



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

June 21, 2022 – 4:30 PM

*A Virtual Meeting*

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

*Excused: C. Morales*

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order 4:37 pm on June 21, 2022 by the Chair, Trustee Bolden. At roll call, a quorum of seven (7) trustees in attendance was announced. Trustee Guyton joined the meeting a short time later.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement

Trustee Grimes read into the record of the meeting the Open Public Meetings Act which 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 moved that minutes of the meetings held on May 24<sup>th</sup> be approved. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Robinson and **approved unanimously**.

Communications

Trustee Grimes stated that there were no communications to be shared.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

The following comments on agenda items, submitted by Lev Zilbermints, were read into the record of the meeting:

*Hello,*

*Here are my comments on the agenda.*

***First, it is good to see that you are appointing more Assistant Professors. This will help replenish the deleted ranks of the faculty.***

**Second**, it is nice to see that you are increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour for certain employees.

**Third**, best wishes to Professor Gerald Savage on his retirement. I would like to thank him for his dedicated service to the students and the school over more than five decades.

**Fourth**, a thank you to Maria Abavana and all these employees who are retiring or leaving Essex County College. Thank you for your service to the school.

This concludes my Agenda Comments.

Lev D. Zilbermints, '93

#### Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra advised that the Finance Committee met during the previous week and discussed all of the proposed actions presented. He added that the few questions regarding the actions were answered and the Committee asked that the Board consider approving actions 3-1.1 through 3-2.2. which follow:

3-1.1/6-2022	Authorize the Award of Ten (10) Maintenance Renewals for Hardware Technical Support Services Oracle America, Inc., Dallas, TX College Funded – Operating Expense	\$206,463.37
3-1.2/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Maintenance Agreement Optimum Lightpath, Jericho, NY College Funded – Operating Expense	\$158,400.00
3-1.3/6-2022	Authorize the Award of Renewal for Upgrade Software, and Services to Secure Payment and Permissions through CRM Recruit TouchNet Information Systems, Lenexa, KS CRRSAA (Cares Act) Grant and College Funded Operating Expense	\$27,956.00
3-1.4/6-2022	Authorize the Award of Five (5) License Renewals for Virtual Apps and Desktops Citrix Systems, Inc., Ft. Lauderdale, FL College Funded – Operating Expense	\$24,753.00
3-1.5/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Two-year Contract for Janitorial Industrial Supplies Imperial Bag & Paper (SBE) United Sales USA (SBE) College Funded – Operating Expense	\$12,606.30 \$42,505.83
3-1.6/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Three-Year Contract for Solid Waste Disposal & Recycling Services Direct Waste Services, Inc., Brooklyn, NY College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$55,000.00 per year

3-1.7/6-2022	Authorize the Award of NJ State Contract for Preventative Maintenance Service, and Repairs for Elevators #1-11 Champion Elevator Corporation, Clinton, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$38,940.00
3-1.8/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Blanket Order for Print Shop Paper Products Sharda Paper, Inc., Brooklyn, NY College Funded – Operating Expense	\$78,500.00
3-1.9/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Three-Year Contract for Learning Management System (LMS) License Learning Technologies Group, Inc. dba: Moodlerooms, Indianapolis, IN College Funded – Operating Expense	\$231,400.42
3-1.10/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Renewal for Millennium Maintenance Software and Hosting Subscription at the MLK Jr. Library Innovative Interfaces, Inc., Emeryville, CA College Funded – Operating Expense	\$76,085.86
3-1.11/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Advertisement Services Intersection Media, LLC., New York, NY Mentoring, Alignment, Preparedness, Support (M.A.P.S.) Grant Funded – Operating Expense	\$74,727.50
3-1.12/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Instructional Services for the Summer Youth Program Black Rocket Productions, Freehold, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$21,000.00
3-1.13/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Blanket Order for Child Development Center Food Services Dining Partnership Group (DPG), Verona, NJ Child Development Center Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$75,000.00
3-1.14/6-2022	Authorize the Award of Nine (9) Blanket Orders for Advertisement Services AAAD, Inc. Local Talk, Altice Media, Capstar dba: iHeart Media, Comcast Holding, Irving Street Rep., Positive Comm. Magazine, Screen Vision Media, TAP into Local, Rotary/Kiwanis College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$201,000.00
3-1.15/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Sign Location Plan on the ECC Campus Iris Communications, Roseland, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$28,950.00
3-1.16/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Advertisement Services Capstar dba: IHeart Media, New York, NY Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) and College Funded – Operating Expense	\$30,000.00

