O’Keefe, Director for Communications and Marketing; Donna Glodjo, Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees; and other College personnel.

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE FOR COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

None.

**FOCUS GROUP FOR HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION MONITORING REPORT**  
**(Appendix I)**

Vice-President for Administration Tim Daugherty had previously distributed three questions to the trustees relating to follow-up survey results in connection with the Higher Learning Commission monitoring report. Dr. Daugherty noted that this focus group discussion is the final required action prior to the writing of the report to the Higher Learning Commission. He thanked the Board for being willing to participate in this discussion and noted that their comments this evening will be included as evidence in the report. Dr. Daugherty noted the meeting is being recorded.

Dr. Daugherty presented the first question for discussion which was as follows:

***Results from the recent College-wide survey revealed faculty and staff perceive a positive change has taken place in integrity and ethical and honest behavior of both the administration and the Board. In your opinion what do you attribute the perceived change to?***

Trustee Mike Hopkins stated he feels the current Board has taken a proactive approach to ensure that decisions are made with honesty, integrity, and at all times, an ethical behavior. He noted that whenever there is a decision to be made that any Board member feels he has a conflict of interest with, he makes sure this is brought up before the decision making begins, and many times will abstain from the vote.

Mr. Hopkins also said the new Hiring Committee that was brought about after the 2005 questionnaire reiterates the Board's views on keeping everything honest and "above board."

Board Chair David Hancock stated he feels the Board is more open in hiring procedures; more open to the Student Senate, taking action when needed and showing interest in the students' view points; and that the Board has started using the administration and letting them run the College.

Trustee Jim Snider expressed agreement with Trustees Hopkins and Hancock, and added that he feels it is important to understand the change came about because of a survey. He noted that many times boards do not realize the perceptions others have of them. Mr. Snider said that when the initial survey came back to the Board and administration with negative things, he feels the Board and administration stepped up make sure these perceptions were not the case, and added that the Board is now letting the administration run the school.

Trustee John O'Keefe expressed agreement to all that was said. He stated that the proactive approach taken to address any matters brought to the Board's attention has been a big plus – they haven't "dodged the bullet," but have acted and been very open in everything that has been done.

Trustee Jake Rendleman stated that he doesn't feel the initial survey was the reason for changes made on the Board. He expressed that the turnaround started with the retreat in 2006 when the Board realized it needed to take action to get some things done, i.e. the sale of building bonds for the new building project. Mr. Rendleman felt this was a point where the Board became more proactive and got a new direction. He expressed that he feels the Board has always had good people who are trying to do the right thing.

President Mees said he agrees with what has been said. He said that the survey has caused the administration and Board to focus on issues and attend related sessions at meetings and conferences. He also mentioned that the Board had brought in Gary Davis for a focus session which was a great help. Dr. Mees commented on the improved communication between the Board and the students through meetings with the Student Senate.

Dr. Daugherty posed the second question which was:

***What is your perception of the current Board and administration's relationship?***

Trustee Hopkins said he feels there is an excellent relationship between the Board and administration. He feels there is a unified mission to be the best community college that we can be, and feels that any decision that occurs is made with the best interest of the College in mind.

Board Chair Hancock commented that he has been on many boards, but feels this current board is one of the best boards he has served on. He feels this is because it has started working together as a team. He stated that even though there are strong disagreements at times, the Board comes out of it as a team focused on making the College better. Mr. Hancock noted that in the past some administrators were not always team players, and expressed that the two new vice-presidents are working extremely well with Dr. Mees and Dr. Schroeder. He said there appeared to be some problems when he first came on the Board four years ago. He feels the problems are now no longer there, and Dr. Mees has a great administrative team. Consequently, he feels the Board has picked up and worked with the administration as a team.

Trustee Snider stated he feels the administration and Board's working relationship is excellent. He commented that he was not on the Board when the first survey was taken. He said that he has read that

survey and agrees with Trustee Hancock that there were many negative comments about the administration not working together at that time. He said that does not seem to be the case now, noting that he feels the current administration is doing a fine job of working together and with the Board.

Dr. O’Keefe stated that he has been on the Board for over 16 years and this is the best working relationship he has seen with both the administration and Board working as a team. He stressed that while there have been good people in the past, as far as working together, things are going as smoothly as he has seen in 16 years.

Trustee Rendleman said he feels things are going pretty well and the Board and administration are keeping the best interest of the College community in mind. He said that even though there are disagreements, the Board and administration are able to sit down and get things worked out. He feels things are going pretty smoothly.

President Mees agreed that things are going very well in terms of the current Board and administration’s relationship. He said there has always been a good relationship, but there was some undermining going on previously which made it very difficult for both the administration and the Board and caused some problems. Dr. Mees said these things have been worked through, and he feels people on campus recognize this. He feels this is a major reason the improvement in this area was noted in the second survey. He drew parallels between what he has seen happen at the College to what he has seen happen statewide with the cooperation between the Presidents’ Council and the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. He feels the team of the Board, the administration, and faculty and staff is a strong and proactive one.

Dr. Daugherty asked the final question which was:

***What actions are necessary for the Board and administration to maintain a high level of integrity and ethical and honest behavior?***

Mike Hopkins stated the Board must keep this goal in the forefront at all times and strive to maintain this high level of integrity daily.

David Hancock said to just keep doing what is currently being done – it’s working.

Jim Snider said the Board and administration need to be sure they are honest in all dealings; do complete disclosures; avoid any appearance of unethical behavior; and be fair to all. He said he feels everyone is trying to do what is right and best for the College and the students.

John O’Keefe said the Board and administration need to keep going in the direction they are currently going, maintain their goals, and stay transparent in all they do. He said it is important there is no perception that the Board and administration are doing something not “out in the open.”

Dr. Daugherty apologized to Student Trustee Rachel Grasher for not giving her an opportunity to comment earlier, and asked her to comment at this time. Ms. Grasher stated that, from a student perspective, she feels that this Board and administration work very well together. She noted that in statewide student trustee meetings last year, she had heard other students express problem with their colleges, and feels that we work extremely well together in comparison.

Jake Rendleman said he feels continued transparency is important, and stressed the importance of the administration and leadership of the Board keeping all the members informed.

*Trustee John Sanders arrived at 6:50 p.m.*

Trustee Sanders apologized for being late and said (lightly) that he agrees with everything that has been said.

President Mees said that, like Student Trustee Grasher, he has been at many statewide meetings where he hears of negative issues at other institutions. He said it makes him feel good when he knows how well our Board and administration work together and also with the faculty and staff. Dr. Mees said he feels the Board and administration need to continue doing what they are doing and keep trying to tweek things to make them better.

Dr. Daugherty asked if anyone from the Board would like to make a final statement.

There were no further comments.

Three trustees had prepared written answers to the questions, and those are attached as Appendix I.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Hopkins and John O'Keefe moved and seconded that the special meeting of the John A. Logan College Board of Trustees be adjourned.

A voice vote showed all in favor. Motion carried.  
(Resolution #16-2326)

The meeting was duly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Donna Glodjo, Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees

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David Hancock, Chair

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Jim Snider, Secretary