



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

February 22, 2022 – 4:30 PM

A Virtual Meeting

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

*Absent:* L. Guyton

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by the Board’s Chair, Trustee Bolden.

**Open Public Meetings Act Announcement**

Trustee Grimes was called up to make the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement. She did so 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 January 4, 2022 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 Actions. 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 made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Board of Trustees. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Robinson. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**Communications**

The Board Secretary, Trustee Grimes, announced that no communications had been received.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

The following public comments submitted by Lev D. Zilbermints, Class of 1993, were read into the record of the meeting:

Dear Board and College Community,

Today is an unusual day. It is 2/22/22. This happens only once every eleven years. The next one will not be until March 3, 2033.

Now, to the comments on agenda items.

3-2.2/2-2022 Settlement and General Release - Dr. Gale E. Gibson.

I think it is past time this was done. Remember, I told the Board time and again to do this. It has been what, six years?

4.8/2-2022 - Resignation of CFO George Peterson

What is going on? This is the sixth or seventh CFO since 2017. Seems like there is a revolving door for CFOs at this school. None stay long enough.

Yes, you hired a consultant to be CFO. My question is, can we have a long-lasting CFO?

### Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra reported that the Finance Committee met and all actions were vetted and recommended for approval. Action 3-1.1, he advised, would be segregated for a separate vote.

3-1.2/2-2022	Authorize The Award for Recruitment Campaign Altice Media Solutions, LLC, Pittsburgh, PA College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$20,000.00
3-1.3/2-2022	Authorize the Award for Applicant Tracking Subscription People Admin/PowerSchool Group, LLC, Los Angeles, CA College Funded – Operating Expense	\$28,694.99
3-1.4/2-2022	Authorize the Award of a Contract to Support Remote Learning Zoom Video Corporation, Inc., San Jose, CA Covid-19 Funded – Operating Expense	\$19,000.00
3-1.5/2-2022	Authorize the Additional Payment for the Collection of Amounts due on Student Loans University Accounting Services, Carol Stream, IL College Funded – Operating Expense	\$16,900.00 plus an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00
3-1.6/2-2022	Authorize the Payment for Legal Services O’Toole Scrivo, LLC, Cedar Grove, NJ Genova Burns, LLC, Newark, NJ Fernandez Garcia, LLC, Morristown, NJ Lum Drasco & Positan, LLC, Roseland, NJ Schenck, Price, Smith & King, LLP, Florham Park, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$13,780.00 2,777.28 8,115.00 1,152.44 2,835.00 <u>Total</u> \$28,659.72
3-1.7/2-2022	Authorize the Change Order for WEC Campus Netta Architects, Mountainside, NJ Building Our Future Bond Funded – Capital Expense	\$175,000.00
3-1.8/2-2022	Authorize the Award of Chief Financial Officer Consulting Services Susan K. Perkins, Skillman, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$80,000.00
3-2.1/2-2022	Legal Service – Carmagnola & Ritardi, LLC	
3-2.2/2-2022	Settlement and General Release – Dr. Gale E. Gibson	

Finance actions 3-1.2 through 3-2.2 were moved for approval by Trustee Cruz. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Lewis. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Trustee Zarra then asked Board Counsel, Mr. Townes, to present the amendment to action 3-1.1. – Ronald C. Goldfarb. Mr. Townes read, into the record, the amended action as follows:

**WHEREAS**, Essex County College needs to approve an additional amount of **\$25,000.00** for **Ronald C. Goldfarb**, Prospect, Connecticut to serve as a Middle States self-study expert, by drafting the reports, serving on the committees to ensure compliance. Contracts for goods and services are exempt from bidding pursuant to the provisions of County College Contracts Law N.J.S.A.18A:64A-25.5.a(15), Professional consulting services; and

**WHEREAS**, On August 24, 2021 (3-1.12/08-2021); The Board of Trustees approved a consulting service in the amount of \$17,000 for the Middle States Self-Study Editorial Consultant; and

**WHEREAS**, The award of this purchase was made as “Non-Fair and Open” pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:44A-20,4. When the aggregation rules (NJAC 5:34-8-2) are applied, the value of this acquisition exceeds \$17,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, Essex County College wishes to amend the contract to increase the do not exceed amount by \$25,000.00 to \$42,000.00 to account for additional services that are needed by the College; and

**WHEREAS**, The Chief Finance Officer (CFO) of Essex County College has determined and certified in writing that the funds are available for this purpose, and the Office of General Counsel reviewed and approved the contract attached;

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

1. The Essex County College is hereby authorized to execute an amended contract for consulting services with **Ronald C. Goldfarb** to increase the do not exceed amount by \$25,000.00 to **\$42,000.00** from July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022;
2. The consulting services were awarded without public bidding as a purchase through in accordance with the provisions of the County College Contracts Law N.J.S.A.18A:64A-25.5.a(15);
3. The specific line item against which this purchase is to be charged is as follows:  
10-0217-7180 Operating Expense  
FY 2021/2022

Trustee Zarra moved that the Board approve the amended action:

3-1.1/2-2022	Resolution Authorizing the amended agreement for consulting services relating to Middle States Ronald C. Goldfarb, Prospect, CT College Funded – Operating Expense	Increase the do not exceed amount to \$42,000.00
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Trustee Grimes seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

## Personnel Committee Report

Trustee Grimes advised that the Personnel Committee met and vetted the following appointments, retirements, resignations and supplement.