3-1.17/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Audit Services PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, Woodcliff, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$166,500.00
3-1.18/6-2022	Authorize the Award of Consulting Service for Fiscal Year 2023 Ronald C. Goldfarb, Prospect, CT College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$28,000.00
3-1.19/6-2022	Authorize the Award of Seven (7) Blanket Orders for the College Dell, CDW-G, Staples, Access NJ, Stuyvesant Partners, Tree House Allied Documents College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$190,000.00
3-1.20/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Travel Agency Services Gateway Travel, West Caldwell, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$30,000.00
3-1.21/6-2022	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Athletic Travel and Charter Bus Services Coach USA, Paramus, NJ Panorama Tours, Wallington, NJ College Funded – Athletics, On-Campus Continuing Education, Institutional Expenses	Amount not to exceed \$50,000.00
3-1.22/6-2022	Authorize the Award for Legal Services O'Toole Scrivo, LLC., Cedar Grove, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$60,000.00
3-1.23/6-2022	Authorize the Payment for Legal Services Fernandez Garcia, LLC., Morristown, NJ O'Toole Scrivo, LLC., Cedar Grove, NJ Schenck, Price, Smith & King, LLP., Florham Park, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$8,715.00 \$1,500.00 \$362.25
3-1.24/6-2022	Authorize the Award of an Additional Payment for Auditing Services Clifton Larson Allen, LLP., Minneapolis, MN CRRSAA Grant Funded – Operating Expense	\$10,395.00
3-1.25/6-2022	Authorize the Payment for Insurance Policy Renewal IMAC Insurance Agency LLC, Belleville, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$880,214.00
3-2.1/6-2022	Settlement Agreement and Release for Grievance – Sharron Green	
3-2.2/6-2022	Settlement and General Release – Richard Esposito	

The motion to approve the actions was made by Trustee Cruz. Trustee Lewis provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Counsel Townes then read into the record the following actions:

3-1.26/6-2022 Authorize the Award of a Contract for Precast Components for Proposed Parking Structure at West Essex Campus  
Dobco, Inc., Wayne, NJ  
State of New Jersey Funded – Capital Expense

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the award of a contract to **Non-SBE/MBE/WBE, Dobco, Inc.**, One Geoffrey Way, Wayne, New Jersey 07470 of **\$5,750,000.00** for Precast Components for Proposed Parking Structure at West Essex Campus.

The award of this bid shall be made as “Fair and Open” pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20,4. When the aggregation rules (NJAC 5:34-8-2) are applied, the value of this acquisition exceeds \$17,500.00.

Bid #8143 was advertised in The Star-Ledger on June 1, 2022. There were Twelve (12) bids solicited. Two (2) responses were received, opened, and publicly read on June 15, 2022.

The Architectural/Engineering firm, Comito Associates, PC reviewed the submitted bid and offered a letter of recommendation to the first-lowest responsive and responsible bidder **Dobco, Inc.**

**Nature of Bid:** Essex County College – Precast Components for Proposed Parking Structure at West Essex Campus.

**Bid Item # 1:** **The recommendation is for the first-lowest responsive and responsible bidder.**

**Source of Funding:** The Comptroller of Essex County College has determined and certified in writing that the following funds are available for this purpose:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>\$Amount</u>
State of New Jersey Funds	902108-02108-7951	\$5,750,000.00

**Resolution:** The Essex County College Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and directs the appropriate officials of the College to award the contract to **Dobco, Inc.** of **\$5,750,000.00** for Precast Components for the Proposed Parking Structure at West Essex Campus.

3-1.27/6-2022 Authorize the Award of a Contract for Parking Lot “D” Column Repair Services  
DGB Technologies, LLC., Wyckoff, NJ  
Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the award of a contract to DGB Technologies, LLC; 393 Crescent Avenue, Suite J, Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481; vendor approved by the State of New Jersey under Small Business Enterprise (**SBE**), in the total amount of **\$186,786.00** for Parking Lot “D” Column Repair Services.

The award of this bid shall be made as “Fair and Open” pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20,4. When the aggregation rules (NJAC 5:34-8-2) are applied, the value of this acquisition exceeds \$17,500.00.

Bid #8141 was advertised in The Star-Ledger for three (3) days from May 24 – 26, 2022. There were six (6) bids solicited. A Pre-Bid conference was held on June 7, 2022. Two (2) responses were received, opened, and publicly read on June 16, 2022.

The Architectural/Engineering firm, Comito Associates PC reviewed the submitted bid and offered a letter of recommendation to the first-lowest responsive and responsible bidder **DGB Technologies, LLC** (see attached).

**Nature of Bid:** Essex County College – Parking Lot “D” Column Repair Services.

**Bid Item # 1:** **The recommendation is for the first-lowest responsive and responsible bidder.**

<u>Bid Basis</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
Base Bid	\$141,786.00
Allowances	<u>\$ 45,000.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$186,786.00</b>

**Source of Funding:** The Comptroller of Essex County College has determined and certified in writing that the following funds are available for this purpose. This action is funded by Chapter XII ordinance O-2021-00002:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>\$Amount</u>
9021A2-3126-7951A	\$186,786.00

**Resolution:** The Essex County College Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and directs the appropriate officials of the College to award the contract DGB Technologies, LLC in the total amount of **\$186,786.00** for Parking Lot “D” Column Repair Services.

3-1.28/6-2022 Authorize the Payment for Worker’s Compensation  
New Jersey Community College Insurance Pool, Skillman, NJ  
College Funded – Operating Expense

**WHEREAS**, Essex County College needs to provide the premium and the continuation of Essex County College as a member of the **Non-SBE/MBE/WBE, New Jersey Community College Insurance Pool**, 9 Dogwood Lane, Skillman, New Jersey 08558 for **\$209,000.00** for workers compensation for the fiscal year 2022-2023, in which contracts for Insurance are exempt from bidding pursuant to the provisions of County College Contracts Law N.J.S.A.18A:64A-25.3 and N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-25.5.(11), Insurance, including the purchase of insurance coverage and consulting services which exceptions shall be in accordance with the requirements for extraordinary unspecifiable services; and

**WHEREAS**, Essex County College wishes to award said contract without the need for public bidding in compliance with the provisions of the County College Contracts Law, N.J.S.A.18A:64A-25.1 et seq, and the provisions of N.J.S.A.19:44A-20, 4 et seq; and

**WHEREAS**, The award of this purchase shall be made as “Non-Fair and Open” pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20,4. When the aggregation rules (NJAC 5:34-8-2) are applied, the value of this acquisition exceeds \$17,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, The Comptroller of Essex County College has determined and certified in writing that the funds are available for this purpose, and;

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

1. The Essex County College Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and directs the appropriate officials of the College to approve the premium to **New Jersey Community College Insurance Pool** for Workers Compensation for the fiscal year 2022-2023 in the amount of **\$209,000.00**. Subject to the availability of funds;
1. This premium is awarded without public bidding in accordance with the provisions of the County College Contract Law N.J.S.A.18A:64A-25.3 and 18A:64A-25.5.(11);
2. The specific line item against which this premium is to be charged is as follows:  
10-1851-7712 Operating Expense  
FY 2022/2023

Finance actions 3-1.26 through 3-1.28 were moved for approval by Trustee Lewis; Trustee Cruz seconded. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

#### Personnel Committee Report

Trustee Grimes reported that the Personnel Committee met and recommended for approval the following personnel actions:

##### Appointments

- |            |                                                                                                           |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4-1/6-2022 | Ahmed Ali<br>Assistant Professor, Physics<br>Effective September 1, 2022<br>Salary \$65,161               |
| 4-2/6-2022 | Adam Bisaccia<br>Assistant Professor, Paralegal Studies<br>Effective September 1, 2022<br>Salary \$66,464 |
| 4-3/6-2022 | Jhestarri DePasquale<br>Assistant Professor, History<br>Effective September 1, 2022<br>Salary \$65,161    |
| 4-4/6-2022 | John Hammond<br>Assistant Professor, Finance<br>Effective September 1, 2022<br>Salary \$63,884            |
| 4-5/6-2022 | Kevin Lawless<br>Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy<br>Effective September 1, 2022<br>Salary \$66,464  |

- 4-6/6-2022 John Olotewo  
Assistant Professor, Business  
Effective September 1, 2022  
Salary \$65,161
- 4-7/6-2022 Mehdi Rahmani-Andebeli  
Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering  
Effective September 1, 2022  
Salary \$66,464
- 4-8/6-2022 Shiny Raju  
Assistant Professor, Radiography  
Effective September 1, 2022  
Salary \$65,161
- 4-9/6-2022 George Effah  
Instructor, Computer Sciences  
Effective September 1, 2022  
Salary \$63,884
- 4-10/6-2022 Joseph Nitti  
Instructor, Mathematics  
Effective September 1, 2022  
Salary \$63,884
- 4-11/6-2022 Natalee White-Smith  
Instructor, Nursing  
Effective September 1, 2022  
Salary \$65,161
- 4-12/6-2022 Kanji Ojelade  
Lecturer C (Laboratory), Biology  
Effective September 1, 2022  
Salary \$59,019
- 4-13/6-2022 Kathleen Skelley  
Program Coordinator – Special Projects, Training Inc.  
Grant Funded  
Effective July 5, 2022  
Salary \$54,000
- 4-14/6-2022 Solange Amaya EOF Advisor, Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)  
Grant Funded  
Effective July 5, 2022  
Salary \$47,000



- 4-15/6-2022 Patricia Henriquez  
Administrative Assistant, Finance  
Effective July 1, 2022  
Salary \$41,000
- 4-16/6-2022 Thomas Moylan  
Technical Support Specialist, Online Education and Resources  
Effective July 5, 2022  
Salary \$42,000
- 4-17/6-2022 Shirley Rojas  
Office Assistant, Enrollment Services  
Effective July 5, 2022  
Salary \$27,500
- 4-18/6-2022 Angela Akwaah  
Technical Assistant, Student Development and Counseling  
Effective July 5, 2022  
Salary \$27,300.00

#### Merit Awards

- 4-19/6-2022 Sanghamitra Choudhury  
Director, Training, Inc.  
Effective September 1, 2022  
\$6,000 added to base salary
- Angela McKinney  
Director, On-Campus Continuing Education  
Effective September 1, 2022  
\$6,000 added to base salary
- 4-20/6-2022 Renae Brown  
Teacher Advisor, Adult Learning Center  
Effective July 1, 2022  
\$4,000 added to base salary
- Laura Menture  
Financial Aid Officer, Financial Aid  
Effective July 1, 2022  
\$4,000 added to base salary
- Victoria Timpanaro  
Manager, Media, Production and Technology (MPT)  
Effective July 1, 2022  
\$4,000 added to base salary

#### Retirements

- 4-21/6-2022 Matilda Abavana  
Associate Professor, Accounting  
Effective August 31, 2022

Bagher Bagheri  
Instructor, Biology  
Effective March 31, 2022

Carol Kushner  
Instructor, Humanities  
Effective April 29, 2022

Gerald Savage  
Associate Professor, Business  
Effective August 31, 2022

Resignations

4-22/6-2022 Amber Heath  
Assistant Director of Student Athlete Academic Services and Athletic Training, Athletics  
Effective June 25, 2022

Jefferson Calle  
Computer Laboratory Coordinator, Information Technology  
Effective May 6, 2022

Minimum Wage Increase

4-24/6-2022 Minimum Wage Increase to \$15.00 an Hour

Trustee Lewis moved the personnel actions for approval. Trustee Zarra seconded the motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Trustee Grimes then asked for a motion to amend action 4-23. Counsel Townes read the amendment to the action which corrected the date of ratification by FOP members from May 24, 2022 to June 20, 2022. The motion to amend was made by Trustee Cruz and seconded by Trustee Wright. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Following the amendment of action 4-23, Trustee Grimes asked for a motion to approve the amended action.

