



**Essex County College  
Board of Trustees  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

September 21, 2021 • 4:30 pm  
*Via Zoom Webinar*

*In attendance:* M. Bolden; I. Cruz; J. Grimes; L. Guyton; A. Lewis; C. Morales; B. Robinson; J. Wright;  
A. Boakye, Interim President; M. Townes, Board Counsel

*Excused:* J. Zarra

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Madame Chair, Trustee Bolden, called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm. Eight trustees responded to roll call; a quorum was declared for the meeting.

**Open Public Meetings Act Announcement**

Trustee Bolden called for the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act; Trustee Grimes read as follows:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Essex County College was provided in the following manner:

Advance written notice of this virtual meeting was filed on October 6, 2021 and written notice for this meeting was provided to the Essex County College Community, indicating that the meeting will be held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (P.L. 2020 c. 11, and the Governor of New Jersey's Executive Order 244, and N.J.A.C. 5:39-1 Emergency Regulations: Remote Public Meetings held During a Declared Emergency) regarding COVID 19 Emergency. Notice of the meeting was also posted on the College website at [www.essex.edu](http://www.essex.edu). According to records of Essex County College, we have not received written requests or prepayment from any parties for advance notice of meetings.

**Minutes**

Trustee Grimes moved minutes of the June 22, 2021 meetings for approval. Trustee Robinson seconded her motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**Communications**

Trustee Grimes announced that there were no communications.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Public comments received from Lev Zilbermintz were read into the record of the meeting for three-minutes and are attached in its entirety at Appendix A.

**Finance Committee Report**

Trustee Lewis began his report for the Finance Committee with the recommendation that actions 3-1.1 through 3-1.13/8-2021 (as follow) approved by the Executive Committee, be ratified by the Board:

3-1.1/8-2021	Authorize the Award of a Five (5) Year Bid for College Vehicles Repair and Maintenance Services Car Care Center of Newark, LLC., Newark, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Not to exceed \$20,000.00 per year
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3-1.2/8-2021	Authorize the Award of an Emergency Repair – Pedestrian Bridge M&M Construction Company, Inc., Union, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$379,000.00
3-1.3/8-2021	Authorize the Award of a Purchase of Computers and Projectors for Students and Employees Dell Technologies Dell Technologies CDW-G Cares Act II, COVID-19 Funded – Capital Expense	\$201,800.00 172,092.50 <u>116,911.86</u> Total \$490,804.36
3-1.4/8-2021	Authorize the Award of Renewal for Upgrade Software TouchNet Information Systems, Lenexa, KS College Funded – Operating Expense	\$23,755.00
3-1.5/8-2021	Authorize the Award of a Professional Service for CRM Recruit – BEP/BRIM Ellucian Company, LP, Chicago, IL CARES Act II, Covid-19 Funded – Operating Expense	\$16,100.00
3-1.6/8-2021	Authorize the Award of a License for Turnitin Plagiarism Checking System Turnitin, LLC, Oakland, CA College Funded – Operating Expense	\$23,143.85
3-1.7/8-2021	Authorize the Payment of Postmaster Services for the Carrier Route of Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 CCE Non-Credit Brochure United States Postal Service College Funded – Operating Expense	\$17,801.42
3-1.8/8-2021	Authorize the Payment for Insurance Policy Renewal IMAC Insurance Agency, Belleville, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$47,692.00
3-1.9/8-2021	Authorize the Payment for Council and Joint Purchasing Consortium Assessment New Jersey Council of County Colleges, Trenton, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$67,711.00
3-1.10/8-2021	Authorize the Award to Two (2) Vendors for Instructional Services for the Summer Youth Program Black Rocket Productions, Freehold, NJ STEAM To-Go, Midland Park, NJ Summer Youth Program Funded – Operating Expense	\$17,450.00 <u>8,000.00</u> Total \$25,450.00
3-1.11/8-2021	Authorize the Award for a Bid for Janitorial Industrial Supplies Imperial Bag & Paper Co., LLC, Jersey City, NJ United Sales USA Corporation, Brooklyn, NY College Funded – Operating Expense	\$19,568.85 <u>21,784.60</u> Total \$41,353.45

3-1.12/8-2021	Authorize the Award of Consulting Service for Fiscal Year 2022 Ronald Goldfarb, Prospect, CT College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$17,000.00
3-1.13/8-2021	Authorize the Award of a Two (2) Year Bid for Cooling Tower Seasonal Startup, Shutdown, and General Repair Services Clarity Water Technology, LLC, Nanuet, NY College Funded – Operating Expense	\$31,130.00

Trustee Morales moved the actions for ratification. Trustee Cruz seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Trustee Lewis noted that the Finance Committee met on September 13<sup>th</sup> and recommends the approval of finance actions 3-1.1 through 3-1.11 as follows:

