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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT VIII  
BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, state of Washington, was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. This meeting was conducted in a hybrid fashion with the physical location in B201 and the remote location on Zoom: [bellevuecollege.zoom.us/j/81542485284](https://bellevuecollege.zoom.us/j/81542485284). A telephone line, +1 253 215 8782, was also available. Merisa Heu-Weller, Chair, presided.

**MINUTES**

Chair Heu-Weller called the business session to order at 5:06 PM.

I. **ROLL CALL**

Chair Merisa Heu-Weller, Vice Chair Rich Fukutaki, Trustee Greg Dietzel, Trustee Richard Leigh, Trustee Pradnya Desh, Assistant Attorney General Tricia Boerger, and Board Secretary Alicia Keating Polson were present. A quorum of the Board was present.

President Gary Locke and Trustee Conor O’Meara were absent.

There were 12 guests present in the meeting.

II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Leigh made a motion to approve the agenda (March 24, 2023.) Trustee Desh seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Teresa Descher, staff member at Bellevue College, made a public comment on mental health.

IV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:12 PM, Chair Heu-Weller announced the Board would convene for 30 minutes in executive session under [RCW 42.30.110\(1\)](#) for the following purpose: (g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment. Chair Heu-Weller announced that no final action would be taken during the executive session. In accordance with [RCW 28B.50.102 \(2\)](#), Trustee O’Meara did not participate in the executive session.

At 5:42 PM, Chair Heu-Weller extended executive session by 45 minutes. At 6:27 PM, Chair Heu-Weller extended executive session by 30 minutes. At 6:56 PM, Chair Heu-Weller extended

executive session by 20 minutes. At 7:16 PM, Chair Hew-Weller extended executive session by 15 minutes.

The executive session ended at 7:31 PM.

V. **BUSINESS SESSION**

Chair Heu-Weller reconvened the business session at 7:34 PM.

VI. **ROLL CALL**

Chair Merisa Heu-Weller, Vice Chair Rich Fukutaki, Trustee Greg Dietzel, Trustee Richard Leigh, Trustee Pradnya Desh, President Gary Locke, Assistant Attorney General Tricia Boerger, and Board Secretary Alicia Keating Polson were present. A quorum of the Board was present.

Trustee Conor O'Meara was absent.

There were 23 guests present in the meeting.

VII. **PRESIDENT SEARCH UPDATE**

Vice Chair Fukutaki provided an update on the presidential search process:

- The presidential search process began about 18 months ago. In Summer 2021, as part of the preparation for the search for the next permanent president of Bellevue College, the Board of Trustees requested campus leadership embark on a project to identify the priorities and values that would guide the college through the next 3-5 years. This project (called the BC Priorities Project), was designed to help the Board and Bellevue College's leadership team focus on what is most important to the campus and the greater community and inform the development of materials and criteria to identify the best presidential candidates to continue moving our college forward. Zach Morgan did a tremendous job in leading the BC Priorities Project, which eventually led to the creation of the BC Priorities Report. This report was fundamental to the presidential search and informed the entire search process.
- Focusing on those priorities as listed in the BC Priorities Report, the Board established the Presidential Search Advisory Committee where members of the group represented priority areas, rather than constituent groups. The Board thanks all the members of the Presidential Search Advisory Board for their work on the search: Consuelo Grier, Frances Dujon-Reynolds, Sara Sanders Gardner, Jennie Mayer, Alicia Keating Polson, Rich Fukutaki, and Richard Leigh.
- The Presidential Search Advisory Committee was a cohesive group and worked well together to stay mission driven and focused on the findings in the BC Priorities Report. These priorities informed the search profile, helped attract a broad array of applicants with diverse identities and backgrounds, and helped to determine the candidates that were recommended to the Board for consideration as finalists.
- The Board also extends thanks to Veena Abraham and Robert Luke from EQU Advisors, the search firm who supported the presidential search. EQU Advisors helped to vet and recruit the candidates and provided excellent guidance along the way. Veena and Robert did exhaustive work for Bellevue College around this search and the Board is thankful they were able to come on board.

- During the weeks of March 6 and 13, the Board welcomed four well qualified candidates to campus who participated in over 11 hours of interviews with a variety of groups.
- The Board itself had the opportunity to interview the candidates, review their application materials, consider their references and media checks, and review the substantial input provided from various stakeholders including staff, faculty, students, community members, and the Presidential Search Advisory Committee members. Each of the trustees reviewed over 140 pages of comments on the four candidates, which provided a well-rounded holistic view of the candidates. The Board was faced with a really difficult decision with a very competitive candidate pool comprised of candidates bringing varied backgrounds and areas of strength.
- Overall, the Board thanks the entire Bellevue College community for their broad participation in the presidential search process.

## VIII. **ACTION ITEMS**

### A. Appointment of Bellevue College President

Chair Heu-Weller announced that the authority and obligation to employ the president of the college rests with the Board of Trustees under Bellevue College Policy 1000 and RCW 28B.50.140 and asked if there was a motion for the appointment of a president.

Motion 19.23

Trustee Fukutaki moved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII appoint Dr. David May as the President of Bellevue College at a salary of \$310,000, contingent upon successful negotiation of a final contract.

Trustee Dosh seconded.

Discussion:

Board members discussed that Dr. May was selected due to his background, experience, and understanding of three areas that were prioritized by the Board in the final selection process: diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); student success; and financial acumen. The Board also discussed that Dr. May's salary placement was at the top of the stated range because of Dr. May's past experience, as well as that Bellevue College is the largest community college in the state and should compensate the president accordingly.

Chair Heu-Weller also acknowledged and thanked Governor Gary Locke for his service and counsel as Interim President during the last three years.

Chair Heu-Weller announced the Board would vote on Motion 19.23 appointing Dr. David May as President of Bellevue College at an annual salary of \$310,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

## IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

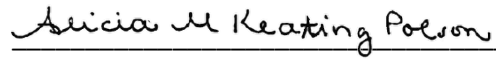
There being no further business, Chair Heu-Weller adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 7:59 PM.



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Merisa Heu-Weller, Chair  
Board of Trustees

ATTEST:



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Alicia Keating Polson  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Community College District VIII