

**Manatee Technical College
Board of Governors
Minutes for January 21, 2021**

Present: Omar Edwards, Amy Farrington, Mary Foreman, Todd Fritch, Paul Gansemer, Jennifer Gilray, David Harris, Maura Howl, Lisa King, Heather Koester, Bill Lee, Joshua Matlock, Greg McGrew, Laura Roberts, Ellen Sage, Matt Schole, Karen Stewart, Valerie Viands, Doug Wagner

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Bill Lee. Brion Sunseri, Chairman, has resigned from the MTC Board of Governors. Mr. Lee will serve as the interim chairman for the remainder of the school year. He is very excited about this leadership opportunity. Mr. Lee stated that he loves this school and has always been motivated to do anything he can to help and improve MTC. In the past he has worked hard on many projects to better MTC.

Minutes of the October 15, 2020 Meeting: *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2020, meeting. Motion passed.*

Reports

Grants Update: Mr. Lee thanked Maura Howl for the report. The report was emailed to members prior to the meeting. There were no comments or questions about the Grants Update.

Council on Occupational Education (COE) Plans for Approval: The plans below were sent out with the agenda to allow members time to review prior to the meeting.

- **Standard 6 – Health and Safety Plan**
- **Standard 6 – Operations and Maintenance Plan**

A motion was made to approve the Standard 6 Health and Safety Plan and the Operations and Maintenance Plan. The motion was seconded, no discussion, the motion was passed.

Director's Report:

Enrollment: From August until January we have had 1,061 Career and Technical and 656 Adult Educations students enrolled. In term two, a number of people completed in October and December and quite a few in January. Our enrollment is currently at 916 for CTE and 389 for Adult Ed.

Finance: Monday we will be half way through the school year and budget-wise we are right on track having spent about 50 percent of our payroll budget. Estimated tuition revenue was conservative this year, and we will meet this goal by the end of January. Classes start Monday, January 25, for the new term. We are on track with tuition budget and being very prudent with our spending.

Dr. Valerie Viands announced that MTC Business and Industry Service Specialist Martha Meyers retired December 31. Dr. Viands is pleased to introduce Heather Koester as the new Business and Industry Service Specialist. Ms. Koester is very excited to be here and looking forward to meeting and working with the Board of Governors members.

District and State Update:

Dr. Paul Gansemer likes to keep MTC in spotlight. A new school board member who joined us this year is Mary Foreman. She has toured the MTC east and main campuses. Since most MTC West Campus students are on line, they did not make a stop at that site. Mrs. Foreman said it was an incredible day visiting the campuses and everyone was generous with their time. She is so impressed with the programs offered at MTC and is hoping for a return visit when she can spend more time seeing everything. Dr. Gansemer stated that we appreciate Mrs. Foreman visiting our school. Charlie Kennedy, Chairman of the School Board of Manatee County would like to do a tour of MTC's law academy. Board member Dr. Scott Hopes has visited the MTC law enforcement academy's shooting simulation. Dr. Gansemer has visited the Bradenton Police Department's firing range with Doug Wagner, Jenni Gilray, and Jay Romine. The group is still working toward a solution to provide a new firing range for the MTC law enforcement academy.

Bills have been filed in both the House and the Senate for technical colleges to offer associate degrees in nursing. The bills read in part that a school district career center may conduct the following: "An associate in applied science or an associate in science degree nursing program if the career center offering the associate in science nursing degree program offers it only to graduates of a licensed practical nursing program offered by the same center. "

Dr. Gansemer and MTC staff met with Dr. Todd Fritch and discussed how MTC can partner with State College of Florida. The intent is not to be in competition, but for the two schools to work together. Dr. Fritch has done a lot at SCF with the nursing program. The passing of this initiative is a big thing, and we are hoping to get a lot of support across the state. This would be good for the many tech centers who are not located close to a state college. Dr. Gansemer may reach out to BOG members for letters of support and our medical partners for their support. Dr. Fritch toured east campus and is looking forward to touring the main campus.

Dr. Richard Conard arranged with Dr. Gansemer for a tour for executives from epi Exptrs company; they visited both the east and main campuses. Still in communication with them to see what relationship they are looking for with MTC. As people come to the area, we want to showcase our campuses. When we have something that is working well, we need to let people know about it. The district is still limiting visitation and we can't do tours every day. However, if we have the opportunity to bring some VIPs to campus to build partnerships, arrange the visit with Dr. Viands.