Contract Ratification

4-23/6-2022 Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 99

The motion to approve was made by Trustee Lewis. His motion was seconded by Trustee Wright. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Trustee Grimes then turned the meeting over to Counsel Townes to present and read into the record the goldenrod action which follows:

Appointment

4-25/6-2022 Afshan Ajmiri Giner  
Chief Compliance Officer and Special Counsel, Legal Affairs  
Salary - \$123,000  
Effective July 18, 2022

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Afshan Ajmiri Giner, to the position of Chief Compliance Officer and Special

Counsel, for the Legal Affairs Area, for the period July 18, 2022 through August 31, 2022 and the reappointment period September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023. The recommended annual salary for the position is \$123,000.

**BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:** This position vacancy was posted in accordance with College policy and EEO/AA guidelines. A total of eight (8) applications were reviewed and three (3) applicants were selected to be interviewed. Afshan Ajmiri Giner is the recommended candidate.

**DEGREE/CERTIFICATION QUALIFICATIONS (JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE REQUIRED):**

<u>Degree or Certification</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>	<u>Institution Name, Location</u>	<u>Major Area of Study</u>
• Juris Doctor	2013	Rutgers University Newark, NJ	Law
• Bachelor of Arts	2008	Brown University Providence, RI	International Relations

**FISCAL NOTES:** The recommended salary of \$123,000 is included in the Department’s annual budget.

**RESOLUTION:** The Board of Trustees of Essex County College approves the appointment of Afshan Ajmiri Giner, at the annual salary of \$123,000, to the position of Chief Compliance Officer and Special Counsel, for the Legal Affairs Area, for the period July 18, 2022 through August 31, 2022 and the reappointment period September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023.

The action was moved for approval by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Wright. On a vote of six (6) yeas, two (2) nays, ***the motion carried.***

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Lewis reported that the Committee met on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and recommends the approval of the following actions:

- 7-1.1/6-2022 Acceptance of Funds: EOF Grant
- 7-1.2/6-2022 Acceptance of Funds: Strengthening Career & Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (Perkins V)

The actions were moved by approval by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Wright. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report

Reporting for the Committee, Trustee Robinson advised that they met on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and agreed to move action 7-2.1 to accept \$4M for approval by the Board:

- 7-2.1/6-2022 Acceptance of Funds from the State of New Jersey Securing Our Children’s Future Bond Act

The motion was made by Trustee Cruz; her motion was seconded by Trustee Lewis. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

### Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee Cruz advised that the Committee did not meet this month; but, had three revisions to bring before the Board for approval:

7-3.1/6-2022 Revision to Board Policy 1-1: Implementation of Open Public Meetings Act

7-3.2/6-2022 Revision to Board Policy 2-6: Evaluation for Tenure

7-3.3/6-2022 Revision to Board Policy 2-7: Tenure Plan

The actions were moved for approval by Trustee Robinson, Trustee Wright seconded her motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

### Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee Wright noted that the Committee met but had no actions to present for approval. She stated that during the meeting the committee discussed the Foundation Board and ways to raise money.

### Alumni Association Report

Nesseline Belceus, the Association's Recording Secretary reported that there was nothing to report; however, the Board is working to put together its fundraiser and that information on the effort should be available soon.

### Student Government Association (SGA) Report

The SGA report provided was read into the record of the meeting and is attached at Appendix A. Trustee Bolden extended thanks on the behalf of the Board of Trustees to the outgoing SGA President, Ms. Yolanda Brown, for her service to Essex County College and wished her good luck at Rutgers.

### Faculty Association Report

Prof. Michael Frank's report is attached at Appendix B.

### President's Report

Dr. Augustine Boakye began his report by extending thanks to members of the College family, especially the Board of Trustees, for working so very hard during the last twelve months. He stated that he wanted to thank faculty, staff and students for the accomplishments realized in FY 2022.

The President then:

- Referenced Prof. Frank's report, noting, also, that covid is still around. He encouraged everyone to be cautious.
- Encouraged everyone to promote the College and its offerings to current and prospective students in an effort to increase enrollment.
- Thanked the Board for approving the appointments of twelve new faculty members which he noted would improve academic affairs. He stated that many of the new hires previously held adjunct faculty positions at the College.
- Announced that the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan is complete
- Advised that the College received \$4 million from the NJ State Bond Grant. The funds will be used to renovate and improve the Center for Technology and the College's HVAC systems.
- Reported that the College had done very well in the progress and completion of capital projects. He noted that West Essex project will hopefully be completed by June/July next year.
- Advised that he attended a meeting with the Honorable Pete Buttigieg, the US Secretary of Transportation and Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill at the County College of Morris to discuss programs and initiatives in support of manufacturing, transportation and workforce development.

