

ST. JOHNS RIVER STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 18, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Rich Komando, Chairperson
Mr. Jim Reid, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Jud Sapp

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Jan Conrad (resigned from Board)
Mr. Wendell Davis (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe H. Pickens, J.D., Executive Secretary
Jeremiah Blocker, Board Attorney

Chairperson Komando called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Meeting Call to Order

Public Comments were made by Bruce Fox and Dr. Shayna Rich.

Public Comment

There was no Old Business.

Old Business

Chairperson Komando requested approval of the Consent Agenda Items IV.A-D:

Consent Agenda Items

A.1 - Minutes of August 21 and 29, 2024, Board Meetings

B.1 - Chief Operating Officer – Dr. Melanie Brown: Personnel Matters

C.1-3 - Vice President for Finance/CFO – VP Randy Peterson: Facilities Usage Report for August 2024; Monthly Financial Report – August 2024.

D.1-7 - Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs – Dr. Ed Jordan: 2024-2025 Nursing (ASN) Handbook Update.

Mr. Reid moved approval of Consent Agenda Items IV.A-D. Mr. Sapp seconded the motion. Motion carried (Komando, Reid, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Consent Agenda Items IV.A-D

Tim Adams, Dean of Criminal Justice and Public Safety, led a demonstration of the Law Enforcement Immersive Training Simulator. He then gave an update on the growth of the Criminal Justice Programs.

Demonstration of Simulator

Regarding the donation drive to restock the Viking Exchange, Dr. Melanie Brown presented the winner of the coveted Viking Exchange Showdown Overall Winner Trophy for 2024-25 to the “Viking Justice League” team, who are based on the St. Augustine Campus. They donated 1,464 items weighing 407 pounds and scored a perfect sixty for variety.

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Amendment to SJR State Board Rule 5.32 (R1) Participation in the Florida College System Risk Management Consortium for Employee Insurance Benefits. There being no comments, Chairperson Komando adjourned the public hearing.

Public Hearing

Dr. Melanie Brown reviewed and requested approval of Amendment to SJR State Board Rule 5.32 (R1) Participation in the Florida College System Risk Management Consortium for Employee Insurance Benefits. Note: The new name for Board Rule 5.32 will be Employee Insurance Benefits.

Mr. Reid moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item VI.A.2 as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Chief Operating Officer). Motion carried (Komando, Reid, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Chief
Operating Officer Item
VI.A.2

Dr. Melanie Brown reviewed and requested approval of the Annual Review of the Board’s Rules and Policies.

Mr. Sapp moved, seconded by Mr. Reid, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item VI.A.3 as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Chief Operating Officer). Motion carried (Komando, Reid, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Chief
Operating Officer Item
VI.A.3

Dr. Brown reviewed for information only the Florida Department of Education 2024 Baccalaureate Program Review Letter of Findings.

Chief Operating
Officer Item VI.A.4

VP Randy Peterson reviewed and requested approval of the Fund Balance Carry-Forward Spending Plan.

Mr. Reid moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Vice President for Finance/CFO Item VI.B.1 as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Vice President for Finance/CFO). Motion carried (Komando, Reid, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Vice
President for
Finance/CFO Item
VI.B.1

VP Randy Peterson recognized Logan Becker and Cindy Reed for their work on preparing the Annual Financial Report. He then presented the Annual Financial Report – Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and requested approval.

Mr. Reid moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Vice President for Finance/CFO Item VI.B.2 as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Vice President for Finance/CFO). Motion carried (Komando, Reid, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Vice President for Finance/CFO Item VI.B.2

Dr. Ed Jordan reviewed and requested approval of the Florida College System College Affordability Report for 2024.

Mr. Reid moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item VI.C.1 as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs). Motion carried (Komando, Reid, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item VI.C.1

President Joe Pickens noted that the Loan Documents for Third Parties for the Student Housing Construction Loan have been sent from the VikingArt, Inc. Attorney. He reviewed and requested approval of the Memorandum of Ground Lease.

Mr. Reid moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Student Housing Project Item VII.A.2, as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted). Motion carried (Komando, Reid, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Student Housing Project Item VII.A.2

President Pickens reviewed and requested approval of the Landlord's Acknowledgment and Consent to Leasehold Mortgage.

Mr. Sapp moved, seconded by Mr. Reid, to approve Student Housing Project Item VII.A.1, as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted). Motion carried (Komando, Reid, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Student Housing Project Item VII.A.1

President Pickens noted there will be an Executive Session, as was noticed, immediately following this meeting.

President's Report

President Pickens gave an update on the progress of the volleyball team.

President Pickens informed the Board that the College has been approached by a Right of Way Agent representing the Florida Gas Transmission Company. This is regarding a gas transmission pipeline. He explained that a large gas pipeline exists now and serves Georgia-Pacific and Seminole Electric. It is a statewide transmission line that is federally authorized. The company is seeking to use the easterly portion of the Palatka property, along Moody Road from State Road 20 to St. Johns Avenue, in order to facilitate placing a loop line adjacent to the main transmission line. They want to stage equipment for six months. They are aware of the student housing project construction and that we are an operating College. Some trees would have to be removed.

President Pickens explained that the greater issue is that the pipeline requires placement of a permanent structure called a “pig launcher,” which is a pipeline investigation gauge that examines the pipes for leaks, etc. It is a permanent structure of some size. The proposed location was by the electronic sign and we objected; the company is now exploring other locations.

President Pickens noted that the College can accommodate the placement of the loop line to some degree if the “pig launcher” can be placed somewhere else. The company is offering some compensation. The company claims they have the authority of eminent domain. President Pickens is inquiring do they against another instrumentality of the State that shares the same right. He is engaging external counsel to advise in the process. At the October Board meeting, there will be a presentation of the entirety of the project and the compensation proposed.

President Pickens noted the Presidential Gala is upcoming on Friday, October 18.

Trustee comments were made. Trustee Reid, in regard to the “pig launcher,” stated that we need to protect the aesthetics of our campus. Trustees expressed condolences for Trustee Davis on the passing of his wife.

Trustee Comments

It was announced that Jan Conrad has resigned from the Board due to health concerns.

Chairperson Komando adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Adjournment

