

**Approved Minutes of the
Alpena Community College Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**
November 18, 2021
665 Johnson Street, Alpena, MI 49707

On Thursday, November 18, 2021, the Alpena Community College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting in the Roger C. Bauer Board Room, 400 Natural Resources Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Briggs.

Present in person: John Briggs, Joseph Gentry II, Lisa Hilberg, Susan Stender, Florence Stibitz, and Tom Townsend. Present via Webex: Teresa Duncan. Absent: none. Also present in person: President Don MacMaster and Board Secretary Jay Walterreit.

Trustee Stibitz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Stibitz that the agenda be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Trustee Stender. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

Approval of the Proposed Minutes from the October 21, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Stibitz made the motion to approve the proposed minutes from the October 21, 2021, regular Board meeting; Trustee Hilberg seconded the motion. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

Introduction of Guests and Public Comment

Chairman Briggs began the introduction of guests by noting that Trustee Duncan was attending the meeting virtually via Webex. Trustee Duncan introduced herself; prior to the start of the meeting Trustee Duncan noted that she was participating in the meeting from Marquette, Michigan.

Guests attending the meeting in person or via Webex were: Officer Jason Collegnon, Alpena Police Department; Steve Fosgard, ACC administration; Andrew Paad, ACC faculty; Nick Brege, ACC administration; Todd Artley, ACC faculty; Mike Artrip, ACC faculty; Paul Gamage, ACC faculty; Nancy Seguin, ACC administration; Karen Bennett, ACC attorney; and community member Robert Tosch.

Chairman Briggs read the following statement before the start of the Public Comment section of the meeting. He also instructed Board Secretary Walterreit to include the statement in the meeting minutes and distribute it to ACC employees.

The Michigan Open Meetings Act requires that time be set aside at every public meeting to listen to public comment. We understand that during the time for public comment, individuals may express their opinions. We also understand that those opinions may be critical of this board or the administration. It is the right of

those individuals to be heard and we provide a forum for that public comment, as the law requires.

The Board is not required to respond to public comments, and as a general rule, under our policy, we do not respond. Over the past several meetings, we have listened to public comments by one individual which include many personal attacks on various board members and employees, including the President of the College.

It is my intent to follow our general policy not to make a response to any of the specific accusations. To paraphrase a famous quote, "I do not want to dignify these accusations with a single remark." However, I also feel that, as the Board Chair, it is important to express my confidence in and support of the college officials, faculty and board members who are being bitterly and personally attacked and maligned using this forum of public comment.

We have a very high degree of confidence in the loyalty, honesty, and integrity of the President. This confidence is based upon our past experience with him and our ongoing review of his performance.

I also want to express confidence in the systems and organizational structure of the college. We have great confidence in the integrity of the college finances and the financial reporting process.

We have a process for hiring Faculty and for oversight and evaluation of the Faculty. There is a process for handling complaints involving faculty and there is a formalized procedure to assure that due process and fairness are carried out. We trust that process. We know it has been carried out.

I know I speak for the board when I say we are very proud of our faculty at ACC. We know the difference they make in the lives of our students and in the community at large.

I have great respect for the college employees and officials who listen stoically and silently to claims they know to be false. It takes great restraint. They know and I know that nothing can be gained by responding to these claims; but I also feel compelled to express my support for and confidence in the college officials and employees who have been falsely maligned. They deserve our support and our thanks.

After Chairman Briggs read the statement, Robert Tosch addressed the trustees during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Communication(s)

None.

Board Member and Subcommittee Reports

Trustee Townsend reported that the Property Subcommittee had met to discuss a request from the Thunder Bay Soccer Association for ACC property. The property requested is part of the College's core campus so the request was denied. The Property Subcommittee did express interest in continuing to work with the Thunder Bay Soccer Association to develop an acceptable proposal.

Trustee Gentry noted that the Property Subcommittee also discussed a request from 1010 Technology Center for permission to bury a run of fiber optic cable on College property along Johnson Street and Woodward. The Property Subcommittee supported the idea and authorized the President to write a permission letter.

Trustee Duncan reported that the trustees should have received an email inviting them to the joint ACC/ACC Foundation boards holiday luncheon on December 6. She and Brenda Herman are working on an agenda for the luncheon.

Student Report

Students Henry Docter and Olivia Price talked about the recent addition of a buck pole near the ropes course. Materials for the buck pole were supplied by the UTT program. Price helped fabricate a metal sign to go on the buck pole, which will be installed soon. Materials from the sign came from the Welding program.

Faculty Report

Instructor Todd Artley introduced UTT instructors Michael Artrip and Paul Gamage, who were hired into the Utility Tech program last year. Artley also talked about contract negotiations between the faculty and administration, saying the process was going well using the mutual gains bargaining method.

President's Report

Jay Walterreit distributed the first copies of the 2020-21 Annual Report to the trustees and listed some of the College's accomplishments from the previous year.

President's Report to the Alpena Community College Board of Trustees
November 18, 2021

Efforts to secure NJCAA athletic eligibility for 13th year Early Middle College Students

The draft letter below, written by Dr. Trevor Kubatske, President of Lake Michigan College, is in the process of being signed by interested Michigan community college presidents and will then be submitted to the NJCAA national Board of Directors. Dr. Betty Young is the Region III community college president representative on the NJCAA Board.

November 15, 2021
Dr. Betty Young, President

Hocking College
3301 Hocking Pkwy.
Nelsonville, Ohio 45764

Dr. Young,

The State of Michigan developed and implemented an Early Middle College (EMC) model to improve post-secondary credential attainment among high school graduates. An early middle college (EMC) is a Michigan Department of Education approved five-year program of study. EMCs work closely with postsecondary partners to provide students with an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and one or more of the following:

- 60 transferable college credits
- An associate degree
- A professional certification
- The Michigan Early Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certificate
- Participation in a registered apprenticeship

A professional certification is any certificate or industry recognized credential in which the student prepared for by taking course work provided by a Michigan public or private college or university.

Participation in an EMC may begin as early as the 9th grade. Students must declare their intent to participate in the EMC before they begin grade 11. EMC participants follow a deliberately designed course of study. Students may earn a college degree and/or a certificate by taking some college classes during 9-12 grades and then attend college full time during grade 13. Classes are taken at high school, a college campus, or in a blended format (part on-line and part classroom). The student's Educational Development Plan (EDP) must reflect the 5th year of instruction and is signed by the student, the parent and school official. Students can walk with their class at graduation; however, their diploma will be held until the completion of their 13th year.

As you can see, this program allows students to obtain a credential at no cost to the family and even gives them a jump start on college. As stated, the 13th year, the student is a full-time college student having completed all high school requirements year 12. Unfortunately, because awarding of their high school credential is delayed until after the 13th year, many student athletes have to make a difficult choice. Either they do not participate in the Early Middle College so they can continue their sport immediately after high school, therefore giving up the cost savings of the program, or they choose to enroll in the EMC but have to sit out a year. Below is a testimonial from an EMC student enrolled at Alpena Community College.

I am Olivia Hemker, the 2021 Valedictorian from Tawas Area High School and am an Early College Student at Alpena Community College. Finding out that I was unable to do what I love and play the sports I love just because I took advantage of a program that will not only save me outrageous amounts of money, but also give me a faster track to graduating with a degree, was very disappointing. Sports are an outlet for almost every student, and I couldn't imagine not having the chance to partake in them during my years in school. You would think that by participating in the 13th year program (which helps not only the high school but also the

college), the college would not only want to reward those students for taking these challenging courses faster in order to obtain a brighter future, but at least let us play the game we love! My sport has always been Volleyball. I have played ball every year from 3rd grade and it has been the one thing I look forward to every August. Even if I wasn't originally planning on playing Volleyball in college, I can only empathize with those who were but are now unable to because they are considered "high school students" even though they have graduated high school and are just using the program to their scholarly advantage. Being able to play sports beyond high school would mean the world to many of us. When I get stressed out or need something to occupy myself in the midst of a school breakdown, sports are my go-to. If I was able to continue my athletic career in college, it would lower the chances of burn-out from too much school and not enough physical activity and give me my outlet back as an athlete and not just a 24/7 student. As a student, one of the major benefits of sports is not only the physical activity that helps me stay healthy physically, mentally, and emotionally, but also an outlet to go do what I enjoy. Since I grew up in sports, it is the one thing I can turn to when I am struggling to immediately gain confidence and feel better mentally and emotionally. From the perspective of a regular person, sports have taught me many things in life. I have learned the real meaning of family as I have gone into every season hoping to create friendships and come out of every season with a family of girls who will always be there for me whatever my struggles may be. The biggest thing I have taken from sports in my 17 years of life is that the bonds and friendships built are going to be the strongest that I have, and this is something that I think everyone should be able to be a part of no matter what their college paths may be. If this even helps a little bit to make sure that no one else has to ever lose this part of college like my fellow classmates and I solely because we took the path with the better advantage degree-wise, then it will mean a lot to me.

Dr. Young, I ask that you take to the NJCAA Board our request to allow students in the 13th year of Michigan's formal Early Middle College be eligible for inter-collegiate athletics. The only difference in a student a year after high school and an EMC student is one has accepted the challenge of rigorous academics; let's not penalize them for such a right decision.

Emergency Temporary Standard on COVID-19

The following letter was sent to all staff on Wednesday, November 10, 2021:

Folks,

On Thursday, November 4, the Emergency Temporary Standard on COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing was published by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on its website and filed in the Federal Register.

The Emergency Temporary Standard requires that by December 5, 2021, employers with at least 100 employees must determine the vaccination status of their employees and must require unvaccinated employees to wear face coverings indoors. By January 4, 2022, the standard requires workers to either be vaccinated or be tested at least weekly and wear face coverings in the workplace. More details are available on the OSHA website:

<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets2>.

On Saturday, November 6, a three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals issued an emergency stay blocking the Emergency Temporary Standard; the full Fifth Circuit is expected to quickly consider the new rule.

While legal challenges to the Emergency Temporary Standard likely will take some time to resolve, please note that based on Michigan's state OSHA plan, the federal standard will apply to all community colleges in Michigan with at least 100 employees, which includes Alpena Community College. Failing to comply is not an option.

*Not knowing how the federal courts will resolve this directive, or how long that might take, we need to be prepared to implement the standard according to the timeline outlined in the Emergency Temporary Standard. For those who are already vaccinated, please provide documentation of this status to Human Resources as soon as you are able **with a deadline of December 3, 2021.***

If you are unvaccinated and don't intend to get vaccinated, please prepare to comply with the weekly testing mandate scheduled to begin January 4, 2022. I understand there will be many questions related to this testing protocol; we've begun sorting these out this week and I will communicate the details as they are finalized. Bottom line, if the Emergency Temporary Standard on COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing becomes federal law, ACC must and will comply.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I will communicate more information as it becomes known.

Don

Action Items

2.825 Bids: Classroom Chairs

The following resolution was proposed by Trustee Hilberg and seconded by Trustee Townsend:

The Alpena Community College Board of Trustees approves the bid from Custer Inc., of Traverse City, Michigan, for \$82,504 for the purchase of 581 replacement classroom chairs for use in Besser Technical Center, the Natural Resources Center, and the World Center for Concrete Technology.

Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

2.826 Bids: Snow Plowing and Removal

The following resolution was proposed by Trustee Townsend and seconded by Trustee Gentry:

The Alpena Community College Board of Trustees approves a contract with Morgan Forest Products of Alpena, Michigan, for snow plowing and removal for the 2021-22 year. The hourly rate for snow plowing will be \$65; the hourly rate for snow removal will be \$100. The minimum fee for the year will be \$20,000.

Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

Financial Report

Notable points from Vice President for Administration and Finance Richard Sutherland's financial report include:

- The property tax receipts of \$585,123 are \$32,367 more than those for October 2020, due to both unexpected and expected increases.
- Tuition/fee receipts of \$3,448,694 are \$19,689 higher primarily due to faster early college enrollments.
- State aid for the current year is \$846,231. This includes a regular monthly payment of \$530,070, plus \$225,700 as a one-time appropriation payment and a semiannual personal property tax payment of \$90,461. This is the first payment of the year.
- The difference in Federal is due to \$2,435,600 in Paycheck Protection Program funding recorded through September of 2020. The College did not budget nor expect any of those kinds of revenues in FY 2022.
- The General Fund received \$323,123 for lost tuition and fee revenue through Federal HEERF funds.

Personnel Report

New hires, terminations, and status changes from October 13 to November 9, 2021.

New Hires:

- None.

Re-Hires:

- None.

Transfers:

- None.

Resignations:

- None.

Terminations:

- None.

Retirements:

- None.

Name Changes:

- None.

Retirements:

- None.

Name Changes:

- None.

Gifts and Grants Report

This report reflects the following activity for pledges and gifts received by ACC and the ACC Foundation between October 13 and November 8, 2021.

Total Donors: 31

New Gifts:	\$32,777.11
Pledge Payments:	\$5,278
New Pledges:	\$0

Board Discussion

- Chairman Briggs noted the December 6 joint boards meeting, saying that he was looking forward to having an open conversation with the Foundation board members about their perspectives on how the boards can move forward together in support of the College. He suggested the ACC trustees could conduct a workshop session in January to discuss the ACC Foundation perspectives.
- President MacMaster updated the trustees on recent developments concerning legislation which would permit community colleges to offer a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree.
- Trustee Gentry asked if a Board resolution in support of allowing early college students to play college sports would be helpful in the effort to change the law and NJCAA rules. President MacMaster said a resolution of support would be helpful and asked the trustees to consider doing that at the December Board meeting.

New Business

None.

Suggested Future Agenda Items

None.

Next Regular Meeting

The ACC Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, December 6, 2021, in a joint meeting with the ACC Foundation board for a holiday luncheon. Time, place, and agenda will be announced when they are set. The next regular ACC Board of Trustees meeting is Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room.

Adjournment

The regular meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Jay Walterreit
Secretary of the Board of Trustees
(989) 358-7215