

# THE BOARD OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 515

## Eight Hundred Thirty-Seventh Regular Meeting September 28, 2021

### MINUTES

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Dr. Ronald White, Chairman, convened the 837th Regular Meeting of the Board of Illinois Community College District No. 515 at 5:13 p.m., Tuesday, September 28, 2021, in the Barnes & Noble Auditorium of the College.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

##### Board Members Present

Dr. Ronald White, Chairman  
Mr. Christopher Baikauskas, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Monica Gordon, Secretary  
Mr. Jay Readey  
Ms. Miriam Slaughter  
Mr. John Stanfa  
Ms. Camiella Williams

##### Table Participants Present

Dr. Thomas Saban, Interim President  
Ms. Jodi Pedersoli, Board Recorder  
Mr. Elighie Wilson, Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Dr. Michael Anthony, Vice President, Student Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness  
Mr. Eric Stach, Del Galdo Law Group  
Mr. Thomas Nicholas, Faculty Representative  
Ms. Cheron Ricks, Support Staff Representative

##### Administrators Present

Dr. Tiffany Brewer; Ms. Alisha Clark; Ms. Annette Dolph; Ms. Deborah Smith Havighorst;  
Dr. Megan Hughes; Mr. Gregory Kain; Mr. Timothy Kosiek; Ms. Kim Kunce;  
Dr. Anthony Martin; Ms. Jaime Miller; Dr. Charmaine Sevier; Ms. Cheri Taylor-Lawton;  
Ms. Patricia Gallagher Trost

##### Faculty Members Present

Dr. Craig Mulling; Dr. Jessica Nastal; Ms. Cydney Williams

##### Managers Present

Ms. Crystal Alston-Nobles; Ms. Mary Fitzpatrick; Ms. Lisa Hansen; Ms. Oshunda Williams

##### Staff Members Present

Ms. Kathryn Hanrahan; Mr. Georges Sanon

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### Others Present

Dr. Cornel Darden, Jr., Southland Black Chamber of Commerce & Industry/President Search Committee Member; Mr. David Lockman, Akil-Abree Consultants/President Search Committee; Dr. McCoy, BCDC; Ms. Joanna Panici, Chicago Heights Attorney/President Search Committee Member; Mr. Edward Schwarz, Olympia Fields Resident; Mr. T.J. Somer, Bloom Township Supervisor

## ORAL/WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. White thanked the 2021 Presidential Search Committee for their service.

### Chair:

Pat Trost, Chief of Staff

### Members:

Dr. Charmaine Sevier, Executive Director of Human Resources  
Elighie Wilson, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty  
Thomas Nicholas, Associate Professor of English and President of the Faculty Union  
Cheron Ricks, Senior Accountant and President of the Support Staff Union  
Cydney Williams, Adjunct Professor of English and President of the Adjunct Faculty Union  
Robert Wald, Police Officer and President of the Police Officers Union  
Dr. Tiffany Brewer, Dean of Equity and Inclusion  
Mary Fitzpatrick, Manager, Career Services  
Dr. Cornel Darden, President, Southland Black Chamber of Commerce  
David Lockman, President and CEO, Akil-Abree Consultants, Inc.  
Joanna Panici, Attorney, Chicago Heights  
Emmanuel Lopez, PSC Alumnus and Governors State University Recruiting Specialist  
Dr. Johnnie Thomas, Superintendent, Rich School District 227  
and Dr. White also thanked Kirsten Mahone, Recruiting and Training Specialist

## INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

### Introduction and Recognition – Pioneer Award

Dr. Anthony recognized Ms. Jaime Miller for her work at the College. He praised Ms. Miller for her professionalism, perseverance, wisdom, and deep knowledge of her work. Ms. Miller contributes honest and useful counsel to Cabinet regarding enrollment strategies and projects. Especially through the past 18 months when the nation's community colleges faced, and continue to face, unprecedented enrollment declines due to the COVID pandemic. Ms. Miller has been the architect of many enrollment efforts, including rapid registration, calling campaigns, the rebound and tuition forgiveness programs.

## CONSENT ITEMS

*Ms. Williams moved and Ms. Slaughter seconded that the Board of Trustees approve the items on the Consent Agenda.*

## Minutes

*That the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the 836th Regular Meeting of August 31, 2021; Minutes of the Board Workshop of September 21, 2021; Minutes of the Closed Session of September 21, 2021; Minutes of the Board Workshop of September 22, 2021; Minutes of the Closed Session of September 22, 2021; as presented.*

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**Financial**

Bills Payable – FY2022

*That the Board of Trustees approves the FY2022 List of Bills Payable for August (including trustee and employee travel expenditures), as indicated in the enclosure.*

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Aye
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Aye
Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

*The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.*

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Institutional**

First Reading – Board Policy G-7, Employee Paid Holiday Benefits

*Ms. Williams moved and Ms. Slaughter seconded that the Board of Trustees approves for First Reading, Board Policy G-7, Employee Paid Holiday Benefits, as revised.*

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Aye
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Aye
Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

*The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.*

First Reading – Board Policy G-43, Tele/Hybrid Policy

*Ms. Williams moved and Ms. Slaughter seconded that the Board of Trustees approves for First Reading, Board Policy G-43, Tele/Hybrid Policy.*

Mr. Readey asked Dr. Saban to go over this policy.

Dr. Saban said this policy provides the flexibility for employees to work from home.

Dr. Sevier added that after having gone through the last 18 months, the College realized that perhaps things could be done more efficiently and effectively as we look at how we work and process. The College wants to provide work-life balance to employees during these trying times. In collaboration with the support staff union, a telework hybrid schedule that employees can take advantage of has been created. Employees must consider the various functions and details to ensure that student services are not

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interrupted. Employees must also get permission from their supervisors and vice president. The agreement would be a six-month time period and employees would sign the agreement to acknowledge they understand the terms. There is also a clause that the agreement could be revoked at any point in time if it is not working for whatever reason.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Aye
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Aye
Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

***The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.***

Auditor

*Mr. Stanfa moved and Ms. Williams seconded that the Board of Trustees approves a three (3) year engagement with GW & Associates, PC of Chicago Heights, to perform audit services covering fiscal years 2021, 2022 and 2023 in the amount of \$80,000 annually.*

Mr. Readey asked why this item was not put out for bid.

Dr. Saban responded that the College has a successful engagement with GW & Associates, and there are other times when the College has not put out for bids. Dr. Saban said there was no reason to start from the beginning with another firm, and due to COVID, the process takes longer to do the RFP. Dr. Saban feels the College has more important things to do than to put out a bid for an auditor.

Mr. Readey made the following statement for the record.

*"This is a concern for me. There have been historic concerns about how this board has managed good governance of the College. This is a quarter-million dollars to a firm that is principally owned by the mayor of Chicago Heights, David Gonzales. I have made statements before about my concerns regarding his undue influence over this board. He has employed at least three members of the board. He employees, at least two of them right now and has direct responsibility for the payrolls that they work under. He organizes and controls political entities that have supported the election of at least four of the members of the board; that is a governing majority. I am concerned about giving a no-bid contract to the mayor of the town, in which the College is located for a quarter-million dollars over three years after a three-year engagement. During this time, one of those political bodies that he controls used information about the auditing and the accounting for the College in a political advertisement for one of the candidates for this board. It's not good governance. It's not a good practice. And we should vote no on this and open it up to bid, just for purposes of good governance of the College."*

Mr. Baikauskas asked Dr. Saban if the previous auditor was Plante Moran. Dr. Saban responded the College had Crowe Horvath also and they saved the college money. Mr. Baikauskas asked Dr. Saban if John Wysocki of GW & Associates discovered the \$5,000,000 error that Plante Moran made the first year GW & Associates became the auditor. Dr. Saban said he would not call it an auditing error, but he would say yes, he did discover the error. It had to do with the property tax.

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Mr. Readey asked if Dr. Saban was the Vice President of Finance and Administration at the time this bid was let. Dr. Saban responded he was. Mr. Readey asked if GW & Associates was the low bidder. Dr. Saban responded yes. Mr. Readey does not believe that to be the case. There was another recommendation by the College administration and the Board went over the top of that recommendation. So, if the Board is going to revisit history based on Mr. Baikauskas' recommendation, the Board should revisit the fact that the RFP that was let for this business required a level of experience that GW & Associates did not have. Then all of a sudden before the Board made its decision, the RFP was swapped out in the Board meeting minutes. The Board should go back and recapture that history. This has not been a clean process. It was let for three years and to let it for three years without a process at all is just a mistake. Mr. Readey urges his colleagues on the Board to take this one back and to put it out for bid.

Mr. Baikauskas said that Mr. Readey's comments are inaccurate. GW was the lowest bidder for this RFP. He does not know where Mr. Readey heard that information. In the packet of information that the Board gets on the bidders, all of them were national firms except for GW which is a local firm that is within the College district. John Wysocki who is a partner of the auditing firm actually did an audit for Southern Illinois University. To say that the firm is not qualified to do such auditing is not accurate. Mr. Readey stated that GW & Associates, the last time this bid was let, did not meet the minimum qualifications of the initial RFP that was let. That RFP was later swapped out so that when the Board voted, GW & Associates did meet the qualifications that were required for that vote. Mr. Readey asked that someone tell him how that swap was made. He said he could present the original RFP with qualifications that were not initially met. Mr. Readey does not dispute that GW & Associates does now meet the qualifications. He said it would take some other forensic accounting to see just how well the auditing has gone. There have been other questions about the finances of the College and how interrelationships among parties for bond issuance and work done under the bond issuance are done. It is not perfectly clear to him and he believes it is a mistake to push this through without an open process of sunshine and good governance.

Dr. White said, first of all, Mayor Gonzalez does not influence him, this Board, as the Chair. He has not had any conversations with him about related issues that have gone on here at this institution. Mr. Readey's insinuation that contributions are made to Mayor Gonzalez by members of this Board, Mr. Readey made contributions to a political campaign where their chair is under investigation by the FBI. So, everyone has opportunities where they can make contributions to whomever, but it has nothing to do with Mayor Gonzalez. He does not have influence over this Board, that he is aware of and Dr. White does not have conversations with him.

Mr. Readey added that Mayor Gonzalez controls the Unity Party apparatus and other election apparatus that has directly made expenditures in support of the campaigns of a governing majority of this Board; four members of this Board, including the Chair. As Mr. Readey mentioned last month, in talking about the contract for the auditor, in the federal political environment, those contributions would be Hatch Act violations. They muddy the waters of good governance but local government does not have the Hatch Act. He added that the Cook County State's Attorney or Attorney General of Illinois does not have that same close scrutiny, but the concern remains the same as the principal construction of the Hatch Act.

Mayor Gonzalez's hands are all over the campaigns of members of this Board as are the contributions of the Board to Mayor Gonzalez's campaign and other campaigns controlled by him. It is all too close. Mr. Readey will reiterate his point on the next item on the agenda that he believes it is a mistake to let this quarter of a million dollars out without an open bidding process.

Mr. Baikauskas noted that Mr. Readey support Congresswoman Robin Kelly and would say that the \$6,000,000 in CARES funding that the College received from the federal government that the College should not accept any of the federal funds because of Mr. Readey's contribution to Congresswoman Robin Kelly. Mr. Readey said it would not be the same. The College is not making a contract with a

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business that is under the control of Congresswoman Kelly. It is in the opposite direction. He is not suggesting that the College should not accept the federal funds; there is a need to do business with county, state, and federal government. It is not an analogous situation.

Mr. Stanfa said that this is a constant thing with Mr. Readey – bash Mr. Gonzalez; bash Mr. Gonzalez. Their firm does a good job. They are good people and they are right across the street. Yes, they know Mr. Gonzalez; they trust Mr. Gonzalez. He is doing a good job. It is not like its \$10,000,000. Mr. Stanfa said he is sick of it because he has been listening to it since Mr. Readey started on the Board. He is tired of Mr. Readey bashing these people. They are good people.

Ms. Gordon added that Mr. Readey had said they received funds for the Board seats. Mr. Gonzalez did not give her a dime for her Board seat.

