



Ratified at February 19, 2025 meeting

**Board of Trustees Meeting
January 15, 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 3 PM in the Student Center Event Room.

Trustees Present:

Dr. LeRoy Mitchell, Chairperson, Deborah Raizes Vice Chairperson, Robin Bikkal, Esq., (via videoconference), Clara Carnot, Susan Gerry, Esq., (via videoconference), Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, Sergio Serratto, Hon. Lyndon Williams, Yolanda Howell, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Trustees Excused:

Dr. Norman Jacknis, Vice-Chairperson, Hon. John Nonna.

Cabinet Members Present:

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President, Dr. Vanessa Morest, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, Brian Murphy, Vice President and Dean of Administrative Services, Dolores Swirin-Yao, Vice President and Dean, External Affairs, Executive Director, WCC Foundation, Tere Wisell, Vice President and Dean, Community Education and Workforce Development, Garrett McAlister, Acting Vice President, Information Technology, Dante Cantú, Vice President of Student Access, Involvement & Success, Ben Naylor, Chief of Staff & Vice President of Strategic Affairs.

Call to Order

Chairperson LeRoy Mitchell called the meeting to order.

Ratification of Minutes

Trustee Williams made a motion seconded by Trustee Serratto to ratify the minutes of the December 11, 2024, Board meeting. The motion passed.

INFORMATION AND DECISION

A. President's Report

Dr. Belinda S. Miles reported:

New County Executive

The Westchester Board of Legislators appointed the Honorable Ken Jenkins to serve as Westchester County Executive until a February 11 Special Election. According to the Board of Legislators, "The public will vote to elect a County Executive to serve the remainder of Congressman George Latimer's original term through December 2025."

State of the State

Gov. Hochul gave her 2025 State of the State address yesterday. A few highlights from the Governor's agenda include:

- **Free Community College for Adults Ages 25-55:** Building on successful programs in Massachusetts and Michigan, Governor Hochul's proposal will cover tuition, fees, books, and supplies for adults ages 25-55, after applicable financial aid, who pursue an associate degree in high-demand fields like health care, advanced manufacturing, IT and cybersecurity, and sustainability. Adults without a college degree will be able to attend full- or part-time under the Governor's plan.
- **Expansion of the ASAP|ACE student success program:** The nationally recognized ASAP|ACE retention and completion programs that SUNY launched in spring 2024 are currently serving nearly 4,300 students across 25 SUNY campuses. I am thrilled that Governor Hochul is providing ongoing funding to support this proven model and expand ASAP|ACE to serve 10,000 students across SUNY. Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Success Donna Linderman will provide additional information for campuses that seek to join ASAP|ACE or to grow existing programs.
- **New York State Innovation Fund:** To help SUNY meet the Governor's charge to double research, Governor Hochul is proposing a New York State Innovation Fund for capital investments in cutting-edge laboratory facilities and research activities at our most research-intensive campuses. The Innovation Fund will help attract additional outstanding faculty and catalyze groundbreaking research.
- **College-in-High-School Opportunity Fund:** Governor Hochul has announced a new fund to expand intensive dual enrollment through innovative programs like Smart Scholars and P-TECH that make it possible for students to earn college credits before they graduate from high school.

Title IX

As we discussed in our committee of the whole meeting today, a federal judge struck down the Biden Administration's changes to Title IX earlier this week which will force us to rescind our WCC Board-approved changes that were implemented last year and return to the previous version of Title IX rules. The ruling unfortunately rolls back protections for queer and trans students as well as provisions aimed at making it easier for pregnant students to stay in school and making it easier for sexual assault survivors to hold their assailants accountable. Despite this ruling, WCC will continue to work tirelessly to support all of our students.

Strategic Planning Update

The Strategic Planning Committee will resume their meetings starting next week and will be meeting with the Cabinet in the coming weeks to discuss their initial draft of the Strategic Plan.

MSCHE Update

I applaud all the departments at the College who submitted their annual assessment plans to VP Naylor. A campus team met this morning to begin the process of reviewing the submitted plans and will provide edits and feedback to departments by the end of this month. We are confident that we will have sufficient evidence to satisfy Middle States in administrative assessment which will be included in the Monitoring Report.

Enrollment Management

- In Fall 2023, SUNY WCC ranked 4th among all SUNY Community Colleges with an enrollment of **9,031 credit/UGRD students**. This fall, 2024, our enrollment increased to **9,353 credit/UGRD students**, moving us up to 3rd place overall among SUNY Community Colleges.
- Enrollment for Spring 2025 is well underway. Currently, 9,973 students are registered for Spring 2025.
- Offering four sessions: 15-week (instruction begins 1/21); two 7.5-week sessions (instruction begins 1/21 and 3/25); and 12-week (instruction begins 2/11).

Lastly, congratulations to VP and CFO Murphy on his retirement from SUNY WCC. His final day on campus will be Friday, January 24. We wish him all the best as he embarks on this exciting new chapter.

B. Board Chair's Report

Trustee Mitchell reported:

VP Brian Murphy/CFO

- We wish VP Murphy well in his next chapter.

Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

- Advocacy 101 is up and running on ACCT Connect.
- The ACCT Legislative Summit will take place in Washington, DC on February 9 - 12.
- We will have an opportunity to meet with our Representatives.

