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

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, state of Washington, was held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. Richard Leigh, chair, presided. This meeting was held in B201 and on Zoom. A telephone line was also available.

## **MINUTES**

Chair Leigh called the business session to order at 2:31 PM.

### **ROLL CALL**

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A quorum of the Board was present.

Present: Chair Richard Leigh, Vice Chair Pradnya Desh, Trustee Rich Fukutaki, Trustee Greg Dietzel, Trustee Desiré Sotelo, President David May, Assistant Attorney General Tricia Boerger, and Board Secretary Alicia Keating Polson.

Absent: none.

There were 24 guests in attendance.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

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Trustee Rich Fukutaki made a motion to approve the agenda (October 9, 2024) and minutes (June 11, 2024; June 25, 2024; July 29, 2024; August 7, 2024; August 8, 2024; and September 25, 2024.) Trustee Vice Chair Pradnya Desh seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **CONSTITUENT REPORTS**

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#### **A. Foundation**

The Bellevue College Foundation (BCF) report was provided by Chelle Chase, Foundation President-Elect.

- The Foundation experienced a busy summer, and fall remains active with several upcoming events and ongoing projects.
  - October 9: Reception honoring Trustee Merisa Heu-Weller.
  - October 19: Athletics Hall of Fame event.
  - October 22: Emeritus luncheon honoring former trustees for their contributions.
  - November 14: Annual Donor Scholar event.
- The Foundation is currently undergoing two audits: one for the Foundation itself, followed by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting audit for KBCS.

- In the past year, the Foundation provided \$1.6 million, covering both grants and direct support. The foundation provided Safety Net Support, distributing over \$37,000. Student Scholarships totaled over \$700,000 awarded last year.
- This year, fall scholarships totaled over \$715,000 in standard annual scholarship awards distributed to students.
- Health Science Education Wellness Institute scholarship reviews are done and will be distributed. Projected Scholarships include approximately \$90,000 in scholarships for Health Science students over the next three quarters, \$100,000 in athletic scholarships, and \$300,000 reserved for student bridge funding due to the FAFSA date issue (with \$135,000 utilized to date).
- The Bellevue City Council approved a \$250,000 grant to upgrade the amphitheater. The Foundation will proceed with contracting and further planning.

#### B. Student

The Student report was provided by Daniel Ngoy, President of Associated Student Government (ASG.)

- This summer was spent training the new ASG board.
- Many student organizations have attended the ASG meetings to recharter. This shows that students are more engaged, with numbers rising. Ways to engage more students include a tabling event next week and an outreach program to faculty hoping to gain approval to go into classrooms to speak with students about ASG.
- ASG is working on drafting the legislative agenda, informed by a survey that was distributed to over 700 students to gauge topics and interests.
- ASG is working with the Washington State Students' Association and attended a summit at Central Washington University. There will also be a general assembly on October 19-20, also at Central Washington University, where the entire Bellevue College ASG board will attend.
- Governor Jay Inslee spoke to the ASG at an event at Bellevue College, highlighting initiative 2117.
- The Students' Environmental and Sustainability and Technology Fee contracts were signed today, October 9.
- A meeting with the Washington State Students' Association took place for the purpose of forming a committee with an aim to focus on international student issues.

#### C. Classified

The Classified report was provided by Becky Turnbull, WPEA Union Steward.

- Classified staff welcome the new Bellevue College Board of Trustee member, Desiré Sotelo.
- Special thanks to the Bellevue College Food Services staff for their excellence in supporting multiple division meetings and all campus events during opening week. The food was great.
- Special thanks to Bellevue College grounds crew, who cleared vegetation from a wet pond on campus at the corner of lot 5.
- A volunteer event will take place on October 23rd for installing compost bins, removing invasives and planting native plants.
- Classified contract bargaining update: The Washington Public Employees Association (WPEA) members in the Higher Ed Coalition overwhelmingly rejected a tentative agreement. The COLA offered was 3% in the first year and 2% in the second year with only a few improvements to the

contract language and the working conditions. The September budget forecast showed impressive gains over the June budget numbers, the numbers which the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) used to justify not offering public employees an acceptable living wage COLA.