3-1.1/9-2021	Authorize the Award of a Five-Year Contract for Dining Services Dining Partnership Group (DPG), Verona, NJ	
3-1.2/9-2021	Authorize the Award of a Two (2) Year Bid for Maintenance Agreement for Emergency Generators G.M.H. Associates of America, Inc., Trenton, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$49,168.60
3-1.3/9-2021	Authorize the Award of a Purchase of License for Microsoft 365 Software SHI International Corporation, Somerset, NJ CRRSAA Grant Funds: Cares Act II, Covid-19 Funded – Operating Expense	\$28,323.56
3-1.4/9-2021	Authorize the Award of a Renewal for Maintenance Agreement Dell Computers, Round Rock, TX College Funded – Operating Expense	\$4,479.46
3-1.5/9-2021	Authorize the Award of a Purchase of a Ricoh Pro 8110s for the Print Shop Department Ricoh USA, Inc., Philadelphia, PA College Funded – Capital Expense	\$11,427.00
3-1.6/9-2021	Authorize the Payment for Legal Services Fernandez Garcia, LLC., Morristown, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$9,840.00
3-1.7/9-2021	Authorize the Payment for Legal Services Lum, Drasco & Positan, LLC., Roseland, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$10,865.09
3-1.8/9-2021	Authorize the Award of an Emergency Contract for Medicat Software License and Immunization Compliance Solution Medicat, LLC., Atlanta, GA CRRSAA Grant Funds – Cares Act II, Covid-19 Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$57,500.00

3-1.9/9-2021	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Consulting Services TPR Education LLC., dba: The Princeton Review, New York, NY College Readiness Now Grant Funded – Operating Expense	\$12,480.00
3-1.10/9-2021	Authorize the Award of Additional Service Repairs in the Physical Education Building JMR Electrical Contracting, Maywood, NJ Essex County Funded – Capital Expense	\$36,710.00
3-1.11/9-2021	Authorize the Award of a Purchase for President’s Vehicle Maplecrest Lincoln – Mercury, Inc., Union, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$53,603.76

Trustee Wright moved the finance actions for approval. Trustee Morales seconded. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Additionally, Trustee Lewis introduced two goldenrod actions, relative to construction activities at the West Essex Campus. He asked Board Counsel, Mr. Marlin Townes to read the actions into the record. Mr. Townes read as follows:

**Action 3-2.1 – Acceptance of Funds from the County of Essex**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:64A--57 permits the Board of Trustees to accept funds from any government or governmental agency to use for its purposes.

**WHEREAS**, a request was made to the County of Essex for additional capital funds needed for the construction of a new campus building in West Caldwell; and

**WHEREAS**, it was deemed necessary to demolish the building the College occupied and replace it with a new state-of-the-art, 51,700 square foot facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the new construction allows for the design of flexible and expanded spaces and the ability to acquire new equipment and materials that reduce operating costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the new West Essex campus will provide the facilities that meet the needs of students preparing themselves for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce, and empower faculty and staff in delivering high quality academic programming; and

**WHEREAS**, the new West Essex campus will provide the infrastructure and flexibility to support changes in pedagogy, and enable Essex County College to remain competitive with neighboring institutions of higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, the new West Essex campus will enable the College to expand its programs for degree seeking students and offerings for hands-on, skills-based workforce development programs designed to meet the needs of today’s labor market and better serve the West Essex community; and

**WHEREAS**, the new building’s impact on Essex County will support growth in the county’s western region that expands access to affordable higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, this request for additional capital funds is needed to meet the College’s capital budget for the purpose of constructing a new branch campus,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Essex County College Board of Trustees as follows:

1. The Board of Trustees of Essex County College accepts funding from the County of Essex in the amount of \$10,000,000 for capital expenses incurred by Essex County College for the construction of a new branch campus building in West Caldwell, New Jersey.

**Action 3-2.2 – Resolution to Provide Statement and to Fix Date for Essex County College Board of School Estimate Public Hearing**

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees of Essex County College has determined that it is necessary to raise additional capital funds for the purpose of the construction of a new campus building in West Caldwell; and

**WHEREAS:** N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-19 requires Essex County College to prepare and deliver to each member of the Board of School Estimate a statement with an estimated cost, the amount of money estimated by the Board of Trustees needed to be raised and the source of funding for the construction of a new campus building in West Caldwell.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Essex County College Board of Trustees as follows:

1. The President of Essex County College shall ensure that a copy of the statement with an estimated cost, the amount of money estimated by the Board of Trustees needed to be raised and the source of funding for the construction of a new campus building in West Caldwell be delivered to each member of the Board of School Estimate as soon as practicable; and
2. The Board of School Estimate shall hold a virtual public hearing with respect to the statement for additional funds for the construction for a new campus building in West Caldwell on October 14, 2021 via Zoom in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 2020 c. 11, the Governor of New Jersey’s Executive Order 244, and N.J.A.C. 5:39-1 Emergency Regulations: Remote Public Meetings Held During a Declared Emergency) regarding COVID 19 Emergency Actions at 1:00 p.m.

