

**KIRTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

May 6, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roy Spangler called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: MaryAnn Ferrigan, Richard Silverman, Roy Spangler, Roberta Werle

Members Absent: David Dougherty, Denis Weiss, Patricia Webb

Others Present: LeAnne Allen, Anna Marie Baker, Jerry Boerema, Amy Dawson, Jessica Gillard, Tim Hagen-Foley, Virginia Fox, Amy Hesse, Gordon Hesse, Dale Homan, Tiffany Kenyon, Kathy Koch, Jackie Liddle, Dennis Mansfield, Kathy Marsh, Kyle Morrison, Pamela Nuttall, Sheri Jackson, Phyllis Padolsky, Tom Quinn, Ilene Scherer, Tim Scherer, Dale Shantz, Ron Sharpe, Wini Sharpe

WELCOME

Members and guests were welcomed by Chair Roy Spangler.

CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER PRESENTATION

Jessica Gillard, Great Start Early Education Component Specialist, was introduced by Tom Quinn, President. She provided background information from a governmental perspective that she said might be helpful in making a decision about the future of child care at Kirtland Community College. The Great Start Collaborative is a quasi-governmental entity set up by Governor Granholm to improve coordination and collaboration among early childhood education and care programs and services. A packet of information was provided that included a strategic report for this initiative that addresses what Michigan can do to support higher education opportunities for the early care and education workforce. Valora Washington, Michigan Early Childhood Investment Corporation states, "Knowing the impact of the early care and education workforce on the prosperity of Michigan families and communities, every college president and state legislator must ask the question, 'What can we do now to build an effective early care and education workforce?'" Ms. Gillard invited the board members to attend an early childhood leadership summit to be held in Lansing Tuesday, May 18, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tim Hagen-Foley, Development Director, provided a report titled "The Warbler's Nest, A great start for all children." The report presented options for the Children's Learning Center which is currently an early childhood learning and child care facility owned by the college and operated by a subcontractor. The current status operates at a loss of approximately \$12,000 per year. Option 1 proposes closing the Children's Learning Center and not offering child care services. Option 2 proposes moving the current operation to a room in another building on campus, and restricting operations so that licensing is not necessary with Kirtland assuming management. Option 3 proposes constructing a new basic building (3,648 square feet) with Kirtland assuming management. The cost of Option 3 requires an initial investment of approximately \$475,000 less a potential USDA grant of \$50,000. A fourth option proposes building a new facility with space available (4,608 square feet) to provide for operating the Great Start Collaborative initiative for training child care workers. The cost of Option 4 requires an initial investment of approximately \$575,000 less potential USDA grant of \$50,000.

Option 4 allows Kirtland to ensure a quality children's learning center. It provides the best chance to recover costs and possibly generate revenue. The college could recoup all additional construction costs beyond those in Option 2. The children's learning center would be seen as a model for other colleges and can potentially spark more programming for the college with a resulting economic benefit to the community. The center would obtain accreditation and be the only center within northern Michigan with these credentials. If child care and early learning programs become unfeasible for the college in the future, the building can be re-purposed.

OPEN DISCUSSION

A student in attendance spoke, saying that she learned about the day care through Welcome Week information. Although her family did not qualify for the subsidized program, her children have benefitted greatly by the facility. She cannot continue to attend college without the child care support currently available.

Another student spoke of a lack of options for child care in the local community which makes on-campus child care mandatory for her to be able to attend college classes.

Ron Sharpe asked about annual operating expenses and a potential payback period. Tim Hagen-Foley explained that

it is not expected to provide payback, but is an educational expense. The annual operating expense is expected to clear \$10,000 due to possible funding streams available with Option 4, without counting additional grants he is in the process of seeking.

Gordon Hesse, Custodian, spoke as a parent that when they placed their child in a child care facility, it was a frightening thing. A state of the art facility will serve the community in a manner that will be a definite benefit to children, students, and the community.

Wini Sharpe asked about licensing for 59 children. It was affirmed that the college will need to hire a director with proper certification to run the facility since the current director, Amy Hesse, is now administrator of the Great Start Collaborative for Crawford-Oscoda-Ogemaw-Roscommon counties, a partner of the Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

A student spoke about concerns for support services for single parents. His experience with the Kirtland facility has been positive.

Tom Quinn said that the college administration seeks direction from the board on how to proceed. Roy Spangler said that with three board members absent, he prefers that the board take time to consider the options and bring it back for further consideration at a future board meeting. He would like to see some options for financing Option 4. His opinion is that this is something that is needed and should be done well or not at all.

Richard Silverman said a significant portion of our student body does need quality day care services. *It is crucial that the college provide such service or lose enrollment.* He supports Option 4 for better value. He asked about the timelines to realize such a facility. The response was October 2010. He noted that it then provides a sense of urgency for a decision to be made. Tim Hagen-Foley added that licensing issues need to be resolved within the next couple of weeks.

Roberta Werle spoke about the college budget cycle with a proposed budget for 2010-2011 to come before the board in May. She asked whether that is on schedule. Tom Quinn responded that a series of finance committee meetings are anticipated in May for budget approval in June. Werle stated that in view of the importance of a decision on a child care facility and budget development, the administration needs to come back with something budget-wise at the May meeting.

Roy Spangler suggested a rural development loan might be a resource for financing with extremely favorable interest rates. Whether financing \$575,000 is a line item or a reserve fund opportunity, it was the consensus that it is the direction the board wants to move toward. Therefore, more detail on financing options was requested by the board.

BOARD ACTION

A motion was made by Richard Silverman to move forward with Option 4 to provide information on financing to help make a final decision at the next regular board meeting. Roberta Werle seconded the motion asking for a meaningful explanation as to where financing will come from in relation to the budget at the May meeting. The motion was approved with voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:04 p.m. by Chair Roy Spangler.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Koch
Recording Secretary