

Minutes
Sinclair Community College
Board of Trustees

November 30, 2007
8:30 a.m., Building 12, Room 131

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Sinclair Community College was called to order on Tuesday, November 30, 2007, in Building 12, Room 131 of the college by Chairperson Katherine Hollingsworth.

I. Roll Call

Trustees Present: Ms. Mary Boosalis, Mr. Richard Chernesky, Ms. Marva Cosby, Mr. Robert Corbin, Mr. Gregory Edwards, Ms. Ethel Washington-Harris, Mr. Gerald Hauer, Mr. Allen Hill, Ms. Katherine Hollingsworth, Mr. Lawrence Porter

Trustees Absent: Mr. Bernard Wright

Also Present: Ms. Natasha Baker, Director of College Relations, Mr. Jeff Boudouris, Vice President for Business Operations; Ms. Annesa Cheek, Assistant to the President; Dr. Mary Gaier, Vice President for Organizational Development; Dr. Helen Grove, Senior Vice President and Provost; Mr. Gary Honnert, Director of College Communications; Dr. Tom Huguley, Associate Provost; Ms. Madeline Iseli, Director of Government Relations; Ms. Denise Jepsen, Secretary to the Board; Dr. Robert Johnson, Senior Vice President, Dr. Steven Johnson, President; Ms. Megan Laughter, Administrative Secretary, Administrative Operations; Dr. Ken Moore, Senior Vice President; Ms. Deb Norris, Vice President for Workforce Development and Corporate Services; Mr. Tom Raga, Senior Director of Regional Strategy and Development; Dr. Nick Reeder, President of Faculty Senate; Ms. Sandra Schuster, Esq., Legal Counsel; Dr. Nancy Thibeault, Director of Distance Learning; Ms. Charlotte Wharton, Dean of Business and Public Services

II. WELCOME TO SPECIAL GUESTS – KATHERINE HOLLINGSWORTH

Chairperson Katherine Hollingsworth recognized Commissioner Dan Foley, Strategy Committee Chair, Citizens for Sinclair; Ms. Stephanie Gottschlich, Education Reporter for the *Dayton Daily News*; Mr. Ron Hicks, Reporter for WDTN-TV; and Mr. Dan Sadlier, Treasurer and Finance Chair, Citizens for Sinclair.

III. DISCUSSION OF TAX LEVY MILLAGE – KATHERINE HOLLINGSWORTH

The Trustees held a discussion to determine the tax levy millage. Highlights of the discussion are listed below.

Principles and Considerations for the Levy Mill Rate Decision

- Respect for the citizens of Montgomery County
- Need for affordable higher education
- Emerging needs in critical workforce areas
- The financial need of the college in moving forward to meet community needs

Ohio Since 1998

- The Governor's Commission on Higher Education calls for more students enrolled and more college attainment
- Governor Strickland calls for significantly increased college enrollment over ten years
- The Ohio Legislature focuses on higher education reorganization and more STEM education

Survey Results Indicate the following:

- 78 percent responded that Sinclair is very important to the future of Montgomery County
- 67 percent responded with a very favorable overall opinion of Sinclair
- 49 percent of Montgomery County residents have personally taken classes at Sinclair

Sinclair Tuition

- 40 percent lower than the average of public two-year colleges in Ohio
- The ability to increase tuition over the next decade is expected to be limited.
 - Tuition increases have been limited and capped for the past six years by the legislature; tuition is frozen for this year and next year.

Efficiency

- During recent years of reduced state funding, the college has been pro-active for example:
 - Reorganization and Realignment (\$4 million)
 - Three rounds of budget cuts (\$3.5 million)
 - Average class size increase (\$2.2 million)

The current ten-year levy was approved in November 1998, and expires in December 31, 2008.

How much does the Sinclair levy cost a homeowner?

| Estimates based on \$100,000 Appraised Home Value | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 2.5 Mill (replacement) | 3.0 Mill (Replacement + Increase) | 3.2 Mill (Replacement + Increase) | 3.5 Mill (Replacement + Increase) |
| \$77 per year (annual increase of \$21 or \$1.75 per month) | \$92 per year (annual increase of \$36 or \$3.00 per month) | \$98 per year (annual increase of \$42 or \$3.50 per month) | \$107 per year (annual increase of \$51 or \$4.25 per month) |

- There is no levy connection between Sinclair Community College and Warren County. By law, Montgomery County tax levy dollars may not be spent in Warren County.