Trustee Robinson moved the goldenrod actions for approval. Trustee Wright seconded her motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**Personnel Committee Report**

Trustee Grimes presented for ratification the following actions, approved by the Executive Committee on June 28, 2021 and August 24, 2021 respectively:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 4-1/6-2021S | Contract Ratification, Essex County College Administrative Association  |
| 4-2/6-2021S | Contract Ratification, Essex County College Professional Association  |
| 4-3/6-2021S | Contract Ratification, Essex County College Support Staff Association   |
| 4-4/6-2021S | Contract Ratification, Essex County College Security Association  |
| 4-1/8-2021  | Withdrawn   |
| 4-2/8-2021  | Ruben Petrela - Assistant Professor, Architecture<br>Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Sciences<br>Salary – \$60,280.00<br>Effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 |

- 4-3/8-2021      Bridget Turner - Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Education  
Social Sciences, Humanities and Bilingual Studies  
Salary - \$60,280.00  
Effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022
- 4-4/8-2021      Clare Kajura - Instructor, Psychology  
Social Sciences, Humanities and Bilingual Studies  
Salary - \$55,690.00  
Effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022
- 4-5/8-2021      Ardian Selimi - Instructor, Computer Sciences  
Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Sciences  
Salary - \$55,690.00  
Effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022
- 4-6/8-2021      Jennifer Chapman - Lecturer B, Nursing  
Nursing and Health Sciences  
Salary - \$63,970.00  
Effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

**The actions were unanimously ratified by the Board** per a motion made by Trustee Cruz, seconded by Trustee Lewis.

Trustee Grimes then presented the appointments which follow as recommendations for Board approval:

- 4-1/9-2021      Renee Ojo-Ohikuare - Director – Enrollment Services / Registrar  
Enrollment Services  
Salary - \$110,000.00  
Effective September 20, 2021 through August 31, 2022
- 4-2/9-2021      Wed Hernandez - Student Advisor and Mentor  
President’s Office  
Salary - \$42,000.00  
Effective September 22, 2021 through June 30, 2022
- 4-3/9-2021      Leroy John - Student Advisor and Mentor  
President’s Office  
Salary - \$45,000.00  
Effective September 22, 2021 through June 30, 2022
- 4-4/9-2021      Christine La Para - Student Advisor and Mentor  
President’s Office  
Salary - \$42,000.00  
Effective September 22, 2021 through June 30, 2022
- 4-5/9-2021      Baldelit Nunez - Student Advisor and Mentor  
President’s Office  
Salary - \$42,000.00  
Effective September 22, 2021 through June 30, 2022

4-6/9-2021 Shawn Yearwood - Student Advisor and Mentor  
President's Office  
Salary - \$45,000.00  
Effective September 22, 2021 through June 30, 2022

4-7/9-2021 Kent McCray - Security Officer  
Public Safety  
\$24,960.00  
Effective September 27, 2021

Trustee Wright moved the appointments for approval. Trustee Morales seconded her motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Trustee Grimes then asked the Board to approve the following promotions in academic rank and promotions:

4-8/9-2021 Promotions in Academic Rank  
Teryn Cha  
Associate Professor, Computer Sciences  
Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Sciences

Raquel Pernia  
Professor, Accounting  
Business

Victor Stolberg  
Associate Professor, Counseling  
Student Development and Counseling

4-9/9-2021 Promotion  
Jeanine Chambers - Coordinator – Academic Technology Resources  
Academic Affairs  
Salary - \$45,000.00  
Effective September 22, 2021 through June 30, 2022

4-10/9-2021 Promotion  
Constance Woodard - Security Dispatcher  
Public Safety  
Salary - \$59,319.78  
Effective September 22, 2021

Trustee Robinson moved approval of the actions. Trustee Guyton seconded her motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Trustee Grimes presented the actions which follow (Return to Faculty, Retirements, Resignations and Supplement) for approval:

4-11/9-2021 Return to Faculty  
Brooke Orosz - Assistant Professor, Mathematics  
Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Sciences  
Salary - \$67,886.00  
Effective September 1, 2021

4-12/9-2021

Retirements

Maria Alvarado - Director  
Community and Extension Programs  
Effective August 31, 2021

Linda Carter - Associate Professor, Criminal Justice  
Social Sciences, Humanities and Bilingual Studies  
Effective August 31, 2021

Brenda Kirkland - Financial Aid Officer  
Financial Aid  
Effective August 26, 2021

Maria Matos - Secretary  
Enrollment Services  
Effective December 31, 2021

Ezra Lawrence - Maintenance Technician  
Facilities Management  
Effective October 31, 2021

4-13/9-2021

Resignations

Karin Roslund - Librarian, Instructor  
Martin Luther King Jr. Library  
Effective September 17, 2021

Michele Bryson - Coordinator  
Humanities  
Effective September 17, 2021

Elizabeth Vasquez-Ramirez - Program Coordinator  
Training, Inc  
Effective August 6, 2021

Natasha Belfon - Administrative Assistant  
Child Development Center  
Effective June 18, 2021

