

**MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023**  
**Massasoit Community College**  
**Virtual**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
*Approved September 20, 2023*

Attendees: Bonnie Blackler, Tom Carroll, Eshita Chakrabarti, Jim Dunphy, Steve Murphy, Ann Sullivan

Absent: Laura Lawson, Eval Silvera, Kate Welch

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Chair Sullivan – yes  
Vice Chair Carroll – yes  
Trustee Blackler - yes  
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes  
Trustee Dunphy - yes  
Trustee Murphy – yes

Chairwoman's Report

Chair Sullivan welcomed everyone to the meeting. The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. on our Canton campus. There is no scheduled Board meeting for the months of July and August. The advisory board for the Women's Leadership Initiative met and discussed upcoming events. On Tuesday, June 27 we will welcome our first speaker in the series, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Lauren Jones. We hope to incorporate alumni speakers in the future. The Board welcomed Kacey Hilton Gilleo, our student trustee, to the board. She is a theater arts and business major living in East Bridgewater.

Presidents Report

President DiPasquale welcomed everyone to the meeting. He and colleagues attended the Metro South Chamber of Commerce luncheon where Trustee Silvera's company, Brockton Beer Company, was awarded entrepreneur of the year. Congratulations to Trustee Silvera. President DiPasquale discussed the various events that happened on campus: Memorial Day Flag Garden, pinning's, and Commencement. We had 838 graduating students with over half as first-generation college grads, 51 early college grads, 67 international students, 32 veterans from 78 cities and towns in Massachusetts. We also have students from nine different states and many different countries. Our Presidential Scholar, Grace Henry, will be attending Bridgewater State University in the fall. Our keynote speaker, Representative Rita Mendes, was presented with her diploma from Massasoit after not being able to attend her graduation 17 years ago.

Erica Rivers has been hired as our Athletic Director and will begin mid-July. She grew up in Brockton and was previously an Athletic Director at Roxbury Community College. The CONNECT group has been meeting and discussing plans. We have a new MOU agreement with New Heights Charter School. Of the 660 early college students, 330 are from New Heights. President DiPasquale and Vice President Mitchell met with the Mayor Kokoros of Braintree, Superintendent Lee and Braintree High School Principal Dr. Sculley. The College is exploring an opportunity to set up a satellite site at Braintree High School for the Fall of 2024. We hosted President Clark from Bridgewater State University and members of his Cabinet to meet with our Cabinet to discuss future partnerships. BSU has a cyber security program, and we discussed the possibility of a cyber security associate degree. Vice Chair Carroll introduced us to President Chrite from Bentley University, and he will be visiting Massasoit on June 20, 2023, to discuss potential partnerships and opportunities for our students.

Chief of Staff, Dr. Dodson, announced that the Women's Leadership Initiative is proud to sponsor Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Lauren Jones, on Tuesday, June 27 for the first of many speaker series. We are expecting

60 people in attendance. The Secretary will discuss the current state of the workforce in Massachusetts and initiatives, including the Mass Reconnect program.

The President shared the fall enrollment numbers as of this date, 80 days before the semester begins, we are up 5.3% and 5.2% in credits. Our full-time students are up by 3%. The President will be sending out reports to the Board the months of July and August to keep them informed of enrollment numbers.

#### Alumni Report

The Alumni association will meet on July 14 to vote on the dissolution of the current Alumni association.

#### Consent Agenda

Vice Chair Carroll asked about the labor market and the 30 open positions that we have currently. Vice President Gazzara Hess replied that since June 2022, 65 full time employees have separated from the College which included 25 retirees. We have seen an uptick in quality applications in which the lifting of the COVID-19 restriction has helped. New staff members have come from a variety of places such as Bristol Community College, Roxbury Community College, Stonehill, UMass, Mass Maritime, municipalities and state government, healthcare, and other private sectors. The primary reasons people have separated are a work/life balance, remote work, less commute, promotions, and more money. Vice President Hess reported that the private sector on average pays better than the Commonwealth of MA. She advised that we are constantly reinventing where and how we are advertising in order to recruit the best available talent.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Carroll and seconded by Chair Sullivan to approve items 1, 2, 3 and 4 on the Consent Agenda.**

Chair Sullivan – yes  
Vice Chair Carroll – yes  
Trustee Blackler – yes  
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes  
Trustee Dunphy - yes  
Trustee Murphy – yes

**The motion passed unanimously.**

#### Introduction - Vice President of Academic Affairs – Gail Gibson Sheffield by President DiPasquale.

President DiPasquale was excited to announce the hiring of a Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Gail Gibson Sheffield. She most recently held the position of Vice President at Landmark College in Vermont. Landmark is well known for its programs designed for students with learning disabilities. Her official start date at Massasoit is Monday, July 10, 2023.

