



**Gila County Community College District
Governing Board Special Meeting
Work Session
Roosevelt Lake Sheriff Substation
March 6, 2021
APPROVED**

A Special Meeting of the Gila County Community College District Governing Board was held on March 6, 2021, at the Roosevelt Lake Sheriff Substation, 28449 North Hwy 188 Roosevelt, AZ 85545. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A) (3) the Board may, upon a vote of a majority of the members constituting a quorum, elect to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the public, for discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body.

Governing Board Members Present:

Jan Brocker, President
Connie Cockrell, Secretary
Kurt Knauss, Treasurer/CFO
Samuel I. Moorhead, Vice President
Fernando Shipley, Member

Governing Board Members Absent:

N/A

Also Present:

OTHER GUESTS There were no guests in attendance.

1. Call to Order * Roll Call * Pledge * Acknowledge Guests

President Brocker called to order the Gila County Community College Provisional District Governing Board Special Work Session on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 9:34 a.m. President Brocker announced the purpose of the meeting was to interact with each other and go through some of the documents to update and refresh them. She also stated it is a time to talk about where we have been, where we are now and where we hope to go. President Brocker asked the Board members to introduce themselves and provide some background information. The Board members in attendance were Treasurer /CFO Kurt Knauss, Secretary Connie Cockrell, VP Samuel Moorhead, and member Fernando Shipley. President Brocker asked VP Moorhead to lead the Pledge. President Brocker acknowledged there were no guests in attendance.

2. Call to the Public

President Brocker asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Board. There was no response.

President Brocker informed the Board of an item regarding the Open Meeting Law which was not on the agenda. She reviewed some items on the Open Meeting Law for the Board just as a reminder and to be safe.

3. New Business

A. Strategic Plan/Board Policy Review/Information/Discussion

President Brocker provided a very detailed explanation of the Strategic Plan item by item for the Board members. President Brocker stated that Jay had come up with the acronym RISE which stands for Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence which is also part of what the Board is striving for. Treasurer/CFO Knauss provided a very informative view of the mining economy in the area. Treasurer. Questions were asked and discussion took place.

B. EAC-GILA IGA Contract Review/Information/Discussion

President Brocker reviewed some of the issues in the contract such as the length of the contract and that it renews automatically. It is a two entity contract and Gila County is no longer part of the contract. President Brocker listed items that were not in previous contracts with EAC. Some items mentioned were EAC and Gila will both be involved in personnel issues, the Board can retain professional services outside of the contract, no new positions without prior Board approval, work collaboratively on the budget, and implement programs approved by the Board. President Brocker felt that one very important item was recognizing the independence of the Board. Treasurer/CFO Knauss provided his view of how the contract works and also some issues that need attention. He stated that a program in

Work Force Development he had been working on and was told it was moving forward never went anywhere. He stated that a few weeks ago he was very irritated with EAC. He then informed that he did have a very good conversation with Senior Dean Lawhorn and was gaining understanding because of their conversation. President Brocker followed up with items she has been working on and meetings with stakeholders she has been attending regarding enrollment, accreditation and funding just to name a few. President Brocker mentioned the Bill sponsored by David Cook which would reduce the requirement of enrollment numbers from 900 to 450 for a provisional to be fully recognized by the State. She also stated that the tradeoff for the enrollment reduction would be the pursuit of accreditation and there would be five years to reach the first level of accreditation. Treasurer/CFO Knauss spoke about working with a CPA or that EAC make an accountant available to us when needed since there is no fiscal person employed full time at Gila Pueblo at the present time. He also stated the need to work with someone from EAC or an attorney to help the Board understand the contract. Treasurer/CFO Knauss stated that the Board basically rubber stamped the present contract because the Board didn't understand it. Treasurer Knauss informed the Board that he is checking on our bank accounts to help him understand the scope of his position. He stated that when he signs a check he wants it attached to the minutes. Board member Shipley and Secretary Cockrell asked questions and President Brocker provided explanations. There was discussion on the possibility of moving the bank account to Wells Fargo because there is a bank in Payson. Much discussion followed. President Brocker stated that her feeling is that we continue to work with EAC. However, she stated that the Board has to look out for the interests of Gila County residents. President Brocker responded to VP Moorhead's statement that Santa Cruz had been an albatross around our neck. She stated and would put it on record that she has built a relationship with Stella Perez who is their CEO. She is a wonderful person but Santa Cruz has done some things that have alienated a lot of people especially in the Legislature. VP Moorhead also had a concern regarding our Audit. President Brocker stated that if we don't have a staff member that is outside of the EAC structure she would be in favor of running everything through the CPA if they would be willing to handle it. Both President Brocker and Treasurer/CFO Knauss stated the need to be patient with EAC during this time as they are trying to align our structure with theirs. There have been several changes taking place at EAC with a new administration and at Gila Pueblo Campus with the loss of several employees at one time along with Jay Spehar's resignation. There are also changes due to COVID. Discussion took place regarding a consultant position for the Board along with having GCC employees.