Mr. Readey said that Mayor Gonzalez paid for signs promoting Ms. Gordon as a candidate for this Board. Ms. Gordon added that Mr. Readey supported candidates and sent out letters. Mr. Readey said he lives in the community also and there are close business and political relationships. There are ways to do it that does not cast a shadow with the way the College is governed.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Aye
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Nay
Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

***The vote being six (6) Ayes and one (1) Nay, the motion carried.***

Intergovernmental Agreement – City of Chicago Heights

*Ms. Williams moved and Ms. Slaughter seconded that the Board of Trustees approves the Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Community College District 515 and the City of Chicago Heights for conveyance of certain real property, from the District to the City of Chicago Heights.*

Mr. Readey asked what the initial purchase price was.

Dr. Saban said \$250,000 was the original price paid by the College.

Mr. Readey stated that the quitclaim deed that the College is using to convey the property to the City of Chicago Heights is for \$10. He asked how much money the College has spent on maintaining the property over the past ten years. Mr. Readey added that he was concerned about the terms and that the profit-sharing details were not included.

Dr. Saban said the College has not had any use for it and does not see any need in the near future and Chicago Heights does. He added that the College does not have terms yet. The proposal regarding the profit-sharing engagement was presented to the College by Jack Hynes of the Chicago Heights Economic Development Corporation.

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Mr. Readey thinks the deal needs to be described better. He believes the College should be reimbursed for its costs before sharing profits rather than giving this property to the City of Chicago Heights. He disagrees with the lack of details, not with developing the property. And again, he has concerns about conflict of interest between different units of government. He thinks to do this right; the Board should understand the deal on behalf of the College. The College should at least have their costs covered; if making a contribution to a property that has economic value.

Mr. Baikauskas asked Mr. Somer to explain the nature of this deal a little bit more and the terms.

Mr. Somer explained that the building sat for ten years and would have had a tax bill of approximately \$70,000-\$100,000 a year. He does not know if the property will be sold for any significant amount of money. He said the Economic Development Corporation is as good as any in this state and has had much success. They have virtually redeveloped Halsted Street, including 712 Halsted Street, a dance studio and financial office, 800 Halsted Street and 704 Halsted Street; all completed with the owners or donation agreements. The College's property will need to be developed or demoed within 60 days.

Mr. Somer discussed the project benefiting the community by putting the building on the tax roll, creating new jobs, and enhancing the Halsted Street corridor, which will attract more new businesses. He talked about the Abandoned Property Acquisition (APA) program and how it is the same premise for commercial or industrial properties. The APA program gains ownership of abandoned homes for a dollar, rehabs them, making the property taxable, and putting young families in the neighborhood. They seek to partner with the College, but the intergovernmental agreement reads the gross profits after the customary closing costs will be split. The goal is to build the community and generate revenue forms for every taxing body and local reinvestment.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Abstain
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Abstain
Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

***The vote being five (5) Ayes, no (0) Nays, and two (2) Abstains, the motion carried.***

**Purchase Recommendation – Personal Protective Equipment**

*Ms. Williams moved and Ms. Slaughter seconded that the Board of Trustees authorizes the purchase of personal protective equipment for students and faculty from Safety-Med not to exceed \$20,000.*

Ms. Williams asked if this was more equipment and Dr. Anthony confirmed that it was.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Aye
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Aye
Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye

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Ms. Williams                      Aye

***The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.***

Purchase Recommendation – Technology Equipment for Dental Clinic

*Ms. Williams moved and Ms. Slaughter seconded that the Board of Trustees approves the purchase of technology equipment from CDW-G, under Illinois Community College System Procurement Consortium pricing, for the renovated Dental Clinic, in the amount of \$17,298.17.*

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas                      Aye  
Ms. Gordon                              Aye  
Mr. Readey                              Aye  
Ms. Slaughter                          Aye  
Mr. Stanfa                                Aye  
Dr. White                                 Aye  
Ms. Williams                            Aye

***The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.***

Approval of Support Staff Contract

*Mr. Stanfa moved and Ms. Williams seconded that the Board of Trustees approves the 2021-2024 Agreement between the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 515 and Federation of Supportive Staff Cook County College Teachers Union Local 1600, AFT, AFL-CIO of Prairie State College.*

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas                      Aye  
Ms. Gordon                              Aye  
Mr. Readey                              Aye  
Ms. Slaughter                          Aye  
Mr. Stanfa                                Aye  
Dr. White                                 Aye  
Ms. Williams                            Aye

***The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.***

Cleared4 Inc.