Sinclair Staff Recommendation

- Recognizing the need to balance Sinclair financial need with economic conditions, the staff recommended the highest option be rejected (3.5 mill) and the lowest option be rejected (2.5 mill), with a leaning toward 3.2 mill over the 3.0 mill option.
- Although the mill rate needed is 3.7 mills, the Trustees discussed a 3.2 mill levy versus a 3.0 mill levy.
- It is recognized that we are balancing against a period of change with raising tuition in the State of Ohio.
- Based on \$100,000 home, the difference between a 3.0 mill and 3.2 mill is \$6 per year or 50 cents per month.
- In order to maintain quality, the Trustees voted on approval of the 3.2 mill level. The Trustees agreed that Sinclair Community College must maintain value and accessibility to benefit the community.

IV. RESOLUTION #2007-32 – KATHERINE HOLLINGSWORTH

After considerable discussion, Resolution #2007-32 was brought forward for a vote.

LEVY RECOMMENDATION AND BALLOT LANGUAGE
RESOLUTION 2007-32
NOVEMBER 30, 2007

WHEREAS, Section 3354.12 of the Ohio Revised Code provides for support to community college districts through voter approved local property tax levies for operating and capital expenses; and

WHEREAS, the current levy for the Sinclair Community College District expires at the end of 2008; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County levy support has enabled the Sinclair Community College District to provide exceptional quality, affordable and accessible education; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees appreciates the tremendous value of that support; and

WHEREAS, all proceeds from the Sinclair Community College District levy are used only to support Montgomery County students enrolled at Montgomery County Sinclair campuses, and for Sinclair Community College operations within Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, the Sinclair Community College District levy funds have provided tuition support for Montgomery County students, enabling Sinclair Community College to offer the lowest tuition among the community colleges in the state of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the need to continue to provide degree and career programs that meet the community needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the important role Sinclair Community College plays in providing a skilled workforce for the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the Board has noted the twenty-six percent enrollment growth of the College since approval of the current levy; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has reviewed the College's financial history, current financial status, and long range financial projections; and

WHEREAS, the amount of taxes that may be raised within the current levy will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of the District; and

WHEREAS, it is therefore necessary to seek a replacement levy plus an increase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

By a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Sinclair Community College District Board of Trustees, that it is necessary to levy a replacement plus increase tax for operating and capital expenses, at a rate not exceeding 3.2 mills for each one dollar of valuation which amounts to thirty-two cents (\$0.32) for each one hundred dollars (\$100) of valuation for ten (10) years, commencing with the 2008 tax list and duplicate, with collection first due in 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

SECTION 1 That the current levy, in the amount of 2.5 mills, expires at the end of 2008.

SECTION 2 That it is hereby declared that the amount of taxes which may be raised on the current tax duplicate will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements for Sinclair Community College District.

SECTION 3 That pursuant to the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code §3354.12, it is necessary to levy a tax for the operating and capital expenses for Sinclair Community College District, and which levy is a replacement of 2.5 mills of an existing levy passed in 1998 and which expires in 2008, and an increase of .7 mills, at a rate not exceeding 3.2 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to thirty-two cents (\$0.32) for each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of valuation for ten (10) years, commencing with the 2008 tax list and duplicate, with collection first due in 2009.

SECTION 4 That the question of approving the replacement plus increase levy be submitted to the electors of Montgomery County at a general election to be held on March 4, 2008, and that said levy be placed on the tax list and duplicate for 2008 if approved by a majority of the electors voting.

SECTION 5 That the Treasurer of the Sinclair Community College District is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the Board of Elections of Montgomery County not later than four o'clock (4:00) pm of the seventy-fifth (75th) day prior to the date of the general election, to be held on March 4, 2008, and to notify said Board of Elections to cause notice of the election on the question of levying said tax to be given as required by law.

SECTION 6 The form of ballot to be cast at the election on the question of this tax levy shall be substantially as follows:

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (REPLACEMENT AND INCREASE)

SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

A replacement of 2.5 mills of an existing levy and an increase of .7 mills, to constitute a tax for the benefit of the Sinclair Community College District, for operating and capital expenses, at a rate not exceeding 3.2 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to thirty-two cents (\$0.32) for each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of valuation for ten (10) years, commencing with the 2008 tax list and duplicate, with collection first due in 2009.

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| | FOR THE TAX LEVY |
| | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY |

BOARD ACTION: A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence Porter and seconded by Trustee Ethel Washington-Harris to approve the forgoing resolution, Resolution #2007-32. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the nine Montgomery County Trustees. For the record, Sinclair Community College has two additional Trustees from Warren County who by statute cannot vote on Montgomery County levy issues.

V. ADJOURNMENT – KATHERINE HOLLINGSWORTH

Chairperson Hollingsworth thanked the Trustees in the appropriate time taken in deliberating the tax millage rate. She also thanked Mr. Dan Sadlier and Commissioner Dan Foley.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. Any materials referenced may be found with the permanent file copy of the Board agenda.

Chairman

ATTEST:

Secretary