



Rowan College
at
BURLINGTON COUNTY

ROWAN COLLEGE AT BURLINGTON COUNTY

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**

Tues., August 19, 2025

**Host: Mount Laurel Campus, Student Success Center
Graduation Conference Room 138
900 College Circle
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054**

MINUTES

Sean Kennedy:

Welcome. We'll call this meeting to order. Can you please stand for the flag?

Group:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Sean Kennedy:

Thank you. Can we have roll call, please?

Leidalis Cardona:

Mr. Kevin Brown?

Kevin Brown:

Here.

Leidalis Cardona:

Dr. Darvis Holly?

Leidalis Cardona:

Mr. Ramesh Jayaram?

Ramesh Jayaram:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona:

Mr. Sean Kennedy?

Sean Kennedy:

Present.

Leidalis Cardona:

Ms. Patty Kolodi?

Patty Kolodi:

Here.

Leidalis Cardona:

Dr. Daryl Minus-Vincent?

Leidalis Cardona:

Mr. Dorion Morgan.

Dorion Morgan:

Here.

Leidalis Cardona:

Mr. Gino Pasqualone.

Gino Pasqualone:

Here.

Leidalis Cardona:

Mr. Mickey Quinn.

Leidalis Cardona:

Ms. Jannine Veasy?

Jannine Veasy:

Here.

Leidalis Cardona:

Dr. Anthony C. Wright?

Dr. Anthony Wright:

Here.

Sean Kennedy:

Just confirming. I was just talking to the president. There's no one present online, right? Just making sure. Okay.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

That is correct.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay. Statement of compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

Jeanne Paulsen:

Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Burlington College, Burlington County sent an advertisement on January 14th, 2025 to the Burlington County Times, The Courier Post, The Trenton Times, setting forth the date, time, and location of the regular meetings with Board of Trustees and which votes within seven days posted on the college website and sent to the Burlington County Clerk.

Sean Kennedy:

Thank you. Correspondence?

Dr. Michael Cioce:

None. Same book for the president's office.

Sean Kennedy:

None? Okay. Thank you. Regular monthly meeting. Approval of minutes from June 17th, 2025. Is there a motion to approve?

Dorion Morgan:

So moved.

Patty Kolodi:

Second.

Sean Kennedy:

Motion's been made and seconded. All those in favor?

Group:

Aye.

Sean Kennedy:

Passes. President's Report.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would ask that we take a moment of silence to start the RCBC family. In the last month, the incoming SGA President, Isaac Feil, who many of the folks in this room had a chance to meet as part of our governance process, sadly passed away and despite there being standing room only at his service because it was evident that he was clearly loved, there was a strong representation from members of the campus community that were there too. Additionally, looking back to this institution's history, one of our founding trustees and one of our Trustee at Maritime, Judge Victor Friedman, passed away in the last month as well. I would ask that you take a moment of silence for those two. Thank you.

If you were outside at all today, it definitely feels like fall and I encourage you to look outside the window for the next six days because it's not going to be as quiet as it is today. One week from today, our fall semester starts, so I know faculty, some of them have woke back up. I see them in the room, so good to see that you're still alive, gang. Last year when we started, so we were sitting at

6300 students on the first day of the classes. As of last night, we have 6,100 students already registered. From a pacing perspective, about 9% ahead of where we were a week out. That bodes well if things continue to trend in that direction. There will be at least 6,000 students. I mean, maybe some of them will be online, but that is good.

I did get late breaking news, so this is not included in the written report, but we did get word earlier today. I saw Anthony in the room that our WIOA program. We are a recipient of WIOA funds for our ABE program. That is our adult basic education program that allows non-high school graduates to earn their credential on this campus and we have a couple of partner sites off campus. July 3rd was a Thursday and Washington DC notified all 50 states that that money was going to be held with no further guidance. We got word officially today that the funding is being released and it is retro to 7/1. I'm glad we didn't put you in a furlough, Anthony. There's statistics that need to be worked out, so more to come on that, but it's important that the Title II funds continue to flow for the population that benefits the most.

As I mentioned in the report, the semester starts on the 27th, on the 26th actually, so one week from today is Tuesday. The semester starts on Wednesday. On Monday, the provost office will host the faculty welcome back, so officially, there's a full day of programming and professional development for the academic folks. The semester starts on Wednesday, but on Tuesday the 26th, there's a couple of things going on. As I communicated to everyone in the committee meetings, there is a welcome back barbecue that everyone's invited to. The time is five?

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Three to five. If you're able to join us, we can meet with new students, their families and get that last hot dog before Labor Day. Although if you have a hot dog after, I probably wouldn't know, but you can get one here. Earlier in the day, as follow up that's been communicated and from events that took place earlier in the fall and the spring, Middle States is sending their small visit team with respect to the two standards that they wish to do a deeper dive on. Those are standard two, ethics and integrity and standard seven, governance, leadership and administration. The campus community has been provided their windows of time when the small team would like to meet with them, as has the trustees that are available. There's a picnic, there's that. There's the unveiling of our new Barry mascot as well. We have fun stuff, we have serious stuff and we have stuff in between. If you haven't yet told us you're coming, please do.

Maybe the most important thing that finally got finalized in the last week or earlier this month was actually the finalization around the governor's budget as has been communicated now every year pretty much, there was a reduction in March to what the county college sector was going to receive. This year, it was a 12% reduction because of support in both the Assembly and the Senate and community members. RCBC typically ranks second or first with the number of responses that we send to our legislators. The final budget that was adopted 7/1 did include the restoration of those funds. That's great news, right? \$20 million gets restored. Problem is, it's the same amount of funding that it was in fiscal 25 and the same amount of funding that it was in fiscal 24. 169 million split 18 ways for the last three years. Healthcare is up 23% this year. Utilities are up this year. Everything else is up except for the state appropriation.

