

APPROVED

**MORAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
9000 West College Parkway
Palos Hills, IL 60465**

The Governing Board of Moraine Valley Community College, District No. 524, Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting, was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, in Building D, Board Room D219, 9000 West College Parkway, Palos Hills, Illinois, 60465.

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Beth McElroy Kirkwood asked meeting attendees to rise and join her in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order by Chair Beth McElroy Kirkwood at 5:02 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Beth McElroy Kirkwood, Chair; Eileen Kerlin Walsh; Joseph Murphy (Arrived at 5:05 p.m.); Patricia Joan Murphy; Jaclyn O’Day; Tiffany S. Robinson (Arrived at 5:11 p.m.); Tracy M. Sullivan

Absent: Stefanie DaCosta, Student Trustee

Chair McElroy Kirkwood requested anyone calling in to state their name when speaking or making a motion for the record. She also asked those not speaking to keep their devices on mute.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

The meeting began with a discussion of Board Policies and a presentation by Kelly Grab, Compliance Officer. Ms. Grab briefly discussed the Board Policy Overview document, which was presented during the Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting on September 17, 2024. She noted that the document had stayed the same since their last meeting. Ms. Grab presented a proposed new Board Policy 2120, Policy and Bylaw Development. She described the proposed policy, noting that the college shall be guided by Board-adopted written policies that are given appropriate distribution and are accessible to employees, students, and community residents.

The proposed new policy clarifies how Board policies are recommended for the Board's consideration, stating that policy amendments shall be recommended to the Board by the College President only after the Board is provided with advance written

notice prior to the Board meeting for which the policy is on the agenda for approval. She noted that the only exception is if the policy conflicts with applicable law.

Ms. Grab then provided the Board with a draft timeline for the college to review all existing Board policies. The Board Policy Manual will be split into sections for review by members of the Executive Leadership Team, deans/directors, or other college personnel. If revisions are necessary, the Executive Leadership Team member will draft the revisions with the Compliance Officer. The revised policies will be reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team and presented to the Board during a Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting for a first reading.

Trustee Sullivan asked about the next steps for approving the proposed Board Policy 2120, Policy, and Bylaw Development. Ms. Grab confirmed that the policy would be up for approval during the November 2024 Board meeting. Trustee Joseph Murphy asked if Board policies require two readings for approval. Ms. Grab said that the second reading is not required by law, but it has been the college's policy to provide policy revisions a month before the board meeting; subsequently, the policy will be on the agenda at the next regular meeting for approval. Trustee Kerlin Walsh commented that a second reading may have been done to allow the Board to provide feedback on the policies before the policies are listed on the agenda for approval.

Trustee O'Day asked Megan Steigauf, legal counsel for the college, if she could provide an answer regarding a question Trustee O'Day asked during the previous Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the IL Community College Act and whether it states if a Trustee is able to bring forth Board policy changes. Ms. Steigauf confirmed that no state statute prohibits a Trustee from bringing forward a policy, but the current Board policy delegates the task to the College President.

Trustee O'Day stated she plans to vote no on the proposed new policy in its current state. She noted that she spoke with her personal attorney, and she believes it is not in line with the law to only allow the College President to recommend Board policies. She said she believed the policy in its current state was not in the best interest of the taxpayers, college employees, and students.

Secretary Robinson said it is her understanding that Trustees can bring Board policy suggestions to the President's attention and that the Board still ultimately decides on whether a policy should be approved. Trustee Sullivan said she sees value in the Trustees having the ability to provide feedback, especially if they are content experts regarding specific topics.

Trustee Sullivan stressed the importance of the Board deciding on a policy so that all members of the Board are on the same page in the future. Chair McElroy Kirkwood said she believes Dr. Haney has had an open-door policy allowing Trustees to come to her with questions and suggestions. She noted the importance of sharing suggestions with Dr. Haney and the Board Chair instead of reaching out to Trustees

individually. Trustee Sullivan suggested updating the new policy to clearly outline the process.

Trustee Joseph Murphy said he believes the Board should tread carefully and rely on college employees to develop Board policies. He noted that the college employees are experts in their areas and deal with content daily. Secretary Robinson said she agrees with Trustee Joseph Murphy, but she also agrees with Trustee Sullivan that it would be beneficial to collaborate in developing Board policies when Trustees are experts in certain areas.

The Board agreed that the proposed new Board Policy 2120, Policy and Bylaw Development, shall be edited to include text stating that Board members who wish to discuss a policy or policy amendments shall notify the Board Chair and College President. The Board agreed that the proposed new Board Policy 2120, Policy and Bylaw Development, will be included as an agenda item for approval during the regular meeting on November 19, 2024. The revised version of the policy will be shared with the Board before the meeting.

V. TRUSTEE DISCUSSION

The Board agreed that the next Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting will be tentatively scheduled for March 2025. During this meeting, the Board will review the first batch of Board policy revision recommendations. The Board noted that the meeting date is subject to change depending on the progress of the review of existing Board policies.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM.