



Minutes of the April 25, 2023 Organizational Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535

An organizational meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 was conducted on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 in Room 1506 at the Des Plaines campus of Oakton College, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, Illinois.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Kotowski called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m. Trustee Bush called the roll:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr. Paul Kotowski | Chair | Present |
| Dr. Wendy Yanow | Vice Chair | Present |
| Dr. Gail Bush | Secretary | Present |
| Ms. Martha Burns | | <i>Absent for roll call</i> |
| Mr. Benjamin Salzberg | | Present |
| Mr. William Stafford | | Present |
| Ms. Marie Toussaint | | Present |
| Mr. Akash Patel | Student Trustee | Present |

Also present in room 1506 at the Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road, were Dr. Joianne Smith, President; Dr. Karl Brooks, CSSO/Vice President for Student Affairs; Edwin Chandrasekar, CFO/Vice President for Administrative Affairs; Dr. Colette Hands, CHRO; Dr. Ileo Lott, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Jake Jeremiah, Dean of Library; Stephen Butera, Director of Communications and Media Relations; Philip Cronin, Sr. Media Services Technician; Kayla Ruchti, Digital Media Specialist; Theresa Bashiri-Remetio, Elected Trustee; Beatriz Sparks, Special Assistant to the Board.

Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Kotowski asked Trustee Salzberg to give the pledge.

Land Acknowledgment – Trustee Yanow read the Land Acknowledgment.

Statement by the President

President Smith recognized and thanked Chair Kotowski for his service this year and for his six years of service on the Board. President Smith indicated that as a result of Mr. Kotowski's contributions to the development of the MOU between the Oakton Educational Foundation and the College, Oakton has strengthened its partnership with the Foundation. President Smith also added that Mr. Kotowski has deeply listened to students as they share their experience at Oakton, reflecting back to them in a meaningful way.

President Smith also thanked and recognized Student Trustee Patel for his two years of service on the Board. She described Patel as a passionate voice for students who has also helped Oakton center and elevate the experiences of students with disabilities as we consider equity initiatives. Although Mr. Patel is stepping down from his role as Student Trustee, he will continue to be an engaged student at the College.

Comments by the Chair

Chair Kotowski thanked the Board of Trustees and shared it has been an honor to serve with his colleagues for the last six years. Mr. Kotowski talked about the many changes and challenges since 2017 when he became a Board member, including the Covid-19 pandemic and the College's name change. He also thanked the administration, faculty and staff. He indicated that while he's stepping down from his role as a trustee, he will continue to be an advocate and cheerleader for Oakton College. Mr. Kotowski appreciates the opportunity to have served as the Chair of the Board. Finally, he welcomed the new elected trustee, Ms. Theresa Bashiri-Remetio.

Student Trustee Patel asked for a few minutes to thank the Board, and share that it has been an honor to represent the student body, to work with his fellow trustees and administrators, and to represent Oakton College at the state level during advisory committee meetings. He is proud of his work lobbying for support for disabled students.

NEW BUSINESS

4/23-1 Resolution Declaring the Results of April 4, 2021 Consolidated General Election, Community College District 535, Office of Trustee

Trustee Kotowski offered:

“WHEREAS, on the 4th day of April 2023, there was held in and for Community College District 535, an election for the purpose of electing two Trustees to serve on the Board for two six-year terms;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the county clerk to canvass the election results 21 days following the election;

WHEREAS, the election authority has delivered the official Abstracts of Votes to the local election official for Oakton Community College District 535;

WHEREAS, the Board must meet to declare the results of the election and hold their organizational meeting within the time period of between 21 and 28 days following the election and that the term of the new trustees must commence at the organizational meeting held within 28 days following the election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 535, COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS THAT:

1. The election held on the 4th day of April 2023 was held in all respects as provided by law; and the returns of the election have been duly canvassed by the Cook County Clerk’s office and filed with the Secretary of the Board.
2. The Board finds that the following total votes were cast in Oakton Community College District 535 in favor of the following candidates:”

ABSTRACT OF VOTES

“Votes were cast in the non-partisan election held on April 4, 2023, in Cook County, Illinois, to elect three individuals to serve six-year terms on the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535, and we do hereby proclaim the results of the election as follows:

1. Two candidates named to serve two six-year terms received the number of votes ascribed opposite his name:

| <u>NAME of CANDIDATE</u> | <u>NUMBER of VOTES</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Theresa Bashiri-Remetio | 32,957 |
| Martha Burns | 34,707 |

2. We do hereby further certify and proclaim that as a result of the election, Theresa Bashiri-Remetio and Martha Burns were elected to serve two six-year terms on the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535, County of Cook and State of Illinois.”

Trustee Bush seconded the motion and called the roll:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Paul Kotowski, Chair | Aye |
| Wendy Yanow, Vice Chair | Aye |
| Gail Bush, Secretary | Aye |
| Martha Burhs | Aye |
| Benjamin Salzberg | Aye |
| William Stafford | Aye |
| Marie Toussaint | Aye |
| Akash Patel, Student Trustee | Aye |

Trustee Yanow administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Bashiri-Remetio and Ms. Burns.

Student Trustee Patel made a motion to adjourn *sine die*, seconded by Trustee Salzberg. Trustee Bush made the roll call, and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Bashiri-Remetio and Ms. Burns took their seats at the dais.

