

# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vernon College  
September 13, 2023

The Board of Trustees of Vernon College met on Wednesday, September 13, 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. Shana Drury, Vice President of Instructional Services; Mrs. Mindi Flynn, Vice President of Administration; Dr. Criqueff Chapman, Vice President of Student Services; Mrs. Bettye Hutchins, Dean of Instructional Services; Mrs. Kristin Harris, Dean of Student Services; Mrs. Holly Scheller, Coordinator of Marketing and Community Relations; Mrs. Jeanne Ballard, Director of Financial Aid; Ms. Colleen Moore, Director of Enrollment Management/Registrar; Mrs. Kelly Miller, Director of Student Success; Mr. Kevin Holland, Director of Campus Police; 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 August 9, 2023 Regular Board Meeting* and the *President's Monthly Travel Expense Report*. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item A

Mrs. Flynn presented the *Financial and Investment Reports as of August 31, 2023*. Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve the Vernon College year to date and monthly financial and investment reports as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item B

Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve the annual *2022-2023 Wilbarger County Tax Collections* for Vernon College by the Wilbarger County Tax Collector, as presented by Dr. Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item C

Mr. Ferguson, as Chairman of the Vernon College Board of Trustees, appointed the following committee/task force, to explore additional sport team(s) on the Vernon Campus to increase enrollment: James Brock, Board Member; Meg Heatly, Board Member; Jason Jenkins, Athletic Director – Chairperson of the committee/taskforce; Rachel White, Vernon Campus Administrator; and Jason Scheller, Faculty Member - Vernon Campus and Century City Center.

### Action Item D

No resale of tax foreclosure properties to approve.

President's Report/Board Discussion Items – Dr. Johnston discussed the Board's interest in attending Board of Trustee conferences from the self-reflection exercises back in January. He mentioned the opportunity for upcoming events - CCATT Conference – Fort Worth – September 14-16, 2023 and the THECB Leadership Conference – Austin – December 12-13, 2023.

Department of Ed. Annual Security Report – Chief Kevin Holland presented the Annual Security Report. The normal data collected by Chief Holland was submitted September 7, 2023 to the Department of Education. He stated we are fortunate to not have any incidents to report.

Health Care Clinic update – Mrs. Kristin Harris presented the Health Care Clinic annual report from September 2022 through August 2023. She stated there were 156 total visits over last year, including flu shots given by Family Pharmacy. The clinic is located in the Sumner Applied Arts building on the Vernon campus. Provider Lindsay R. Streit, Family Nurse Practitioner, and LVN, Camry Deleon are doing a wonderful job. Hours for student or staff visits are posted to the Health Clinic Door, but always 2:00 to 4:30 on Wednesday- the day the practitioner is present.

Student Success Data Fact – Ms. Colleen Moore presented the Preliminary Enrollment Report and Comparison for Fall 2022 vs. Fall 2023 as the Student Success Data Fact. She stated the total headcount for all locations went down from 2,251 to 2,146, or a decrease of 4.66% following the state and nationwide trend. Vernon, Skills and Online were up some as well as Dual Credit. Colleague and Poise look at these numbers differently, so the two cannot be compared this year. By next fall, we should be able to compare.

Student Highlight – Mr. Sjhonton Fanner presented Tatyanna Austin as the student highlight for this month. He pointed out her pathway and concentration, accomplishments, challenges and future plans. Tatyanna is a local, a graduate of Northside High School with 18 dual credit hours. After earning her Associate degree in Biology/Pre-Med Concentration from Vernon College, she plans on attending Texas Tech University for a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Then apply to a medical school and pursue a career in Pediatrics.

Tax Abatement Policy discussion – During the last discussion, the Board agreed to develop and implement a tax abatement policy and guidelines. Dr. Johnston opened the discussion saying all members are welcome to comment opinions or concerns. After discussion, the President stated he would come up with a draft of two or three scenarios of abatement standards, based on today's ideas, for Board members to consider.

Dr. Johnston presented the Upcoming College Events:

- (1) Vernon College NIRA Rodeo—September 28-30, 2023—WCEC
- (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual VC Golf Tournament—Saturday, October 7—Hillcrest Country Club
- (3) Vernon College Regular Board Meeting – October 11, 2023
- (4) Vernon College Foundation Annual Board Meeting, Wichita Falls – Thursday, October 19, 2023
- (5) VC Sports Day – Thursday, October 26, 2023 – Vernon
- (6) 2023-2024 Sports Status/Schedules (Rodeo, Baseball, Volleyball & Softball) – Exhibits

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

There were no minutes from the Faculty Senate – they are still in the organizing process for the semester.

Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson 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. Rance Clark, Coordinator of Continuing Education – Allied Health, effective August 14, 2023
2. Brittany Chavez, Classified II, Faculty Assistant – Nursing – CCC, effective September 1, 2023
3. Kelli Lehman, Student Success Specialist - Vernon, effective September 25, 2023

B. Reassignment

1. Zachary Ward, to Full-Time Police Officer from Part-time Police Officer – CCC, effective September 1, 2023
2. Delilah Fowler, to Student Success Specialist from College Access Coordinator – CCC effective September 11, 2023
3. Kaitlyn Miller, to Classified III/Administrative Clerk/Cashier from Classified II/Business Office/PBX – CCC, effective September 11, 2023
4. Sandy O'Dell, to Classified III/Administrative Assistant, Continuing Education from Classified III/Business Office – CCC, effective September 11, 2023

C. Resignation

1. Chelsey Henry- Coordinator of Career and Veteran Services, effective September 30, 2023

Closed Session: Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to go into closed session at 12:50 p.m. in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Subchapter 551.074, to discuss personnel or other items under this section of the Texas Government Code, Texas Open Meetings Act. The motion carried unanimously.

No Action

Open Session: Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mr. Holt, to reconvene at 1:15 p.m. in open session. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 p.m.



Mr. Bob Ferguson, Chairman



Mrs. Betsy Smith, Secretary