- Special thanks to Raymona Baldwin, Disability Resource Center staff member, for compiling written classified staff reports for the board last year.

#### D. College Assembly

The College Assembly report was provided by Becca Marion, Chair of the College Assembly.

- The College Assembly has been meeting since August, working on expectation setting, training governance chairs, determining goals, reviewing policies, and providing input for the strategic plan. College Assembly has been working on setting up strong partnerships with resource liaisons, President May, and the Cabinet.
- Special thanks to Robert Viens for the many years serving as a resource liaison. Welcome and thanks to Dr. Jess Clark and Dr. Jorge de la Torre, who will be the new resource liaisons this year.
- Governance Chairs for this year:
  - Michael Broome - Faculty Chair
  - Yves Martin - Exempt Co-Chair
  - Laeticia Nkinsi - Exempt Co-Chair
  - Valencio Socia - Classified Co-Chair
  - Becky Turnbull - Classified Co-Chair
  - Daniel Ngoy - Student Chair, ASG BC
  - Hector Guzman – Student Success Chair
  - Judith Paquette - RPC Chair
  - David Bruckner - Infrastructure Chair
  - Alicia Brender - CID Co-Chair
- Special thanks to Alicia Keating Polson, Lori Keller, and Cindy Louie for their ongoing support and logistical help.

#### E. Faculty

The Faculty report was provided by Dr. Lindsay Haney, President of the Bellevue College Association of Higher Education (BCAHE.)

- On October 1st, the college faculty ratified the tentative collective bargaining agreement (CBA).
- The changes in the organization chart are of concern, with two divisions actively resolving issues. Balancing timely action with clear communication is essential, to support meaningful engagement between candidates and faculty for effective feedback collection. Filling these gaps has sparked excitement.
- Faculty are happy to see more people and activity on campus. It's tangible this fall.
- There are some ongoing issues with HVAC that are impacting faculty and students. Nobody has any doubt about anybody's professionalism in facilities or in leadership. The faculty looks forward to solutions for the ongoing problems.
- Faculty extends gratitude and recognition to Trustee Merisa Heu-Weller for focused commitment to Bellevue College with presence, loyalty and support for this institution.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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There was no public comment.

## **Action**

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### **A. Creation of 4920: Exempt Renewal and Termination**

Motion 24.24

Trustee Greg Dietzel moved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII approves the creation of Policy 4920: Exempt Renewal and Termination.

Trustee Rich Fukutaki seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

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### **B. Revision of 4650: Reasonable Accommodations**

Motion 25.24

Trustee Rich Fukutaki moved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII approves the revision of Policy 4650: Reasonable Accommodations.

Trustee Vice Chair Pradnya Desh seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

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### **C. Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between Bellevue College Association of Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII**

Motion 26.24

Trustee Vice Chair Pradnya Desh moved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII approves the negotiated collective bargaining agreement between Bellevue College Association of Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII, for the period September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2026.

Trustee Greg Dietzel seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

## INFORMATION

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### A. Housekeeping and Minor Edits to the Policy Library

Bellevue College's policy library is consistently reviewed as part of an ongoing quality review process. Minor, or housekeeping edits, such as corrections of grammatical errors, updated hyperlinks, or updated job titles are often necessary. Housekeeping edits are proposed to College Assembly and President's Cabinet without going through the full creation, revision, deletion policy and procedure process. This takes place during a ten-day review period wherein Cabinet or Assembly are notified of the minor or housekeeping edits and during that time, either body may request a full review of the policy or procedure.

The following policies are proposed to receive minor or housekeeping edits in October 2024. Policies are hyperlinked below. Policies with minor or housekeeping edits have been reviewed by the policy contact and by Cabinet and Assembly. Any member of the Board of Trustees may also request a full review.

#### [Policy 1600: Registered Sex Offender Notification](#)

- Change title to "Guidelines for Sex and Kidnapping Offender Notifications," add the word "kidnapping" to policy language.