The good news for RCBC for the third year in a row, we have gotten a larger slice of that pie. Despite the funding being flat, we received 10.2 million in FY 24.

We received 10.6 million in FY 25 and we received 11.3 and FY 26. I had two presidents call me last week because they wanted to know what we were doing. We remain the number one county college in the state in the awarding of degrees and certificates. We awarded more certificates by themselves than all other community colleges combined. Our adult enrollment was up 8.8% while overall adult enrollment decreased statewide by 6.7%. There's eight categories and RCBC's final number in six of those were up from a year ago, so it'd be easy to say, "Oh, it was all me," but the formula was mostly me, but the work that gets done here in the classroom, in the support services, in the back house operations is why in a third flat year in a row, we are getting another increase. I congratulate the entire campus community on that.

In housecleaning items, I know we're starting a year and we have that amazing ceremony back in May where the Freedom Morgan CEO promised laptops. He came through on his delivery, so a pallet of \$1,000 deals were delivered here and registration staff and staff from the president's office handed out all 167 to the deserving graduates. A lot of happy folks there. I will give you a roadmap of items that I mentioned August 26th, so Barry reuniting, semester celebration. College is closed on September 1st and then this body is back at it on September 16th here, 5:30 P.M. I'll pause there and ask if there are any questions.

Dr. Anthony Wright:

President Cioce?

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Yes sir.

Dr. Anthony Wright:

Has there been protocols submitted for the Middle States upcoming visit?

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Protocols as far as?

Dr. Anthony Wright:

What they're looking for, questions or anything like that?

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Not questions yet. The tentative schedule was that they're in receipt of documentation. They are in receipt of third party comments, so folks that were either eyewitnesses to the events that were cited in the press in the fall and the spring have provided feedback. Feedback has been redacted and provided to the college as well. There's an opportunity for anyone who believes that they have something to add to submit. But as far as their interview protocol or the specific questions that they're going to ask, they have not provided that yet. They've provided the names of the small visit team and told us that they'll be in New Jersey on Monday and ready to rock 9:00 AM Tuesday.

Dr. Anthony Wright:

Thank you.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Sure. All right. Then, I'm returning back to you, Mr. Chair.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay, thank you. No, the only thing I'll add, I thought you touched on it, but I'm not going to thank all of them, but some of you guys might not realize, one of very few counties in the state that have bipartisan senate leadership. So I consider both Senator Tiver and Senator Singleton friends, so I appreciate the effort that they did in restoring those funds. I know we had a lot of discussions in committee meetings where that was by no means a four-month conclusion and we were concerned about the outcome, so I'll piggyback what the president said and obviously, I know a lot of assembly members as well, but again, I think we're one of the unique counties because we have both a Republican and a Democrat senators. I know that they've worked together to get that done, so certainly appreciative speaking on behalf of the board. Thank you.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Sure.

Sean Kennedy:

Foundation report?

Dr. Michael Cioce:

There is invites that have been circulated at this juncture. The date that has been circulated is September 18th, so this will be the second RCBC giving day. There will be an opportunity online to support. Last year, we raised \$12,000 and it was the first time that they ever did that, so 12,000 in one day. We now have a goal to eclipse that. Lindsay and any of the foundation members that are listening, I won't double the goal at this juncture, but the bar was set last year, so that is the immediate item on the horizon. There was a call for proposals to the campus community for things that did not make the budget process because as we thought in March, we thought there was significant cuts and there are still significant cuts and increases. The foundation in recent years has pivoted to avail monies to initiatives that are supportive of things directly impacting our students, so not scholarships per se.

With the increase in evolution of the community college opportunity grant these last few years, the amount of unmet need from a student bill perspective has shifted, probably going to shift again because CCOG is being gutted in real time as well, but the \$65,000 adjusted gross income has remained and there's sort of legacy options for folks who have started their undergraduate careers while the bold thresholds were in place. At this point, the foundation is finalizing the initiatives that were requested. A lot of people ask for things and there's things that made the cut and there's things that are still under review and there's things that were declined at this juncture. When I have that full report, we'll ask some of the recipients of those monies to come and maybe present to this group on how those dollars have changed some of the cool stuff that they can do in the classroom or how it's impacted the students in their majors, et cetera.

Sean Kennedy:

Thank you.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Sure.

Sean Kennedy:

Any questions for the foundation? Okay. Finance and Facilities?

Dorion Morgan:

Thank you, Mr. President. The Finance and Facilities Committee met last Tuesday and as a result, we have seven tabs for the board's consideration. I'm going to read all seven and then ask for one motion at the end. Tab one is to approve and ratify requested business related travel. Tab two is to approve and ratify certain agreements and contracts. Tab three is authorizing continued participation in the consortium led by Ocean County College to enter into an inter-local services agreement for the purchase of primary and secondary service electricity from Constellation New Energy for a two-year term in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 for fiscal year 2026.

Tab four is authorizing participation in buy bond purchasing cooperatives to utilize for bags, purchasing needs of the college. Tab five is to approve renewals of the agreement software House International and Incorporated for Microsoft Office and other Microsoft software and services for a three-year fiscal year period with a total amount not to exceed \$111,170.53 to approve of a payment of \$34,244.25 for fiscal year 2026. Tab six is to approve a contract with Course Dog to provide cloud-based curriculum management software for a three-year period in the amount of \$141,418. Tab seven is to ratification of a change order from contract with Alaska Mechanical Incorporated for [inaudible 00:21:48] an HVAC placement project in the amount of \$164,595.59. I at this time request a motion to approve all the tabs.

Gino Pasqualone:

Mr. Chairman, if you would continue, I'd like to make a motion to remove a tab before we continue on and adding onto tab two, remove for further discussion on one section of tab two to approve a contract to Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick Raspanti, LLP for professional services beginning October 1st, 2025 through September 30th, 2026 for the further discussion. I'll make a motion.

Sean Kennedy:

Point of order in which I request a motion.

Gino Pasqualone:

Motion to remove.

Sean Kennedy:

To remove?

Gino Pasqualone:

Yes, for the discussion.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Point of order, Mr. Vice Chair. You raised this item at the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting, so I'm not entirely clear as there should be no questions, but we did agree to have your conflict counsel in attendance tonight. Bill Burns is here. The opinion that was previously circulated, he was

specifically requested to be here by the group, so I'm including the entire committee members and since he is here and did rearrange the schedule to be here, I would ask that he-

Sean Kennedy:

That's fine. Is he here?

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Yep.

Sean Kennedy:

Council, you come up.

Gino Pasqualone:

Before you start, hold on sir. I wanted to remove it because regardless of what counsel is presenting us, there is no document to review. Was that dollars and cents? There's nothing here for us to go over. Until there's further discussion for the board to absorb, I wanted to remove for further discussion, but either way, I make a motion to remove that section of tab two.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Again, I have a question, just a question for you, Gino. By that same logic, there's no contracts in the entire board book for any of the other items, so-

Gino Pasqualone:

I'm sorry.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

No, no, I'm just asking. I'll reiterate the question that I asked you in committee and it is, what is your basis? What are your questions? Every board member that was present on April 1st was provided a response. There was no follow-up, there was no questions, so the continued challenging in addition to the antics that had unfortunately transpired last week, we asked collectively to have Mr. Burns in attendance tonight for if there were questions. Darvis had questions, he was provided follow up. He acknowledged receipt. Sean had questions over the last couple of days. I've responded to his questions. You're saying that there's no contract but there's never been a contract included in board prep or board materials ever. If that needs to change, fine, but my question to you is, with Mr. Burns in attendance tonight-

Sean Kennedy:

Mr. President, I suppose, you've made a motion. I had made a commitment to the president that we would allow this at the board meeting. I don't see any reason to change it. Yeah, you're fully within your rights to make the motion. I think it's my prerogative to allow Mr. Burns to at least make that case. Right. I think that was the commitment that we would at least have a discussion.

Evan Crook:

Can we be clear about what Mr. Burns is particularly here for? Because it was my understanding he was here to explain his opinion in regard to the retention of this law firm. Is that correct?

Sean Kennedy:

Well, he had issued a memo earlier. I think that was what came up in the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. As long as he's speaking on that, I have no problem.

Evan Crook:

I think that's what the committee, at least part of what the Finance Committee wanted.

Sean Kennedy:

Correct, correct. Yes.

Evan Crook:

Mr. Burns, please proceed.

Mr. Burns:

Well, there's two, there's an initial opinion that was dated November, 2024 and there's a follow up memorandum that I believe is dated in March of 2025 that was in direct response of this board's question. I believe that that is why I'm here. Both of those contained attorney-client privilege and legal advice, so if the board would like me to discuss the same here, the board would have to affirm and waive the privilege because the privilege belongs to the board.

Jannine Veasy:

I thought we were going to go into-

Evan Crook:

If it's not been put on the agenda as a closed session later, but I do think it's inappropriate to proceed at this point. That would be my recommendation to the board that if it's intended to be a discussion of attorney-client privilege, it needs to go into closed session, which would have to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

No, a motion could be made tonight to enter into closed session.

Evan Crook:

It would be highly unusual not giving the adequate notice to the public, which is normally 48 hours.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

It's not the first time you've done it. There's nothing highly unusual about it.

Evan Crook:

No, I understand you disagree with me.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

It's not about disagreement.

Evan Crook:

That's my recommendation.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Well, you are patient zero on the conflict on this, Mr. Crook. I think the challenge is, it's not highly unusual if there's an emergent need and the conversation that we had that Sean's affirming was that we would have, to Jannine's question, was that, I don't want to put words in your mouth because I was watching your lips move. You said, "I thought there was a need for closed session."

Jannine Veasy:

Yes.

Evan Crook:

All right, well I've given my opinion. The board is free to follow or disagree with my recommendation.

Sean Kennedy:

What's your recommendation, counsel? I'm sorry.

Evan Crook:

My recommendation is that to the extent this discussion's going upon attorney client privilege, it has to be in closed session which hasn't been properly noticed as part of the agenda for tonight and therefore, it being inappropriate to proceed and should be carried to the next meeting.

Sean Kennedy:

Can you discuss any portion of your memo, memorandum, memorandi, without going into closed session?

Mr. Burns:

Not without the board waiving the attorney client privilege because it was literally written after request and for legal advice.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Or making a motion to enter into closed session. Those are the options.

Evan Crook:

Which, again, I have to remind the board that you have an obligation to the public give proper notice which hasn't occurred in regard to this particular issue.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Given the folks that were attributed to you in the Pine Barrens Tribune in October, I will.

Evan Crook:

Well, first of all, I completely dispute those but that has no relevance whatsoever to this.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

You were- [inaudible 00:28:59]

Gino Pasqualone:

Mr. Chairman, I will amend my motion to discuss, with the advice from counsel, to discuss this portion of tab two in closed session of the next meeting. I make a motion.

Sean Kennedy:

Of the next meeting? Not tonight?

Gino Pasqualone:

I'm taking the advice of counsel.

Patty Kolodi:

Now, can I ask, is this of a timely matter that we should have closed session tonight as opposed to putting it off? I'm not totally sure I understand all that's going on because I'm not on your committee, but it sounds like if it's a timely matter that needs to be settled or discussed so that we can move forward, shouldn't we have a closed session tonight. I mean, I don't know, is it timely or not? That's what I'm asking.