Lisa Fowles - Legal Assistant  
General Counsel  
Effective September 10, 2021

Tanga Banks - Teacher Assistant  
Child Development Center  
Effective September 2, 2021



Michael Shore - Police Officer  
Public Safety  
Effective July 22, 2021

Matthew Mancheno - Security Officer  
Public Safety  
Effective August 23, 2021

Emmanuel Molina - Security Officer  
Public Safety  
Effective July 3, 2021

Chinnara Smith - Security Officer  
Public Safety  
Effective August 16, 2021

4-14/9-2021 Supplement  
Phyllis Walker - 504 Coordinator  
Compliance  
Additional Responsibilities July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022  
Supplement - \$5,000.00

On a motion made by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Morales, **the motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Educational Programs Committee Report**

Trustee Lewis presented actions 7-1.1 through 7-1.5, approved by the Executive Committee on August 24, 2021 for ratification:

- 7-1.1/8-2021 Acceptance of Funds: Essex County Division of Training and Employment
- 7-1.2/8-2021 Acceptance of Funds: Johnson Controls Community College Partnership Program
- 7-1.3/8-2021 Acceptance of Funds: Opportunity Meets Innovation Challenge Grant – Office of the Secretary of Higher Education
- 7-1.4/8-2021 Acceptance of Funds: Victoria Foundation
- 7-1.5/8-2021 Research Subaward Agreement: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Trustee Robinson moved and Trustee Cruz seconded the motion to ratify the actions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report**

Trustee Morales presented action 7-2.1 which was approved by the Executive Committee on August 24, 2021 for ratification:

- 7-2.1/8-2021 Acceptance of Equipment: Hotspots

Trustee Cruz moved the action for ratification. Trustee Robinson seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Policy and Governance Committee Report**

Trustee Cruz reported that the Policy and Governance Committee did not meet this month; therefore, she had nothing to bring forth for the attention of the Board.

### **Community Relations Committee Report**

Trustee Wright presented action 7-4.1 which adds Twitter and Instagram to the College's social media platform. She noted that the action was approved by the Executive Committee on August 24, 2021 and is submitted for ratification:

7-4.1/8-2021      Authorization to Expand the College's Social Media Platform

On a motion made by Trustee Morales, seconded by Trustee Cruz, **the motion carried unanimously.**

### **Alumni Association Report**

Mr. Nkuah Asare, President of the Alumni Association submitted and read into the record his report to the Board of Trustees. It is attached at Appendix B.

Madame Chair commented that the Board is delighted that we have an active Alumni Association and that it makes a big difference in terms of what can get done at the College. She also offered the support of the Board and invited him to reach out at any time for assistance.

### **Student Government Association Report**

Ms. Jessica Clark, SGA President submitted the report attached at Appendix C and read it into the record of the meeting.

Trustee Bolden thanked Ms. Clark for her report and commended Dr. Boakye on his efforts to motivate active and viable Student Government and Alumni Associations.

### **President's Report**

Dr. Augustine Boakye, was invited to make the President's Report. He opened his report by welcoming everyone to the Fall 2021 Academic Year. He thanked Board members for their support and participation at the September 10<sup>th</sup> ground-breaking ceremony held on the West Essex Campus. He noted that Board members joined Governor Murphy and County Executive DiVincenzo who were also in attendance.

Dr. Boakye's report to the Board is attached at Appendix D.

Madame Chair thanked Dr. Boakye for the job he has done for the College.

### **Faculty Association Report**

Prof. Frank began his report by endorsing some of the comments Mr. Zilbermints made with regard to the cafeteria. Thereafter, he raised the following:

- As the College starts the Fall semester most classes will be in person, which he described as being an 'experiment':
  - Prof. Frank said ECC is the only community college requiring all students to be vaccinated and masked as a condition of enrollment and to attend classes. He commented that this has not negatively impacted enrollment.
  - Prof. Frank stated that the decision to 'do so' was made at the Cabinet level without input from the bargaining units which he perceived as being controversial.

- He shared concerns which revolve around safety. He said the main campus not designed for a pandemic, i.e., ventilation issues, classroom size to accommodate social distancing, etc.
- Prof. Frank gratefully noted that accommodations have been made for those at risk; and expressed expectation that faculty will be advised, in a timely manner, of any adverse situations related to covid-19.
- Prof. Frank stated that he supports the ‘experiment’ whole-heartedly because of his belief that virtual instruction will never be optimum.
- The virus is not going away. Our plans are hostage to covid. No one can predict the future and we need to plan for the worst and hope for the best.
- There are positive items on the agenda – the promotions of faculty; however there should be more.

Prof Frank closed his report with a request to address the Board in an Executive Session; and, he thanked the Board for the work they do.

### **New Business**

Madame Chair advised the status of the search for the next President of Essex County College. She reported that the Search Committee will be interviewing eight finalists. Of the eight, three will become finalists who will be introduced to the College Community and interviewed by the Board of Trustees. She expressed hope that the process would be completed by the end of October and that the Board would be able to announce the new President of Essex County College at the beginning of November.

