

# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vernon College  
August 9, 2023

The Board of Trustees of Vernon College met on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. in the *Board Room* of the *Osborne Administration Building*, Vernon, Texas with the following present: Mr. Bob Ferguson – Chairman, Mrs. Ann Wilson -Vice Chairman, and Mrs. Betsy Smith - Secretary. Other board members in attendance were Mr. Irl Holt, Mr. James Brock, Mrs. Jamie Chapman and Mrs. Meg Heatly.

Others present were Dr. Dusty Johnston, President; Mrs. Mindi Flynn, Vice President of Administration; Mrs. Shana Drury, Vice President of Instructional Services; Dr. Criquett Chapman, Vice President of Student Services; Mrs. Kristin Harris, Dean of Student Services; Mrs. Bettye Hutchins, Dean of Instructional Services; Ms. Michelle Alexander, Director of Institutional Advancement/Executive Director, Vernon College Foundation; Mrs. Jackie Polk, Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Holly Scheller, Coordinator of Marketing and Community Relations; Dr. Brad Beauchamp, Director of Institutional Assessment, Planning and Effectiveness/SACSCOC Liaison; Mr. Jeff Hass, Police Officer; and Ms. Mary King, Administrative Secretary to the President. Guest present was Mr. Bill Humphrey of the *Vernon Daily Record*.

Chairman Ferguson called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

### Consent Agenda

Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve the Consent Agenda containing the *Minutes of the July 12, 2023 Board Retreat/Regular Board Meeting* and the *President's Monthly Travel Expense Report*. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – No one was present to make a comment.

### Action Item A

Mrs. Flynn presented the *Financial and Investment Reports as of July 31, 2023*. Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item B

Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the *2023-2024 Vernon College Operating Budget of \$23,037,453.00* as presented by Dr. Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item C

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve adopting the *2023 Vernon College tax rate* of 19.4555 cents per \$100 of appraised property value. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item D

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to approve the current *Investment Policies, Procedures, and Strategies as Required by the Public Funds Investment Act* (no changes from previous year) as presented by the administration. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item E

Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve setting the tuition rate for dual credit students at \$55 per semester credit hour and setting the institutional service fee for dual credit students that are not eligible for free lunch at \$45 per semester credit hour. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item F

Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve the 2023 Fall Continuing Education Schedule with proposed tuition and fees and authorize the Dean of Instructional Services to set tuition and fees for any additional classes that may develop during the fall term. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item G

Mr. Holt, made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve declaring as a “special population” and to offer “zero” tuition for pre-service, in-service, and continuing education courses during the 2023-2024 school year as presented by Dr. Johnston and Mrs. Hutchins - listed below. The motion carried unanimously.

- (1) Vernon Police Department—Continuing Education Classes
- (2) Wichita Falls Police Department – Continuing Education Classes
- (3) Wichita County Sheriff’s Office – In-Service Training
- (4) Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Pre-Service and In-Service Training
- (5) NORTEX Regional Planning Commission—Continuing Educations Classes
- (6) Area Agency on Aging—Continuing Education Classes
- (7) Vernon College Nursing IV Therapy—Continuing Education Classes
- (8) Vernon College Fire Services—Continuing Education Classes

Action Item H

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock, to approve Herring Bank as the depository of Vernon College funds as presented by Dr. Johnston and Mrs. Flynn. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item I

Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith *to approve* the Nidhihotels, LLC abatement application with an abatement schedule consisting of year 1 at 100%, year 2 at 80%, year 3 at 60%, year 4 at 40% and year 5 at 20%.

Motion **failed** with a vote of 4 to 3. *Opposed* (Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Chapman, and Mr. Brock). *In favor* (Mr. Holt, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Heatly).

Action Item J

Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the resale of the following tax foreclosure properties held in trust by the City of Vernon: Parcel 4042, winning bidder Luis Diaz, in the amount of \$1,001.00 and Parcel 9420001, winning bidder Luis Diaz, in the amount of \$2,001.00. The motion carried unanimously.

President’s Report/Board Discussion Items

Dr. Johnston mentioned that the digital sign out in front of the Vernon Campus is old and has not been working for a while. It is being replaced with a new, more up to date sign by a company that has installed similar ones at the City of Vernon/ISD building, and the Vernon High School. This should be accomplished by mid-October.

The discussion from last month about establishing a new athletic program will be going forward. The president will form an exploratory committee with volunteers, board members, and the athletic director.

Student Success Data Fact –

Dr. Brad Beauchamp presented the Licensure/Certification Success Rates for the Academic Year 2021-2022 as the Student Success Data Fact for this month. This is an annual report to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. He presented a list of programs with the Pass Rate percentage. Vernon College previously set a success rate benchmark of 87%, but currently we want it to be as high as possible. Most were 90% and above with a couple to investigate.

Wilbarger County Appraisal District budget – Dr. Johnston reminded the Board he forwarded information on the Wilbarger County Appraisal District budget and the date for their public hearing.

Fall Board Meeting Dates – Dr. Johnston presented the following Fall Board meeting dates:

- (1) Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, September 13, 2023
- (2) Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 11, 2023
- (3) Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, November 8, 2023
- (4) Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Dr. Johnston presented the Upcoming College Events:

- (1) On-site Final Registration
  - a. Vernon Campus – Wednesday, August 9, 2023
  - b. Century City Center – Thursday, August 10, 2023
- (2) 2023 Fall Semester Kick-off employee professional development, Monday, August 14, 2023
- (3) Classes begin Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Dr. Johnston presented the Philanthropic Report/Outside Grants Report.

Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mr. Holt to approve the *Personnel Changes* as recommended by Dr. Johnston and detailed on item 6 B Personnel Information Sheet. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. Employment
  1. Anthony Navarrette, Grounds Technician, Vernon Campus, effective August 1, 2023
  2. Bruce “BJ” Smith, Maintenance/Custodian, Century City Center, effective August, 1 2023
- B. Reassignment
  1. Christie Lehman reassigned to Coordinator of Student Billing (360 points) from Student Billing Accountant, effective September 1, 2023
- C. Resignation
  1. Melissa Laussmann - Classified II, Continuing Education, Century City Center, effective July 31, 2023
  2. Amanda Snook – Biology faculty, Vernon Campus, effective August 31, 2023
- D. Retirement
  1. Rhonda Knox – Classified III, Administrative Assistant, Business Office, Vernon Campus, effective July 31, 2023
  2. Jim Binion - Institutional Support Specialist, Vernon Campus, August 31, 2023

There being no further business Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

  
Mr. Bob Ferguson, Chairman

  
Mrs. Betsy Smith, Secretary