Roll Call

Vice Chair Yanow asked Trustee Bush to call the roll:

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Dr. Yanow | Vice Chair | Present |
| Dr. Bush | Secretary | Present |
| Ms. Bashiri-Remetio | | Present |
| Ms. Burns | | Present |
| Mr. Salzberg | | Present |
| Mr. Stafford | | Present |
| Ms. Toussaint | | Present |
| Mr. Patel | Student Trustee | Present |

4/23-2 Recommendation for Seating of Student Member of the Board of Trustees

Trustee Stafford offered:

SECTION 1: An election for the Student Member of the Board of Trustees was held April 3 – 7, 2023. The election was conducted in all respects as provided by law and according to Policy 1005. The election was conducted online, using the Simply Voting software purchased by the Student Government Association. Currently enrolled students were provided a ballot via email and Simply Voting provided a secure method to permit students to vote from their computer or mobile device; 346 students cast ballots in the election.

The returns of the election have been duly canvassed by the Judges of Election. The student meets all qualifications for Trustees as specified in Policy 1004.

SECTION 2: The Board of Trustees declares that Lydia Cruz received 149 votes (51.4%) for the office of Student Member of the Board of Trustees. Her opponent Akash Patel receiving 141 (48.6%) with 56 (16.2%) abstaining votes cast, thereby declaring Lydia Cruz the successful candidate to serve as the Student Trustee with a term commencing on April 25, 2023 and concluding at the Board of Trustees meeting in April 2024.

SECTION 3: This resolution shall be effective from and after its passage as provided by law.”

Trustee Salzberg seconded the motion. Trustee Bush called the roll.

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|---------------------|-----|
| Ms. Bashiri-Remetio | Aye |
| Ms. Burns | Aye |
| Dr. Bush | Aye |
| Mr. Salzberg | Aye |
| Mr. Stafford | Aye |
| Ms. Toussaint | Aye |
| Dr. Yanow | Aye |

The motion passed. Student Trustee Patel favored the resolution.

Trustee Salzberg made a motion to adjourn *sine die*, seconded by Trustee Stafford. Trustee Bush called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously. Lydia Cruz was named Student Trustee.

Roll Call

Vice Chair Yanow asked Trustee Bush to call the roll:

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Dr. Yanow | Vice Chair | Present |
| Dr. Bush | Secretary | Present |
| Ms. Bashiri-Remetio | | Present |
| Ms. Burns | | Present |
| Mr. Salzberg | | Present |
| Mr. Stafford | | Present |
| Ms. Toussaint | | Present |
| Ms. Cruz | Student Trustee | Present |

4/23-3 Resolution Organizing the Board of Trustees for the Term Commencing April 25, 2023

Trustee Bush offered:

“WHEREAS, pursuant to College policy and in accordance with the Illinois Public Community College Act, as amended (110 ILCS 805/3-8), the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 elects its officers comprise of a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, from its membership, and appoints a Treasurer, not a member of the Board, at its annual organizational meeting held in April.”

Nomination of Officers:

Trustee Yanow asked for nominations for the office of Chair of the Board. Trustee Stafford nominated Trustee Yanow; Trustee Bush seconded the nomination. Trustee Yanow asked for a roll call to vote in favor of accepting the nomination of Trustee Yanow as the Chair of the Board. Trustee Bush made the roll call, which passed unanimously.

Chair Yanow asked for nominations for the office of Vice Chair of the Board. Trustee Salzberg nominated Trustee Bush; Trustee Bashiri-Remetio seconded the nomination. Chair Yanow asked for a roll call to vote in favor of accepting the nomination of Trustee Bush as the Vice Chair of the Board. Trustee Bush made the roll call, which passed unanimously.

Chair Yanow asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board. Trustee Bush nominated Trustee Stafford; Trustee Salzberg seconded the nomination. Chair Yanow asked for a roll call to vote in favor of accepting the nomination of Trustee Stafford as Secretary of the Board. Trustee Bush called the roll, which passed unanimously.

Trustee Bush continued:

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 535, COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS THAT:

- 1. The Board is hereby organized for the term commencing April 25, 2023.
- 2. The time and place for the regular meetings of the Board for the calendar year 2024 shall be fixed as follows:

January 16, February 20, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 25, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 12, December 10.

Meetings will take place in the Board Room, 1506, at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, Illinois. The time and location of all meetings will be published with proper notice and agenda and will be posted as required by law.

- 3. All Board rules, policies, and procedures in effect during the previous year shall remain in effect.
- 4. Edwin Chandrasekar is hereby appointed Treasurer to serve at the pleasure of the Board for no additional compensation, provided that before entering upon his duties, the Treasurer shall execute and deliver to the Board a bond, as required by the Illinois Public Community College Act.”

Trustee Salzberg seconded the motion. Chair Yanow asked Trustee Bush to call the roll:

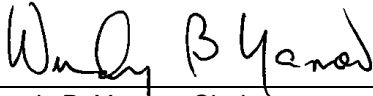
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|---------------------|-----|
| Ms. Bashiri-Remetio | Aye |
| Ms. Burns | Aye |
| Dr. Bush | Aye |
| Mr. Salzberg | Aye |
| Mr. Stafford | Aye |
| Ms. Toussaint | Aye |
| Dr. Yanow | Aye |

Motion carried. Student Trustee Cruz favored the resolution.

Adjournment

Chair Yanow asked for a motion for an adjournment. The Board will go into Executive Session, and begin the regular meeting at 6 p.m. Trustee Bush made the motion, seconded by Trustee Salzberg. Trustee Bush made the roll call, and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.



Wendy B. Yanow, Chair



William Stafford, Secretary

Minutes recorded by:
Beatriz Sparks
4/2023