### **Public Comments**

Public Comments from D’Andre Gillis, Sharron Green and Lev Zilbermints were read into the record of the meeting and are attached at Appendix D.

### **Notice of Executive Session**

Trustee Grimes read the Notice of Executive Session into the record of the meeting as follows:

WHEREAS, The Open Public Meetings Act, 1975 (N.J. Law Chapter 231) permits a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain topics are discussed:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Essex County College shall hold, following this meeting and prior to its next scheduled meeting on October 19, 2021 at 4:30 PM, an Executive Session to discuss the following topics, the general nature of which is limited to Collective Bargaining Agreements, Pending and Existing Contractual Negotiations, Litigation and Personnel Matters. The discussion of these said topics shall be disclosed to the public as soon as reasonable.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business at hand, Chair Bolden adjourned the meeting at 5:36 pm.

**From:** Lev Zilbermintz <polyanker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 4:16 PM  
**To:** agendacomments <agendacomments@essex.edu>  
**Subject:** REVISED AGENDA COMMENTS BY LEV ZILBERMINTS

Hope you enjoyed your summer vacation. I spent mine playing chess, picking mushrooms, raspberries, blackberries, visiting family and friends. So, having said that, let me give you my Agenda Comments.

**First, I would like to bring your attention to Item 3-1.1/9-2021**, which awards a five-year contract to Dining Partnership Group of Verona, N.J. I would like to say that we need longer hours than 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. for the college community to buy food. Please understand that students need hot food and good food to be able to get energy for studying. How can you get good grades and ace exams if you do not have enough to eat?

What about students who have classes after 2 p.m.? They cannot get food to eat from the Cafeteria. Afternoon and evening students are in this category. The free period starts at 2:30 p.m., on Thursday, yet the Cafeteria is closed. Can we extend the hours of operation?

I submit to you that having enough or not enough food to eat can affect both the retention rate and the graduation rate. So, I would ask that the College increase the hours from 8 am - 6 p.m. so that afternoon and evening students can buy food in the Cafeteria.

FYI, I sent a separate email on the subject to the Student Government, the President of the College, the Director of Student Life and Activities, the Faculty Representative, and the Alumni Association. Why? Because this issue affects the entire college community, not just students.

Can a freshman, a professor, an alumni or the President get food from the Cafeteria after 2 p.m.? No. And what about hot food? I do not see any. The vending machines do not sell hot food.

Related is **3-1.1/9.2021**. Allow me to elaborate, as this concerns the Cafeteria.

You are giving the contract for Cafeteria back to the same people that had it in 1991 - 1999: Frungillo Caterers? Or what they called themselves back then, Dining Services? I remember these days quite well. It was the summer and fall of 1991. When Dining services came in, prices went up. Students complained about the price increase. The 1991-92 SGA, where I served as a Senator and Secretary, held negotiations with Dining Services. We had some prices reduced to match those in the concession stand. Also, we had coupons in the student newspaper, which were hugely popular.

There also were problems with the Cafeteria. One time mice left crap on the table. Other times there was no scale by the salad bar. Sometimes there were long lines because there was only one cashier.

The main problem with Dining Services Group was that they did not allow students to have outside catering. It meant that student organizations had to buy from the Cafeteria at prices higher than they would have brought from outside. So if Jones Catering could sell the food for \$200, and Dining Services for \$250, the students and their organizations still had to pay for \$250.

If you want to approve this contract, then I say that you amend it. Student organizations should be allowed to compare prices and choose between buying from outside and Dining Services.

I was there, in the 1990s, I directly saw how it went. Mr. Sedikki was at ECC back then too, but he was not involved with the Student Government like I was, with due respect. I was in the Senate, on the Executive Board, during 1991-92 and 1992-93 SGAs. I also worked with the 1993-94 SGA as well.

I predict that if prices increase when Dining Services resumes operations after 22 years of absence, then the students will complain. What happened in the 1990s with the Cafeteria would repeat itself. Do you know why Dining Services left in 1999? Because they were losing millions of dollars by that time. Metropolitan Dining took over from there.

Prior to 1991, the Cafeteria was college operated. This was the case when I came to Essex County College in September 1990. Prices were frozen. When Dining Services came, prices were raised for the first time in 1.5 years.

**Second, congratulations on the ratification of contracts with four Essex County College associations.** This will get things moving smoothly.

**Third, appointments. These are 4 - 1/8-2021 thru 4-7/9-2021.** I think you are on the right track, filling vacancies, and closing gaps that were caused by retirements and resignations. Congratulations to all who were appointed and promoted!! Now, my question is, do the new hires increase the number of faculty? Because, as Professor Mike Frank said at previous Board meetings, some departments are very understaffed. So, is that problem being addressed?

**Fourth, having Student Advisors and Mentors** is an excellent idea. When I attended ECC thirty years ago, the Student Support Services Program was fulfilling these functions. Later, in 1994-2007, we had the Freshman Center. The Urban Issues Institute also helped out a lot along these lines. Thus, we had mentors in many different places. These new hires will make the work of Counselors on the 4th floor much easier.

