

**COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD**

**RETREAT**

**JUNE 8, 2023**



**COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MINUTES OF A RETREAT  
OF THE  
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD  
JUNE 8, 2023**

A Retreat of the Coconino Community College District Governing Board was held at 3228 W. W Lockwood Way, Flagstaff, AZ 86001. Board Chair Dr. Nat White called the meeting to order on June 8, 2023, at 6:02 pm.

PRESENT:       Eric Eikenberry  
                  Joseph R. Smith  
                  Nat White  
                  Patrick Hurley  
                  Patricia Garcia

Also Present: Dr. Eric Heiser, Dr. David Borofsky, and Ms. Kirsten Mead.

Reports, summaries, background material, and other documents referred to in these minutes can be found in the June 8, 2023, documents file.

**WELCOME**

Dr. Nat White opened the meeting and opened the floor for discussion.

**DISCUSSION: HOW DID THE PAST 18 MONTHS GO?**

**The Board discussed successes:**

- The passing of Proposition 408, the property tax reset, and the people who helped make it successful. And despite this success, many important people left the College, including Ms. April Sandoval (Assistant to the President), Dr. Colleen Smith (President), and Dr. Nate Southerland (Provost).
- Ms. Susie Garretson of the Political Action Committee (PAC) wrote thank you notes to all of the supporters of Proposition 408; the recipients were excited to be recognized
- With the departure of Dr. Colleen Smith, the Board had to enter into a Presidential Search very quickly
- The Board feels good about where the College stands now

**The Board discussed what could have been done better:**

- Mr. Patrick Hurley would like the CCC Champions, who have been underutilized, to organize and help the College within the community again
- The Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) negative findings should not have happened, though there is a solid plan in place to address the issues
- The next HLC report is due in October, and it is important that the work be done correctly
- The Page Housing Public Private Partnership (P3) has struggled to find funding; grant funders have disqualified opportunities for the project due to Genterra's involvement as a for-profit company

- The Board should be mindful of continuing to find a use for the Page land so that the City of Page does not try to take it away
- The Board wasn't kept in the loop well enough when Genterra asked the Foundation to contribute to P3
- P3 is a worthwhile project and should continue to be pursued, potentially in Flagstaff
- The Property Tax Reset funding interpretations by Coconino County and the State have been challenging. Additionally, the wording of the legislation that allowed the College to seek the property tax reset caused some complications, leading to complicated language in Proposition 408.
- The austerity mindset of the College community has created a toxic environment
- IT challenges and underutilization of the systems the College already has

#### **Additional Board discussion:**

- The potential for a Public Safety Training Facility
- The possibility that space may be available at the hospital for the College's nursing program
- Strengthening the fiscal relationship between the College and the Foundation
  - Focus on engaging donors differently; unrestricted funds and naming rights vs. scholarships
  - Providing training for the Foundation Board and collaboration with experienced high-level development staff in the community
- Increasing the College's student body
  - The College is up double digits for the fall, with a large part of that coming from NAU (A++)
  - Diversifying the audience
  - Grow dual enrollment programs, especially in Page
  - Program growth
  - Addressing potential students that live within Coconino County
  - Considering Competency Based Education (CBE)
- The Board and the College must become more data driven
- The College needs to maintain its own identity, separate from NAU
- The impact of artificial intelligence (AI)
- How to implement cultural change at the College and the image in the community
- Reconsidering the image of the College's mascot to be more relevant (Comet)

#### **FOLLOW UP**

- P3 opportunities and challenges discussed in the next few months
- HLC follow up
- How will the Property Tax Reset funding be spent going forward, including being used on infrastructure for long-term sustainability
- Additional follow up with the Foundation
- Update dual enrollment policy to accommodate new state funds
- Benefits and challenges of CBE
- Assessment of IR processes
- How IT is addressing the challenges they presented to the Board

- Consider the next All Trustee meeting at the Helios Foundation
- Cultural change at the College internally and in the community

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dr. Nat White adjourned the Board meeting at 7:27 pm.

**MINUTES PREPARED BY:**

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Ms. Kirsten Mead  
Board Recorder

**ATTEST and APPROVED:**

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Mr. Joseph R. Smith  
Vice Chair/Secretary of the Board

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Dr. Nat White  
Board Chair