Dorion Morgan:

As the chair of both the Finance and Facilities Committee, the issue is this, you're right. There's timeliness to this that needs to happen. However, in all candor, the contract is for October 1st. We do have another meeting prior to October 1st. However, as was discussed in our Finance and Facilities Committee meeting, we asked for our conflict attorney to be here. We're paying for him to be here. I think it becomes a waste of college funds to request someone to get here for a meeting and then he gets here and we decide, oops, we missed something, so we're going to pay you to be here for nothing. That being said, my suggestion would be to, if we need to have a closed session tonight because that was discussed, a possible closed session, that was discussed in our meeting a week ago, we should make that motion, do what we have to do tonight, make whatever decisions we need to make tonight so that we can move.

Gino Pasqualone:

My motion was-

Dorion Morgan:

His motion is still out there.

Gino Pasqualone:

Right. My motion was still out there. The reason why for that motion, I do not want to violate any, I don't know the ins and outs of what's violating what

anymore here, but counsel just said that there was a 48 hour notice. If that is accurate, then my motion stands.

Dorion Morgan:

Is that required, counsel? I'm just asking, is that required or is that just

Evan Crook:

As has been discussed, under emergency circumstances, you can waive the 48 hours.

Dorion Morgan:

Okay.

Evan Crook:

I don't believe this rises to that level, but that's ultimately the board's call.

Dorion Morgan:

Okay. It is allowed. It's just not normal. We need to decide whether we feel like it's emergent enough to do tonight or not.

Gino Pasqualone:

Since there's an October 1st effective date, I don't think it is. I don't think we can argue the fact that if someone presents it that was this emergent or not, with what's in front of me in two lines, October 1st. To me, there is enough time.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Mr. Vice Chair, given that the contract is specifically for the representation of myself related to ongoing and still yet unresolved CEPA allegations with this board, I do think that there is a little bit more time sensitivity. There are no questions. Every question that you have cited has been responded to. So we asked Bill to be here explicitly to go over for the full board, for the folks who are not members of the Finance and Facilities Committee, to have the discussion, whether it was closed, whether it was open, whether it's emergent, whether it's unprecedented, it's not unprecedented, it's not emergent. There is a need given that you are still not mollified based upon the documentation that's been provided to you. I mean, again, you were provided 185 pages worth of documentation in April and I received no questions to those, no comments, no pushback. There are no questions. Bill's here if there are questions, which is what I believe was agreed to in the committee last week.

Mr. Burns:

If I may, just not addressing this, but it was made clear to me through the officer present that there was a specific request for me personally to attend this meeting tonight. I actually rearranged my schedule and sought coverage for other meetings so I can be here so the board could ask whatever questions they want to see. Frankly, having it rescheduled at this minute, not that it really matters, would be a significant inconvenience for that February meeting or the September meeting because I'd be in the untenable position of rearranging the schedule again for the pre-scheduled meetings. As the board is well aware, I do not typically attend these meetings of special counsel, but again, I defer to the board and counsel.

Jannine Veasy:

Can I ask a question

Sean Kennedy:

Please, of course.

Jannine Veasy:

Mr. Burns, to clarify please, could you, for everyone, I'm sorry.

Mr. Burns:

No, no.

Jannine Veasy:

I guess in the conflict with the solicitor that-

Evan Crook:

First, ma'am, I'd go on record, that is from the Malamut's position and the position of the majority of this board is at this point, no such conflict exists, but please proceed.

Jannine Veasy:

For the need for the extra attorney office and where that falls because Darvis did ask at our Finance and Facilities about the JIF insurance covering an attorney. Where does that fall?

Mr. Burns:

Well, we're getting verified.

Evan Crook:

I would suggest, ma'am, that you're now asking special counsel to answer question that should be directed at me as counsel.

Jannine Veasy:

Oh, I'm sorry.

Sean Kennedy:

Let's ask for board advice.

Evan Crook:

I wasn't at the meeting. [inaudible 00:35:21].

Sean Kennedy:

I just want to make sure nothing is asked that requires us to go in post session.

Jannine Veasy:

Right.

Sean Kennedy:

That's all.

Jannine Veasy:

Right, no, just in general.

Evan Crook:

In general, one of the issues I believe needs to be addressed also is a very issue you're raising, which is, what happened with the insurance commission, what should have happened with the insurance commission, what's necessary going forward to deal with that? I don't think Mr. Burns, with all due respect, is qualified to answer that, nor should he, since my firm is the solicitor to the board at this point in time. Do you want to pose that question to me and have me give you advice? I'd be glad to look at it and give you an opinion.

Jannine Veasy:

Okay.

Member of the Public:

Could we hear what the question was?

Jannine Veasy:

No, I'm just asking the outline, the structure of why the third attorney is needed.

Sean Kennedy:

Counsel, you're not allowed to discuss the memo that was shared with us unless we go into closed session. Do I understand that correctly?

Mr. Burns:

There's two options. You affirmatively waive attorney client privilege with respect to that memo, November memo and the March memo. I have absolutely no problem answering anybody's question with respect to what is included in those two documents.

Sean Kennedy:

Yes, I understand.

Mr. Burns:

The board would have to affirmatively waive the privilege or the board would have to go into executive session to ask the question. I don't know what questions the board has. I was just advised through the president that there was questions brought up in the Finance and Facilities and could I attend tonight to answer those questions.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay.

Mr. Burns:

Beyond just regurgitating, the first memo and then 185 page response in March, I don't even know where to start or stop.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay.

Evan Crook:

As a solicitor to the board, my recommendation is to not waive in any way, shape or form your attorney client privilege. There might be questions you need to ask that quite frankly, you should have to be careful about how you proceed, how you answer those questions or if the questions are asked to Mr. Burns. I would strongly recommend not waiving attorney client privilege.

Gino Pasqualone:

I agree.

Sean Kennedy:

I'm sorry, go ahead.

Patty Kolodi:

Just if we did go into closed session, how does that affect the public as far as the 48 hours? I mean, would we go into closed session here now, then the public would've to wait and then we'd have to come back or how does that look?