- Expressed thanks to those who supported and participated in the ceremony to name the College's physical education building after Mr. Cleo Hill, Sr.
- Noted pride in the 1,143 graduates of Essex County College Class of 2022. He reported that ninety-five of the graduates were students who participated in the dual enrollment programs and achieved their high school and associate degrees simultaneously.
- Thanked the retirees, Professors Savage, Abavana, Kushner and Bagheri for their service to the College. He also took the opportunity to thank any others who will retire prior to the next Board of Trustees meeting.
- Additionally, thanked the Student Government Association and Alumni leaders for their hard work and to everyone who has played a key role in moving the College forward.
- Reminded all of the upcoming Middle States Accreditation Site Visit in March.

Dr. Boakye closed with best wishes for the summer. He asked that everyone take time to rest over the summer recess and to come back stronger to help accomplish all that needs to be done to make FY2023 successful and to provide better service to our students and community.

#### New Business

Madame Chair opened the floor for new business. There was no new business.

#### Public Comments

Public comments submitted by Lev D. Zilbermints and Kathy Skelley were read into the record of the meeting as follows:

Hello,

These are my public comments.

(1) Finally the Board decided to agree to settle outstanding litigation. That is good, because now you can move forward and do other positive things.

(2) How about connecting the Cafeteria to the Clara Dasher Center via a corridor? This would increase traffic between the two buildings.

(3) I am reading on the Internet about monkeypox, a new illness. My question is, should the college do due diligence and find out more information about this? Take advance preventive measures? We did this with the coronavirus and Zika in the past. Now we have to be proactive again.

(4) Lastly, a good thing about clarifying tenure. We need more tenured professors here. They are the ones that are committed to the school. Fact of the matter is, adjuncts come and go, but tenured professors stay. We must make sure there are enough tenured professors here because they are the ones that stay here for decades.

Have a nice summer!

Lev D. Zilbermints

Class of 1993

Dear Board of Trustees:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board, Dr. Boakye, Dr. Elvy Vieira and Mitra Choudhury for the appointment to Program Coordinator of Special Projects for Training, Inc., Essex County College. For many years, it has been a pleasure to work at ECC as an adjunct, and now I am excited to serve in this new role and as a permanent employee of Essex County College.

Thank you, once again, and I look forward to starting on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Cathy Skelley

*Madame Chair then took the opportunity to thank the College on the job done to put together the inauguration and the celebratory gala. She thanked Dr. Boakye for taking on an enormous task. She remarked that the 'Board is behind him' – sometimes with a difficult time, but that is part of their job; the Board is 100% committed to making him successful – in doing that, the College is successful.*

*She commented that the inauguration was outstanding and she was proud to be part of it. Also, the Cleo Hill ribbon cutting was great and Mr. Hill's family could not have been prouder of the physical education building being named after their husband, father, uncle.*

*Madame Chair closed with thanks to the retirees for their service. She also welcomed the new appointees to the best county college 'in the country'.*

#### Notice of Executive Session

Trustee Grimes was invited to read the Notice of Executive Session. She read 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 September 20, 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.

Trustee Cruz moved to adopt the notice of executive session. Trustee Wright provided the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm by acclamation and a round of best wishes for a great summer.

## Student Government Association May 2022 BOT Report

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

#### **SGA Executive Board Road to Inauguration**

On May 4, 2022, SGA Treasurer Paula Moore was a panelist at the Social Justice Symposium, we are so thankful that Paula was able to be a voice for the students at Essex County College. On May 5, 2022, SGA Interim President Yolanda Brown was honored to be a guest at the breakfast before President Boakye Inauguration and was honored to be asked to sit on the stage as a Dias guest during the Inauguration. SGA Executive Board was so grateful that we were able to attend the scholarship gala at the Crystal Room. It was a great honor to be in the same room with such amazing and wonderful people.

#### **Ice Cream Social**

On May 10, 2022, SGA hosted an ice cream social in honor of our new President Dr. Boakye. It was a great event for the students to not only enjoy tasty ice cream but able to engage and have a chance to hear from the President.

#### **SGA Leaders 2022/2023-**

On June 15, 2022, Outgoing SGA President Yolanda Brown met with the newly elected SGA President and Vice President and helped them prepare for their transition into their new roles.

It has truly been my honor to serve as SGA Interim President this Spring 2022 semester. Thank you, Board, of Trustees, for all the support you have given to SGA, President Boakye thank you for always putting students first and helping SGA with all our endeavors this semester. Dean Kirkland thank you for being the listening ear and always showing us support and giving us encouragement. To Mr. Jamil Graham and Mr. Joseph Ott thank you for motivating us to move forward when we want to give up, thank you for making us great leaders and providing us with the skills to conquer the next path in our academic career. Most importantly thank you for being exactly what SGA needed this year two great leaders who put the students before themselves. As I leave Essex County College to continue my academic path at Rutgers- Newark, I know that I have the leadership skills and education that will help me achieve my goals.

Respectfully Submitted

Yolanda Brown  
Your Outgoing Student Government Association President

## Faculty Association Report

*Prof. M. Frank*

Good Afternoon

Today's agenda is massive with many items perhaps controversial. I will limit my remarks, today, to key matters and will revisit this agenda in the fall.

Just over two weeks ago we had graduation, in person, with thousands of individuals attending. Our thanks to Board members who participated. I have attended every graduation at the College since its inception ... this one was exceptional. Unfortunately, it is likely that it qualifies as a super spreader event as a number of staff members reported covid infection after the event. We will never know for sure how many graduates and their families succumbed to infection. We pray that there were no serious consequences.

Returning to agenda items, we're delighted that the College is re-staffing the massively depleted full-time faculty. Thanks to Dean Williams and President Boakye for their efforts in this regard. I want to welcome all of the new faculty members who will be joining us in the fall semester. Please know that three of our new hires began their academic careers as students at ECC.

Best wishes to our retirees who include Professor Gerald Savage who was one of the first faculty members at ECC hired on 8/5/1968. Congratulations! Note that all four retirees were enrolled in PERS which is a defined benefit plan, that is a pension which pays the recipient for life. The vast majority of faculty are in the Alternate Benefit Plan, the ABP, which is a defined contribution plan who rely on accumulations in their 401 accounts to provide income in their retirements. As you are probably aware, accumulations have tanked recently with no relief in sight. 401 accounts are laughingly referred to as 201 accounts – they've lost that much value. Retiring at this time virtually guarantees that ABP members will run out of money in a very short time as any financial advisor will attest. The only sane action for these individuals is to postpone retirement and pray exceptionally hard that some recovery will come in the next few years. How does this relate to College planning? It is extremely likely that faculty retirements will decline in the near term. Budgeting will have to take this into account.

Once again as I've stated very often, I will repeat George Orwell's observation, "that the first task of responsible citizens is to restate the obvious." What is now most obvious is that much of the country, including the College, is pretending that the pandemic is over. While we're all tired of the status quo regarding covid and the restrictions placed on our lives, we are still required to recognize the realities. Regardless of vaccination and booster status we're all likely to be infected – probably more than once. Current estimates are that as many as 75% of Americans have likely been infected already. As far as we know, nobody at the College has suffered the worse consequences, that is hospitalizations or worse. In addition to the one million plus deaths in the country that have been recorded, there are still recorded 300 deaths each day. Notwithstanding the data which shows we're all likely to be infected; unvaccinated individuals are 42 times more likely to die than the vaccinated. This information is communicated to students enrolled in biology courses. If we have a health care professional at the College, this information can be shared with students in all disciplines.

We don't know what the status of covid will be in the fall semester, but there will still be time to make rational decisions after the data has been reviewed. Communication at the College is not optimal as regards to the pandemic, another argument for a health care professional.



If you care to continue this discussion, I will be available all summer and I can be reached on my phone or by email.

We are looking forward to Dr. Boakye's report as to the state of the college as we end the fiscal year.

Finally, have a happy and safe summer.

Thank you. That concludes my report.