President Brocker stated that there seems to be a problem with the delivery of the Conflict of Interest forms. She handed out new forms for each member to complete and asked VP Moorhead or Treasurer/CFO Knauss to hand deliver to the Campus.

President Brocker gave projections on monies that GCC might be receiving from PROP 207 which appropriated 33% of all monies imposed by the 16% excise tax. VP Moorhead informed that we may receive income from PROP208 which is the surtax on income and it is in the courts.

President called for a motion to adjourn and reconvene at 12:15 p.m.

Motion 023062021 #1

Treasurer/CFO Knauss so moved. VP Moorhead seconded the motion. All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed please signify by saying nay. Adjourned for lunch and will reconvene at 12:15 p.m. (Brocker, Cockrell, Knauss, Moorhead and Shipley voting in favor.)

President Brocker reconvened the second half of the Special Meeting of the Gila County Provisional College District work session on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 12:20 p.m.

President Brocker stated that the Strategic Plan, and the contract with EAC were items the Board had already discussed.

C. Program Proposal Discussion/Information/Discussion

President Brocker stated she wanted to talk about the process for getting programs approved or initiated. A new program is very time consuming and she didn't think any Board members would want to take it on. Member Shipley provided information on a program he has seen work where students put their skills to work like a business. Treasurer/CFO Knauss stated that he has brought this up before. He stated he is not sure why we don't use the students in business classes to run some business analysis and marketing to do some advertisements. He feels we don't have any venue to put things in place and hold them accountable to it. Treasurer/CFO Knauss suggested that there be some type of form that is given to the Deans letting them know what the Board would like to see done and then be able to track the action taking place so the request doesn't get lost when a Dean retires. Treasurer/CFO Knauss feels the College is missing out on many opportunities which could help our FTSE. President Brocker stated that with COVID everybody just went into survival mode and then we lost 3 key positions and there was no one being groomed to take over. President stated that enrollment at community colleges across the country are down. Treasurer/CFO Knauss informed the Board that we have very little flexibility for our working adults and we lose students because of it. He stated he

was ashamed of how our online classes were being run during COVID. He has witnessed problems because his wife was enrolled. He said the classes were not professionally run. There were instructors who didn't know how to use ZOOM, and they didn't know the grading system and couldn't get grades in on time. Treasurer/CFO Knauss stated that there is a concern around how our online education is being taught. President Bocker provided information on changing the online courses to inject more flexibility for working students. She asked if the Board should work with EAC to see if those needs can be met for our working adults or is that more motivation to become our own self. Treasurer/CFO Knauss stated he believes our FTSE problem is directly related to our lack of flexibility with education for our working adults. President Bocker stated that she made the decision not to fight EAC on the items they were pushing us hard on. She stated that EAC needs to do what they need to do and we need to do the same. President informed that she is trying to put together the framework for us that is most beneficial for our students. Much discussion took place how to deal with EAC and the programs. President Bocker proposed that when the discussion comes to committee restructure a committee is created to address curriculum or a learning format committee. Treasurer/CFO Knauss wants an action process list for each committee so that the Board always knows the status of a project and he also wants the community to be informed of the work the Board has done and some of the problems they have faced and hopefully bring support for future Board decisions.

