

**MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023**

**Virtual
6:00 p.m.**

Approved April 19, 2023

Attendees: Eshita Chakrabarti, Jim Dunphy, Laura Lawson, Steve Murphy, Ann Sullivan, Eval Silvera
Absent: Bonnie Blacker, Tom Carroll, Travis Lawrence

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

Roll Call:

Chair Sullivan - yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Dunphy - yes
Trustee Lawson - yes
Trustee Murphy – yes
Trust Silvera - yes

Chairwoman's Report

Chair Sullivan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Sullivan was at the Canton campus on March 8 for an intimate program and discussion on International Women's Day. She was also at the Brockton campus on March 9 to welcome the Secretary of Education Tutwiler and Higher Education Commissioner Ortega. The Secretary and Commissioner were on campus to discuss the SUCCESS program and Mass Reconnect with our students. Commencement is scheduled for Thursday, June 1 at 11 a.m. and Evening of Champions is scheduled for Saturday, May 13. The Community Champion Education award is being given to the Brockton Chapter of the NAACP with President Phyllis Ellis accepting. The Champion of Education award will be given to Peter Forman, South Shore Chamber of Commerce and Chris Cooney, Metro South Chamber of Commerce. The Chair asked the Board for their support by buying or selling a table for the event. The upcoming schedule for the Board of Trustees meetings will meet in person in Brockton on April 19, while the May 17 & June 21 BOT meeting will be held virtually. There will be no meetings in July & August (unless needed). The BOT meeting on September 20 will be in person at the Canton campus. Chair Sullivan noted that she appreciates the work that is put into the Consent agenda.

Presidents Report

President DiPasquale thanked Chair Sullivan and echoed her excitement on the recent visit from Secretary Tutwiler and Commissioner Ortega. Our culinary students prepared and served a superb meal to our guests. The roundtable discussion included an impressive presentation by five of our students and the impact that the SUCCESS program and Massasoit have had on them. They also discussed how Mass Reconnect will benefit future students. If this initiative passes 550 students at our college will be eligible in the fall. Guests included a staff member from the State Senator Brady's office and State Representative Rita Mendes.

Our current headcount for the spring is 4,472 versus 4,811 last year, representing a 7% decrease. Credit numbers are 37,644 versus 40,351 last year, representing a 6.7% decrease. Online courses are down 22%. There are currently 623 high school students taking courses at Massasoit.

President DiPasquale, Chief of Staff, Dr. Lydia Dodson, Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment, Dr. Ruben Barato, Vice President for Administration/CFO, William Mitchell and Executive Director of Marketing & Communications, Alex Villanueva, visited and signed an agreement with Stonehill College. This agreement will allow our students, meeting certain criteria, a 50% discount to attend Stonehill, and an extra \$7,500 if the student is from Brockton. We are excited and look forward to this partnership with Stonehill.

Recent events on campus include the grand re-opening of our TV studio. We received a donation from the City of Brockton, funded by Cable Access fees from Comcast, a constructed television set donated by the Taunton Community

Access and Media, and capital funds from the college and the state. Numerous students and alumni were present to give tours and discuss their experience in the TV studio at Massasoit. We also hosted a professional development day which included over 300 in attendance. Our students from the Global Studies seminar are currently in Morocco over spring break which is an experience of a lifetime. The Foundation graciously contributed to this trip. Thank you to our Board member, Laura Lawson, for introducing President DiPasquale to her husband, Dr. Ken Lawson, CEO Good Samaritan Hospital. He along with the President Matt Hesketh visited our campus and we plan to partner and work together. On March 23, CONNECT leadership will host a Legislative event at UMass Dartmouth, on March 28 we will honor President Emeritus, Dr. Charles Wall with a luncheon. Representatives from the college will attend the South Shore Chamber of Commerce annual meeting on April 5. The college will host an in person Open House in Brockton on April 1 and an open house in Canton on April 29. The college will also host the kickoff event for Women's Leadership Initiative at Massasoit on April 20 in Canton. We plan to promote leadership with speakers, training, incubator space, and entrepreneurship programs.

The COVID vaccination policy will expire on May 23, 2023. Effective immediately, visitors no longer need a vaccination to visit campus.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Chair Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Dunphy to approve the Consent Agenda.

Chair Sullivan - yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Dunphy - yes
Trustee Lawson - yes
Trustee Murphy – yes
Trust Silvera - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve an expenditure not to exceed \$103,000 for a managed detection and response service by William Morrison, Chief Information Officer.

Over the last several years, Massasoit has taken many steps to improve our cyber security posture and we have made substantial progress in creating a multi-layer defense strategy. According to a report from Verizon education and research, institutions were targeted by an average of 1,065 attacks per week in 2021 which is a 75% increase since 2020. A report shows this jump comes on the heels of a 2,880% rise in cyber-attacks between 2015 and 2019. Several peer institutions have fallen victim to attacks within the last three months and have been disruptive enough to close portions of both schools for days and in some cases weeks. We are looking for a partner that will monitor our environment 24 hours a day seven days a week, provide immediate containment of threats and conduct frequent and regular risk assessments that we can use to stay ahead of future threats. We looked at a few vendors and talked directly with references to get unbiased feedback. The feedback from references was exceptionally positive for Arctic Wolf, who emerged as our top choice. Arctic Wolf is available through the reseller on the IT Massachusetts state contract for cyber security services. Budgeted funds are available for the 14-month agreement and the proposed agreement spends 14 months to align our agreements and dates with our peers. This alignment sets us up to negotiate as a consortium FY25 and beyond. The Massachusetts Executive office of Technology and Services has funding dedicated to cyber security and it is very possible that our agreement spanning FY23 & FY24 will be partially subsidized.

A motion was made by Trustee Dunphy and seconded by Chair Sullivan to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$103,000 for a managed detection and response service.

Chair Sullivan - yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Dunphy - yes
Trustee Lawson - yes
Trustee Murphy – yes
Trust Silvera - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve submission of the Substantive Change Request to NECHE for the purpose of acknowledging Massasoit Community College as an approved prison education program in partnership with the Department of Corrections

Dr. Carine Sauvignon is currently working on our fourth year with the Massachusetts Department of Corrections and Common Core grants to allow us to provide prison education to the DOC Milford facility. We started by offering alternative fuels and a mission certificate program and through this partnership we have gotten more requests to provide prison education. We currently work with the Old Colony Correctional Center with staff and inmates to provide Liberal Arts degree courses which is also part of the Common Core Grant that we received. Second Chance Pell has now become official and is called the Financial Aid Simplification Act, where inmates incarcerated in current facilities can apply for financial aid and receive Pell Grant monies toward a certificate or degree program. We have piloted with a cohort of thirteen students who are taking English, Math, and a Speech course. Come September when the Pell Grant becomes available for inmates to apply, we would be able to award them, and they would be matriculated students come September. There is an application process with the US Department of Education to be identified as a prison education program. Each facility will need its own separate application.

A motion was made by Chair Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Silvera approve submission of the Substantive Change Request to NECHE for the purpose of acknowledging Massasoit Community College as an approved prison education program in partnership with the Department of Corrections

Chair Sullivan - yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Dunphy - yes
Trustee Lawson - yes
Trustee Murphy – yes
Trust Silvera - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Campus Bookstore Transition Update

Vice President Mitchell discussed the change of format for bookstores in Higher Education. Students are moving to a virtual format to order and receive their textbooks. Barnes & Noble has been with us for eleven years and recently put us on notice of exercising their contractual right to terminate their contract with us effective 120 days from the date of notification but did provide an alternative. They proposed that we charge every student \$24 per credit and if the student opted out, which is a cumbersome process, then they would not be charged. Looking at the data, 30% of our classes already have access to free resources or take advantage of lower cost course materials which is defined as a course that requires materials less than \$50. We are looking into partnering with UMass Dartmouth, one of our CONNECT institutions. They are using a virtual bookstore with the vendor Follett. We can, by virtue of state contract policies be added on to their agreement that they negotiated a year ago and take advantage of the infrastructure that has been built to provide virtual services to our students. We have seen over the years students utilizing an online book provider to buy their books and have them delivered to their home. Another concern if we stayed with Barnes & Noble is that many of their books would be rented by the students and if they did not return the book Massasoit would be responsible for the collections. We plan to transition as of July 1 to Follett in a virtual environment. For the first year we would continue to have a smaller presence in the bookstore to assist students. Currently 12 out of the 15 community colleges are with Follett. We would be the thirteenth. The next time this goes to bid we will be in a position to provide improved services and purchasing power to assist our students.

Other Business:

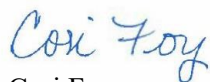
Vice President Mitchell gave an update on the Transformation through Renovation project. He discussed the campus engagement sessions that were held on March 8 & 9 with the design team from Jones Architecture and Studio Luz. Over 100 students participated, and incredible information was received from students, faculty and staff on what spaces they like and feel comfortable in. The preliminary conversation with Jones Architecture was that the information from our students was fascinating. Vice President Mitchell shared photos of the event, which showed how the students, faculty and staff engaged in the activity by placing notes of feedback on visual boards and to have a part in the project. He also stated that Jones Architecture has been wonderful to work with. Commissioner Ortega stopped by the event and saw firsthand how the students were engaged in the project and he was quite impressed.

A motion was made by Chair Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Dunphy to conclude the meeting.

Chair Sullivan - yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Dunphy - yes
Trustee Lawson - yes
Trustee Murphy – yes
Trust Silvera - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by:



Cori Foy
Recording Secretary



Ann M. Sullivan
Chair, Board of Trustees