

GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE
Aberdeen, Washington
Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
April 22, 2016

Members Present: Mr. Art Blauvelt, Dr. Harry Carthum, Ms. Rebecca Chaffee, Ms. Denise Portmann,
Ms. Fawn Sharp

Members Absent: None

Others: Dr. Ed Brewster, Ms. Jane Goldberg, Ms. Cindy Hough, Mr. Darin Jones,
Mr. Justin Kjolseth, Ms. Sandy Zelasko

1. Call to Order

Chair, Ms. Portmann called the meeting to order. Ms. Hough and Ms. Sharp participated by phone.

2. Public Comments

None

3. Executive Session

The Board entered into executive session at 11:02 a.m. for approximately thirty minutes. Under RCW 42.30.110, an executive session may be held for the purpose of receiving and evaluating complaints against or reviewing the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or reviewing the performance of a public employee; consultation with legal counsel regarding agency enforcement actions, or actual or potential agency litigation; considering the sale or acquisition of real estate; and/or reviewing professional negotiations.

The meeting was reconvened at 11:28 a.m.

4. Presidential Search Update

Mr. Blauvelt thanked the members of the Presidential Search Committee, faculty and staff who reviewed the applications, and helped to narrow the field down to four candidates. He said each of the four, Dr. Stephen Schoonmaker, Dr. Robert Mohrbacher, Dr. David Dauwalder and Dr. James Minkler are all excellent candidates and would be great additions to any college. Each of them brought different strengths. He stated the following:

Dr. Schoonmaker was a president of a small rural college that faced many of the same financial and economic challenges Grays Harbor College has.

Dr. Mohrbacher has worked his way up and been involved in community college activities in Pierce County and at Big Bend Community College.

Dr. Dauwalder has had an extensive career in higher education and would bring that experience to GHC.

Dr. Minkler has extensive experience in community colleges. He is currently at Spokane Falls Community College. He has a good relationship with faculty and lots of on the ground experience.

Each candidate made good presentations and it was a difficult decision for the Board. Mr. Blauvelt said, for him, his top candidate is Dr. Minkler.

Ms. Portmann said all the candidates had strengths and weaknesses and she agreed with Mr. Blauvelt's comments regarding Dr. Minkler. She noted that the consultants provided a significant amount of background checking on all of the candidates and the Board considered feedback from the campus forums.

Ms. Sharp said the presidential search process has been a learning experience for her. After reviewing the background checks and the information from the campus forums she agreed that Dr. Minkler is the best candidate of the four to be the next president of Grays Harbor College.

Dr. Carthum said he agreed with the other trustees' comments that all the candidates had strong reputations for integrity, participatory decision making and inclusive leadership styles. He thanked Mr. Jones, Ms. Krause and Ms. Goldberg for their assistance in the process. He said in his view Dr. Minkler is the strongest of the four candidates.

Mr. Blauvelt thanked Ms. Portman and Dr. Carthum for spearheading the process. He thanked Dr. Brewster for his years of dedication to the college and hopes that Dr. Minkler will carry on that dedication. He said the forums provided excellent information for the Board to consider.

Ms. Chaffee also thanked everyone involved in the process. She said she agreed that Dr. Minkler would be the best choice and that he will take us from where we are today and move us forward.

Mr. Blauvelt made a motion to authorize the chair of the Board of Trustees to offer the position of President of Grays harbor College to Dr. James Minkler, and to negotiate a contract for review and approval by the Board of Trustees at the earliest opportunity. Dr. Carthum seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Portmann contacted Dr. Minkler and he gave her a verbal acceptance of the offer to be the next president of Grays Harbor College.

5. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Edward J. Brewster, Secretary

Denise Portmann, Chair