

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2010

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College met on Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at the St. Petersburg College EpiCenter, 13805 – 58th Street North, Largo, Florida. The following Board members were present: Chairman Terrence E. Brett, Vice Chairman Kenneth P. Burke, Mrs. Evelyn M. Bilirakis, Mr. Deveron M. Gibbons and Mr. W. Richard Johnston. Dr. Thomas E. Furlong, Jr., President of St. Petersburg College and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, was not in attendance. Mr. Joseph H. Lang, Board Attorney, was not required to be present. Proof of public notice of this meeting is included as part of these minutes. Notices were duly posted.

Invoice/Serial Number
10-01877

**GULF COAST
BUSINESS REVIEW**

Published Weekly
Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida

COUNTY OF PINELLAS

S.S.

STATE OF FLORIDA

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared Matt Walsh who on oath says that he is Publisher of the Gulf Coast Business Review, a weekly newspaper published at Clearwater in Pinellas County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement,

being a Notice of Meeting
in the matter of Notice of Special Meeting on March 3, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.

in the _____ Court, was published in said newspaper in the
issues of February 19, 2010

Affiant further says that the said Gulf Coast Business Review is a newspaper published at Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida, and that said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published and has been entered as periodicals matter at the Post Office in Clearwater in said Pinellas County, Florida, for a period of one year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that he has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in said newspaper.

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE**

The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College will hold a public meeting to which all persons are invited, commencing at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at the EpiCenter, Room 1-453, 13805 – 58th Street N, Largo, Florida. The meeting will be held for the sole purpose of the Board interviewing a presidential candidate. There are no rules being presented for adoption or amendment at this meeting.

A copy of the Agenda may be obtained by writing to the Board of Trustees in care of the Board Clerk, P. O. Box 13489, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33733, or calling the Board Clerk at (727) 341-3260.

If any person wishes to appeal a decision made with respect to any matter considered by the Board, he or she will need a record of the proceedings. It is the obligation of such person to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made. Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes.

Those planning to attend who have a disability and are in need of an auxiliary aid or other accommodation are requested to telephone (727) 341-3260 at least seven days before the meeting date so that their needs can be accommodated.

February 19, 2010 10-01877

Matt Walsh
Matt Walsh

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

19th day of February A.D. 2010,

by Matt Walsh, who is personally known to me.

Amanda Scott

Amanda Scott Notary Public, State of Florida
(SEAL)

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10-056. The meeting was convened by the chairman at 3:30 p.m.

10-057. In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the following Agenda was prepared:

Agenda

St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees
Special Meeting

3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 3, 2010
EpiCenter Conference Room (1-453)
13805 – 58th Street N., Largo

- | | | |
|------|--|----------------------------------|
| I. | Call to Order | Terrence E. Brett
Board Chair |
| II. | Opening Comments | Chairman Brett |
| III. | Interview of Presidential Candidate Finalist –

Dr. Paula Marie Gastenveld
Assistant to the Chancellor for Workforce Development
Academic & Student Affairs
Kentucky Community and Technical College System
Versailles, Kentucky | |
| IV. | Other Related Items of Interest from Board Members | |
| V. | Adjournment | Chairman Brett |

10-058. Dr. Paula Marie Gastenveld was welcomed by the Board as a presidential candidate for St. Petersburg College and, at Chairman Brett's request, she commented on her first impressions of SPC based on her visit thus far.

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10-059. The Board conducted an interview with Dr. Gastenveld. The following predetermined questions were presented for response:

1. Why did you apply to be president of St. Petersburg College?

Response: Has been monitoring SPC's progress for possible future opportunity; SPC's great reputation and entrepreneurial spirit; Florida location; family and home in Florida.

Follow-Up: Mr. Johnston sought further information on Dr. Gastenveld's change in position from Owensboro Community and Technical College (OCTC) to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTC) office.

Response: Explained the situation and the structure of the KCTC System.

2. If you become president, what will you concentrate on your first 30 days?

Response: State research; communication with faculty, staff, community leaders and the Board; look at strategic plan; get to know everyone; and meet legislators.

Follow-Up: Mr. Johnston sought comments on Dr. Gastenveld's entrepreneurial spirit to raise funds, including those through corporate training.

Response: Would think outside the box in continuing the mission of the College and bringing in permanent dollars to help meet needs of the students; always on the lookout for grant opportunities; need better marketing of corporate training to business and industry; shared entrepreneurial ideas.

3. Leaders talk a lot about their skill sets. What are the most prominent skills in your set?

Response: Good with budget; added to OCTC fund balance; inclusive and collaborative; good relationship-builder.

4. What do you expect in a board/president relationship, in consideration of the fact that Kentucky has a different reporting system?

Response: Two-way relationship; good communication to avoid surprises; notification from the Board of any rumblings; brutal honesty; Board guidance to community leaders; assurance that all are on the same page in moving the College forward and placing learning first; understanding that it is okay to disagree.

Follow-Up: Mr. Burke sought feedback on how to ensure all trustees, who are appointed by the Governor, are communicated with equally even though one or more may be favored.

Response: Important to build relationships individually and as a team.

Follow-Up: Mr. Burke inquired as to whether the president should have any opinion into the voting in of chairman and vice chairman for the Board's annual organizational meeting; also, whether she would consider a 3-2 vote on a president's recommendation a reflection on the president or a healthy Board debate.

Response: Worried a bit by the Sunshine Law; a smart and political president would work to put in the chair that they want; 3-2 vote would be considered a healthy Board debate and may

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not be strong enough to carry the matter forward, which may warrant bringing it back for further discussion.

5. St. Petersburg College has several campuses. How would you go about making people on all campuses feel valued and equal?

