

Minutes
Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Special Session – Joint Meeting with Catawba Valley Community College Board of Trustees
Monday, April 7, 2008, 7:30 a.m.

Board of Commissioners

Special Session – Joint Meeting with CVCC Board of Trustees 51 04/07/08

CVCC

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7:30 a.m. in the Catawba Valley Community College Board Room, Hickory, North Carolina. The purpose of this Special Session was to conduct a joint meeting with the Catawba Valley Community College Board of Trustees to discuss the college's strategic plan and budget issues.

Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Lynn Lail and Commissioners Glenn E. Barger, Barbara Beatty and Dan Hunsucker.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Public Information Officer Dave Hardin and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

Catawba Valley Community College Board of Trustees

Present were Chair Stephen B. Neuville, Trustees Brenard Brown, John D. Clark, Ann H. Gaither, Roxy Poovey, Charles R. Preston, Charles M. Snipes, Ernest E. Stone, John Watts, Rosemary Bass Young, CVCC President Garrett Hinshaw, Public Information Officer Mary Miller, Ken Elliott and Board Secretary Sherry Williams. It is noted that Commissioner Glenn E. Barger is also a Trustee on this Board.

1. CVCC Board of Trustee Chair Stephen Neuville called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m. Mr. Neuville welcomed all present and stated the CVCC Board of Trustees looked forward to working with the Catawba County Board of Commissioners on the College's strategic plan. He pointed out in the year and a half since College President Garrett Hinshaw had arrived there had been great excitement and energy at the College and there were great things to come such as the Simulated Hospital. Chair Barnes then joined in this welcome and stated the Board of Commissioners appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Board of Trustees and said there was no doubt that CVCC had played a critical part in the economic development of the County in the last five years. She said the Board of Commissioners were pleased to work together with the Board of Trustees and in her ten years on the Board did not remember them all sitting down together as in this meeting and suggested it should be an annual event.
2. College President Garrett Hinshaw welcomed everyone and introduced a short movie which summarized the vision of the college and its strategic plan for the next five years. There were seven strategic directions identified and the process proposed to achieve these goals:
 1. Embracing Academic Excellence
 2. Enhance Economic and Workforce Development
 3. Institutionalize Globalization/Diversity
 4. Foster Community Engagement
 5. Enhance Resource Development
 6. Enhance the College Environment
 7. Foster Student Engagement

Dr. Hinshaw stressed the main focus was the students and ensuring they had the best experience the college could provide.

CVCC Chair Neuville went on to summarize where he saw the strategic plan leading the college. He believed it would elevate the level of education available to its students; continue the evolution of the college from a vocational institution to a more technical institute, i.e. medical fields; the addition of the CEMS – Center for Emerging Manufacturing Solutions - would make the college even more effective for both the students and the community; provide the training for jobs coming into the area which will require

more technical training; will continue to address the basic needs such as truck driver training but still elevate the level of education available to the community college student.

Chair Barnes stated the college was doing an excellent job meeting the needs of the future for the County and that Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar used the college as a selling tool for industries considering Catawba County for establishment or relocation.

Commissioner Hunsucker praised the college for moving to meet the needs of the diversifying industrial base of the County and working so diligently to identify and meet those specific needs. He also stated that the college's wide range of opportunities for students may help the drop-out rate in high school since it gave students who didn't want to leave this area an option for their education and a reachable goal so that they had a reason to complete high school.

Vice-Chair Lail also praised the college for their efforts and noted the Board of Commissioners had been focusing on post-secondary education and was concerned about the number of high school graduates without degrees and the college was now giving these students numerous options.

Commissioner Beatty thanked the CVCC Board of Trustees for its passion and vision and its "can do" attitude. She said she was impressed with the game plan and the efforts to reach out to the community and was looking forward to working with them.

Commissioner Barger noted he had a great advantage of sitting on both Boards. He noted the college was attempting to fill many roles – while transitioning from a vocational institute to a technical college. He believed the strategic plan set the bar higher and since the economy had changed and things would never go back to the manufacturing base of the past, the college was addressing the need to diversify. He praised the college for its vision, for taking the lead, meeting the needs of the community and thanked College President Hinshaw for creating the vision.

Dr. Hinshaw briefly described the CEMS – Center for Emerging Manufacturing Solutions. The college had met/would meet with business partners to identify specific needs and find what type of training would have the most impact on these business partners and then bring that type of training to the college. They had received high interest from the furniture industry for testing of fabric/upholstery materials for fire safety and from food companies for safety testing. This local testing ability would enable these manufacturers to get their product out on the market at a faster rate.

Dr. Hinshaw went on to say that the college was committed to developing 21 century employees – with critical thinking skills and application skills by placing them in real world scenarios and through case studies to provide them with real life experience in a classroom setting.

Commissioner Barger asked that Dr. Hinshaw address the Challenger High School. Dr. Hinshaw indicated that this program was a state mandate and was at a current enrollment of 300 with the maximum enrollment of 400 expected in the Fall. He said there were challenges to fitting high school students into a college campus and keeping those students somewhat separate from the college-aged students. There were unique challenges to the program with no financial support but the college was making it work and the success rate was high and the first class would graduate in 1 ½ years. County Manager J. Thomas Lundy said he and Dr. Hinshaw were looking at solutions for expenses and the schools involved were asked to put together a budget in support of the program.

Budget figures were then touched on by Dr. Hinshaw but he indicated he had not yet presented the budget to the County Manager and that would be done in the upcoming week. The FTE figures were discussed and County Manager Lundy indicated that this was being addressed in the proposed County budget.

The Simulated Hospital was used as an example of how leadership could make something happen and it was noted that project would attain national attention.

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Chair Barnes stated she was pleased with the relationship that had been established between County Manager Lundy and President Hinshaw and was waiting to see the proposed budget. She went on to say all the commissioners embraced the vision and she thought the citizens had acknowledged the funds needed to accomplish the vision by the passage of the ¼ cent sales tax. Chair Barnes concluded by saying education was the building block for the economy of the county and was looking forward to continuing to work with CVCC.

CVCC Chair Neuville thanked the Board of Commissioners for its participation in the meeting and adjourned the meeting.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk