



**Essex County College
Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2022 | 4:30pm
Virtual Meeting**

In Attendance:

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

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chair Trustee Bolden called the meeting to order at 4:32PM. A quorum was achieved with 9 trustees in attendance.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement:

Trustee Grimes read the Open Public Meetings Act into the record. It reads as follows:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of NJ, 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 NJ'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. 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 the minutes of the June 21st Board meeting be approved. Her motion was seconded by Trustees Morales. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Communications:

Trustee Grimes stated that there were no communications.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

The following public comments on the agenda were read into the record:

Lev Zilbermints wrote:

Hello everyone,

Welcome back. Hope you all had a great summer vacation. Here are my Agenda Comments.

(1) 3-2.1/8-2022: Looks like our school is going to have new Cafeteria management. Because this one had to go to court. So, that said, when are we going to have a real Cafeteria instead of kiosks?

(2) 3-1.11/9-2022: Medical Services for Student Employees? Sounds nice. My question is, will this mean that there will be a doctor or a nurse at Essex County College for the first time since 1996? Or will student employees be admitted to a hospital with which our school has an agreement?

(3) Retirement: We are sad to see the retirement of Rita Higgins, Jill Stein, Ned Wilson and Fiordaliza Mendez. Together, these four individuals helped ECC greatly. Dr. Higgins was Chess Club Adviser in 2012 - 2014. Dr. Stein was Chair of Biology. Dr. Wilson has been with ECC for 54 years. Fiordaliza Mendez helped with the Welcome Center. I wish all the retiring faculty and staff the best in their lives and thank them for their service to the school and its students.

Lev D. Zilbermints

Class of 1993

Dr. Michael Pekarofski wrote:

Good Morning, I would like to make the following comments regarding faculty promotions and retirements:

On behalf of the Faculty Association, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Professors Hill, Donofrio, Kabakibi, Marashi, and Danville. Having served on the Promotions committee as a faculty representative, I can attest to their qualifications and to the fact that they are all so well deserving. I am also pleased that Dean Williams' and Dr. Boakye's recommendations were very much in sync with the recommendations made by the Promotions committee. This just demonstrates how the faculty and administration can work together to ensure a bright future for the college.

It is most encouraging to see that we have a chief academic officer and president who value faculty and faculty governance. There had been many years when this was not the case, but now I believe there is reason for great hope. When promotions are earned and granted, it has a cascading effect among our ranks, and people feel compelled to contribute more to the college and students. As I believe our administration understands, our full-time faculty play essential roles in creating and maintaining the curricula, serving on faculty governance committees, serving the community, and connecting with and retaining students. Whether speaking of new hires or seasoned educators like the ones promoted today, it is essential that we retain and reward deserving people and that our faculty feel that they do not just have a teaching job but a career they can feel proud of and a calling that guides them in their roles as educators and leaders.

I want to wish our retirees the best of luck. In particular, Dr. Ned Wilson should be acknowledged for his role as President of the Faculty Association for over a decade, and we thank him and wish him the best.

Finance Committee Report:

Trustee Zarra read into the record the following actions that were submitted for ratification and approved by the Executive Committee on August 24, 2022.

3-1.1/8-2022	Authorize the Award of a Bid for a Proposed Parking Structure at West Essex Campus Dobco, Inc., Wayne, NJ State Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$7,700,000.00
3-1.2/8-2022	Authorize the Award of Five (5) Blanket Orders for Utility Services and PSE&G Buried Underground Distribution (BUD) Facilities City of Newark / Water Township of West Caldwell Direct Energy Marketing PSE&G Co. Constellation New Energy College Funded \$1,300,000.00 – Operating Expense Go Building Our Future Bond Project \$50,000 – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$1,300,000.00 50,000.00 \$1,350,000.00
3-1.3/8-2022	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Fire Alarm, Fire Suppression, and Burglar Alarm System Testing, Maintenance, and Technical Services Johnson Controls Fire Protection, LP., Totowa, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$87,683.17
3-1.4/8-2022	Authorize the Award of Five (5) Blanket Orders for Maintenance Renewal for Network Infrastructure Equipment Dell Insight Public Sector Johnston GP, Inc. New Era Tech SHI Int'l College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$120,000.00 30,000.00 70,000.00 60,000.00 <u>40,000.00</u> \$320,000.00
3-1.5/8-2022	Authorize the Payment for Council and Joint Purchasing Consortium NJ Council of County Colleges, Trenton, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$65,889.00
3-1.6/8-2022	Authorize the Award for Legal Services Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP, Newark, NJ Fernandez Garcia, LLC, Morristown, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 <u>25,000.00</u> \$65,000.00
3-1.7/8-2022	Authorize the Payment for ETAC Assessment ABET, Baltimore, MD College Funded – Operating Expense	\$20,100.00
3-1.8/8-2022	Authorize the Additional Payment for Insurance Policy Renewal IMAC Insurance Agency LLC, Belleville, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$498.01

3-2.1/8-2022 Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release – CulinArt Group, Inc.