*Ms. Williams moved and Ms. Slaughter seconded that the Board of Trustees approves the purchase of Cleared 4, a tracking program, to assist with Covid-19 vaccinations and testing records for compliance with Executive Order 2021-20, in the amount of \$30,000 for one year as already implemented due to emergency necessity.*

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas                      Aye  
Ms. Gordon                              Aye  
Mr. Readey                              Aye  
Ms. Slaughter                          Aye

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Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

***The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.***

Suspend Participation in the Professional Exchange Sponsored by the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP) for 2021

*Ms. Williams moved and Mr. Baikauskas seconded that the Board of Trustees suspend the College's participation in the professional exchange program sponsored by the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs, for 2021.*

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Aye
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Aye
Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

***The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.***

Contract Renewal – Illinois Century Network

*Ms. Williams moved and Ms. Slaughter seconded that the Board of Trustees approves the contract renewal with Illinois Century Network for \$1,060 per month for the period September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024.*

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Aye
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Aye
Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

***The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.***

Lease Recommendation -- Copier

*Mr. Stanfa moved and Ms. Williams seconded that the Board of Trustees approves the lease of one multi-functional device from Proven Business Systems, LLC, for a term of five years at a monthly cost of \$183.80 for a total of \$11,028.00.*

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Aye
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Aye

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Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

*The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.*

Budget Transfers – August 2021

*Ms. Williams moved and Ms. Slaughter seconded that the Board of Trustees approves the budget transfers for August, as indicated in the enclosure.*

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Aye
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Aye
Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

*The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.*

Adoption – FY2022 Final Budget and the Associated Resolution

*Mr. Stanfa moved and Ms. Slaughter seconded that the Board of Trustees adopts the FY2022 Final Budget and the Associated Resolution, as presented.*

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Aye
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Aye
Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

*The vote being seven (7) Ayes and no (0) Nays, the motion carried.*

**REPORTS**

President's Cabinet Monthly Reports

Dr. Saban shared that the nature preserve was open and the atrium and SIMS lab renovations are moving forward.

Mr. Baikauskas said he and his wife enjoyed the trail and hopes the Board will expand the path around the campus. While walking the path, he ran into a Prairie State College police officer who had received CPR training from one of the nursing students. She had used her new skills to perform life-saving CPR on her mother the week before.

Monthly Financial Report

Dr. Saban highlighted the financial report.

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**ITEMS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Schedule for Future Board/College Events

Dr. White highlighted the future board meeting dates and upcoming events.

ICCTA/ACCT Report

No report

Information Item

Information Items are available in the board packet.

Prairie State College Foundation Report

Ms. Havighorst said that the Foundation had more applicants and more awardees than ever before. Although enrollment is down, the Foundation is reaching the students and needs have not declined. The Foundation is releasing another marketing video and working on updating the webpage. The Foundation held its Annual Meeting on September 21 and elected new officers for the fiscal year.

Ms. Williams asked if they were still accepting applications.

Ms. Havighorst replied that they had closed the applications, but students are still encouraged to contact the Foundation for assistance.

Faculty Report

None

Support Staff Report

Ms. Ricks thanked the Board for approving the contract and expressed her gratitude to Dr. Sevier, Mr. Kosiek, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Cohn.

**CLOSED SESSION**

*Ms. Williams moved and Mr. Baikauskas seconded that the Board of Trustees go into closed session for "the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity" (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1))*

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Baikauskas	Aye
Ms. Gordon	Aye
Mr. Readey	Aye
Ms. Slaughter	Aye
Mr. Stanfa	Aye
Dr. White	Aye
Ms. Williams	Aye

***The vote being seven (7) Ayes, no (0) Nays, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 6:06 p.m.***

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**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

*Seconded to return to Open Session at 7:37 p.m. All members voted Aye and the motion carried.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Ms. Slaughter moved and Mr. Stanfa seconded that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting. All members present voted Aye, and the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.*

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Dr. Ronald J. White, Chairman

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Monica M. Gordon, Secretary

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Jodi Pedersoli, Board Recorder

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