### Appointments

- 4-1/2-2022 WITHDRAWN
- 4-2/2-2022 Jefferson Calle, Computer Laboratory Coordinator  
Information Technology  
Salary \$43,500  
Effective February 23, 2022
- 4-3/2-2022 Gretchen Soler, Administrative Assistant  
Enrollment Services  
Salary \$35,568  
Effective February 23, 2022
- 4-4/2-2022 Sonya Rodriguez Jimenez, Office Assistant  
Enrollment Services  
Salary \$27,500  
Effective February 23, 2022
- 4-5/2-2022 Ellena Hardy, Custodian  
Custodial Services and Campus Events  
Salary \$27,000  
Effective February 23, 2022
- 4-6/2-2022 Maria Falcon, Administrative Assistant  
Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)  
Salary \$35,900  
Effective February 23, 2022

### Retirements

- 4-7/2-2022 Brendan Doyle, Assistant Professor  
Biology, Chemistry and Physics  
Effective February 28, 2022
- Ileana Rojas, Coordinator of Extension Programs  
Non-Credit Enrollment Services and Extension Programs  
Effective February 28, 2022

### Resignations

- 4-8/2-2022 Dorothy Dugue, Compliance Officer / Title IX Coordinator  
Compliance  
Effective January 27, 2022
- George Peterson, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)  
Finance  
Effective February 4, 2022

Kevin Maloney, Financial Aid Officer  
Financial Aid  
Effective January 28, 2022

Richard Ossai-Addo, Maintenance Technician  
Facilities Management  
Effective February 8, 2022

D'Andre Gillis, Security Officer  
Public Safety  
Effective January 31, 2022

**Supplement**

4-9/2-2022 Professional Level IV  
Yelena Lyudmilova, Mentorship, Alignment, Preparedness, Support (MAPS) Director  
Mentorship, Alignment, Preparedness, Support (MAPS) Grant  
Supplement - \$3,333.33  
Effective January 4, 2022

Trustee Cruz moved the personnel actions for approval. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Lewis. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**Educational Programs Committee Report**

Trustee Lewis advised that the Educational Programs Committee did not convene this month; further, there were no items to present for the Board's consideration.

**Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report**

Trustee Morales reported that the Site Facilities and Equipment Committee did not meet and there were no action items to present to the Board.

**Policy and Governance Committee Report**

Trustee Cruz indicated that the Policy and Governance Committee met and had two action to bring forward for Board approval:

7-3.1/2-2022 Revised Board Policy 3-9: Authorization of Signatures for Expenditures

7-3.2/2-2022 New Board Policy 6-4: Institutional Review Board

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

**Community Relations Committee Report**

Trustee Wright advised that the Community Relations Committee did not meet, but has an action to move forward, the naming of the Physical Education Building after Mr. Cleo Hill, Sr.

7-4.1/2-2022 Naming the Physical Education Building

Trustee Robinson made the motion to approve action 7-4.1. The motion was seconded by Trustee Morales. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Madame Chair remarked that the action to name the Physical Education building after Mr. Cleo Hill was certainly one of the great things on the agenda. She noted that he was a great community person, Essex County College staffer, alum of South Side High School, Newark, NJ, and an all-around good guy.

### **Student Government Association Report**

Ms. Congleton read the Student Government Association Report as it was submitted. The report is attached at Appendix A.

### **Faculty Association Report**

Prof. Frank opened his report with congratulations to Trustee Bolden on the award she received from the County Executive. He commented that she is recognized as one of the best Board Chairs in the history of Essex County College and that her leadership during these difficult times is unparalleled.

Prof. Frank then took a few minutes to honor his retiring colleague, Brendan Doyle, who started his tenure at the College along with him fifty-three years ago. Prof. Frank stated that Prof. Doyle was the most effective teacher of anatomy and physiology in the College's history.

Continuing with his report, Prof. Frank spoke about covid-19, variants, and how they have changed the modalities of instruction offered by the College. He stated, "There is no question whatsoever that in person instruction which was the standard pre-pandemic is superior for most students and we have achieved that by our model. We have various modalities for those who desire the virtual experience, our protocols allow for multiple student options".