Trustee Zarra asked for a motion to approve items 3-1.1 to 3-2.1.

The motion to move was made by Trustee Bolden. Trustee Morales seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

Trustee Zarra advised that the Finance Committee met during the previous week. He added that the actions were reviewed and all questions about the actions were answered by the administration. He read the following actions that were recommended for approval by the Board:

3-1.1/9-2022	Authorize the award of a Two-year Bid for HVAC Preventive Maintenance and General Repair Services McCloskey Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Blackwood, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$92,434.00
3-1.2/9-2022	Authorize the award of a Two-year Contract for General Plumbing Repair Services McCloskey Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Blackwood, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$50,000.00
3-1.3/9-2022	Authorize the award of a Two-year Contract for Heating Boilers Maintenance & Services McCloskey Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Blackwood, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$47,266.00
3-1.4/9-2022	Authorize the award of a Two-year Contract for Roof Repair Services U.S.A. General Contractors Corp., Manalapan, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 per year
3-1.5/9-2022	Authorize the award of the Third Year of a Three-Year Contract for Ellucian Elevate Ellucian Company, LP., Chicago, IL CRRSAA Grants Fund: Cares Act II - Operating Expense	\$ 42,600.00
3-1.6/9-2022	Authorize the award of a Contract for Information Technology Department Alterations & Renovations Brahma Construction, Wayne, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$35,172.72
3-1.7/9-2022	Authorize the award of Additional Blanket Order for Testing Materials National Healthcareer Association, Chicago, IL Newark One Stop and PACE Grant (NJDOE) Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$90,000.00

3-1.8/9-2022	Authorize the award of Renewal Subscription at the MLK Jr. Library NJEDGE – VALE, Newark, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$31,090.66
3-1.9/9-2022	Authorize the award of an Additional Blanket Order for Dell goods, supplies and services Dell, Round Rock, TX College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$100,000.00
3-1.10/9-2022	Authorize the award of Contract for Consulting Services Susan K. Perkins, Skillman, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$60,000.00
3-1.11/9-2022	Authorize the award of a Two-year Contract for Medical Services for Student Employees Ironbound Medical Services, Newark, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$149,150.00
3-1.12/9-2022	Authorize the award of Purchase for Microsoft License SHI International Corporation, Somerset, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$48,321.86

Trustee Zarra asked for a motion to approve actions 3-1.1 through 3-1.12.

The motion to move the actions was made by Trustee Bolden. Trustee Cruz seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

Trustee Zarra asked Counsel Townes to read the following goldenrod action into the record:

3-1.13/9-2022	Authorizing the award of a contract for Cafeteria Demolition at the Newark Campus Nehme Brothers, Inc., Edgewater, NJ Chapter XII – Capital Expense	\$34,000.00
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WHEREAS, Essex County College needs to approve the award of a contract of **\$34,000.00** to **Nehme Brothers, Inc.**, 547 River Rd, Edgewater, New Jersey 07020, vendor approved by the State of New Jersey under Small Business Enterprise (**SBE**) for Cafeteria Demolition at the Newark Campus, in which contract goods are exempt from bidding pursuant to the provisions of County College Contracts Law N.J.S.A.18A:64A-25.3a Purchases, contracts and agreements not requiring advertising;

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 “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,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by 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 award a contract with **Nehme Brothers, Inc.** of **\$34,000.00** for the Demolition of the Cafeteria located at the Newark Campus. Subject to the availability of funds;

The College has solicited and received proposals from the following vendors:

- Nehme Brothers, Inc. \$34,000.00
- Memargi Demolition & Environmental \$56,800.00

2. The is awarded without public bidding as a purchase through the State of NJ Division of Purchase and Property in accordance with the provisions of the County College Contracts Law N.J.S.A.18A:64A- 25.3a;