Evan Crook:

You have to give 48 hours notice of what's on your agenda. That has not happened. It is very simple just in terms of this issue or any other issue that involved going into closed session or even the regular agenda. They're supposed to have 48 hours notice and in terms of, if you wanted to do it, as been pointed out, he could do a motion. The way that 48 hours, it's unusual. It's done under an extension, emergent circumstances of general rule, which I don't believe are present here. You could do that, in which case, the public would be asked to leave. We proceed here for Mr. Burns, just the board. You could ask whatever question you'd like and after you're done, you come back in the public session, invite the public back in and we proceed with the rest of as needed.

Member of the Public:

How come these questions haven't been asked already?

Evan Crook:

I don't believe, I don't know who you are, young lady.

Member of the Public:

It's just a question. I mean, we're here. Why haven't these question been answered.

Evan Crook:

It's not public comment time, so.

Sean Kennedy:

What is the motion for consideration right now?

Gino Pasqualone:

Right now, the motion is to go into close session for next meeting under advice of counsel.

Evan Crook:

I think a supplement, another part of the motion was to table this resolution pending that occurring.

Sean Kennedy:

I think at this point, they're synonymous, right?

Evan Crook:

Well, I mean, they're basically tabling the motion to give the opportunity for proper public notice to come back at which time, presumably Mr. Burns can make himself available to go a closed session to talk about whatever advice he's going to give the board and then the board would consider that as making their decision on this resolution in the next meeting.

Dorion Morgan:

Question. Just for point of order, I have a motion, I have a request for a motion on the table. Has that been ...

Sean Kennedy:

You asked for a motion, Gino jumped in with his and then there's another motion. That's why I'm not sure which motion is on the table.

Gino Pasqualone:

I amended my motion.

Evan Crook:

Gino amended his motion to put off the presentation of Mr. Burns to the next meeting, which would necessarily mean tabling the resolution also.

Sean Kennedy:

There's no motion to strike it. There's a motion to go in a closed session.

Gino Pasqualone:

Under advice of counsel with a 48-hour notice. I'm not aware of all this. If he's advising, that's my motion.

Evan Crook:

To go into closed session at the next meeting?

Gino Pasqualone:

At the next meeting because there's not the 48 hours.

Sean Kennedy:

I don't want to speak, Dorian and I were just talking, if that's what the board wants to do, and I'm not saying that, then I would like to do it before next meeting. I don't think we should wait a month and I think we should work with Mr. Burns to come up with a couple dates. If he's saying, and I trust the veracity of his comments, if he's saying he can't come back at that scheduled date, then we should do it sooner, if that's what the board wants to do. My prerogative would be [inaudible 00:40:42] What date? I thought it was the 16th. It's the 16th.

Mr. Burns:

I have the meeting that I did go to tonight.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay.

Patty Kolodi:

Finance and Facilities is on the 9th.

Gino Pasqualone:

Can I amend the motion?

Sean Kennedy:

We don't have to have that Finance and Facilities before the special. We can do that anytime.

Gino Pasqualone:

I'll amend the motion to have an executive meeting over this issue, this certain tab or this line under tattoo with advice of counsel, so there's 48 hour notice for a scheduled date that Mr. Burns can attend. That's my motion.

Kevin Brown:

I'll second that.

Sean Kennedy:

Motion's been made. The motion is to go into executive session on that contract item under tab two, at a date agreed upon with the board and Mr. Burns. Is that the full motion?

Gino Pasqualone:

As long as there's a 48-hour notice with the advice of counsel.

Sean Kennedy:

Is that motion proper, counsel?

Evan Crook:

Sounds proper to me.

Sean Kennedy:

Does there also have to be a meeting? Can it just be an extension? Can this body meet and just go into post session and not have a public meeting?

Evan Crook:

I mean, without the benefit of it being in Finance and Facilities and know exactly what was said, I don't know whether you need the full board to address the issues that were presented in which the board needed more information about. Really, it's your call to be either way. You can make it just executive, but if you're going to make a decision on the full contract, you're going to need the full board here to vote on that. Depending on what happens with Mr. Burns and then what impact that might have on your decision, I think you probably need to have a full board.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

If I may, to Sean's question, an executive is not a used term, so I think the question [inaudible 00:42:40] No, no, it was closed. Just so we put the wording right here. I think the motion on the table is for a closed session of the full board prior to the next regularly scheduled board meeting that is convenient for quorum and Bill to be available is what the motion is though.

Evan Crook:

I advise the 48 hours.

Gino Pasqualone:

That's correct. Absolutely, yes.

Sean Kennedy:

Motion's been made and seconded. Roll call please.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Kevin Brown?

Kevin Brown:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Ramesh Jayaram?

Ramesh Jayaram:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Sean Kennedy?

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Ms. Patty Kolodi?

Patty Kolodi:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Dorian Morgan?

Dorian Morgan:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Gino Pasqualone?

Gino Pasqualone:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Ms. Jannine Veasy?

Jannine Veasy:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Dr. Anthony Wright?

Anthony Wright:

Yes

Gino Pasqualone:

Okay. Okay. Now, I'll make a motion to approve-

Sean Kennedy:

Before you leave, we got to obviously come up with a date. If you hang. Sorry.

Gino Pasqualone:

I'll make a motion to approve tab one, amended tab two, tab three, four, five, six and seven. Motion to approve.

Keven Brown:

Second.

Sean Kennedy:

Motion's been made and seconded. Roll call, please?

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Kevin Brown?

Kevin Brown:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Ramesh Jayaram?

Ramesh Jayaram:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Sean Kennedy?

Chair Sean Kennedy:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Ms. Patty Kolodi?

Patty Kolodi:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Dorion Morgan?

Dorion Morgan:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Gino Pasqualone?

Gino Pasqualone:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Ms. Jannine Veasy?

Jannine Veasy:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Dr. Anthony Wright?

Dr. Anthony Wright:

Yes.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay. Thank you.

