



ACTION

MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: *March 17, 2021*

ITEM TITLE: 4.1a

CONTACT PERSON: *Laurie Popp, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education*

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 6, 2021

Session 1023

A meeting of the Mt. Hood Community College District Board of Education was held on January 6, 2021, with a Board Work Session at 6:00 pm held via a Zoom meeting.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Diane Noriega, board chair, Annette Mattson, vice chair, Diane McKeel, Jim Zordich, Andrew Speer, LaVerne Lewis, Kenney Polson

Additional Attendees: Dr. Lisa Skari, president, Traci Simmons, director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Noriega called the board work session to order at 6:06 p.m.

2.0 BUSINESS

2.1 Equity Lens Tools

Traci Simmons provided an update on the work she is doing regarding the equity lens. Her presentation highlighted the following reasons for an equity lens:

- To ensure we keep race and intersectionality at the center of considerations for our organizational decision-making, policies, practices, and procedures.
- To ensure we are effectively and persistently challenging the dominant ideology and status quo of white supremacy.
- To establish an institutional commitment on social justice, and do no further harm to historically and contemporaneously marginalized humans and groups.
- To center the experiences of students and our communities in service to becoming a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization.
- To use an interdisciplinary approach and coalesce different people and perspectives as part of the organizational transformation.



Simmons shared comments and feedback from President's Cabinet members about the various equity lens tools available, and board members each shared their comments and feedback about the equity lens tools. A discussion followed and board members shared several questions and items to consider:

- Keep it simple, direct, and to the point
- Review the feedback and find the common threads to focus on
- What are the core questions that we should be asking?
- What are the core themes in the feedback received?
- What does the board want to get from this collectively?

Simmons stated next steps would be to agree upon a question under the five tenants of critical race theory. There should be a question about:

- Who are we talking about?
- What are the racial and intersectional groups that we are talking about that might be impacted?
- Are we challenging the dominant ideology?
- Are we doing things differently in this decision-making process?
- What about this affects social justice? How will we keep records and track data on whether that is actually happening?
- Are we creating more equity and social justice?
- Have we engaged our students and communities in the conversation and decision-making opportunity?
- Are we bringing together different people and using that coalesced voice to transform our organization?

Simmons will meet with President's Cabinet next week to review their feedback and comments, and will share the board's feedback with them. Simmons will review all the feedback received and gather the common themes together, looking at the five tenants of critical race theory and questions, and will bring back a draft document to the board for review. There was a reminder that we need to obtain additional input from the campus before the document is finalized.

2.2 Strategic Planning – Next Steps

Lisa Skari provided a brief presentation about MHCC Strategic Planning for 2021, and how it relates to planning at the college. She outlined steps in the planning process, which include the mission, vision, goals, strategies/objectives, and tactics. There was a discussion about the accreditation standards and the lense around diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Skari outlined the first step in the process is to hire a consultant, which requires submitting the Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit bids from contractors for services. She discussed the steps in developing/evaluating the scope of work, which include organization, research and assessment, facilitation, and analysis and synthesis.



Skari stated another area included in the RFP are deliverables, and shared the typical strategic planning deliverables. Other considerations in the strategic planning process might include asking for prior higher education experience or prior community college experience, and a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. There was a brief discussion on additional suggestions that could be included:

- Have a sample of the vendor's previous work included in the proposal
- Include articulating outcomes when speaking about DEI
- Experience facilitating work with boards
- Experience facilitating external stakeholder feedback to draw out the needs of the community
- Experience working with an accrediting body

Skari stated part of the RFP process would include checking references to gather more information about the vendor experiences. A major consideration will be to have a strong firm that has DEI experience, and experience incorporating DEI into a strategic plan. Skari provided examples of board involvement in strategic planning:

- Provide input on the scope of work
- Engage in final version of vision, mission, values and approve
- Approve five-year goals and outcomes
- Be informed of process
- Participate in data collection, committee membership for the RFP review, steering committee, and forum attendance.

2.3 Student Town Hall with Board

Dr. Skari shared a list of sample questions for discussion at the Student Town Hall with board members scheduled on January 28. Board members reviewed the list and shared additional questions for possible discussion:

- How would you consider the experience of registering online through our website? Is it a good or bad experience, and is it easy to register?
- How do you feel your learning experience at MHCC is preparing you for a career or profession when you graduate?
- What challenges have you faced around transportation, and what opportunities do you see for improvement?
- What does a student-centered college look like to you, and how are we doing?
- What classes would you like to see MHCC offer?
- Please share your experiences related to the shift to online or distance learning. What have been some of the positive and negative aspects?
- MHCC has a variety of student basic needs resources. What resources are you aware of, and how have they helped you?
- What issues are most important to you as a student?
- What do you feel makes MHCC a great college?



- What else would be important for the board to hear about your experience that can help us improve?

Traci Simmons will send several questions regarding DEI to Dr. Skari to add to the list. Dr. Skari will compile the questions and send them to board members for review and selection of their top three choices for the student town hall discussion.

2.4 Board Retreat

Dr. Skari opened up a discussion about agenda topics for the board retreat. Board members shared and discussed topics as follows:

- Board Policies – the college has subscribed to the OCCA Board Policy and Procedure Program for updating the board policies and administrative regulations
- COVID – plans going forward
- Budget – long-term planning
- Presidential Evaluation – what are our shared expectations? What should be communicated? When? How much?
- Communication – as a board, how do we communicate? Having clarity and uniform expectations around communication so everyone is on the same page with each other as board members and with the president
- College Assets Review – discuss future financial planning, which relates to a future bond
- Online Learning – review the pandemic outlook and what we need to look at for the future
- Community Engagement – review accountability for board members, and look at what community engagement we can actively take on with the college

Dr. Shari shared some good news about the Foundation's year-end campaign, and stated they reached over \$200,000, which is about \$80,000 more than anticipated, and this does not include the \$100,000 match portion commitment.

3.0 ADJOURNMENT

The board work session was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Clerk

Board Chair

Minutes recorded by Laurie Popp, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education.