3. The specific line item against which this purchase is to be charged is as follows: 901706-3115-7951A Chapter XII Ordinance 0-2017-00006

FY 2021/2022

The motion to approve the action was made by Trustee Bolden. Trustees Lewis seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report:

Trustee Grimes advised that the Personnel Committee met the previous week and read into the record the following actions recommended for approval:

Memorandum of Agreement

4-1A/9-2022 Faculty Association
Effective September 1, 2022

4-1B/9-2022 Support Staff Association
Effective August 1, 2022

Appointments

4-2/9-2022 Cheryl McClymont
Program Manager - Allied Health Programs, Training, Inc.
Effective September 21, 2022
Salary \$57,500 Grant Funded

4-3/9-2022 Ramon D'Aguilar
Program Coordinator - Technology Programs, Training, Inc.
Effective September 21, 2022
Salary \$54,000 Grant Funded

4-4/9-2022 Edyta Niedbal
EOF Eligibility Program Coordinator, Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)
Effective September 21, 2022
Salary \$50,000 Grant Funded

4-5/9-2022 Juanita Jones
Coordinator, Testing Center
Effective September 21, 2022
Salary \$45,000

4-6/9-2022 Lan Wang
Coordinator - Bloomberg Lab, Business
Effective September 21, 2022
Salary \$50,000 Grant Funded

4-7/9-2022 Ehsan Alizadeh
Student Support Services Representative, Welcome Center
Effective September 21, 2022 Salary \$35,900

4-8/9-2022 Byron Amaya-Ortega
Student Support Services Representative, Welcome Center
Effective September 21, 2022 Salary \$35,900

4-9/9-2022 Arcadio Cruz
Junior Graphic Designer, Graphics
Effective September 21, 2022
Salary \$40,000

Promotion in Academic Rank (Administrative)

4-11/9-2022 Elvira Vieira
Dean of Community and Continuing Education and Workforce Development
Professor, Education
Effective September 1, 2022

Promotion in Academic Rank (Faculty)

4-12/9-2022 Thomas Donofrio
Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy
Effective September 1, 2022
Salary \$91,629.17, One-Time Lump Sum Bonus \$212.65

Gennevie Danville
Associate Professor, Nursing
Effective September 1, 2022
Salary \$79,431, One-Time Lump Sum Bonus \$3,951

Yasser Kabakibi
Associate Professor, Biology
Effective September 1, 2022
Salary \$102,522.24, One-Time Lump Sum Bonus \$939.97

Nessie Hill
Professor, English
Effective September 1, 2022
Salary \$89,452, One-Time Lump Sum Bonus \$8,188

Nidhal Marashi
Professor, Chemistry
Effective September 1, 2022
Salary \$84,293, One-Time Lump Sum Bonus \$8,581

Supplement

4-13/9-2022 Karen Bridgett
Title IX Coordinator
Compliance
Effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023
Supplement Amount \$5,000

Phyllis Walker
504 Coordinator
Compliance
Effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023
Supplement Amount \$5,000

Retirement

4-14/9-2022 Rita Higgins
Assistant Professor, English Effective August 31, 2022

Jill Stein
Professor, Biology
Effective August 31, 2022

Ned Wilson
Professor, Computer Science
Effective October 31, 2022

Fiordaliza Mendez

Trustee Grimes congratulated the retirees.

Resignations

4-15/9-2022

Nadiyah Samad
Director, Custodial Services and Campus Events
Effective June 24, 2022

David Smedley
Director, Financial Aid
Effective July 15, 2022

Kelsey Cruz
Financial Aid Officer, Financial Aid
Effective August 18, 2022

Sommer Flood
Human Resources Representative, Human Resources
Effective July 28, 2022

Shadiquah Hordge
Assistant Director of Career and Transfer Services, Student Development and
Counseling Effective August 8, 2022

Mark Hosein
Alumni Liaison Officer, Institutional Advancement
Effective June 24, 2022

Robert Hwang
Database Administrator, Information Technology
Effective July 22, 2022

Rose Castro
Secretary, Facilities Management
Effective September 2, 2022

Keith Julien
Maintenance Service Worker, Facilities Management
Effective July 7, 2022

Trustee Grimes asked that they approve items 4-1 through 4-15 with the exception of 4-10. She stated that there was an amendment to item 4-10/9-2022.