Evan Crook:

Mr. Chairman, if I may, perhaps we can try to set a date with Mr. Burns now so he doesn't have to sit here for the rest.

Sean Kennedy:

No. Yeah, no, I agree. I agree, 100%. He and I just I think communicated that. Let's figure out how to do that. Why don't you give us some that work?

Mr. Burns:

What day? I mean, during the day, it's fine. I have a significant amount of evening meetings, so whatever.

Sean Kennedy:

Can we participate virtually, counsel?

Evan Crook:

I mean I think your rules allow for that, but I, think that's up to the board ultimately. My own opinion is I think it probably makes sense to have it as many people but in personal attendance as can be.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay. Okay. Why don't you give us some dates.

Mr. Burns:

Do you want to do it sooner rather than later?

Sean Kennedy:

Yes, absolutely.

Mr. Burns:

The first week in September, I should be available. It looks like that September 2nd might be okay. I have to double check. I don't get back. I get back with the second.

Sean Kennedy:

I'm traveling that week, but if I can't be there and you guys can all handle. [inaudible 00:45:25] What about that second week of September?

Mr. Burns:

Double check. The eighth might work.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Can I offer to handle Bill's availability? I know he's here and we want to cut him loose, but if in the morning, we can circulate if everybody gets me your vacation plans for the next two weeks?

Sean Kennedy:

Again, that first week is hard, but again, if everybody else can do it and I can't be there, that's fine. I'm one person.

Evan Crook:

I like the president's suggestion because I'm sitting in for Kelly tonight.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay.

Evan Crook:

I can't speak for her in terms of her availability.

Sean Kennedy:

My only concern, I agree.

Evan Crook:

We just need to get it done.

Sean Kennedy:

My only concern is we're getting to the point where it's the 16th. There's no possible way-

Dr. Michael Cioce:

We could go into closed right now.

Sean Kennedy:

There's no possible way to do it in the rest of August?

Mr. Burns:

I can. I mean, yeah. You said there was no availability next week though.

Evan Crook:

I can't speak for Kelly, but I know I'm not available if I have to still pitch in. [inaudible 00:46:34]

Dorion Morgan:

4:30 on the 9th? 4:30 or 5:00?

Mr. Burns:

The 9th?

Dorion Morgan:

That's our normal Finance and Facilities meeting.

Sean Kennedy:

That's true. That's true. Can we do the 9th.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

There are two committees scheduled for the 9th.

Mr. Burns:

I can do the 9th at night if we did it after the committees.

Dorion Morgan:

You said daytime was better. That's the only reason I'd asked [inaudible
00:47:01]

Sean Kennedy:

I mean, I can definitely do the night if that works, in the evening. We can do it after the committees. Does that work?

Mr. Burns:

Tentatively, the 9th works.

Patty Kolodi:

At what time?

Mr. Burns:

Sometime in the evening.

Gino Pasqualone:

With Dr. Cioce's advice, I think we should-

Sean Kennedy:

Okay.

Gino Pasqualone:

Confirm this tomorrow morning.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

We're penciling in the 9th.

Sean Kennedy:

I will tentatively say that that works, listening to most of the committee.

Evan Crook:

Tentatively.

Mr. Burns:

Just to be clear, quiet, what you have questions on is not on the agenda or is that?

Sean Kennedy:

I'm so confused at this point.

Mr. Burns:

What we have questions on is not on the agenda for tonight?

Evan Crook:

What was on the agenda was an approval of the resolution for a contract with another attorney's office. I think you were here to give an opinion as to how that process worked and how that was done in accordance with the law. Really,

what it goes to is the notice, which I talked about. I won't repeat myself again, but so we're tentatively doing the 9th and the president's going to circulate that date, correct?

Dr. Michael Cioce:

That's correct, yes.

Mr. Burns:

Okay.

Sean Kennedy:

Thank you counsel. Sorry.

Mr. Burns:

Thank you.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay. Personnel Committee.

Kevin Brown:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Personnel Committee met last Wednesday. We have two tabs for your review and approval. Tab eight to approve and/or ratify personnel actions from Rowan College of Burlington County. Tab nine to approve agreement by and between the board of trustees of Rowan College of Burlington County and the faculty association covering the period of July 1st, 2025. Due June 30th, 2029. That is for a motion for approval.

Sean Kennedy:

Motion approved.

Kevin Brown:

Second.

Sean Kennedy:

Roll call please.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Kevin Brown?

Kevin Brown:

Yeah.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Ramesh Jayaram?

Ramesh Jayaram:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Sean Kennedy?

Sean Kennedy:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Ms. Patty Kolodi?

Patty Kolodi:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Dorian Morgan.

Dorion Morgan:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Mr. Gino Pasqualone?

Gino Pasqualone:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Ms. Jannine Veasy?

Jannine Veasy:

Yes.

Leidalis Cardona

Dr. Anthony Wright?

Dr. Anthony Wright:

Yes.

Sean Kennedy:

Thank you. Academic Committee.

Patty Kolodi:

Okay. Although we don't have any resolutions for approval, I think many good things are happening academically here at RCBC. If you don't mind, I'd like to share a few of them with you. We were talking at our meeting about the strategic plan that's near completion and the goals of the plan are to align programs in the college environment with students and their goals and experiences to strengthen affordability and access, providing offerings for high demand fields to get the kids involved and have a better future. I think to improve student and employee experiences by supporting our people and also to foster a positive culture and then to deepen our ties with Burlington County communities. I think that we have been doing, as you were saying, and in the final stages, I think

they have to review and refine the goals and then they'll be passed on to Dr. Cioce.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

If I can add, thank you for raising that. This group voted earlier this summer on the five goals for the next strategic plan. There will be, and there's been a lot of work, so Dr. Rudman and Dr. Chapman have been co-chairing that, but members of the entire campus community have been contributing to their respective piece. There is an opportunity, on September 19th, we're going to do sort of breakout sessions. That invite is either a placeholder on your calendars, I know it's on all staff's calendar, but for the collegewide gathering on Friday, September 19th, there will be the home stretch finalization of the tactical initiatives to tie back to the goals that Patty shared.