Discussion Topic: COVID-19 has changed the way business and industry operates; and, with the start of the new year, MTC has a new Business and Industry Specialist on board. With these factors in play, let's re-visit ways MTC can best serve the needs of our business partners and the community at large. How can MTC best respond to the challenges facing our area?

Mr. Lee stated we need to come up with ways MTC can bond with the business community. Businesses are suffering. If industry is starving to death, so are our students. Mr. Lee has always seen the importance of going out to the middle and high schools to promote MTC. BOG used to be so strong. We need to be that way again. He said he has had a few surgeries and missed some meetings, but he is back and ready to go. Mr. Lee is very excited about the opportunity to be chairman of BOG and looks forward to the leadership role. He loves this school. He has been instrumental in making come changes that made the school better.

What can we do to help our school and community?

Karen Stewart: There has been an extension for funding for some small business grants and non-profits. It is really exiting that on December 27 it was passed to extend the deadline for disbursement of funds for the emergency rental program. These funds are available for people who are at or below 80 percent of the area's average income. Rent can be paid in arrears and for up to 12 months. One of best ways to get approved is to file your 2020 taxes. Karen is happy to send information over to share with everyone. Manatee County has \$12 million to spend. Sixty-five percent must be spent by September. This program could be useful to current students or recent graduates while job-hunting.

Heather Koester stated that there are free tax preparation services available for people who make \$66,000 or less. Please reach out to Ms. Koester if you would like information on this program.

Matt Schole – As an instructor is working to find jobs for the students. It is difficult to keep track of the students after graduation. How can we get the word to our former students about job openings? Once they graduate, how can we get postings out to former students? Maybe a “job board” where business can post available positions that current and former students can access. Or, if the community has access, someone may see that they could qualify for more jobs if they earn certification in a specific program from MTC. How can we build that network to make it easier for students to see your openings?

Ms. Koester had forty different companies reach out in her first two weeks here. Jobs are there, we need to get the information to the graduates. Joshua Matlock stated that CareerSource Suncoast has funds available for COVID dislocated workers for scholarships to pay for tuition. If a person has been laid off due to COVID or needs part-time work, CSSC can help with humanitarian work opportunities. There are grant funds available to pay people for things such as sanitizing/wiping surfaces, taking temperatures, OJT. Lots of grant opportunities. Please send anyone who has been impacted by COVID to CSSC.

Omar Edwards commented on recruitment, retention, and outreach. Of course, COVID has changed our recruitment events and plans. On February 10 Explore MTC Open House will premiere at 6:00 p.m. and on February 17 How to Apply Application Workshop will be broadcast. You may view both of these videos/events at facebook.com/manateetechnicalcollege after the premier dates. The previous Open House – New Beginnings focused on potential students 25 years and older. The February 10 Explore MTC Open House will focus on K-12 students with a virtual tour of MTC. We have an online platform for applications and some students need assistance with applying. That is the purpose of the How to Apply Application Workshop February 17. Mr. Edwards is working with high schools to have interested students log on at 9:00 a.m. on February 17. We have had to cancel the inhouse tours for high school students this year. Backpacks and promotional materials will be delivered at the high schools. Should have a big enrollment in January. People are becoming accustomed to the social distancing and mask-wearing. MTC has been flexible with multiple learning platforms.

Mr. Wagner felt that once vaccines were available, we would have a great opening in the fall. However, it looks like we may still be in the same predicament where people are not wanting to come in person to school. He is concerned about enrollment and that this will continue into next year. We need to get the word out that it is safe to come to MTC and we are taking all necessary precautions. It is frustrating to see how long this is going on.

Ms. Howl noted that other members have spoken about CARES Act money. MTC has CARES Act funds available for rapid credentialing programs. Funds are available for the unemployed, under-employed, and furloughed people due to Corona virus. There are quite a bit of funds available for training

Mr. Lee stated that he feels like we have accomplished something today and we are all working together for the same cause

Other Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm

Future Meetings

Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 4:00 pm

Please Note: The time for the April 8 meeting has been changed to 4:00 p.m. It was originally scheduled to be held prior to the Advisory Committee Dinner at 5:00 p.m. The dinner has been cancelled so the meeting can be held at our standard 4:00 p.m. meeting time.