

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Via Microsoft Teams and in-person in Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair

Trustees: Jaime Alicea; Dr. Donna DeSiato; Catherine Hadden; Melanie Littlejohn; Paul Mello; Tara Owens; John Sindoni; Neil Strodel; Mark Tryniski

Staff: Dr. Agatha Awuah; Russell Corbin; Dr. Casey Crabill; Kathy D’Aprix; Anne DeLand; Julie Hart; Linda Kelley; Dr. Amy Kremenek; Mark Manning; Dr. Richard McLain; Roger Mirabito; Michael O’Connor; Bridget Scholl; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Dr. Hiram Smith; Timothy Stedman; Nina Tamrowski; Dr. Christopher Thuot; Susan Tormey; Anastasia Urtz; Dr. Larry Weiskirch; Steffani Williams

Call to Order

At 9:00 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called the board meeting to order.

Swearing-in of New Student Trustee Catherine Hadden

Trustee Sindoni introduced new Student Trustee Catherine Hadden and facilitated her swearing-in.

Consent Agenda

***On motion by Trustee Alicea, and seconded by Trustee Owens, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.**

Chair’s Report

Committee Chair Appointments

Trustee Sindoni explained that it is his responsibility to appoint committee chairs at the first meeting of the new academic year. He asked that Trustee Jaime Alicea continue as chair the Education Committee and Trustee Mark Tryniski continue as chair the Finance, Audit & Compliance Committee. He thanked them both for their service. Trustee Sindoni also encouraged interested Trustees to think about serving as a representative to one of the affiliate organizations. He thanked Trustee Strodel for continuing on as representative to the OCC Foundation and Trustee Sindoni himself will continue to serve on the Housing Development Corporation. If anyone would like to serve on the OCC Association, please let Julie Hart know.

SUNY Aspen Workshop Series

Trustee Sindoni explained that SUNY is hosting a workshop with the Aspen Institute to help strengthen the Trustee role in student success work. There are three sessions: November, January, and March. All are 4 hours long. If there is any interest in participating, let Julie Hart know.

President's Report

Chancellor's Award Presentation

Dr. Crabill began her report by introducing Adjunct Professor Dr. Hiram Smith. Dr. Smith was unable to attend the recent employee ceremony where the College honored the winners of the Chancellor's Awards for the last two years. Dr. Crabill wanted to be sure to acknowledge his tremendous contributions to the College by presenting his award in person.

***Resolution to Approve a COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate for all Onondaga Community College Employees**

On motion by Trustee Littlejohn and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the resolution to approve a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for all Onondaga Community College employees was unanimously approved.

SUNY Update

Dr. Crabill continued with updates for SUNY. She mentioned that the focus at SUNY has largely been on the pandemic. Recently, their conversations have turned to a general education review, and there is disappointment across the state as community colleges were largely left out of the conversation. Dr. Crabill mentioned that regional conversations are ongoing with Cayuga Community College regarding their facility in Fulton and their proximity to many of the manufacturers that OCC is working with. The SUNY presidents had a meeting in August in Albany and incoming Governor Kathy Hochul discussed her priorities which include a child care facility on each campus as well as an emphasis on workforce development, both of which OCC has in place or is working on.

Presidential Priorities

Dr. Crabill reminded Trustees that she would be sharing her priorities for the year with them soon. They will include four items: equity; COVID-19; new programs; and new audiences.

Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee

No report at this time.

Education Committee

No report at this time.

OCC Foundation

Trustee Sindoni introduced Trustee Strodel to provide an update on the OCC Foundation. Trustee Strodel remarked that after a brief summer hiatus, the OCC Foundation Board of Directors will begin meeting again this week. They welcomed two student representatives: Ellion Magsino and Aria Sherman. Over the summer, staff and the Foundation board were busy, specifically working on two large priorities. They conducted a review of each of the OCC Foundation's policies to ensure currency and consistency in practice. In addition, they began the process to review and catalogue campus spaces and possible naming opportunities. They were pleased to receive a significant gift over the summer in support of two of the College's newest academic programs. Cinemedics, a locally owned company that provides medical services nationally and internationally to the motion picture film industry, recently made an \$80,000 gift to the OCC Foundation to support student scholarships for Paramedic AAS and Certificate

Programs. The Foundation Board and Staff invite the Board of Trustees to join them for two upcoming events. The first annual OCC Car Show – OCC Cruise & Views – is finally here and will be held next Saturday, September 25th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also, please mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 6th at 5:30 p.m. for the annual OCC Alumni Faces induction ceremony and reception.

Executive Session

At 9:40 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called for a motion to enter into Executive Session under the provisions of Section 105, Article 7f of the Public Officers Law to discuss personnel matters. **On motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to enter into Executive Session.**

At 10:00 a.m., **on motion by Trustee Littlejohn and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to move out of Executive Session and return to the board meeting.**

Upon the return from Executive Session, Dr. Crabill continued her report with the announcement of her retirement from the College at the end of the 2021-22 academic year. Trustee Sindoni thanked her for her exemplary service to the College and reviewed with Trustees the process by which they will begin the search for her replacement. He explained that the Board of Trustees established a committee of four trustees – Dr. DeSiato, Melanie Littlejohn, Paul Mello and himself - to interview firms that will assist with the search for a new president. Five firms were interviewed at the beginning of August with two finalists interviewed the week of August 23. RH Perry & Associates, out of North Carolina, was the unanimous choice of the committee. They are recommending to the remaining trustees that RH Perry be chosen as the firm to assist with the search for the new president of Onondaga Community College.

*Resolution to Approve RH Perry & Associates as the Firm to Assist with the Search for the Next President of Onondaga Community College

On motion by Trustee Owens and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the resolution to approve RH Perry & Associates as the firm to assist with the search for the next president of Onondaga Community College was unanimously approved.

Trustee Sindoni also confirmed the appointment of Trustees Melanie Littlejohn and Paul Mello as co-chairs of the Search Committee, and Dr. DeSiato and Trustee Sindoni will also serve. The remainder of the committee will be named by the end of September and a webpage will be developed and regularly updated with information relative to the search.

There being no further business, Trustee Sindoni adjourned the board meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Prepared by:

Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:

John Sindoni
Chair, Board of Trustees