



The Peninsula's Community College

Thomas Nelson Community College Board

**Tuesday, November 10, 2020
Special Called Electronic Meeting
5:00 p.m.**

MINUTES NO. 436

PRESENT:

Ms. Mary Bunting	Mr. Augustus Owens
Mr. Michael Kuhns	Ms. Elizabeth Tai
Mr. John McMillan	Mr. Scott VanVoorhees (Arrived later)
Ms. Mary Ann Maimone (Arrived later)	Dr. Donna Woods
Mr. Allan Melton	

ABSENT:

Ms. Izabela Cieszynski
Mr. Jonathan Romero
Dr. Joyce Jarrett
Dr. Vince Warren

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Mr. Franz Albertini, Workforce Development
Dr. Ursula Bock, Communications, Humanities & Social Sciences
Dr. Porter Brannon, TNCC President-elect
Mr. Steven R. Carpenter, Finance & Administration
Ms. Erica Charity, Office of the President
Mr. Rick Dollieslager, Faculty
Dr. Gregory DeCinque, President
Ms. Beth Dickens, Mid-Level Managers
Dr. Monette Dutch, TRiO, Student Support Services
Dr. Ann Evans, Faculty
Dr. Janelle Faison, Faculty
Mr. Steven Felker, Institutional Research and Effectiveness
Ms. Yvette Franklin, Faculty
Ms. Keyanna Hawkins, College Support Staff Association
Ms. Dawn Hayden, Faculty
Mr. Richard Hurst, Office of Student Success
Mr. Paul Long, Director of Emergency Management, Public Safety, Allied Health and Human Services
Ms. Sarah Linden-Brooks, Faculty
Ms. Lynsey LeMay, Faculty
Dr. Kris Rarig, Student Affairs
Dr. Scott Reid, Faculty
Ms. Stacey Schneider, Faculty
Dr. Pengfei Song, Faculty

Mr. Ted Tweel, Student Affairs
Ms. Eve Walker, Learning Resources
Dr. Lauren Williams, Academic Affairs

1. Call to Order

Mr. Michael Kuhns called the meeting to order

Roll Call

By roll call vote in open session, the following members were in attendance:

Ms. Mary Bunting
Mr. Michael Kuhns
Mr. John McMillan
Mr. Allan Melton
Mr. Augustus Owens
Ms. Elizabeth Tai
Dr. Donna Woods

2. Board Chair Comments

There were no comments from the Chair

3. Presentation: History of Thomas Nelson and Others who Buildings are Named After

Ms. Callaway introduced Professor Stacey Schneider who along with Dr. Lauren Williams researched our facility and college namesakes. Professor Schneider developed an outstanding presentation that the College and Facilities Name Committee, and the President's Expanded Cabinet have all received. There are four board members on the committee, and they all recommended and agreed that this presentation should be delivered in its totality to the College Board.

Professor Schneider provided a summary of her background and stated that she realizes that this might be the most important thing she does in her Thomas Nelson career.

Ms. Schneider's research focuses on the buildings named during the 60s and 70s and is judgement free so people can make their own well-informed decisions.

- ❖ Ms. Schneider suggested approaching this task with a spirit that change is okay and provided a few examples of good changes. Libraries removed card catalogues, in 1968 TNCC students weren't gators, they were "swamp stompers", the circle of flags used to represent the 13 original colonies, and in 1982 a \$14,000 computer was not as fast as most smart phones. Institutional change can be good.
- ❖ In 1966 two names were in early contention for the new institution – George Wythe Community College & Peninsula Community College. By 1968 the name Thomas Nelson was selected by the College Board.

- ❖ At that time, the College Board was hoping to celebrate Thomas Nelson because he was the following:
 - Leading Businessman in Yorktown
 - Member of The House of Burgesses
 - Early Patriot – Participated in Virginia’s Tea Party
 - Used His Own Money and Raised Funds for The Revolutionary Cause
 - Signer of The Declaration of Independence
 - General of Virginia Militia
 - Possibly Lent Virginia Funds to Prosecute War (never recovered)
 - Served as Wartime Governor of Virginia

- ❖ When looking through a 1960s lens he looks good. Ms. Schneider showed a promotion / commercial for Thomas Nelson Community College from 1992 and how we embraced the Thomas Nelson legacy.

- ❖ In 1974 the College Board agreed that all campus buildings would be named after “close contemporaries” of Thomas Nelson. (TNCC College Board Minutes, 8/22/74 – pg. 2) The College President, Dr. G.O. Cannon was asked to bring four possible names for buildings.

- ❖ Ms. Schneider reviewed the namesakes of Thomas Nelson Community College, Wythe Hall, Harrison Hall, Griffin Hall, Moore Hall, and Diggs Hall.

Professor Schneider asked if there were any questions and offered to answer questions if board members had questions later. She volunteered to make her research available to anyone who wanted to see it.

Ms. Callaway explained the next steps will be sharing this information with a broader group including the community. The College and Facilities Name Committee has a sub-committee chaired by Ms. Clifton. This Outreach Sub-Committee has identified several community leaders to present this presentation. A survey is being created to be sent to all the various internal and external stakeholders. The historical data will be posted on our website so it will be available for everyone looking to respond to the survey and for their own interest to be able to hear and see Professor Schneider's presentation. Survey results along with recommendations will then be brought to the College Board.

4. **Public Comment**

There were no public comments

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p. m.

Next College Board Meeting: December 16, 2020, 5:00 p.m.