The motion to move the action was made by Trustee Morales. Trustee Cruz seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

Counsel Townes read the amendment to personnel action 4-10. The amendment was made to correct the annual salary from \$31,200 to \$27,040, He read the amended action as follows:

4-10/9-2022 Wanda Griffins
Security Officer, Public Safety
Effective September 21, 2022
Salary \$27,040

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Wanda Griffins, to the position of Security Officer, for the Public Safety Department, for the period beginning September 26, 2022. The recommended annual salary for the position is \$27,040.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: This position vacancy was posted in accordance with College policy and EEO/AA guidelines. A total of 10 applications were reviewed and three (3) applicants were selected to be interviewed. Wanda Griffins is the recommended candidate.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION QUALIFICATIONS (NO DEGREE REQUIRED)

FISCAL NOTES: The recommended salary of \$27,040 is included in the Department's annual budget.

RESOLUTION: The Board of Trustees of Essex County College approves the appointment of Wanda Griffins, at the annual salary of \$27,040, to the position of Security Officer, for the Public Safety Department, for the period beginning September 26, 2022.

The motion to amend the action was made by Trustee Bolden. Trustee Zarra seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

Counsel Townes advised the Board Chair that they needed to approve the amended action.

4-10/9-2022 Wanda Griffins
Security Officer, Public Safety
Effective September 21, 2022
Salary \$27,040

The motion to approve the action was made by Trustee Bolden. Trustee Cruz seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

Educational Programs Committee Report:

Trustee Lewis presented for ratification the following actions that were approved by the Executive Committee on July 18, 2022 and August 24, 2022:

7-1.1/7-2022 Acceptance of Funds: Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Grant

7-1.2/7-2022 Grant Award: Career Accelerator Internship Grant Program
Office of the Secretary of Higher Education

7-1.3/7-2022 Adoption of the Essex County College Emergency Management Protocol Manual

- 7-1.1/8-2022 Acceptance of Funds: Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Grant - FY 23
- 7-1.2/8-2022 Acceptance of Funds: NJ Pathways to Career Opportunities
- 7-1.3/8-2022 Acceptance of Funds: Johnson Controls Community College Partnership Program
- 7-1.4/8-2022 Memorandum of Understanding: Urban League of Essex County

Trustee Lewis asked for a motion to ratify the actions.

The motion to approve the actions were made by Trustee Robinson. Trustee Zarra seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

Trustee Lewis presented the following action for approval by the Board:

- 7-1.1/9-2022 Acceptance of Funds: Center for Adult Transition Grant Agreement

The motion to approve the action was made by Trustee Cruz. Trustee Robinson seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report:

Trustee Morales presented for ratification the following actions that were approved by the Executive Committee on August 24, 2022:

- 7-2.1/8-2022 Approve and Authorize the Terms of the Securing Our Children’s Future Bond Act County College Career and Technical Education (CTE) Grant
- 7-2.2/8-2022 Creation of a Technical Training Institute in the A. Zachary Yamba Building
- 7-2.3/8-2022 Establishment and Implementation of Learning Communities Across the Academic Divisions
- 7-2.4/8-2022 Renovation and Expansion of Classroom Space Throughout the Campus

The motion to approve the actions were made by Trustee Lewis. Trustee Robinson seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

Policy and Governance Committee Report:

Counsel Townes announced the agenda item numbers were incorrect and should be noted as 7-3.1 and 7-3.2 instead of 7-3.4 and 7-3.6. He also advised that a separate vote had be taken for 7-3.2 for minor amendments.

Trustee Cruz said that the Policy and Governance Committee met last week and presented action 7-3.1 for approval:

- 7-3.1/9-2022 Revision to Board Policy 3-4: Investment Policy

The motion to approve the action was made by Trustee Morales. Trustee Zarra seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

Counsel Townes asked that action 7-3.2 be amended to correct the title of the policy:

It should read that the "Approval of Trustee Expense Vouchers". Omit the word reference from the title. Reference should be moved to the next line and read reference NJSA18A:64A-120P.

The motion to amend the action was made by Trustee Morales. Trustee Robinson seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

Community Relations Committee Report:

Trustee Wright reported that the Community Relations Committee did not meet this month. Therefore, there was no report.

Alumni Association Report:

The Alumni Association report submitted to the Board of Trustees was read into the record of the meeting by Ms. Stephanie Carter. The report is attached at Appendix A.

