

Approved by Board July 19, 2021

PATRICK HENRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Special Called College Board Meeting
12:00 p.m, June 15, 2021

Minutes

The Patrick Henry Community College Board held a special called meeting at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, via Zoom, with Janet Copenhaver, Chair, presiding.

Due to the current situation with the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held via Zoom in accordance with § 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia and Chapter 1283 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly.

Ms. Copenhaver, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Attendance was checked by roll call.

ROLL CALL and Confirmation of Quorum by Sue Ann Ehmann

Board Members by Roll Call			Present	Barry	Helmstutler
Present	Janet	Copenhaver, Chair	Present	George	Hippisley
Present	Dr. Denny	Casey, Vice Chair	Present	Dr. Shana	LeGrant
Present	Gary	Collins	Present	Dr. John	McCraw
Present	Paul	Geib	Present	Wayne	Moore
Present	Robert	Haley	Present	Robert	Vogler
Absent	Monica	Hatchett	Present	Wren	Williams
Present	Roger	Hayden			

College Staff present

Dr. Angeline Godwin
Amanda Broome
Ronnie Carter
Sue Ann Ehmann

Dr. Colin Ferguson
Randy Ferguson
Jack Hanbury
Brian Henderson

Dr. Greg Hodges
Rhonda Hodges
Belinda Stockton
Tiffani Underwood

Others Present

Holly Kozelsky, *Martinsville Bulletin*
Pam Allen
Ron Haley

Nancy Moore
Margie Eason

Statement Regarding Attendance Through Electronic Means – Read by Janet Copenhaver.

This meeting of the Patrick Henry Community College Board of Directors is being held through electronic means due to the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with Section 4-

0.01(g) of Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Acts of the Virginia General Assembly. Members attending are using Zoom as the electronic platform for this meeting.

Ms. Copenhaver then opened the floor for comment.

Gary Collins, Board member and liaison to the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation, provided an update from the Foundation's Board meeting held on June 14, 2021, including the following points:

- The overwhelming majority of our community supports retaining the name of the college as is, or with the added hyphen.
- Exhaustive research has proved without a doubt that the college was named for the counties of Patrick and Henry. It was named for its service area. The names of these two counties are part of everything the college does because they, and the City of Martinsville, are the localities we serve.
- Although the counties were named after Patrick Henry, the person, the college was NOT named after the person.
- For the State Board to say a college cannot be named after its service area seems to be beyond the scope of the State Board's authority.
- This college has a national reputation, developed over many years, which will be lost if the name changes.
- Are the names of many of our local partners who have the names, Patrick and Henry, in their names now deemed inappropriate?
- The Foundation will be our lead partner in financing a name change, as the State has offered no financial assistance to facilitate the change.
- The Foundation wants to invest in Diversity and Equity initiatives for the college, to promote students, faculty, staff, and community, not paying for signs, banners, and any number of other items impacted with a name change.
- "We can put no price tag on the loss of our national presence. We cannot put a price on what the college loses when it has to abandon the brand, the fantastic reputation, and the notoriety that it has earned far beyond Patrick and Henry counties and the City of Martinsville.

Mr. Collins then read a statement from Ron Haley, Chair of the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation Board, which will be sent to local media and is included in these minutes as **Exhibit A**.

He then made the following motion:

Motion #1

1. CONFIRM our recommendation to the State Board that the name of Patrick Henry Community College remains with our willingness to add a hyphen to more clearly designate geographic location;

2. In that confirmation, we emphasize the disheartening statement that the state board is making when it tells a college that it cannot be named for its service area localities that IT has deemed inappropriate.

3. We also emphasize our national reputation and the evaporation of all of that hard-earned brand that will dissolve before our very eyes.

4. We provide our best cost estimates, allowing for the anticipated full costs as other colleges have seen.

5. We share our foundation board's support of the college's name remaining the same AND its support of funding diversity and equity initiatives, in the range of \$1+ million, rather than direct those precious dollars to name-changing expenses.

6. Ask the State Board to please reconsider, given the uniqueness of Patrick Henry Community College, named after its localities, its service area, and allow the college to retain its name with the addition of the hyphen to more clearly designate the geographical reference.

Dr. John McCraw seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued over whether we still submit names to the State Board in the event they do not accept this request. Concern was raised that submitting names while also asking the State Board to allow us to keep our original name might dilute the impact of the motion on the floor. Ms. Copenhaver reminded the Board that they must go forward with proposing alternate names even though we follow through with the above motion.

Motion passed with a roll call vote as shown.

Board Members' Vote by Roll Call		
Yes	Janet	Copenhaver
Yes	Dr. Dennis	Casey
Yes	Gary	Collins
Yes	Paul	Geib
Yes	Robert	Haley
Absent	Monica	Hatchett
Yes	Roger	Hayden

Yes	Barry	Helmstutler
Yes	George	Hippisley
No	Dr. Shana	LeGrant
Yes	Dr. John	McCraw
Yes	Wayne	Moore
Yes	Robert	Vogler
Abstain	Wren	Williams

The update (per Motion #1) will be sent to the State Board immediately as well as to the press.

Amanda Broome reported that the naming survey ended on June 14th, and the total number of submissions was 865. Some of the names submitted after the first round were duplicates, but there were some new suggestions.

During the discussion, it was decided to narrow our list to a top 10 then start deliberations over the appropriateness of those names. Board members were asked to submit their top 3 choices to Sue Ann by Noon the following day (June 16th) and she would send that list out to the Board (including community comments supplied by Amanda Broome) by the end of that day. After that, the list would be narrowed again, and perhaps by the meeting on June 21, 2021, the Board could discuss those choices, and possibly vote on and come up with a top 3 listing, in preferential order.

The question was raised by Dr. LeGrant regarding the amount of money that would be saved on rebranding if we retained the letters PHCC. The Financial Analysis committee was meeting later that day, but the committee chair sensed that there would only be a minimal reduction in cost. The committee was tasked with determining the cost of saving the compass icon, PHCC lettering, and Patriot mascot, vs. the cost for a complete change. Gary Collins reported that other colleges who are going through a similar process have experienced huge budget shortfalls in what they predicted the change would cost. He would rather see a million dollars from the PHCC Foundation being spent on students, faculty, and community than on rebranding.

Dr. McCraw asked if the Local Board could send a representative to the State Board meeting. Mr. Helmstutler asked if we could request being added to their agenda. Dr. Godwin will investigate the protocol of their meetings and get that information to Ms. Copenhaver.

Ms. Copenhaver reminded the Board of the next meeting scheduled for noon, June 21, 2021, via Zoom. If further meetings are needed they will be arranged.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 12:45 pm.

Link to recording of the meeting:

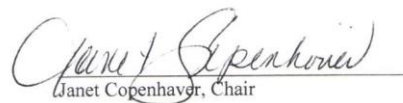
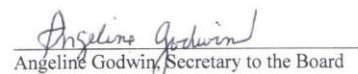
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Minutes Recorded By:



Sue Ann Ehmman

Minutes Approved By:


Janet Copenhaver, Chair
Angelina Godwin, Secretary to the Board

Attachments Included as Official Part of Minutes

Exhibit A - Patrick Henry Community College Foundation letter re: PHCC Name Change