



Yakima Campus

S. 16th Avenue & Nob Hill Boulevard, PO Box 22520, Yakima, WA 98907-

2520

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MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF TRUSTEES
YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE

June 13, 2024

West Campus Conference Center Meeting Room D
1704 W. Nob Hill Blvd Yakima WA 98902

Chair Ortega called the regular meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

A. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests and New Employees

Board of Trustees Present

Bertha Ortega, Chair

Patrick Baldoz, Vice Chair

Dr. Sara Cate, Trustee

Laura Flores, Trustee (Not able to attend)

David Morales, Trustee (ZOOM)

Others Present

YVC Students

YVC Staff & Faculty

Introduction of Guests and New Employees. Alma Ramirez, Interim Director of Human Resources, shared a part time faculty member has been hired, as well as an assistant director, and four art time staff members. Ms. Ramirez stated that none were present today.

B. Proposed Changes to the Agenda. Chair Ortega added an action item to the agenda. Approval of Naming of College Facilities and Geographic location- Changing the name of the conference center, Allied Health, and West Campus. This is a surprise action item for Dr. Kaminski.

C. Call to the Public – Chair Ortega stated that at this time the public is welcome to make comments on any of the action items on today’s agenda. Following the reports, there will be another Call to the Public for anyone who wishes to make comments on issues that were not action items. Ms. Sheehan let Chair Ortega know Maria Cuevas signed up to speak.

Maria Cuevas shared Curtis King is the Commencement speaker for tomorrow evening’s Commencement Ceremony. Maria Beltran is a previous YVC alumni that is running against Senator King for the 14th district, and she feels that it would be an equitable gesture to consider having Ms. Beltran speak at this next school year’s Convocation.

D. Approval of Minutes: Trustee Cate moved that the minutes of the Regular Meetings of May 9, 2024, be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Baldoz and passed unanimously.

E. Action Items:

1. Approval of 2024-2025 Student Residence Center Budget

Dr. Teresa Rich presented the approval of proposed 2024-2025 SRC budget that was originally presented at the May 9, 2024, board meeting.



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MOTION 24-06-01: Trustee Cate moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to approve the proposed 2024-2025 SRC budget as presented during the May study session.

The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Baldoz and passed unanimously.

2. Approval of 2024-2025 Student Services and Activities Fee (S&A) Budget

Karla Rabadan presented the approval of proposed 2024-2025 S&A Fee budget that was originally presented at the May 9, 2024, board meeting, to request \$192,000 to come out of Student Project Reserves to supplement the deficit of 24-25, this has been approved by the S&A Budget Committee which includes five advisors and five students. The new S&A budget with reserve fund use would total \$1,342,402 for 2024-2025, as presented in the previous study session.

MOTION 24-06-02: Vice Chair Baldoz moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to approve the proposed 2024-2025 S&A budget as presented during the May study session.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Cate and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of 2024-2025 Operating Budget

Dr. Teresa Rich presented the approval of proposed 2024-2025 Operating budget that was originally presented at the May 9, 2024.

MOTION 24-06-03: Trustee Cate moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to approve the proposed 2024-2025 Operating budget as presented during the May study session.

The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Baldoz and passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Modification of President's Contract to Provide Salary Increase

Dr. Teresa Rich presented the approval of modification of the President's contract to provide salary increase. Dr. Rich stated that the 2024 Legislature authorized salary increases of three percent (3%) for Administrative and Non-Represented Exempt employees effective July 1, 2024. Article IV of the President's contract provides that the Board may provide increases to the President's salary during the term of agreement. This action item would extend the same percentage increase to the President's salary as that provided to other Administrative & Non-Represented employees.

MOTION 24-06-04: Trustee Cate moved to amend the President's contract by the legislatively authorized salary increase of three percent (3%) for Administrative and Non-Represented Exempt employees effective July 1, 2024.

Chair Ortega asked Dr. Rich if this amount was approved by legislation? Dr. Rich clarified that it was.

The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Baldoz and passed unanimously.