#### [Policy 5450 Web Advertisements and Sponsorships](#)

- Review only

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### B. Interim (Temporary) Approval of Policy 6650: Official Public Communications and Social Media

During a time of significant change in the media and technological environment, Bellevue College Policy 6650 has lagged. Last updated in 2015, the current policy no longer reflects the newest technology and realities of social media. Revisions to this policy include references to social media but does not limit to any specific media format. This policy is not intended to govern or restrict personal presence on the web or to abridge or otherwise restrict principles of academic freedom. This policy clarifies the role of Institutional Advancement and its oversight of all official public communication and social media. It emphasizes the impact of social media and its reach, and grants Bellevue College the right to remove posts or comments that violate applicable laws including, but not limited to, copyright and trademark, spam, commercial, off-topic, obscene, harassing, or derogatory, or those that violate the use policies promulgated by the applicable social media provider.

This revised policy will be adopted as interim as of October 3, 2024. This interim (temporary) policy will expire April 3, 2025. The college community will be invited to 45-day comment from October 3 to November 18, 2024. After the comment period, the revised policy will be presented to the Board.

## REPORTS

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### C. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Report

Dr. Consuelo Grier, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), provided the DEI report:

- Coming back from sabbatical, diving fully into structured rest and learning about what institutions have done to structure rest to protect and care for the people who keep things running.
- The annual College Equity Professional day is coming up on October 16th, with 34 individual sessions.
- A huge shoutout to Amanda Morris, Executive Assistant in the President's Office, who does so much for the college. Special thanks to all the people who volunteer in sessions and to the ODEI team.
- ODEI hosts online and in person post-election restorative listening circles. People have received information that can also be found on the ODEI website. People must register to participate.
- ODEI continues to have restorative drop-in hours to support faculty regarding navigating classroom settings.
- Welcome to the new Restorative Faculty Fellow, Jeremiah Allen.
- ODEI's inclusive outreach and recruitment efforts will include attending a recruitment fair in L.A. to actively and strategically market and expand recruitment efforts for faculty and staff positions.
- An exciting announcement is the new addition of the Social Justice Center is complete with renovations and additional space. ODEI will host an open house for the college and community, with invitations going out to trustees. The expansion allows for welcoming more students. ODEI is partnering with Multicultural Services (MCS) to foster student-focused collaborations and partnerships.
- Special thanks to Trustee Merisa Heu-Weller for the support of ODEI through tumultuous times. For support for this work from ODEI to the Board of Trustees Dr. Grier expressed eternal gratitude.

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#### D. President's Report

David May, President, provided the President's report:

- The President highlighted recent developments on campus, noting a positive atmosphere, especially during opening week. Enrollment has risen, with over 13,500 students enrolled, surpassing last year's numbers. Full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment has also increased, indicating a higher average of academic credits taken by students moving through the program pipeline more efficiently.
- The President emphasized the growth of military-affiliated students, currently at a three-year high, with increased utilization of educational benefits, the highest in four years surpassing pre-pandemic levels. This trend reflects the college's continued support for veteran and military students.
- Addressing financial concerns, the President reported on a funding adjustment required by the Office of Financial Management (OFM). Due to a \$47 million overfunding across the community college system, the college must return approximately \$1.6 million from the FY25 budget. The college is well-positioned to manage this without impacting core operations, though advocacy efforts are underway to pursue a legislative remedy.

- The President noted Bellevue College's participation in the upcoming ACCT Conference, with the immediate past chair, Trustee Rich Fukutaki, assuming the role of incoming ACCT chair. Several college representatives will participate in conference panels.
- Facility and staff challenges, particularly regarding HVAC maintenance, were acknowledged. The college has struggled to hire an HVAC manager, resulting in contracted service costs. The state salary schedule is greatly hampering the college's ability to compete with market salaries for HVAC professionals.
- The need for a major HVAC repair project in Building N is acknowledged, with efforts underway to secure capital funding to support the expense. Lot 13 will be temporarily closed to allow crane access for the repair. The hope is to secure capital funds to help cover this cost.
- Efforts continue to address the budget, facilities, and resource needs, emphasizing a proactive approach to securing additional funding and maintaining operational stability.
- Special thanks to Trustee Merisa Heu-Weller for the generous support of the Bellevue College community.