Response: Get to know people; walk the floors occasionally at all campuses; participate in campus activities and building relationships that faculty and staff feel are important; common book reading with faculty and staff.

Follow-Up: Mr. Brett inquired about additionally making students all feel valued and equal.

Response: Would do a “Pizza, Pop, and President” type event at each campus to seek student input on student-related initiatives, similar to what she did at OCTC’s three campuses.

6. How do you build a relationship with faculty?

Responded under Question #5.

7. What role have you played in fundraising at your college?

Response: At OCTC, provided leadership for fundraising; put together Institutional Advancement office. At Valencia, fundraising efforts with students; some at home for Foundation through relationships. Helped raise funds at every college of employment, as well as in the community.

Follow-Up: Mrs. Bilirakis inquired as to how much time Dr. Gastenveld is willing to put in as president, noting that the former president worked 24/7, and how would she delegate.

Response: Would put in more than 40 hours per week; ongoing job requiring availability; good administrators hired for delegation; sees herself as one who empowers, not a micro-manager.

8. Modern facilities are important for attracting students. What is your commitment to securing and maintaining the best facilities for SPC and ensuring that each building is meeting the expectations of the students and faculty?

Response: At Valencia, worked hard to improve student spaces and accomplished much in campus renovations. At OCTC, worked with faculty and staff to bring in positive changes to the campus decor and make student areas more engaging. Important to show community we have a sense of pride in what we do, and want students fully engaged. Such changes improve morale all the way around.

9. What experience have you had in working with local and state elected officials?

Response: To greatest extent, experience was with those in Kentucky; some experience with federal legislators.

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Follow-Up: Mr. Brett sought a comparison of Dr. Gastenveld's role as a Valencia Community College provost vs. that of president at OCTC in dealing with legislators.

Response: More experience with Frankfort than with Tallahassee; KCTC has a system-wide lobbyist; not one for each of the 16 colleges.

Follow-Up: Mr. Gibbons inquired as to any campus-specific programs that needed funding advocacy and how that was handled.

Response: Shared example of an issue that was lobbied for separately.

10 We asked you to comment on our baccalaureate degree programs in the DVD you submitted. Will you exert a full effort in support of these degrees? If not, explain why.

Response: KCTC System does not allow 4-year offerings at community colleges; after meeting SPC's former president, believes 4-year offerings are the community colleges' 21st Century way of answering workforce needs; important to keep mission and community needs at forefront; in favor of the baccalaureate program; long overdue, particularly in certain communities; many in Florida who want to attend college; need more opportunities for higher education; Valencia articulated with UCF during her employment for courses only, not programs, and is soon to be offering 4-year degrees.

10-060. Additional questions presented by the Board for response included the following:

Mr. Johnston: SPC has done a lot with the community, and its trustees are involved in the community. The next president has to learn the community and participate. In follow-up to your mention of the Chamber of Commerce, did you initiate working with that organization?

Response: As part of community involvement, was asked to participate in strategic planning; expects to be in the community often; will take a lot of work initially to become acquainted with community; will seek Board assistance.

Mr. Gibbons: A lot is required of the SPC president. At the end of the day, you are the College's chief sales person. How would you sell this College to your audience, whoever that may be, in one minute or less?

Response: Shared a quick, catchy sell of SPC.

Mr. Brett: References were contacted in regard to their opinion on your strengths and weaknesses, and the strength that stood out is "change agent." Is this true and, if so, why?

Response: Yes, when that needed to happen; worked to change structure and increase accountability; doesn't make changes just to make them; gets input from all faculty, staff, Board, community where necessary. In regard to SPC, would prevent mission stray; bring people together and focus on learning to ensure everything affects learning for students, faculty and

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staff; sees opportunity for working with American Stage for theater program, as well as partnering with other organizations.

Mr. Burke: Valencia is part of the League for Innovation and the Lumina Foundation's *Achieving the Dream* program. What was your involvement, if any, and why did OCTC not try to get the Lumina grant?

Response: League for Innovation Learning College began at Valencia before her employment, though during her tenure, it entailed focusing all efforts on learning. Worked closely with faculty and deans to implement *Achieving the Dream* at Valencia; OCTC did not pursue since Owensboro was not a very diverse community; under her tenure, diversity of faculty and staff increased.

Mrs. Bilirakis: Where did you grow up?

Response: Henderson, Kentucky. Background provided.

Mr. Johnston: In looking at strengths, does your honesty and upfront nature ever turn into a weakness with people?

Response: Any strength can become a weakness; important to be yourself and let others know what she is about; knows how to politic; wants to learn from her experiences, both good and bad.

Mr. Burke: In hindsight, what would you have done differently to perhaps have been more successful long-term at OCTC?

Response: Maybe better communication with Board as the new president; less trusting of certain people; followed first gut instinct to move staff; stayed true to desire to remain at Valencia and withdraw from OCTC presidency pool, even though she was pursued by OCTC to reapply.

Mr. Johnston commented that this will be a difficult transition; and the Board wants someone who is committed long-term.

10-061. Chairman Brett sought any further feedback from the candidate. Dr. Gastenveld commented on SPC's wonderful staff and facilities, noting she would love to be the next president. She encouraged the trustees to call her for any further communication and asked about their expectations of the new president in working with the Board. Mr. Johnston commented he felt it was not necessary for the Board to be involved in the day-to-day aspects of running the College, but more so with the main issues and concerns. Mr. Gibbons added that the next president should expect the Board to keep its "noses in and fingers out."

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10-062. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman thanked Dr. Gastenveld for her interest in this presidency.

10-063. Having no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Brett adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Terrence E. Brett

Chairman, Board of Trustees
St. Petersburg College
FLORIDA