Student Government Association Report:

Ms. Yadhira Rosales submitted and Mr. Zachary Miller read the Student Government Association report which is attached at Appendix B.

Ms. Yadhira Rosales reiterated what Zachary read and said that they are doing a great job.

Trustee Bolden said that she was excited by what was presented. She asked if they needed to ask anything from the Trustees that could possibly help them. Zachary replied that they do not need anything as of yet and they are currently gathering information about the student. Trustee Bolden said that they are here to help the SGA in their efforts.

Faculty Association Report:

Professor Alexandre spoke about being the new president of the Faculty Association:

- On behalf of the faculty association, he welcomed everyone for the new academic year of 2022-23.
- He will be taking over after Professor Michael Frank, who did a great job for the past decades. That will be very large shoes to fill. He thanked him for the great job that he did. What he prepared for them is what they are going to continue to work on. He is ready to mentor him into the new world and he is very happy about that.
- Professor Alexandre said that he is not new to ECC and has been around for the past 20 years. He started as a student and graduated in 2003. He came back in 2011 as an adjunct faculty. In 2014, he was put on the tenure track and 4 years later he became a full-time tenured faculty.
- This position is very important to him to represent the faculty because ECC means a lot to him. When he came to this country in 2020 as an immigrant from Haiti, he did not come with anything. All he has now has come from being at ECC.
- The faculty wanted to have a new executive board not because they had a problem with the previous board, but because they felt it was time for a change. When they asked him to run he was hesitant, but he accepted the invitation. He wants to work with the administration so that they can continue to move this college forward.
- The College has been like a family. When he was here he was happy to see that they could interact and bond with the professors and the president.

- Now the times are different and the faculty sees that the college is heading in a new direction. They are very happy to see that professors are being promoted because they had not seen promotions in a long time.
- The faculty is sad to see some of the professors leaving such as Dr. Ned Wilson, who was the president of this association. The faculty thanks Dr. Wilson for his service and they will try hard to continue the work that you had started over 50 years ago.
- Most members on the executive board are new with the exception of one faculty member. One of the focuses of the new executive board is to encourage and promote the faculty members and their work. They are doing great things not only at the college but in the community and their fields. Academic affairs just came up with an initiative to put the faculty's pictures and biographies on the ECC website so that people can see the quality of the faculty at the College. They applaud Dr. Williams for his great initiative to put faculty members on the website. The majority of them are pretty happy with the direction of the college because they were a little worried for the past year. But they are a little concerned as well about inflation. Inflation is putting them back where their salary is not keeping up with their expenses.
- Faculty retirees are talking about their fear of being cut out when they leave the College after passing their keys. The faculty association is looking at ways of connecting with them to keep them in touch with the college.
- He thanked everyone.

Trustee Bolden thanked him for his passionate presentation and congratulated him on being the new representative of the faculty association. She said that he can reach out to the Board at some point and they could have conversations. She was glad that he is happy with the direction they are going in and they will try to continue to maintain that.

Trustee Cruz congratulated him and welcomed him aboard. She was glad that there is an ECC alumnus in the association. Trustee Bolden agreed.

President's Report:

Dr. Augustine A. Boakye read and submitted the President's report. It is attached as Appendix C. He talked about the following points:

- He welcomed faculty, staff and students.
- Fall registration was not over.
- College Factual was rated ECC as number one in the country for our allied health programs. ECC's certificate programs do very well.
- ECC was rated as one of top 5% offering a finance program. He thanked everyone for their support and contributions.
- He said that the school is doing well with the graduation rate because it has increased.
- Our NASA community college event went well. It lasted for four days and included different colleges.
- The College intends to renovate the cafeteria with the current vendor.
- The WEC is coming along well.
- As far as community relations, ECC welcomed the newest president of NJIT. ECC and NJIT will partner together on future projects. The new president of Montclair State University had his investiture and ECC provide support.
- He thanked all the retirees. He congratulated the employees on their promotions.
- He announced the events that are coming up in the fall.
- The Middle States preliminary visit will be on October 18th to 19th.

- He thanked everyone who is part of the college.

Trustee Bolden congratulated the college for its College Factual first place ranking. She said she will try to support upcoming events. She congratulated the retirees and welcomed all the new faculty. She was impressed with what Dr. Boakye has achieved thus far and helping make the college number one.

New Business:

Chair M. Bolden asked if there was anything for New Business. There were no comments.

Public Comments:

Public comments were submitted by Lev D. Zilbermints and Trustee Grimes was read into the record as follows:

Hello, everyone,

Welcome back from summer vacation! Here are my public comments.

(1) Given that Dr. Ned Wilson has been with ECC for 54 years, I think the school should honor him in some way. Professors Higgins, Stein should also be honored in some way for their service to the school. The same goes for Fiordaliza Mendez. Maybe you could organize a farewell dinner for all four of them. That is what we did when Dean Charles Lovallo retired in 2012.

Look, if you are spending millions of dollars for ECC renovations and construction at West Essex Campus, a farewell dinner should not be that expensive. Just my observation.

(2) Let me tell you a story from my student days. Dr. Wilson was my Philosophy professor, back in 1993. I remember how in class I spent writing answers for the final exam. The night prior, I studied only a bit. When exam time came, I wrote up everything I could think of. I left, thinking I'd have gotten a "C" at best. When my results came back I had an "A", a 94% !!

(3) What is going on with Financial Aid? The Director resigned. Okay, so who will be the new Director?

(4) Finally, could you put the minutes of past Board of Trustees meetings online?

Keep in touch.

Lev D. Zilbermints, '93

Trustee Grimes' Thank You Card:

To the Board of Trustees & My Essex County College Family:

In loss of my sister, the thoughtfulness you all have shown has meant so much and always will. For acts of kindness never fade, since time just makes them sweeter still. Again, your kindness, support and comforting words were greatly appreciated during this difficult time.

From Trustee Grimes

Notice of Executive Session:

Trustee Grimes read the Notice of Executive Session into the record. It 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 November 15, 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:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46pm by acclamation.

Appendix A

**Essex County College Alumni Association
Report to the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

Good Evening Madam Chair, Board Members and fellow ECC Alumni,
My name is Stephenie Carter, and I am the ECC Alumni Association Vice President. It is my pleasure to join you all this evening and provide another update on behalf of the Executive Alumni Association.

- The Executive Board would like to say Welcome Back, we are excited for this Fall Semester as (September is underway) and students are back in classes and buzzing around the campus.
- We have welcomed Lev. D. Zilbermints to the board as our newest “Member at Large”. He has graciously accepted the position, as the previous member resigned due to sudden family matters.
- The Alumni Association ended the Spring semester by greeting the recent graduates during the “Graduation Rehearsal” program. A few of our board members were able to speak with many of the students and collected their contact information. This was done in an effort

to keep these new Alumni connected to their ECC roots, informed, and engaged as Alumni for future events.

- We were extended an invitation to table at the "Club & Organizations Showcase " by Mr. Jamil Graham Director of Student Life & Activities) and graciously accepted. The showcase is currently taking place today (9/20) and tomorrow (9/21). We are excited to hand out brochures, interact with students, while providing a quick snack with an encouraging message to affirm that we care.
- This showcase provides the Alumni Association with a chance to meet current students ahead of graduation. Our hope is to use this opportunity for visibility, potential growth of the association, and a chance to foster connections.
- We are hard at work finalizing plans for up and coming programming this semester. Additional details will be provided concerning programs and more in future meetings when we share our report.
- Thank you for allowing me time to speak tonight. Please email the Alumni Association at (Alumni@essex.edu) for any questions, concerns, or collaborations for upcoming programs and projects.

Student Government Association Fall 2022 (September) Report

**Good Afternoon to all members of the Essex County College Board of Trustees,
Dr. Boakye, Faculty and Staff.**

My name is Zachary Miller I'm the new Parliamentarian and I am with our newly elected Vice President Dami Ige. Other members of our board that could not be with us today are our newly elected President Yadhira Rosales and our returning Treasurer Paula Moore.

Essex County College ICC club meeting/ Update on Executive board

Last semester Yolanda Brown (President), Sara Dolisca (Secretary) and Jennifer Reyes (Parliamentarian) have all acquired their degrees from Essex County College. We thank them for all of the hard work and service that they have put towards ensuring SGA is where it is now. During welcome week, SGA acquired 15 new applicants to become officers and members of the SGA, we've had one interview thus far with Jonathan Wright who was accepted as The Senator of Community Relations, he will join us in our next meeting to discuss his role and availability to take part in upcoming events that we will have on campus. The Student government met on Thursday September 8th, 2022 to discuss the past endeavors of SGA and to discuss the upcoming events that will take place this semester. Our goal is to continue to increase student involvement and engagement on campus be it by being a general member, board member or finding a club of interest for them. We plan on holding our first student forum in the first half of October to gather information in regards to the wants, needs and issues of the student body. We intend to have a meeting by the end of this month with both Dr. Boakye and Dean Kirkland to discuss any issues and plans that we have for the current semester. The Inter Club Council has not had their first meeting as of yet. The meeting will be conducted by Dami Ige (VP) during the first week of October. Information from that meeting will be provided in the next BOT report.

NJ Community College SGA Forum

As of September 15th 2022, The NJCCSGA has not had their first meeting for the Fall semester 2022. Information will be provided in the next BOT report once the meeting takes place.

Essex County College Reopening plan/SGA care for Covid-19 Initiative

SGA continues to advise students of the rules and regulations of the college reopening plan. Students are advised of the CDC guidelines, masks mandates, and Covid-19 vaccination requirements for those who are vaccinated and unvaccinated.

SGA Fall Semester Initiatives

- In person student forum
- (2) fundraisers for SGA events (midterm distress & end of semester event)
- Clothing drive
- Thanksgiving food pantry
- Funding for clubs
- Resources for students in need

SGA Board Leadership Conference

From October 6th to October 9th the SGA executive board will be attending the American Student Government Association (ASGA) National Student Summit in Washington, DC.

Participants will network with other SGAs from around the country and attend seminars in order to develop their leadership skills and acquire the skill sets needed to be successful.

We look forward to working with the students and administration to achieve our goals for this semester and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

SGA Executive Board
Essex County College
Student Government Association

Memorandum

To: Ms. M. Bolden & the Board of Trustees
From: Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President, Essex County College
Date: September 20, 2022
Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

I am pleased to announce that Covid-19 cases have significantly dropped on our campus. The College has revised its Covid-19 plan for the Fall 2022 semester.

Academics / Enrollment:

ECC is ranked #1 in the country in offering Allied Health programs at the College level by College Factual.

Our Graduation rate has increased to an all-time high i.e. Fall 17 Cohort = 11.1%; Fall 18 = 14.4% and Fall 19 = 16.7%.

Our Fall 2022 Recruitment and Enrollment results look promising.
We are fully engaged in implementing Fall II Recruitment and Enrollment initiatives.

Essex County College hosted the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars on **August 15, 2022**. The Honorable M. Teresa Ruiz, NJ State Senate Majority Leader, served as the keynote speaker. Students from Essex County College, Norwalk Community College, and Union County College engaged in NASA-supported aerospace programming for the Northeastern Region throughout the day.

Our Fall 2022 Convocation was successfully organized on August 29, 2022, with the theme, "*Changing Times, Changing Lives*". Multiple training sessions were conducted following the president's state of the College address.

We are happy to welcome new faculty members to the academic team.

Finances

Our Audit FY (Fiscal Year) 22 began with PFK O'Connor as the lead auditor.

Projects:

Capital projects at the College are progressing well and future projects are under review and discussion.

The West Essex campus construction project is on schedule to be completed in June 2023.

Construction of the Parking Deck will commence shortly.

Here are a few photos of the project as of September 9, 2022: <https://galleries.page.link/JhP33>

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/universities.

Mayor Baraka organized a *Think Tank Learning Acceleration Summit* at the College,

Dr. Boakye officially welcomed Dr. Teik Lim, the new NJIT President, to ECC on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, and took the opportunity to discuss future affiliation matters.

Dr. Boakye joined the other college and university presidents to support the investiture of Dr. Jonathan Koppell, 9th President of Montclair State University (MSU) on Thursday, September 15, 2022.

The College Community thanks all the retirees and most especially, Professor Ned Wilson, former President of the Faculty Association who also served the College for over fifty years. We wish them well.

We also congratulate all the faculty members who have earned promotions in their respective academic ranks.

Save the dates – Upcoming Events

The Annual Golf and Tennis Scholarship Tournament is scheduled for **Thursday, October 13, 2022**, at Maplewood Country Club.

The Middle States Accreditation Preliminary Site Visit is set for **October 18-19, 2022**.

The Trustee Leadership Conference is scheduled for **Saturday, November 19, 2022**, at Middlesex College.

The Middle States Accreditation Site Visit is set for **March 19-22, 2023**.

Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.