#### E. Board Report

There was no Board report.

#### F. Board Resolution No. 307: Recognizing Trustee Merisa Heu-Weller

This resolution recognizes Merisa Heu-Weller's exemplary service on the Bellevue College Board of Trustees, highlighting her decade-long commitment to the college. Appointed by Governor Jay Inslee in 2013 and re-appointed in 2018, Merisa has been a steadfast advocate for higher education. The Board voted on adopting this resolution to honor her contributions and lasting impact on the college community.

Motion 27.24

Trustee Rich Fukutaki moved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII approves Resolution No. 307 recognizing Trustee Merisa Heu-Weller.

Trustee Vice Chair Pradnya Desh seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **OPEN GOVERNMENT TRAINING**

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AAG Tricia Boerger led the Board in Open Government Training. Chair Richard Leigh, Vice Chair Pradnya Desh, Trustee Rich Fukutaki, Trustee Greg Dietzel, Trustee Desiré Sotelo, President David May, and Board Secretary Alicia Keating Polson participated in the training, which covered the Public Records Act, Open Public Meetings Act, and Ethics in Public Service Act.

### **UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS**

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There was no unscheduled business.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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At 4:20 PM, Chair Leigh announced the Board would convene for 20 minutes in executive session under [RCW 42.30.110\(1\)](#) for the following purpose: (i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation. Chair Leigh announced that no final action would be taken during the executive session.

The executive session ended at 4:40 PM.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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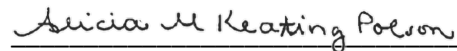
There being no further business, Chair Leigh adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 4:41 PM.



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Richard Leigh  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Community College District VIII

ATTEST:



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





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## RESOLUTION NO. 307

**A RESOLUTION** of the Board of Trustees of Bellevue College of Community College District VIII recognizing and honoring Trustee Merisa Heu-Weller for her outstanding service and commitment to Bellevue College.

**WHEREAS**, Merisa Heu-Weller was appointed to the Board of Trustees by Governor Jay Inslee in November 2013, and re-appointed in 2018, serving with distinction for more than ten years; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure, Trustee Heu-Weller provided strategic leadership, thoughtful guidance, and an unwavering commitment to the college's mission of student success, equity, and access to quality education for all; and

**WHEREAS**, Trustee Heu-Weller's passion for higher education is deeply rooted in her own family's story, understanding firsthand how education transforms lives and opens doors to opportunity, a belief she exemplified throughout her time on the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Trustee Heu-Weller's service on the Board during a period of great change, including leading the college through presidential searches, budgetary challenges, and the COVID-19 pandemic, ensured that Bellevue College remained resilient and forward-thinking; and

**WHEREAS**, Trustee Heu-Weller's leadership has left an indelible mark on the college, inspiring employees, students, and the broader community through her dedication, integrity, and commitment to advancing Bellevue College's values of innovation, inclusion, and excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, Trustee Heu-Weller has served as a trusted advisor to many individuals at the college and to her fellow trustees, and has fostered a culture of respect, collaboration, and inclusivity;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bellevue College Board of Trustees, on behalf of the entire college community, expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude to Trustee Merisa Heu-Weller for her extraordinary service, leadership, and lasting contributions to Bellevue College.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Trustee Heu-Weller's legacy of championing higher education and her unwavering belief in the power of education to transform lives will continue to inspire future generations of students, faculty, and staff at Bellevue College.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED:** October 9, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Richard E. Leigh Jr.', is written over a horizontal line.

Richard Leigh, Chair

Pradnya Desh, Vice Chair

Rich Fukutaki, Trustee

Greg Dietzel, Trustee

Desiré Sotelo, Trustee