Patty Kolodi:

Thank you. Then, the middle states of course. Then, a new four-year faculty collective bargaining agreement has been finalized on August 4th and the college, we talked about seeking a variety of grants for different programs and programs and projects here. Just listening to the faculty members talk about this, they put a lot of work into going out and seeking grant money and looking for grants. It's obviously an ongoing process, but it just seemed to me to be very, what do I want to say, labor intensive and yet, they're willing to do it and it's benefiting the school. Then, well the enrollment again they said was up and the credit hours are up as well.

Then, there was another project that they talked about. It was the Workforce Integrated Learning Accelerator. RCBC has been accepted to this program from Arizona State University. It's a program designed again, to support colleges in connecting academics with work experience and ensuring that the degrees have direct value to the workforce. Only eight institutions in the whole country were selected and we were one of them and we were the only community college. The people that work on these committees, when I go to this meeting, I'm always impressed when I come out because who's ever working, I don't know everyone on the committees that do all of this work, but it is amazing and I think that they should be recognized. I think there are a lot of really good things happening here and I thought that was one of the most amazing to be the only community college and only eight in the whole country to be part of this program. Very impressive things academically going on here. That's all. Thank you.

Dr. Michael Cioce:

Thank you. If I may. Thank you Patty for that energy and is also one of the newest members, so you're no longer solo. Kevin mentioned it in personnel, you underscored it. I just want to be sure to thank, so David, Kevin, and Michelle from the college's side along with Stephanie and Bill Whitfield. I don't know if he's here, but getting a four-year contract is good for the faculty, it's good for the institution and it's one less thing that we have to worry about tomorrow. There's something else to worry about tomorrow, but appreciate you underscoring that in the academic update.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay. Okay. We'll open up comments from the public, any public wish to speak? Please.

Jeanne Paulsen:

I am tired of standing up at these meetings. Patty, Ramesh, we go from the lovely Academic Committee to this again. Lie number one, you amended the agenda in March to put the illegal Malamut contract back without 48 hours notice. Lie number two, with the majority, you could have amended the agenda to call a closed session tonight. You must think that we are all idiots in this room. You are looking to strip President Cioce of his by, law entitled legal representation. The bad behavior just goes on and on and on. Video tomorrow will go to Middle States, who's coming next week and the attorney who is still investigating. It's got to stop somewhere. It just continues and you think that you're pulling the wool over our eyes. It's ridiculous. Your behavior is so bad, so unethical, so illegal. Sooner or later, it's going to come to a head and hopefully, several of you will resign and let us get back to what we're supposed to be doing in here, which is taking care of students.

Anne Tokazewski:

Good evening. My name is Anne Tokazewski. I am a biology professor here. I've been here, if you channeled all of my years here in all of my different hats I've worn, this will be my 23rd year teaching here. I started in January, 2003 as full-time faculty. I resigned in 2006 to have my second child. I realized I couldn't have two kids, be married to a doctor and teach here when we were on three campuses and we were required to be on three campuses at that time. I was kind of low, so I adjuncted back when you could cover 12 contacts as an adjunct and I did that. I worked on weekends, at night and made the first online course for biology. I came back when my son was in first grade. I've been back as a full-time faculty for a while, since 2014, January, 2014, so I guess 11-ish years. I've been through a lot with RCBC.

I'm used to faculty not feeling super appreciated, but that's okay because I'm not here to be told that I'm awesome or that I'm super appreciated because I'm here for students. That's what we should all be here for. We should all be here for the students. That is who we serve. That is who we should care about. I personally believe, because it's my job, to care about academics most of all.

I've been coming to these meetings for quite a long time now and very rarely do I feel like students are our top concern. It feels like we're concerned about making each other feel bad, look bad, treating each other poorly. This is my second time and not for many years that Middle States has come here for ethics reasons and I find that troubling. I'm interested to see what their report is this time and it's making me wonder why I stay here now. After 23 years and a job that I really love with students that I really love, I'm ready to leave because of you all and that's something that makes me super sad.

You're absolutely right. I just spent a week in Baltimore working with HHMI. I got a grant, a national grant. I know, that's pretty awesome. I'm pretty awesome. I went into Baltimore for a week. I worked with internationally known scientists for a week. I learned all kinds of skills. We're ready to roll out a curriculum. We're the only community college in the state of New Jersey to have this information for our students. The third school in New Jersey, the only community college. We're awesome and I'm ready to leave because of you all. I want to share these things with my students that you all make me not want to teach. I'll take these skills somewhere else. It's not that I don't want to work as a professor, I don't want to work with you. That's a lot. That's a lot to say.

Stop being mean to each other. Put the students first. That's our job. I feel like a mom up here telling you all to behave. I have two college students. I would be sad if they were coming here if I knew that this is what was going on

behind closed doors. We can do better. We should do better. I know we can do better because we've done better before. Please stop. Please think about what's important. Please think about why you're here. If it's not for the students, then please find a place where you can be happy and do something good and let the people who want to help our students come here and do that. If our students are not as important to you, this is not where you belong. Please let us do our jobs. Please let us take what we've learned, that national awesomeness that I took away this summer and let me share it with our students because you're inhibiting us from sharing with them and letting them be successful. Please stop doing that. Please let us be successful. Thank you.

Sean Kennedy:

Any other public?

