

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS AND BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES

October 1, 2008 – Blue Ridge Community College, Applied Technology Building,
Room 206
3:30 p.m.

The Transylvania County Board of Commissioners met in a special joint session with the Blue Ridge Community College Board of Trustees on Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 206 in the new Applied Technology Building on the Transylvania County campus of Blue Ridge Community College.

Commissioners present were Lynn Bullock, Chairman Jason Chappell and David Guice. Commissioner Daryle Hogsed and Vice-Chairman Kelvin Phillips were absent. Also present were County Manager Artie Wilson and Clerk to the Board Trisha McLeod.

Blue Ridge Community College Board and Trustees and Staff present were Kohlan Flynn, Betty Gash, Chip Gould, John McCormick, President Dr. Molly Parkhill, Dean of Transylvania Programs Chad Merrill, Small Business Center Director Gary Heisey and Executive Assistant to the President Brenda Conner.

There were six people in the audience.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason Chappell called the Board of Commissioners' meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. He thanked the Board of Trustees for including Commissioners in the dedication of the new Applied Technology Building.

Chairman John McCormick called the Board of Trustees' meeting to order. He thanked Commissioners for participating in this joint meeting. He also thanked Commissioners for their support of the School and the new Applied Technology Building.

PRESENTATION

Blue Ridge Community College President, Dr. Molly Parkhill, showed a Power Point Presentation outlining the College's current status and their long range plans. She noted the following information:

The Transylvania Center currently serves approximately 500 students. Dr. Parkhill noted the correlation between job loss and increased enrollment in the Community College System. When jobs decrease, people return to the Community College System to be retrained for the changing job market. Dr. Parkhill highlighted the programs and courses the College offers, as well as the demographics of their students.

Next she discussed their Strategic Plan, noting that it took approximately one year to complete. Their Strategic Plan considered their stakeholders and where they want to be in five years. The Strategic Directions included the following:

1. To meet the needs of a growing and diverse student population
 - Increase enrollment, retention, and degree attainment
 - Collaborate with high schools
 - Serve lifelong learning interests of the “50-plus” generation
 - Explore a presence in Fletcher
 - Offer cultural enrichment programs
2. To address the rapidly changing workforce
 - Integrate the soft skills into College courses
 - Assist in filling gaps in the local workforce
 - Develop short-term certificate programs
 - Utilize the College’s newest resources and facilities
 - Help business and industry become employers of choice
3. To stay current in all levels of technology
 - Help faculty pursue advanced technical competencies
 - Train faculty in new educational delivery methods
 - Offer faculty incentives
 - Expand distance learning programs
 - Develop and broadcast educational programs
4. To strengthen the economic vitality of the community
 - Promote the College as a regional venue
 - Evaluate College programs
 - Promote the new Business Innovation Center
 - Cultivate an awareness of global issues
5. To offer stakeholders the most value for the services provided
 - Bring baccalaureate degree programs to campus
 - Start an adjunct faculty orientation program
 - Infuse green technologies
 - Promote service learning
 - Share the College’s story

Dean of Transylvania Programs, Chad Merrill, discussed curriculum programs at the Transylvania Center. There are approximately 330 students enrolled in curriculum programs at the Transylvania Center. One-third of those are high school students in the dual enrollment program. He reviewed the curriculum programs, noting these programs will transfer into the university system.

The College is also trying to maximize its distance learning capability with the use of modern technology. The College has a strong relationship with local high schools as well.

Mr. Merrill stated that 99% of employers are satisfied with the customized training students receive at the College. Further, 99% of their students are gainfully employed one year after completing courses at the College.

Gary Heisey spoke about the new Blue Ridge Innovation Network within the new Applied Technology Building. Under the Full Lease Partner Membership Program, there are six spaces available for one year leases for the purpose of incubating small businesses. Studies show that small businesses created through an incubator program have an 87% success rate. During the incubation period, the College will offer business support services.

Through the Officeshare Partner Membership Program, one space is designated for a company that prefers part-time space or is waiting for a full time incubation space. This Program is designed to benefit from business support to launch or grow their business.

The Community Business Partner Membership Program is designed for a company that does not require professional space or is waiting for full time or officeshare incubation space.

The College will use the services of local businesses and organizations through the Innovation Partner Program. The concept is that organizations or individuals can contribute to the local economy and business innovation through business assistance, teaching, mentoring or volunteering at the Blue Ridge Innovation Network. (Examples include: Heart of Brevard, Transylvania/Brevard Chamber of Commerce, Transylvania Partnership, etc.)

Commissioner Guice pointed out that the Transylvania Senior Resource Network has been successful at helping businesses develop business plans. He asked if they would have space available to them. Mr. Heisey replied yes. Commissioner Guice also asked if non-profits could benefit from these services. Mr. Heisey said one of their goals is to create and establish a non-profit network. Mr. Heisey concluded his presentation by reviewing some of the support services businesses would received during their incubation in the Blue Ridge Innovation Network.

Dr. Parkhill discussed the College's long range goals. A specific goal for the Transylvania Center is to gain campus status which will bring additional monies to the College. They also would like to construct another building to add and expand programs.

Discussion:

The Manager asked about the College's timetable for constructing a new facility and what they might expect the costs to be. Dr. Parkhill responded that they were exploring building a new facility in approximately 10 years. David Whitson, Dean of Administrative Services, responded that using today's prices a new building would cost approximately \$3.5 million.

Commissioner Guice further asked if the College had considered purchasing adjacent land for future expansion. Dr. Parkhill said the land is not currently available and there has been limited discussion about a new building.

Chairman Chappell asked Dr. Parkhill to further explain the qualifications for gaining campus status. Dr. Parkhill said the College must have 300 FTE to gain campus status which will bring in much needed funds for operational costs. She hopes to reach that goal by 2010.

The Manager asked what renovations the College foresees for the coming year. Dr. Parkhill said the College has just begun an annual assessment of facilities which will assess needs based on a point system. They have no major issues at this time except the roof replacement that has already been budgeted for.

After further comments, **Commissioner Guice moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bullock and unanimously approved.**

Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha D. McLeod
Clerk to the Board