

SUSSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD RETREAT
Project Self-Sufficiency, Community Room, Newton, NJ
October 10, 2024

Minutes

Start: 9:00 am.

End: 8:30-9:00

Present: Mr. Gewecke, Mrs. Smith, Dr. Crowley, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Hofmann, Mr. Santillo, Dr. Silverthorne, Dr. Connolly, Mrs. Fullem, Dr. Nespoli, and Dr. Ender. Dr. Homer joined the meeting during lunch.

- 9:00-10:00 Introductions, Opening Comments, and Outline for Retreat
- Kurt Gewecke, Board Chair
 - President Jon Connolly: Challenges in NJ Higher Education
 - Dr. Larry Nespoli: Challenges Facing Community Colleges
 - In-brief – Roles of Trustees
- 10:00-10:45 PACE Survey and Follow-Up Action Plan – A Facilitated Conversation
- History
 - Findings
- 10:45-11:00 Break (15 minutes)
- 11:00-NOON PACE Survey and Follow-Up Action Plan – A Facilitated Conversation Continued
- Early Action Plan Activities
 - Future Action Plan Activities
- Noon-12:30 Lunch and Importance of Policy-Driven Governance
- Chart: Policy-driven governance framework and the important relationship between the board and its president.
 - Three key principles that flow from the policy-driven governance model
 - The board has only one employee-the president
 - Individual trustees have no authority-legal or otherwise. The authority to govern rests solely with the collective board
 - Individual trustees should not meet with college staff
 - NJ Trustee Leadership Academy with the NJ Council of County Colleges in collaboration with the national Association of Community College Trustees. Law now requires new trustees to attend this academy, but it is open to all trustees.
- 12:45-1:45 Other Important Issues in 2024-25
- Capital construction priorities:
 - L-building Learning Commons
 - McGuire Technical Education Center back building
 - E-building residence halls
 - D-building kitchen and cafeteria
 - R-building Optics Technology program
 - Repurposing of Horton Mansion

1:45-2:00

Major Take-Aways, Closing Observations, and Next Steps

- Major Take-Aways – Larry Nespoli
- Major Take-Aways – Trustees
- Next Steps – Board Chair Gewecke and President Connolly
- Review - Harvard Business Review Article "*What Makes Great Boards Great*"

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Santillo", written over a horizontal line.

John Santillo, Secretary – Board of Trustees