C. Committees

Committee of the Whole

Trustee Mitchell reported:

The Committee of the Whole had discussion on the following:

- Changes to Title IX
- Follow up on Board of Trustees Retreat
- NYCCT Resolution
 - Authorizing the Board Chair to execute a retainer agreement with Ingerman Smith, LLP.

Resolution

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2024, the State University of New York (“SUNY”) Board of Trustees adopted a resolution regarding “Strengthening the Community College Presidential Search Process and Ensuring Transparency and Accountability” (the “Resolution”) which amends the SUNY Guidelines for Presidential Searches for Community Colleges (the “SUNY Guidelines”); and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor of SUNY and other SUNY officials have taken action(s) in furtherance of the aforesaid Resolution, including implementing new requirements regarding the employment contract of community college presidents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College has been advised that the adoption and implementation of said Resolution exceeds the statutory authority granted to the SUNY Board, in contravention to statute and existing policy and/or guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College has further been advised that the SUNY Board failed to promulgate the new rules/requirements contained in the Resolution pursuant to the State Administrative Procedure Act's statutorily required rulemaking procedure; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College has determined that it is in its best interest to institute legal action, and/or take any other appropriate legal action to protect its rights, authority and autonomy as it relates to the Community College Presidential Search Process.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College hereby appoints Ingerman Smith, LLP, as Special Counsel for the purpose of commencing legal action against the SUNY Board of Trustees, the Chancellor of SUNY, Dr. John King, and/or any other proper parties on a cooperative basis with other community colleges and/or parties in the State Supreme Court, County of Albany, and/or other appropriate administrative agency(ies), jurisdiction(s) and/or tribunal(s), challenging the legality of the action(s) taken by SUNY related to the Resolution, the legality of the Resolution and the action(s) that the Chancellor of SUNY and others have taken in furtherance of the aforesaid Resolution and/or take any other appropriate legal action to address issues relating to the Resolution and its impact on the interests, rights, autonomy and authority of the Westchester Community College; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College is herewith authorized to execute a retainer agreement with Ingerman Smith, LLP, and any other necessary documentation relative to this appointment, on behalf of the Board.

****Motion: Mitchell/Serratto – all in favor**

Finance/Facilities

Trustee Williams reported:

The Finance committee had discussion on the following topics.

- Operating Forecast
- Capital Projects Update
- Contracts

Trustee Williams asked Vice President Brian Murphy to go over the forecast for the month ending December 31, 2024, and the contracts.

Vice President Murphy presented the contracts to the Board.

Resolution: Contract Ratification

WHEREAS, Westchester Community College is required to enter into agreements for the continued operation of the College; and

WHEREAS, the attached schedule represents those agreements approved by the College since the last meeting of the Board of Trustees; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College hereby ratifies the aforementioned agreements.

<u>CONTRACT #</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR NAME</u>	<u>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
25-0101-302	Ellucian Company, LLC	Conduct evaluation of College's operations to Develop a strategic alignment to Integrate College's Goals and objectives into an overall business strategy.	1/16/25 – 5/31/25	\$10
25-0155-675	McAllister & Quinn, LLC	Grants development and writing consultant services. One year with the option of three, one year renewals.	2/1/25 – 1/31/26	\$50,000
25-0155-403	Clifton Larson Allen, LLP	Grants management and compliance consultant services. One year with the option of three, one year renewals.	2/1/25 – 1/31/26	NTE \$10,000 charged by hr.
25-0115-705	SECUR-SERV, Inc.	Four year central exchange maintenance agreement for hardware score scanner purchase. One year payment for four years of service. Sole source.	1/15/25 – 1/15/29	\$2,3883.20
25-0240-404	Arco Protection Systems, Inc.	Replacement of a 5" OS&Y valve and bolts on our sprinkler fire system in the AAB bldg. Emergency contract.	12/23/24 – 4/30/25	\$6,195
25-0240-402	National Standby Repair, Inc.	Health Science bldg. generator control board needs to be installed and replaced.	2/1/25 – 5/30/25	\$6,722.80
25-0240-401	M&G Tile & Paint Center, Inc. Db Handy Andy & Blinds 360	Supply and install window shades in the Gateway building.	2/1/25 – 5/30/25	\$10,588
25-0130-406	Port Chester High School	Payment for dual enrollment courses for Port Chester-Rye Union free school district 2024-2025.	9/6/24 – 6/30/25	NTE \$10,900.50 Revenue

<u>CONTRACT #</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR NAME</u>	<u>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
25-910-405	J&R Tours. Ltd. (\$9790) Silver Star Limo .Com, LLC (12,000)	Provide bus transportation for WEOC students to visit historic black colleges & universities and Washington, DC. (one of these vendors will be chosen; listed lowest to highest bidder)	3/30/25 – 4/2/25	NTE \$12,000 Grant funded

****Motion: Williams/Raizes – all in favor**

Public Comment

Trustee Mitchell invited members of the community for public comment.

No public comment.

Adjournment

****Motion: Williams/Serratto – all in favor**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for February 19, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda Howell

Yolanda Howell
Secretary, Board of Trustees