



Kane County

KC Committee of the Whole

Meeting Minutes

Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

4:00 PM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman Pierog called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

2. Roll Call

After Roll Call, an in-person quorum was not established. This meeting was for informational purposes only. (Committee Member Gumz arrived at 4:06 p.m.)

PRESENT	Board Member Dale Berman Board Member Michelle Gumz Board Member Mo Iqbal Board Member Leslie Juby Board Member Michael Kenyon Board Member Chris Kious Board Member Anita Lewis Board Member Bill Roth Board Member Cheryl Strathmann Board Member Bill Tarver Board Member Vern Tepe Chairman Corinne M. Pierog
REMOTE	Board Member Deborah Allan Board Member Gary Daugherty Board Member Michael Linder Board Member Myrna Molina Board Member Monica Silva Board Member Clifford Surges Board Member Rick Williams
ABSENT	Board Member Mavis Bates Board Member Mark Davoust Board Member Ron Ford Board Member Bill Lenert Board Member Jarett Sanchez Board Member David Young

Also present: ITD staff Kash; KCROE Superintendent Pat Dal Santo & Asst. Superintendent Deanna Oliver; State's Attorney staff Cermak, Shepro, Hunt*; and members of the press and public including Elgin Community College President Dr. David Sam & Dean of Sustainability Dr. Cathy Taylor, ECC Board of Trustees Shane Nowak, Jennifer Rakow, and Waubensee Community College President Dr. Brian Knetl.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

Chairman Pierog announced the remote attendance requests for today's informational meeting. She asked the Committee Members present if there were any objections to County Board Members Allan, Daugherty, Linder, Molina, Silva, Surges, and Williams attending today's meeting remotely. There were no objections.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Pierog asked Committee Member Allan to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes: September 26, 2023, January 10, 2024, February 8, 2024, March 26, 2024, April 23, 2024, and May 28, 2024

An in-person quorum was not established for today's meeting. All meeting minutes will be held until next month's Committee of the Whole meeting for approval.

6. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

None.

7. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

None.

8. Presentations/Discussion**A. Manufacturing and Technology Center (Dr. David Sam, President, & Dr. Cathy Taylor, Dean of Sustainability, Elgin Community College)**

Chairman Pierog stated that the upcoming presentation will share the innovative ways local community colleges are training the next generation to build Kane County's workforce.

Elgin Community College (ECC) President, Dr. David Sam, introduced his team; Board of Trustees' Vice Chairman Jennifer Rakow and the Board of Trustees' Secretary Shane Nowak. Sam shared the lessons learned thru the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the disruptions within the supply chain. He spoke on the trending history of enrollees to ECC. He stated that before the pandemic, they were able to predict the amount of enrollees based on the economy. Presently, they are seeing enrollment decrease but have numerous students that are on waiting lists to learn a trade. This new trend brought ECC to the realization of the need for a new Manufacturing and Technology Center. Dr. Sam introduced ECC's Dean of Sustainability, Dr. Cathy Taylor.

Dr. Taylor provided a presentation on the new ECC Manufacturing and Technology Center. She spoke on the ECC Facility Master Plan and how the need for this center was addressed. She reviewed the characteristics of the new Manufacturing and Technology Center, such as being a 150K square foot building and expansion of programs. She shared the two-story building floor plan. (Committee Member Iqbal arrived at 4:19 p.m.) Taylor presented numerous photos depicting the exterior facade, lobby and common space, and classrooms and instructional lab space of the facility. The groundbreaking of this new facility is scheduled for September 2024, with an anticipated occupancy of August 2026.

Dr. Sam reviewed the goals of the Manufacturing and Technology Center. He shared the funding of the new center. He spoke on the demand for these types of trainings and the lack of space and technology that ECC currently has. The overall project will cost approximately \$80M, with an excess amount of \$27M earmarked with ECC funds, \$28M appropriated in the FY25 State of Illinois budget, and \$55M in Alternative Revenue Source Bonds that are anticipated to conduct bond offerings in September 2024. Dr. Sam and Dr. Taylor addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

B. Auto Tech and New Technical Education Center (Dr. Brian Knetl, President, Waubonsee Community College)

Waubonsee Community College (WCC) President, Dr. Brian Knetl, spoke on Auto Tech and the new Technical Education Center. He recalled a book from 2023 called, *America's Hidden Economic Engines: How Community Colleges Can Drive Shared Prosperity*. The book is a case study of five community colleges and how they can contribute to the regional economy by responding to local workforce needs. At WCC, they prioritize playing an essential role in strengthening and expanding pathways to economic mobility through developing an educated workforce, such as transfer and workforce development programs. Knetl stated that WCC's ability to offer state of the art workforce education is linked to having resources, capacity, up-to-date facilities and equipment, and educational resources. Due to a rapidly changing workforce, there has been an increase and ongoing need for modernization to stay relevant in WCC's programs. Knetl shared his excitement for the development of the new WCC Technical Education Center, opening in Fall 2025 at the Sugar Grove Campus. The addition of this new center will position WCC to meet the ongoing and evolving challenges of educating future students in various workforce programs. Knetl stated that the new center is a 100K square-foot, \$60M facility, that will house the Auto Technician Program, Auto Collision and Refinishing Program, and the Welding Program. Additionally, it will have general classroom spaces, offices, and a common space that can serve as a gathering place for hosting industry partners, high school students, advisory committees. The new facility will allow WCC to offer more cohorts of the programs and the size of each to serve more students and meeting workforce needs. Knetl explained that the new spaces are designed to allow for experiential learning, mirroring what graduates will experience in the workforce. He reviewed the circumstances on which this new facility came to be. He spoke on the increased enrollment and lack of space for students. He shared the future projections of these trade careers and the need for the new space. He reviewed the characteristics and new innovative classes of this new Technical Education Center. Knetl spoke on the Auto Technician Program and the national recognition it has received. He stated that WCC will continue to look for new opportunities and potential uses of the empty space within the new building, such as expanding or modernizing existing programs. WCC will continue to listen to the community and the workforce to expand their program areas. The key for WCC and other colleges is to stay connected, stay informed, and collaborate with partners to develop, respond to, and validate more workforce programs that are tailored to meet the specific needs of the regional economy. Dr. Knetl addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

C. Kane County Schools - Job Training Offerings (Superintendent Pat Dal Santo & Asst. Superintendent Deanna Oliver, Regional Office of Education)

Kane County's Regional Office of Education (KCROE) Superintendent, Pat Dal Santo spoke on the recent trend of schools offering vocation-lead classes versus the four-year college route, due to high tuition costs. There are many vocations that students can train for and could make a higher salary than those that went to a four-year university. Dal Santo introduced KCROE's Asst. Superintendent, Deanna Oliver.

Oliver provided a presentation on Kane County's Career & Technical Education Programs. She listed the four types of career/job training programs that are available in Kane County schools: Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE) Education for Employment Service Region Programs, Kane County School District Based Career & Technical Education Courses and Programs, Regional Work Experience Cooperative Education Program, and Special Education Transition Programs. She stated that the ISBE divides the state amongst 46 service regions. These divisions are based on serving local community colleges. Kane County's Education for Employment (EFE) Service Regions are Valley Education for Employment System and Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System. The Valley Education for Employment System (VALEES) is a regional delivery system which serves 17 school districts, two area career/vocational centers, one special education cooperative, and Waubensee Community College, covering a five-county area. VALEES provides technical support and coordinates events for school programs and career center. Oliver reviewed the numerous districts VALEES serves. She shared the number of programs supported by the Fox Valley Career Center, such as automotive technology, cosmetology, fire science, and welding. She stated the Northern Kane EFE is a collaboration of regional school districts for the administration and coordination of K-12 Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Exploration programs. Oliver reviewed the numerous districts and programs the Northern Kane EFE supports. She reviewed the school based career and technical education programs that are offered throughout the county. She shared tables depicting the Kane County Career and Technical Education Programs and the schools offering the programs throughout the County. Oliver reviewed the Regional Work Experience Cooperative Education Program (RWECEP). The RWECEP is designed for those students who are enrolled in a Regional Safe School Program that elect to participate in the work program. It entails courses to develop soft and job search skills and provides teachers who support new job experiences, job shadowing, and internships. Oliver provided information on the Special Education Transition Programs. Illinois state law requires schools to begin transition planning for students with an Individual Education Programs (IEPs) at age 14.5. She listed the numerous ways Kane County's ROE is connected to CTE, such as work permits, Institute Day offerings related to CTE for educators, and culinary arts and DJ classes at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC). She provided several websites to learn more information about these programs. Oliver addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

9. Executive Session

An in-person quorum was not established for today's meeting. The Executive Session to discuss the release of Closed Session Minutes was postponed until next month's Committee of the Whole meeting.

A. Release of Closed Session Minutes

10. Open Session

None.

A. Vote on Release of Closed Session Minutes

An in-person quorum was not established for today's meeting. The vote to release Closed Session Minutes was postponed until next month's Committee of the Whole meeting.

11. Adjournment

This informational meeting ended at 5:24 PM.

Savannah Valdez
Sr. Recording Secretary