

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 532, County of Lake and State of Illinois, held at the College of Lake County, Grayslake Campus, Board Room (C213), 19351 W. Washington Street, Grayslake, Illinois on October 5, 2024, at 9:00 AM

<p><i>1. Call to Order and Roll Call</i></p>	<p>Chair Newsome called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 9:00 am.</p> <p>Trustees Present: Ms. Barbato, Ms. Howland, Mr. Newsome, Ms. Shroka, Mr. Virgilio and Student Trustee Teruel Trustees Absent: Dr. Griffin</p> <p>Others Present: Dr. Lori Suddick, President; Dr. Derrick Harden, Vice President of Strategic Advancement; Nick Branson, Assistant Vice President, Strategic Advancement; Carol Dikelsky, Director Communications & Engagement; Catie Locallo, Legal Counsel, Robbins Schwartz.</p>
<p><i>2. Approval of the Agenda</i></p>	<p>Chair Newsome welcomed everyone joining the meeting and made the following agenda announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No closed meeting and no action will be taken at this meeting. <p>Chair Newsome called for a motion to approve the agenda.</p> <p>It was moved by Trustee Barbato and seconded by Trustee Howland for approval of the agenda as presented.</p> <p>Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Student Advisory Vote: Aye Ayes: Howland, Newsome, Virgilio, Shroka, Barbato Nays: None The vote being (5) Ayes and (0) Nays, the motion carried.</p>
<p><i>3. Public Participation</i></p>	<p>Chair Newsome announced the public comment portion of the meeting. Requests to address the Board were accepted via email to the President’s office by 3 pm on October 4. The President’s office received no requests to address the Board. Chair Newsome asked if any individuals present wished to address the Board; no audience members requested to speak.</p>
<p><i>4. Strategic Plan Process and Input</i></p>	<p>Dr. Suddick welcomed the Board. She explained that this is an early dialogue so the Board and President can work together to determine strategic objectives for the College.</p> <p>Dr. Suddick introduced Futures Thinking and referred to the videos shared with the Board in advance of the meeting. She commented about the upcoming community sessions related to strategic planning and welcomed trustees to be present at those sessions.</p> <p>Dr. Suddick reminded the Board that what gets measured gets done. The College needs to make data-informed decisions from an outside-in perspective. The plan is to begin with obtaining input from outside voices first because the community is changing, and the College needs to be responsive. The College’s culture needs to be student- and community-centered and it is important apply an equity lens in response to the external input.</p> <p>Dr. Suddick reminded the Board that the College is achieving record graduation rates through intentional change that caused the right things to happen and contribute to ongoing change in the College’s history and trajectory. Change is hard and will continue to be hard; however, a 65% graduation rate is possible. The College has a 39% graduation rate with the Fall 2021 Cohort. This strategic work offers the possibility to influence students’</p>

futures. Additionally, CLC is well-positioned to become a Leader College of Distinction with Achieving the Dream as a result of the performance outcomes through the changes made

Dr. Suddick shared that CLC is asking the community to dream big with us to help determine what the next climb is for CLC.

Ms. Dikelsky addressed the Board about the futures thinking approach. She explained that it is a way of reflecting on the past, making thoughtful observations about the present, and imagining possible futures. Using this systematic approach, organizations can become more resilient to unexpected challenges, adaptable to new opportunities, and proactive in steering toward desirable future outcomes. The College plans to leverage this approach as it gathers input on its next Strategic Plan.

Ms. Dikelsky referenced Dr. Jane McGonigal, a professional futurist, and author of the book “Imaginable.” She shared a video of Dr. McGonigal giving a TED Talk about futures thinking that emphasized how the future is a place where everything can be different. McGonigal explained through a series of audience-engagement activities how psychological flexibility gives people the power to make change. One exercise was on “predicting the past” by asking audience members to think of an event and wonder “what if I had done something else.” Using this thought process allows individuals to see how the present moment can be different. The future is not inevitable.

Additional audience-engaged examples included “remembering the future” and practicing “hard empathy.” Trustees engaged in these activities, then followed up by discussing their own experiences and relating them to futures thinking techniques. They also engaged in a discussion about hard empathy as it relates to CLC students and the community, centered on finding courage, thinking big, being creative, being informed, thinking from a multidimensional perspective, and being equity-based.

