



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Montgomery Community College, Rockville, Maryland
May 19, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of Montgomery Community College met in public session on May 19, 2008, in the Trustee Board Room, Central Administration. The First Vice Chair of the Board called the regular public meeting to order at 7:40pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Trustees Michael C. Lin, 1st Vice Chair, Stephen Kaufman, 2nd Vice Chair, Gene Counihan, Sylvia Crowder, Jong-on Hahm, Gigi Godwin, Reginald Felton, and Owen Nichols

Present Ex-Officio: President and Secretary/Treasurer Brian K. Johnson

Absent: Trustees Roberta Shulman and Cristian Barrera

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Nichols moved to approve the revised agenda; Trustee Crowder seconded. The motion passed and the revised agenda was approved by the Board.

IV. MINUTES

Trustee Counihan moved to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2008 public meeting; Trustee Hahm seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were approved by the Board.

V. COMMENTS PERIOD

No speakers.

VI. RECOGNITIONS

Trustee Nichols moved to approve agenda item #6, the Recognitions. Trustee Crowder seconded. The motion passed and the recognitions were approved by the Board.

**BR# 08-05-36 Retirement Recognition and Award of Silver Medallion to
Mr. Robert F. Cephas**

Dr. Johnson extended warmest congratulations to Mr. Robert Cephas on his retirement and talked a bit about him. First, to acknowledge his 31 years of invaluable service and dedication to the College and secondly, to praise him for his role as chief of staff from 1995-2006, to acknowledge his outstanding service award in 2001 in recognition of his coordinated efforts on behalf of the President's Office to the diverse community, and then to acknowledge the 11 years, from 1984-1995, that he served as director of Auxiliary Services, and then finally to talk

about his successful completion of the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellowship program where he served in the President's Office at Morgan State University. One of the benefits of that program that the College still experiences is the cohort of employees enrolled in Morgan State's doctoral program where several employees have successfully graduated and are now doctors, and so the list goes on and on regarding the contributions that Mr. Cephas has made. He personally and certainly extended great gratitude to Mr. Cephas for his role in the presidential search process and in the transition process. Dr. Johnson indicated that if he were evaluating the first year of his service at Montgomery College, he would attribute a large part to the foundation that Mr. Cephas laid in getting him acclimated, and not only him, but in preparing the organization for his arrival and leadership style. He personally extended thanks to Mr. Cephas. In doing the math, he thought of what 31 years of service meant. As someone who has been at the College for 15 months, looking at 31 years and seeing that it is 372 months, he understood all the more that he would have to serve somewhere at the College until the age of 81 to match Mr. Cephas's time and tenure. He congratulated Mr. Cephas on his retirement and invited members of the Board to extend comments.

Trustee Nichols indicated that he would like to make a change in things that he use to say to Mr. Cephas. At the end of all meetings Mr. Cephas would come up and say, "I'm here to serve", and I would say to him "sometimes".

Trustee Crowder indicated that Mr. Cephas's really good work preceded her tenure on the Board. She indicated that she use to be with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges and that group had a professional staff arm which was missing a community college component. And while she was there, she heard talk of a wonderful person at Montgomery College who had been an ACE fellow and had outstanding organizational skills and an ability to bring new ideas to people and that person was Robert Cephas and he did just that at AGB by really building the professional staff at community colleges' component. Also, as chair for the past two years, especially doing the presidential search process, his work and assistance with the Board was just invaluable. He is a person of many, many talents and she thinks this College has been very well served.

Trustee Counihan indicated that he received more assistance from Mr. Cephas than he ever wanted. Mr. Cephas sometimes advised him of his assistance when he least expected it. He indicated that he has gotten into trouble several times since Mr. Cephas has been gone. Mr. Cephas guided him in the very careful way in providing guidance and making certain that protocols are adhered. Mr. Cephas made the job look easy when working with people like him couldn't have been easy. He indicated his admiration and respect for that and Mr. Cephas helped in so many ways, known and unknown, in terms of keeping the Board in line and focused and working directly with the president and the administration for the good of the College. There has been so much good that has come from that. It pains him to make it sound like a compliment to Mr. Cephas. He indicated that Mr. Cephas has also been a lot of fun to be able to pick on and then blame when he deserved no blame. He misses having being able to do that. Mr. Cephas is greatly missed and greatly admired and respected.