Closing out his report, Prof. Frank urged the Board to consider engaging a part-time health professional to guide health related decisions critical to the health and safety of students and staff.

### **Alumni Association Report**

Ms. Congleton shared with the Board an email received from Stephenie Carter, ECC AA Vice President which read:

I am emailing to inform you that the Alumni Association has no report for the Board this month. However, we would appreciate if you would make an announcement on our behalf regarding our General Alumni Association Meeting. The meeting will take place on March 24, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Please share the attachment (see Appendix B) with the Board, in case they are able to attend.

### **President's Report**

Dr. Augustine Boakye submitted his written report (please see Appendix C) which he shared during the meeting.

The President closed out his report by extending thanks to the retirees, Brendan Doyle and Ileana Rojas, for their service. He also expressed appreciation to everyone for their continued efforts during the pandemic.

Trustee Bolden, on behalf of the Board, also extended congratulations and well wishes to the retirees.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Public Comments**

Public Comments submitted by Sharon Green and Lev D. Zilbermints were read into the record of the meeting. Those comments are attached at Appendix D.

### **Notice of Executive Session**

Trustee Cruz read the following notice of Executive Session:

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 March 22, 2022 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**

Madame Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Robinson and Trustee Cruz simultaneously moved the meeting for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm by acclamation.

## Student Government Association January Spring 2022 Report

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

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

On January 21, 2021, the NJCCSGA meet for their first meeting of the Spring 2022 semester. The purpose for the meeting was to discuss ways to strength student involvement on campus. Each SGA represented discussed ways they are planning to increase student involvement on campus, and we also discussed ways to get students more interested in joining the clubs that are active on campus.

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

We continue 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. We have also advised students of the procedure of how to upload their vaccination cards through the student portal.

### **Essex County College ICC Club Meeting / Update on SGA Executive Board**

On January 20, 2022, Former President Jessica Vega emailed her resignation letter to the Student Government Association Executive Board as well as Mr. Ott, SGA advisor and Student Life Director, Mr. Graham. Upon receiving the email, the Executive Board met, and it was decided by a vote that Vice-President Yolanda Brown would take on the role as Interim SGA President.

ICC met on Jan 31, 2022, the meeting was led by ICC Chairperson Yolanda Brown, the clubs informed the Chair of their plans for the spring semester and gave an update on plans to recruit new members to their clubs.

### **Food Pantry**

Since being back on campus SGA continues to help and provide students in need that are requesting assistance with food supplies from the food pantry. SGA is planning to hold a grab and go event for the student in the upcoming weeks.

### **Student Forums**

On January 25, 2022, SGA held a student forum in the cafeteria pit to receive feedback from the students on what they thought of the quality of food provide by the cafeteria, the hours the cafeteria is open, and what ideas they have that will make the cafeteria more enjoyable for all the students on campus. The students gave great feedback and SGA looks forward to working with the administration to help make the cafeteria a more enjoyable experience for all students.

### **SGA Spring Semester initiatives**

- Clothing Drive
- Student Grab and Go Food Drive
- SGA National Volunteer Day at ECC

Respectfully Submitted

Yolanda Brown  
Student Government Association Interim President





*The President and Executive members of the  
ECC Alumni Association cordially invites you to the*

# **Proud ECC Alumni Virtual Meeting**

March 24, 2022  
6:30pm - 8pm



Meeting ID: 977 6667 5625  
Passcode: 641385

Please visit the link below to update your contact information for  
future communications:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Proud\\_ECC\\_Alum](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Proud_ECC_Alum)

## Memorandum

**To:** Dr. M. Bolden & the Board of Trustees  
**From:** Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President, Essex County College  
**Date:** February 22, 2022  
**Re:** President's Report

### General:

I am pleased to announce that the Covid-19 cases have significantly dropped on our campus. For the month of February, no case has been recorded from either the students or employees.

However, for the safety of our students, faculty, staff, visitors and the entire campus community, we are still requiring vaccination and face covering while on campus. These measures will be reassessed and the necessary adjustment will be made as we progress.

It must be noted that the County has moved from Our Gymnasium to 84 W Market St. Newark, NJ (adjacent to our Gym) as the new site for COVID-19 vaccination and testing. Additionally, the College continues to maintain its partnership with Diligent Urgent Care to offer COVID-19 Testing on the main campus - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Multipurpose Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We appreciate the cooperation of everyone in the fight against Covid-19.

### Academics:

The Spring II 2022 semester began on February 10<sup>th</sup> and so far, both Spring I and II are moving smoothly. We have approximately **5,043** students in the classrooms representing approximately **55,879** credit hours.

Our Student Athletes are actively engaged in the seasonal games.

- For the NJCAA Division II Basketball brackets for the 2022 Region 19 Tournament, the Lady Wolverines are listed as the #2 seed. Congrats to our Lady Wolverines!
- The Men's and Women's Track and Field participants are doing well in their respective games at both individual and team levels.
- ECC's Gymnasium served as host for the Essex County 2022 High School Basketball Finals.