**Fifth, resignations.** We should thank those who are leaving for their dedicated service to the school. My question is, will we have new hires to replace those who are leaving? We want to ensure the school is not affected by these resignations. For example, getting another general counsel to replace Lisa Fowles.

**Sixth, expansion of the College's Social Media Platform.** Great idea! What I would like to see is every student organization, including the SGA, having a webpage of their own here. We live in 2021, not 1991. Years ago, it was flyers, phone calls, and word of mouth. Today it is Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and so forth. I submit that the student newspaper be brought back as an online newsletter. Rutgers, Seton Hall, Montclair State have this.

This concludes my Agenda Comments for today's meeting.

Lev D. Zilbermints

Class of 1993

**Essex County College Alumni Association  
Report to the Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, September 21, 2021**

Good afternoon, Board Members and fellow ECC Alumni.

- ❖ The Essex County College Alumni Association is back. As you are aware, we have been dormant for a while. But with the help of Interim President, Dr. Augustine Boakye, we are back, energized and ready to play our rightful role in the college that has given so much to so many.
- ❖ Following a competitive but friendly elections process, a new executive, headed by my humble self as President, assumed office on July 7, 2021.
- ❖ Knowing the importance of the Alumni Association to our college, we have hit the ground running by creating a social media forum to facilitate easy and real-time communication.
- ❖ Our first Executive Board meeting took place on July 22, 2021. This allowed us to meet each other, network, review our constitution and recognize the important responsibilities we now hold as leaders.
- ❖ Moving forward, the Executive Board will meet on the third Thursday of every month from 6:30pm – 7:30pm.
- ❖ We have now selected standing committee Chairpersons all of whom have vowed to make this Association the vibrant organization ECC expects it to be. We thank Dr. Augustine Boakye for his vision and leadership in pushing to bring the Association back.
- ❖ Our second board meeting was held on August 19, 2021. During this meeting, I unveiled my 2021 – 2022 goals to the Executive Board for discussion and approval. The Board agreed that the goals, as outlined, are achievable and committed to accomplish them.
- ❖ The 2021 – 2022 Essex County College Alumni Association goals are:
  1. To increase our active membership.
  2. To relocate our office to a more visible area on campus. This will increase visibility and effectiveness. President Boakye is working to make this possible for the Association.
  3. To rebuild our Alumni webpage and use it to share important information such as- Member Benefits, Recruitment, How to Donate, Upcoming Events, and How to support the college's student recruitment efforts.
  4. To organize fund raising activities for student scholarships. *Our minimum target for 2021-2022 academic year or term in office is \$50,000*
- ❖ Finally, our general Alumni Association Meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2021, at 6:30pm.

**Reported by Nkuah Asare, ECC Alumni President.**

## **Student Government Association Fall 2021 Report**

**Good afternoon, Members of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Boakye, Faculty and Staff**

### **Congratulations to our Current Student Government Association Board!**

The results are in for the 2021-2022 SGA administration. Congratulations to our new team as we look forward to establishing our presence in a huge way for the upcoming academic year.

**President- Jessica Clark**

**Vice President- Nicholas Mendez**

**Secretary- Sarah Dolisca**

**Senator of Comm. Relations- Yolanda Brown**

**Senator of Grievance- Khadejah Dornford**

**Advisor- Joseph Ott**

**The Board will follow SGA By-Laws and seeking to fill the Vacant Treasures position ASAP**

### **NJ COMMUNITY COLLEGE SGA FORUM**

We have continued to hold a presence in the NJCC SGA community where President Clark has regularly attended events hosted by the group. She has shared ways to help the Essex SGA become more involved with the community such as volunteer opportunities.

### **NJ CCC Student and Alumni Committee Quarterly Meeting**

As student representative President Clark attended the quarterly NJ CCC Student and Alumni Committee meeting where updates were made from our June 2021 meeting. These updates included the FY2022 state budget, Mental Health of Student Initiative and Pathways to Career Opportunities Fund.

### **Essex County College Reopening Plan/ SGA Care for Covid Initiative**

We have begun advising students of the rules and regulations of the Colleges re-opening plan. Advising students of the CDC guidelines, mask mandates, and Covid-19 vaccination requirements for vaccinated and non-vaccinated students.

### **Rock the Vote and Help for Haiti Initiative**

During new student orientation and welcome week held on the campus the SGA board members informed and helped register 36 new/transfer/returning students register to vote for the November primary. During this same time SGA began to inform students of the devastation of the earthquake

that hit Haiti in August 2021. We began advising student the fundraising and necessary supply collection that will begin during the Fall 2021 semester in partnership with NJ4Haiti organization.

### **West Essex Groundbreaking Ceremony**

SGA President Clark and Vice-President Mendez were given the privilege to be the student representatives by of honoring Governor Phil Murphy and Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr., with tokens of appreciation for the generous donations made by the Governor and the County Executive.