Trustee Kaufman indicated that the Trustees referred to Bob Cephas as "Mr. Cephas." That should say an awful lot there -- tremendous respect and as indicated, some fear. Mr. Cephas is one great and wonderful person and individual. He is one of the best that he has had the pleasure of knowing. He indicated that when he first came to the Board, Mr. Cephas was Montgomery College to him. He made sure I understood what my responsibilities were as a Trustee. He was quick to tell me that I asked too many questions. Mr. Cephas generously

guided him through that first year and kept him out of trouble. He misses Mr. Cephas very, very much and knows that whatever he goes on to do, he will do well and the people that he does it for will be well served. Thank you very much.

Trustee Godwin indicated that she wanted to say thank you to Mr. Cephas because when she came on the Board, he took great pains to truly educate her on the new world she was entering into. Though she knew Montgomery College, she really didn't know the universe of being a Trustee here. She was so surprised the day that she came for her orientation, that it would be a multi-hour one-on-one, complete with mountains of materials and questions and answers. Mr. Cephas was patient and kind. He made her feel very welcomed and she left feeling like she was just beginning to feel the ground under her feet – ready to start the job. Trustee Godwin indicated that she was very much grateful to Mr. Cephas for getting her off to a good, confident start for a job that she takes very seriously and doesn't think she would be doing it without the great start that Mr. Cephas provided. Thank you very much.

Trustee Felton added his congratulations to Mr. Cephas. He indicated that they worked together before his appointment to this Board of Trustees. One of the reasons he felt good about coming over, was that he knew Mr. Cephas would be here to ensure that he did the right thing. Of course Mr. Cephas left shortly after his arrived so he was not quite sure what he did. Certainly when you said Montgomery College, you knew Robert Cephas was here and that he was one individual who would be there for you to clarify issues, particularly when he was on the Board across the street. There were some growing pains for a while between the two institutions. It's because of Mr. Cephas and many of you that made that work so that students are doing very well now in this community and I'll like to think a major part of that is because of Mr. Cephas. Congratulations and enjoy the days and years ahead.

Trustee Hahm indicated that there was a phrase in her mind. She can still see Mr. Cephas in her mind when she received her introduction to Montgomery College which has stayed with her and she grasp on to it and can hear his voice when she needs that and him telling the Trustees – “noses in, fingers out”. I use that to guide and that lovely, succinct phrase has really helped her to find her path to begin this trusteeship.

Trustee Lin added his comments. He thanked Mr. Cephas very much for always being so supportive and for making the Trustees' lives a lot easier and in fact without him, he would be lost. Mr. Cephas has always been so gentle in providing his guidance even when he ordered the Trustees around. Thank you very much.

Dr. Johnson and Trustee Lin presented Mr. Cephas with the framed resolution, silver medallion, and retirement gift. The audience stood and applauded Mr. Cephas.

Mr. Cephas thanked Dr. Johnson and the Board very much for the recognition. He quoted his grandson by saying “wow”. He indicated that 31 years was a long time – 372 months, but it had been a very, very enjoyable experience most of those months. He indicated that he had the privilege of working with the fine cadre of people assembled in the room and one of the best board's in the world, not just the country. He indicated that when he came to work with the Board, there was some interesting dynamics going on with the Board. It became very apparent very quickly that the Board needed to understand its role, and that became his crusade and he was very pleased to hear the Trustees talk about how that kind of orientation has stuck with them. He hoped that it has helped them to perform collectively as a Board. He indicated that he enjoyed his time at Montgomery College and enjoyed the privilege of working with the Board

and really enjoyed being given the opportunity to feel like he made a difference. He thanked the Board very much. He particularly wanted to acknowledge a couple of people – one of the finest Board staff you'll ever want to know, Arlean and Lily. They are phenomena. If they don't keep the Board in line, he wanted to know because they have been trained. He indicated that there was one other person that when he was at UMBC and got the offer to come to Montgomery College, his colleague said that he didn't want to go to a community college. That was not the place for him, and that he needed to stay there to do the work. There is one person who is really an ambassador for Montgomery College who convinced him to come, convinced him to stay, and was a shoulder for him to cry on and that is Vivian Lawyer, and he wanted to personally thank her.

BR# 08-05-37 Retirement Recognition of Mr. David A. Coburn

Mr. James Tarver, Facilities director, Rockville Campus, provided comments on the life and service of Mr. David Coburn at Montgomery College. He thanked him for his years of service at the College. Dr. Johnson and Trustee Lin presented Mr. Coburn with a framed resolution and retirement gift. Mr. Coburn thanked the Board for the recognition.

BR# 08-05-38 Retirement Recognition of Mr. Glenn N. Jackson

Mr. Steve Taylor, Facilities supervisor, Rockville Campus, provided comments on the life and service of Mr. Glenn Jackson at Montgomery College. He thanked him for his service to the College. Dr. Johnson and Trustee Lin presented Mr. Jackson with a framed resolution and retirement gift. Mr. Jackson thanked the Board for the recognition.

VII. REPORTS

A. President's Report to the Board

Dr. Johnson provided a brief review of his report to the Board and highlighted the College commencement which was held last Friday. He thanked everyone involved for their hard work and for making it a special event for the students, their families, and friends.

B. "How Green is MC?"

Mr. David Capp, associate vice president for College Facilities, provided a report on "How Green is MC?" and talked about the College's commitment to going green. He reviewed the handouts that were distributed to the Board earlier.

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR

BR# 08-05-39 Personnel Actions Confirmation Report

BR# 08-05-40 Request for Approval for the Nursing Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree and Deletion of the Nursing Associate of Science (A.S.) Degree

BR# 08-05-41 Approval of Change Order Cold Weather Concrete Provisions, Performing Arts Center, Takoma Park/Silver

BR# 08-05-42 Approval of Change Order Electrical and Mechanical Equipment Installation Relocation of IT Network Operations Center, Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center, Takoma Park/Silver Spring

May 19, 2008

On motion by Trustee Nichols, seconded by Trustee Hahm, the motion passed and the Board approved and adopted the Consent Calendar.

IX. BR# 08-05-43 Award of Contract, Extension of Lease Agreement for the Fenton Street Building

X. BR# 08-05-44 Award of Contract, Rockville Campus Sidewalk Replacement

XI. BR# 08-05-45 Request for Supplemental Appropriation, FY2008 Capital Budget, Science and Technology Park Infrastructure Project.

XII. BR# 08-05-46 Approval of Funding for the Obligation and Investment Amount of the Trust Agreement and Authorization to Transfer Funds Designation for the Other Post Employment Benefits Program

On motion by Trustee Nichols; seconded by Trustee Crowder, the motion passed and the Board approved agenda items number IX – XII.

Mr. Marshall Moore, vice president, Administrative and Fiscal Services, provided comments on the post employment benefits program and explained its funding.

Copies of all Board Resolutions for this meeting are attached in the Record of Resolutions.

XIII. New Business - None

XV. Adjournment

In compliance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, Title 10-508, subject to Chapter 655 of the Laws of 1991, the Chair announced that the Board voted to hold an Executive Session May 19, 2008, when one site matter (subsection 3) – Rockville Campus forest conservation issue was discussed; one collective bargaining matter (subsection 9), and one personnel matter (subsection 1) – presidential compensation were discussed.

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:00pm.

Roberta F. Shulman
Chair, Board of Trustees

Brian K. Johnson
President and Secretary-Treasurer,
Board of Trustees

Recorder: Arlean B. Graham