### Finances

Dr. Boakye has created a Financial Council to help monitor the financial operations of the college and advise risk areas for immediate actions.

### Projects:

The capital projects at the College are progressing well and future projects are under review and discussion. The construction phase of the West Essex project will begin soon. We are currently renovating the Main campus entrance doors, the IT suite, and the bridge in front of the Clara Dasher building.

PSE&G has begun retrofitting our lighting system as part of a \$400,000 grant awarded to the College. From this grant, the College is expected to receive approximately 5,000 LED lights on the main campus - projected to decrease utility costs by approximately 65-80%.

Dr. Boakye had a successful meeting with the County Executive to discuss renovation of the gym hallway.

### **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. Recent topics of discussion have focused on the Covid-19 pandemic, financial opportunities available to students and the future of Higher Ed.

Dr. Boakye also participates in regular meetings with the County leadership to share key updates on the College. He represented ECC at Newark Anchor Collaborative (NAC) and other affiliated organizations.

Dr. Boakye had a meeting with Chancellor Nancy Cantor to discuss ECC - Rutgers' articulation agreement.

Dr Boakye and ECC team (including: Dr. A. Williams, Dr. E. Vieira and Dr. K. Kirkland) participated in the Montclair State University - Community Colleges breakfast with President Jonathan Koppell to discuss future partnership.

Dr. Boakye had a special meeting with Student Government Association (SGA) leaders to discuss their concerns and also used the opportunity to address some of the initiatives in support of the students.

Dr. Boakye and the Academics leaders had a successful meeting with the Engineering faculty to give back their newly renovated offices in the CFT. The faculty expressed their appreciation.

Dr. Boakye and Mr. A. Bundy represented the College at the recent ACCT - National Legislative Summit held at Washington DC to discuss financial needs of the Community Colleges and the importance of Education investment with the Senators and congressmen/women. Dr. Jill Biden was the Keynote speaker.

**Special Awards:** I am pleased to announce that:

- Dr. Marion Bolden, Board Chair, received the Coretta Scott King Leadership Award from the County Executive for her educational leadership to the community. This recognition was part of the African American Heritage celebration organized by the County.
- Trustee Johanna Wright and Coach Lionel Leach were also recognized by the Essex County Board of Commissioners during the Black History Month celebrations for their distinguished contributions to society.
- Dr. Akil Khalfani, Associate Professor of Behavioral Science, is the recipient of the 2021 Total Faith Media Award for his work as a professor, and the Host and Executive Director of The Pulse TV program, which is produced by MPT. This is the first award for "The Pulse," which has been airing for over 10 years on FIOS, Cablevision and on YouTube.
  - **Congratulations to all the Awardees. We are so proud of you.**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Good evening Broad of Trustee and President Boakye.

Since my reinstatement I have written letters to discuss various concerns within the department. Effective February 27th; the department has informed me, I will working 1st shift 2300 to 0700 hours. Its my beliefs this is in retaliation for my complaints against the department and my supervisor Ms. Watson - Rodgers, Supervisor Dispatcher.

In the 13 years prior I worked 3rd shift due to Ms. Washington being the senior dispatcher. I had requested a rotating shift. I was told by Ms. Ruthie; my then supervisor. The senior dispatcher receives preference for shifts. A rotation of the schedule is not an option.

While Mrs. Rodgers is now the supervisor, I have worked 0700 to 1500 hours for the last 8 months. Mrs. Watson - Rodgers or the department has never given me the same courtesy as Ms. Washington. In addition to my new schedule; I will not only be working the overnight schedule but weekends as well. Something neither Ms Washington or Mrs. Watson - Rodgers has done. Please be advised; I have requested for my shift to not be changed on the bases of seniority.

Lastly with the new schedule Ms. Watson - Rodgers will now work second shift 0700 to 1500. Ms. Watson - Rodgers brings down the morale of the department. It is a tense work environment. When I have addressed my concerns. I felt ignored and now my shift has been changed in retaliation.

Dispatcher  
S. Green

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Hello,

Here are my public comments.

We should thank Dr. Brendan Doyle for his 52 years with Essex County College. Not too many can match five decades of service in education. Dr. Doyle came to ECC in 1969, when the school was at 31 Clinton Street in Newark. He taught generations of students about Biology, Chemistry and Physics. I would like to wish Dr. Doyle the best in his retirement, good health, happiness, and luck.

Your Compliance Officer resigned. Seems to me that the Board needs to make an effort to retain people for longer periods.

Naming the Physical Education Building after Cleo Hill Sr. is a good idea. Make sure the entire state hears about it.

Finally, are you going to celebrate Essex County College's 55th anniversary?

Lev D. Zilbermints

Class of 1993