Dr. Gibson Sheffield thanked President DiPasquale. She is excited for this opportunity and moving into the public sector and community college. She is a first-generation college student. Her background in media education included her interest in trying to leverage media to reach students who don't have access to education, to spark an interest in getting people engaged. Working at Landmark gave her real insight into the barriers that students have in getting access to education. Her interest is developing strong pathways to help students achieve their goals. She looks forward to working on the strategic plan, getting to know the students, faculty, and staff, and finding out what she can contribute from her experiences.

#### Recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the presidential evaluation by Chair Ann Sullivan.

The Presidential evaluation was completed by the Board of Trustees. The process concluded that President DiPasquale is a fabulous leader, hardworking, and positive. His efforts with external partnerships including business leaders and chambers continues to grow. We must remain vigilant about the strategic plan and strategic investment so that the college can stay viable for the future. Vice Chair Carroll added that there is terrific alignment with the Board and the President.

It has been impressive to watch the President build bridges and mend fences with the community. Our standing in the community is much more positive and different than it was before President DiPasquale began. It sets an incredible foundation for the direction of the college. This also happened during post covid which had tremendous challenges in how we teach, how our students learn and where we want to college to be. He also emphasized the importance of the strategic plan and the investments that we are going to need to make to ensure that the College remains viable. He is proud to have you as our leader. Chair Sullivan also noted that the Board would like to see more student alumni success stories. The President has worked with unions to improve relationships. Massasoit has come a long way under his leadership. Focusing on the next year, continue to involve your staff and faculty in school decisions. The President has stated that his priority is recruitment, retention, and revenue to increase and stabilize for the strategic plan development.

**A motion was made by Trustee Chakrabarti and seconded by Trustee Dunphy to approve the presidential evaluation.**

Chair Sullivan – yes  
Vice Chair Carroll – yes  
Trustee Blackler – yes  
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes  
Trustee Dunphy - yes  
Trustee Murphy – yes

**The motion passed unanimously.**

President DiPasquale thanked the Board. He has faced many challenges since he started almost two years ago. We can now celebrate as we have a full cabinet. The cabinet will meet to discuss the initiatives and to begin the process of moving us forward with the self-study which gets us ready for the accreditation report and lines up with our strategic plan. We want to emphasize new programs, new energy, looking at current programs and modifying some. We will continue to look at programs to increase enrollment and better ways to help our students by new opportunities, and listening to business and industries as to what are the needs and where can we fill those needs. President DiPasquale thanked the Board for their continued support and kind comments. He does not do this work alone; we have a great team of faculty and staff. We as a team are committed to making this the best community college.

Massasoit Community College is seeking approval from the Board to enter into a lease agreement with Middleborough Public Schools for the current Middleborough Instructional Site by Vice President Mitchell.

Vice President Mitchell stated that we were able to negotiate the lease agreement with Middleborough Public Schools for the current Middleborough instructional site. We have been paying \$14 per square foot for the past five years and will now pay \$10 per square foot for an annual savings of \$51,000 for the space. This space has been outfitted for our paramedic and EMT programs. Massasoit also has negotiated an out clause after year 3 of the contract.

**A motion was made by Chair Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Chakrabarti that the Board of Trustees approve to enter into a lease agreement with Middleborough Public Schools for the current Middleborough Instructional Site.**

Chair Sullivan – yes  
Vice Chair Carroll – yes  
Trustee Blackler – yes  
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes  
Trustee Dunphy - yes  
Trustee Murphy – yes

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Trustee Chakrabarti and seconded by Chair Sullivan to adjourn the meeting.**

Chair Sullivan – yes  
Vice Chair Carroll – yes  
Trustee Blackler – yes  
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes  
Trustee Dunphy - yes  
Trustee Murphy – yes

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Prepared by:**



**Cori Foy  
Recording Secretary**



**Ann M. Sullivan  
Chair, Board of Trustees**