Ms. Dikelsky then introduced other futures thinking techniques including “flip it” and how to collect “signals” about the future, and shared how these techniques are relevant to the strategic planning process.

Break: 10:10am -10:20am.

Dr. Branson addressed the Board about national and local perspectives and trends, organized around three themes: Educational Attainment, Economic Development and Community Vibrancy.

Educational Attainment: Dr. Branson explained the high school cliff and noted that because there are fewer children being born nationally and locally. He shared that the number of high school graduates is shrinking, which will likely impact the number of high school graduates enrolling in college. Dr. Branson shared data about college attendance and degree attainment. CLC will need to focus on community members who are looking for educational opportunities, with an emphasis on Black and Hispanic populations.

Dr. Suddick commented that the biggest challenge is keeping students enrolled once they begin to attend CLC. Dr. Branson and Dr. Suddick discussed why retention is a critical component of enrollment efforts and the fiscal sustainability of CLC.

Data was then shared with the Board about the cost of higher education and perspectives on return on investment, specifically, perceptions about whether attaining higher education is worth it.

Economic Development: Dr. Branson identified examples of credentials that are valuable to employers and how credential achievement is relevant to the community.

Community Vibrancy: Dr. Branson explained community vibrancy concepts and the Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed (ALICE) tool. He shared examples using ALICE in Lake County to demonstrate economic disparity, as the median income in Lake County is \$104,000, but many household incomes fall below the median, including approximately 56% of CLC students.

A discussion ensued about economic mobility and the gap between rich and poor. Parental income is a strong predictor of where a child will end up. Geography also matters for economic mobility.

The presentation continued with a focus on some key factors in Lake County: health, food, housing and the environment. Physical health has shown some improvement, but mental health continues to be a challenge for many individuals. In terms of food, many Lake County residents lack adequate access to food. There were discussions about how the future Urban Farm Center will be responsive to this factor. Housing prices have outpaced increases in income. The presentation concluded with an explanation of how the themes interconnect.

Questions for Board discussion and guidance on strategic planning were introduced.

Roundtable Input 1. Looking forward to the future of Lake County or beyond, what does higher education need to do to foster: Community Vibrancy, Educational Attainment and Economic Development?

Trustees' input included:

- Outreach – the community needs to know what opportunities are available at CLC
- Closing the gap on disparity in resources available to high school students
- Change the narrative about affordability and the value of higher education: Students need to be able to envision themselves in college and know they can complete.
- Take the classroom to the community
- Support for undocumented students who may be fearful to enroll
- Permeate the community with an annual seminar on topics of importance
- Broaden the minds of parents and students in the high school setting
- Educate students on the value and benefit of staying local
- Use social media to get the word out

	<p>Dr. Suddick explained that community and student pride is growing and changing the narrative that CLC is the College that Launches Champions. Currently, 51% of Lake County high school graduates apply to CLC. Not all eventually attend, but they do apply, and 18% choose to attend CLC. This is happening, in part, due to CLC’s work in the current strategic plan that has expanded outreach to embed College Career Navigators (CCNs) in several local high schools.</p> <p>Roundtable Input 2. What signals should the College pay attention to when setting priorities for the next strategic plan to better to the future? Trustees were asked to suggest items of significant importance regarding our students or community that need to be prioritized in the next strategic plan.</p> <p>Trustees’ input included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on transferability of credits • Build community on campus; invite students to share their stories during the first week of classes • Promote interaction on social media • Increase student clubs and organizations • Access to younger generation at an early age • Continued outreach in growing health fields • Applied baccalaureate degree <p>Dr. Harden closed the meeting by providing an overview of the strategic plan development timeline. Between March and May 2025, there will be another touchpoint with the Board to validate the process and share summaries from the community, workforce, student, and employee input sessions. In June 2025, a draft of the strategic plan will be presented to the Board with the intent for Board approval for an effective date of July 1, 2025. Dr. Harden thanked the board for offering their input at this meeting and described how it will influence the development of the strategic plan.</p>
5. Closed Meeting	None
6. Adjournment	<p>Chair Newsome called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Trustee Barbato, seconded by Trustee Howland and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.</p> <p>Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Student Advisory Vote: Aye Ayes: Ms. Howland, Mr. Newsome, Mr. Virgilio, Ms. Shroka, Ms. Barbato Nays: None The vote being (5) Ayes and (0) Nays, the motion carried.</p>

Torrie Newsome, Chair

Allena Barbato, Secretary