### **Roundtable with Pyetra Camargo Political Assistant, Latino & Faith-based Outreach**

SGA Board Members had a roundtable discussion with Pyetra Camargo Political Assistant, Latino & Faith-based Outreach, Graduate of Essex County College, Valedictorian Class of 2019. During our discussion SGA was informed of the Governors Statewide Day of Action, to continue the registration progress of all New Jersey Residents to register to vote. SGA was also invited to join First Lady Tammy Murphy on September 23, 2021, at her Student Leader Roundtable discussion.

Respectfully Submitted

Jessica Clark

Student Government Association President



## Memorandum

**To:** Dr. M. Bolden & the Board of Trustees  
**From:** Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, Interim President, Essex County College  
**Date:** September 21, 2021  
**Re:** President's Report

### General:

Despite the COVID-19 challenges, Essex County College continues to operate in fulfillment of its mission, thus, to serve the diverse needs of its students through comprehensive educational programs, training and continuing education. For the safety of our faculty, staff, students and the entire campus community, we require vaccination and face covering while on campus. Individuals with medical or religious reasons have the opportunity to seek an exemption.

- ❖ We continue to encourage all employees and students to participate in the free COVID-19 vaccination. ECC Gymnasium continues to be a site for COVID-19 vaccination and testing.

### Academics:

The Fall 2021 semester took off successfully on September 2, 2021. The semester is designed to allow multiple instructional modalities including face-to-face, hybrid, virtual and pure online. As of September 20, 2021, our fall enrollment stood at 4,526 students or 59,485 credits hours, 4.3% higher than last fall. Our in-person Convocation which was held on Monday, August 30, 2021 was well attended by staff and was graced by Board Vice Chair, Dr. Arnold Lewis. The convocation was organized with multiple faculty and staff training sessions.

Indeed, the new academic year has commenced with cause for applause for our college. *College Factual*, a national organization that produces an annual ranking of colleges and universities just released their 2021 report. I am honored to state that following a review of more than 2,000 colleges and universities, ECC is ranked among the top 5% in the nation for Finance degree programs. ECC's Business Division launched the AS in Finance program in January 2016 and since then has provided quality education with multiple field trips to the Financial district in New York and a strategic partnership with Bloomberg education.

The good news continues. In NASA's Newsletter, September 2021, ECC is featured and invited to participate in the second NASA Career Simulation, Sept. 27 - Oct. 1, 2021. ECC is one of only seven colleges in the country to be invited to this prestigious event.

### Finances

The College is in the process of accepting a \$10 million capital funds from the County of Essex towards the West Essex New Building Project.

### Projects:

The capital projects at the College are progressing well and future projects are under review and discussion. The College had a groundbreaking ceremony on September 10, 2021 to launch the rebuilding of the branch campus located in West Caldwell. Governor Phil Murphy and the County Executive, Mr. Joseph N. DiVincenzo together with the Board of Trustees and Lawmakers were in attendance to grace the event. To maintain our presence in West Caldwell during the construction, we have secured classroom space from ECST and West Caldwell High School to offer ECC courses this fall semester.

At the main campus, renovation of our restrooms is complete. We are now renovating the Gymnasium, the entrance doors, the IT suite and the bridge in front of the Clara Dasher building.

**Community Relations:**

Dr. Boakye continues to participate in all NJ Presidents Council Meetings to advocate for funds and contribute to the success of our state colleges. The recent topic of discussion is on NJCC Funding Formula and Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr. Boakye also participates in regular meetings with the County leadership to share key updates on the College. He represented the College at Mayor Baraka's Newark transformation and recovery from COVID-19 meeting as well as the Newark City Learning Collaborative (NCLC) and Newark Anchor Collaborative (NAC).

Dr. Boakye is also working diligently to revitalize and rebuild the Alumni Association with a new executive elected and installed in July, 2021.

Dr. Boakye continues to engage High School Superintendents in our community and uses the opportunity to promote ECC programs.

**Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.**

**From:** D'Andre Gillis <dgillis@email.essex.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:06 PM  
**To:** publiccomments <publiccomments@essex.edu>  
**Subject:** Today's Board Meeting Comments

Good afternoon Board of Trustees, my name is D'Andre Gillis. I have been working as a security officer/acting dispatcher in the public safety department.

I'm writing this email to share my facts and feelings about the candidate's performance as senior dispatcher within the past 90 days. During this time as a senior dispatcher, her time and attendance is still horrendous. How can she be a supervisor when doesn't follow proper procedure by calling the dispatch area for calling out or running late. Instead she contacts the senior security officer and advises him. On Sunday August 29th, I asked the dispatch supervisor where's the dispatcher's overtime schedule? She stated that the senior dispatcher would be handling it. On Monday September 13th, on the 1500-2300hrs shift, the dispatch supervisor posted the schedule and I was not able to sign up because the calendar was full and that's not normal procedure.

There was a security officer/acting dispatcher working 1500-2300hrs Saturday and Sunday. There was an incident with her and the senior dispatcher in the dispatch area, a week later she resigned.

**From:** sharron green <sharronmgreen65@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** publiccomments <publiccomments@essex.edu>  
**Subject:**

**CAUTION: This email originated outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Good evening, my name is Sharron Green I'm employed by Essex County College Public Safety Department as a Security Dispatcher. I've been working here now for almost 17 years.

In June of 2018 I was wrongfully terminated by this broad, by miss information give by the public safety department.

I was out of work for three (3) years. But I was reinstatement in June of this year. All my friends, family and co-workers asked me why are you going back? I told them it's my job! I have a right to work their. No one can run me off because they don't like me.

In the over ninety day's I've been back at work. The public safety department has over looked me, in my Seniority, in promotion in the dispatch area, Senior Dispatcher position.

The public safety department rushed through two (2) candidate that is unfit to supervise anyone.

But won't grant a promotion to an acting supervisor, that's been working in that title position for almost two years.

These position were not posted, and no one else in the department was interviewed. Which is stated in the contract.

Also in the contract their's One supervisor in the dispatch area. Why is it two supervisors and One dispatcher.

Security Officers are being asked to switch into the dispatch area. And the answer is always No! Asking part timers within the college to come and work in the dispatch area. And the answer is No!

Their are several individuals that could have been interviewed for those positions.

When the department was asked about theses candidate's It was stated "they are the best fit".

How is someone with 2 year's experience is more qualified than someone with almost 17 years of experience. And Security Officer's with 20 year experience not even interviewed.

That individual would not have been able to be in line for the Senior Dispatcher position. If I wasn't wrongfully terminated. She was a security officer.

I find it to be incredible when the Senior Dispatcher can't perform the Bacis duties of a Dispatcher, running a registration, record check, cutting of a fire alarm.

This candidate in the Senior Dispatcher position has implemented her own rules in the dispatch area. Nothing in writing! And the department turns a blind eye. Always saying that they are not aware, or give her free reign.

Thiers no communication in the dispatch area. Why is it that the two supervisors get all the Overtime? The Senior Dispatcher will post a schedule, in the middle of the month with your name on it. And telling you are schedule to work on your regular day off. Un heard of in this department.

How can this candidate supervise anyone? Her attendance is horrible, but if you were to check. It wouldn't reflect it, because she always say she forgot to scan in. No one can scan in at the exact same time every day.

I have addressed my concerns to the department. But none of them have been answered. All of them have been ignored.

Under these two candidates, their is pettiness, they make threats and use intimidation. The department staff is very much under a hostile work environment.

And that's why the morale is so low. You are talked at, not talk too. And most staff don't make complaints because they feel no one in the administration office cares.

Because if you complain or write an incident up, you would have your shift changed.

Charges are brought on you. And you are suspended and no one in Human Resources knows anything that goes on in the department until it's too late.

Their are staff that's just waiting to leave. Another one is out until further notice. Two others left, one resigned and is unable to work in law enforcement. And a new hire worked only 6 day's, and then resign.

The only time individuals will speak freely is in the exit interview. After they resign, or they just leave the department.

**From:** Lev Zilbermintz <polyanker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 7:05 PM  
**To:** publiccomments <publiccomments@essex.edu>  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENTS BY LEV D. ZILBERMINTS

**CAUTION: This email originated outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello, everyone,

I would like to say that it is a pleasure to see an Alumni Report again. Now we have an elected Executive Board, one that will represent the thousands of alumni who graduated from this school since 1970. That's good.

You know, the good thing is that people can speak at ECC Board meetings and get a response. Don't know if you heard, but the Rutgers Board of Governors was sued in Middlesex Superior Court by an alumna and a tenured professor for violating the Open Public Meetings Act. How? Well, the Daily Targum says that once the alumna and professor started asking questions, the Board President ruled them out of order. The professor was banned from the meeting -- and he was the University Senate Faculty Representative -- while the alumna was not banned, but ruled out of order. So now there is a lawsuit, and who knows how that will end...

My question is, why have we not heard about getting a permanent President? Personally I think Dr. Boakye is the right man for the job. Now that opinion might not sit well with those who have a different view, but so what?. First Amendment, you know. And this is not about you, it is about the school. We need major reforms here, and Dr. Augustin Boakye is the man for the occasion. How else do you explain that all college associations backed him?

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education could ask us, "hey, why don't you have a permanent president?" I am not sure what our answer would be. What other positions do we need to make sure are filled before we start answering tough questions from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education?

I would like to see a voting student representative on the Board of Trustees. Time to change New Jersey law. The students pay big bucks to this school, yet they do not have a vote.

Finally, when can there be automatic doors at the college entrances? Our bathrooms have automatic doors, but our entrances do not. What happens when a person using a walker, crutches or wheelchair uses the doors we currently have? They have to be opened manually, you know.

So, we can spend money to install automatic-opening doors in the bathrooms, but not at the college entrances? That just does not sound right.

This completes my Public Comments for today.

Lev D. Zilbermintz, '93