

Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

Laidlaw Building Room 143

237 West Kellogg Road, Bellingham WA

March 22, 2024

3:00 p.m.

- **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Teresa Taylor officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 3:05 pm. Present in addition to the chair were trustees Wendy Bohlke, Jeff Fairchild, Rebecca Johnson, and John Pedlow, constituting a quorum. Others present included President Hiyane-Brown; Steven Thomas, Vice President for Instruction; Kerri Holferty, Interim Vice President for Student Services; Juliana deHaan Rice, Assistant Attorney General; and Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for the Office of the President.

Chair Taylor began with a land acknowledgment to recognize and pay respect to the Coast Salish Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between the Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

ACTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

- Trustee Pedlow moved to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Johnson and the motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Johnson called for public comment. She announced a 15 minutes public comment period with 2 minutes allocated to each person.
- There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- At 3:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a closed Executive Session of the Board to approximately twenty minutes to review the performance of a public employee...

Chair Taylor announced that action was anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Executive Director Rafeeka Kloke, and Assistant Attorney General Juliana deHaan Rice.

The Executive Session adjourned at 3:25 p.m. and the Board reconvened into an open session at 3:25 p.m.

ACTION ITEM

- Chair Taylor stated President Kathi formally notified the board of her plans to retire from her position as president. She shared that the Board felt that it was necessary to extend the president's contract to allow time for a presidential search and a smooth transition.

Trustee Pedlow moved to extend the president's contract to March 1, 2025. It was seconded by Trustee Johnson and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Taylor and members of the board shared their appreciation for President Kathi's visionary leadership, commitment to academic excellence, and passion for student success. Whatcom has experienced significant growth during her tenure. They thanked President Kathi for her years of service to the college and the community.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



April 10, 2024

Chair of the Board

Date



April 10 2024

President and Secretary of the Board

Date