Michelle Hogan:

Good evening everyone. My name is Michelle Hogan. I work in continuing education. I was asked to come here today for the LIFE program. Our program members are unhappy with the caps being placed on their classes. I wrote a letter that just make it easier. I believe visual is easier. I apologize if there's not enough. I'm also providing you with the current course brochure for the fall. Some interesting statistics about the LIFE program. We've grown 300% in my two years here on campus. It was about 70 members. We are 192 closing out this last school year. They are excited. There were 20 classes a semester, so about 60 the year before me. There were 152 classes last year. We have over 60 classes this semester. They range registration from 10 to 60 to 70 people in class. The classes bringing 60 to 70 people are from our instructors here at RCBC volunteering their time.

The program members have asked me to advocate to not cap their classes. I have worked with my manager and with everybody involved to find other solutions. We continue to get solutions that don't work. Evans Hall has got classroom that'll fit 22 and classroom that'll fit 24. It is not ADA compliant. My program members have canes, walkers and some wheelchairs. They have inability to get in and out of the building without assistance.

The second suggestion was Mount Holy Campus, that has a gravel lot. If they do an evening class, it's not well lit at night. Again, we run into some issues that we don't want to put that population in. I've highlighted a few suggestions. My manager looked at the schedule through R25. Just in the first month of classes, there are at least 10 different spaces for the places that are registered with more than 21 members. My LIFE program members are asking for me to advocate for them. If you could review the information and support them. We continue to grow. I already have 20 new members with only about half the people registered for this semester so far. Thank you.

Sean Kennedy:

Thank you. Any other public wish to comment?

Jamie Martin:

I would only advocate the fact that the last time I came into a board meeting that there was really no information and the board was working on no information or very little and now, I come in and there's a 186 page thing that everybody got and nobody had any questions. Then, a lawyer shows up and nobody still answers any questions or has any questions or now isn't able to ask any questions. This

seems very inefficient and a big waste of time and exactly what we're all talking about, which why wasn't this solved? This just doesn't need to take this much time and it's a bad look on a college that is performing excessively well beyond what anybody probably would've ever expected, especially when we've had a couple of situations previous to Dr. Cioce that haven't been great and now, we have a great one, we're wasting a lot of time and a lot of money. I'm sure that was an expensive proposition tonight.

Again, now, we've wasted probably an entire, I don't know, all the money I just probably gave and we wasted that on the lawyer that just came and did nothing. And it just seems a ridiculous prospect. We could have just all walked out. We could have asked a bunch of questions, could have then walked in and they could have been done. Why that didn't happen, I don't think anybody needed 48 hours notice. [inaudible 01:04:31]. Well, I don't know where that got misplaced or where the just normal brain thought got misplaced here, but it really could have been done very quickly and then whatever would've happened, we could have moved on and we could have solved a lot of other things, like a lot of positive things.

Didn't we just talk about the bipartisan stuff in the beginning? We could have moved on. It didn't have to be one thing or the other. Just seems to me like we should make a mental note that we should all just get it done and move on. I personally think you seem to have a very good president. I personally think we should just make sure that everybody's feeling good about it. The thing is, legally good and let's get on with it. So a big waste of everybody's time now.

Sean Kennedy:

Any other public? Please.

Karen Albanese:

Karen Albanese, former BCC student, former BCC alumni trustee of your board. Former, well American's chair of the Foundation board serving for 13 years. To say that I am amazed how this board is operating, disappointed even more so. A board should be effective, productive, and focused on its strategic vision and mission. Period. You should be taking care of your stakeholders, your community, your students, your faculty, your president. I've gone here, my children have gone here. If this is the way it is, my grandchildren will not go here. I'm a long-time Burlington County resident, over 40 years and to say the least that this board is not supporting their president. Not everybody, but some of you, are not supporting your president. This man bleeds Pantone 187, which is the color of RCBC Red, if you didn't know it.

So I hope that you all take maybe some board classes, learn how an effective board works together. I got my board training here where I've gone on to the Inspired Network Board. Our board does not operate this way and it's amazing to see this and it's disheartening to see this. I hope this is a wake-up call for you and all of us go through a wake-up call in our life. Not good, not bad, but hopefully, you all wake up from this and you need to support this man. Nobody's perfect, but he does a damn good job. That's all I have to say.

Sean Kennedy:

Any other public? Okay, seeing no, we'll close public portion. Comments from the board? Any board members?

Dorion Morgan:

I do, Mr. Chair.

Sean Kennedy:

Sure, please.

Dorion Morgan:

Growing up in Burlington County, many of the people that I've knew growing up, to be honest, BCC was a place to go if you couldn't go anywhere else. I've seen it grow to a school RCBC where now it's people's first choices. They do have choices to go other places and still decide to come here because it is just an excellent school. Our faculty, our staff, our administration have just done a phenomenal job on all of the, I mean, just the metrics show it as we compare to other schools. As Patty said, not just community schools, but we're up against four-year colleges as well. My prayer is that this board rise to the level of excellence that the rest of the school has shown so that our students continue to get the excellent care and education that they've come to expect.

Sean Kennedy:

Thank you.

Audience Member:

Well said. Thank you.

Patty Kolodi:

You mentioned that the strategic plan, two of the goals that I found as I was typing this up last night and thinking about this coming meeting that it says, to improve student employee experience by supporting our people and fostering a positive culture. I do think that, of all the strategic goals, to me, those are most important because if we do that, that will trickle down and the students and the faculty and all of us will work better. Yes, we do have to do better. I think after tonight's meeting, we realize that and hopefully, we will do better for you in the next meetings to come because I think we all have something to bring and something to offer. I'm just always amazed at this place every time I come to a meeting as they know. I just love it. I think it's great.

Sean Kennedy:

Thank you. Any other board? No? Okay. Other business?

Dr. Michael Cioce:

No other business.

Dorion Morgan:

No, sir.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay. Anybody offer a motion to adjourn?

Dorion Morgan:

So move.

Dr. Anthony Wright:

Second.

Sean Kennedy:

All those in favor?

Group:

Aye.

Sean Kennedy:

Okay. Adjourn. Thank you.