D. 2021 – Proposed Budget/Information/Discussion

President Bocker asked if anyone had viewed the entire budget. Secretary Cockrell said she had viewed all 38 pages. She then explained that the idea for the business classes to do some work and marketing to run ads just wasn't there to be able to do it. President Bocker stated that she went through the 38 pages and tried to reconcile. She did send questions to VP Welker about how the EAC overhead is figured and where is it in the budget. President had other questions and Treasurer/CFO Knauss stated he feels we must have a CPA review the budget and to help the Board understand it and know what questions to ask EAC. President Bocker informed that she believes the Board was to collaborate with EAC on the budget. VP Moorhead asked if anyone knew what the Cash Expenditure Limit was and that the Board has no idea what that is. He also stated that if the Legislature passed a bill then we will have two years grace above the Cash Expenditure Limitation. That has not happened yet. Treasurer/CFO Knauss stated again that the Board will spend a lot of time spinning their wheels without a CPA. There were many questions discussed but kept coming back to having a CPA review the budget. President Bocker stated that VP Welker has really cleaned things up and he is very capable of getting the work done and she has a great deal of respect for him. President Bocker said we were on a tight schedule for this budget but going forward the Board will have the CPA ready to work on next year's budget. Discussion continued and President Bocker informed that GCC is a debt free community college. Secretary Cockrell informed the Board that in the budget she found some instructor expense broken out by campus. She felt that it was very confusing. More questions and comments took place regarding details.

E. Accreditation/Legislative Update/Information/Discussion

President Bocker informed that it will probably take about 10 years to complete. There have been changes in regard to the people dealt with over the years. The undoing of GCC from EAC will be challenging but when asked about it President Bocker was told that there wasn't anything that would be considered a deal breaker. President Bocker explained how she would like to see the accreditation process take place. VP Moorhead and Treasurer/CFO Knauss stated they have both had conversations with Supervisor Mike Humphrey and were told there is money for the College but it must be requested and attached to a project. President Bocker wanted it on record that she thinks the Board has a plan to not have accreditation stall again. Secretary Cockrell questioned having a time line with a plan. President Bocker responded. Discussion continued.

Treasurer Knauss requested a short break. President Bocker informed that she hopes to wrap it up with the committee realignment and end early. President Bocker explained the accreditation process to Member Shipley.

F. Committee Realignment and Future Priorities for GCPCCD/Information/Discussion

Committee Realignment:

Funding Strategy committee. Funding Strategy title will remain the same. Member Shipley as lead and VP Moorhead will serve secondary.

Accreditation Strategy stays the same with President Bocker as Lead and Secretary Cockrell to serve secondary

Legislative Strategy will stay the same with VP Moorhead Lead and President Bocker serving as secondary.

Freedom of Expression Committee will go under the Legislative Strategy

Communication Strategy will become Work Force Development/Community Relations Treasurer/CFO Knauss as Lead and Member Shipley serving as secondary and Leitha Griffin also serving.

Board Policy Strategy will go under Work Force Development/Community Relations

Partnering Strategy will go under Work Force Development/Community Relations

Payson/Secretary Cockrell will serve

Secretary Cockrell suggested that each committee develop a plan of action which would include plans for items to accomplish for the year and the steps involved. When the committee reports are presented it can be stated that the committee is waiting on an item instead of saying no update

President Brocker stated that the Board must keep the focus on the future. She hopes that hopefully by the end of the year we will know if the Board is on the right pathway to becoming Gila County Community College without all the extra initials. Treasurer/CFO Knauss stated that we can't forget the past. There used to be a real type of mentality that one is Payson and the other is Globe. He encouraged everyone from Payson to come to Globe and Globe needs to go to Payson and see what is being done. President Brocker stated that she is pleased and excited with the progress that has been made in bringing everyone together and working together.

President Brocker called for a motion to adjourn.

4. Adjournment

Action

Motion 03062021#2

Secretary Cockrell so moved. Treasurer/CFO Knauss seconded the motion. All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed please signify by saying nay; there was no response. Ayes have it. Study session meeting adjourned. (Brocker, Cockrell, Knauss, Moorhead and Shipley voting in favor). President Brocker thanked everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 14:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary

Attest:

Jan Brocker
President