5. Election of Vice Chair for 2024-2025.

Chair Bertha Ortega. Article IV of the Board of Trustees' Constitution governs officers of the Board of Trustees. As provided in Section B of Article IV, Vice Chair Bertha Ortega will assume the chair position on July 1, 2024. The Board needs to elect a new vice chair to assume that office and, subsequently, the chair position on July 1, 2025.

The two remaining board offices are ex officio positions. Article IV states, "The Secretary and Treasurer will be the President and Vice President for Administrative Services of the college, respectively, as ex officio with no voting privileges."

MOTION 24-06-05: Chair Ortega moved that the Board of Trustees nominate Laura Flores and elect her as vice chair to assume office July 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Baldoz and passed unanimously with Trustee Flores abstaining from the vote, not present during the meeting due to an excused absence from the Chair.

6. Naming of College Facilities and Geographic location

Chair Bertha Ortega. The Board of Trustees shall have the discretion of naming college facilities, including buildings, rooms, wings, parks, landscaped areas, or other significant locations. The naming of college facilities is reserved for individuals who have demonstrated excellence in performance of their duties and responsibilities and through personal performance have greatly enhance the prestige of YVC through outstanding state and national service. Dr. Linda Kaminski has served as President of Yakima Valley College since 1995. Throughout her career, she has worked selflessly to further education attainment for the most vulnerable and undeserved. She is selfless in service to the college and the community. Her drive and determination have been an instrumental factor in changing the YVC campus culture and campus physical footprint. Her fiscal responsibility, demonstrated accountability, and exceptional ability as a problem solver truly exemplify her as a respected senior leader in the community she serves and amongst her peers. Her commitment to education is respected both regionally and nationally. Her voice in supporting education through state and federal legislative initiatives is well respected and requested.

MOTION 24-06-06: Chair Ortega moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to approve the naming of the Conference Center, Kaminski Conference Center, naming Allied Health, Kaminski Allied Health Center, and West Campus, Dr. Linda Kaminski West Campus. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Baldoz and passed unanimously.

All Trustees commented what a well deserving motion this was. Dr. Kaminski was thoroughly surprised and speechless. Chair Ortega shared that she had an opportunity to check with other state agency and each of them were happy to hear about the naming of facilities after Linda, and it was well deserving. Chair Ortega mentioned that in 1994 this college looked like it was in a 3rd world country, and with Linda's help it has surpassed other colleges by helping gain funding. Ms. Ortega cannot imagine what this college would be without Linda. Vice Chair Baldoz stated that he was a student at YVC in 1970 and cannot believe how much this campus has grown. Mr. Baldoz is proud of this facility and to have it be in Washington state. Dr. Sara Cate stated that as a physician, the wonderful jobs that students can achieve from earning a degree through YVC, and the great work that is being done to help lift students out of poverty. Dr. Kaminski stated that you cannot do it by yourself, it has taken lots of people to make this campus what it is today. Trustee Morales shared that YVC has impressed him over the time that he has been here. Mr. Morales has had an opportunity to learn the history of the college and the vitality it has brought to Yakima over 27 years. Mr. Morales stated that YVC has grown project by project. Congratulations to Dr. Kaminski.



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Communications: No additional communications

F. Reports

- 1. Board of Trustees:** Chair Ortega shared that the College trustees were at YVC's campus in April, and each of the ACT members complimented YVC's programs as outstanding from State Presidents and dignitaries. Trustee Cate agreed that she participated also in the wonderful state conference, and there was great people throughout the state doing great things. Chair Ortega asked Dr. Kaminski if the ACT conference had ever been held at YVC previously. Dr. Kaminski confirmed that this past Spring was the first year.
- 2. Students:** Written Report Only
- 3. Vice President for Administrative Services** – Dr. Rich started by thanking the board for approving this next year's budgets. Chair Ortega joked so that everyone can, "get paid." Dr. Rich stated "yes" and so that the college can continue to do the good work that we do. Dr. Rich commented on the approval of the naming of facilities after Dr. Kaminski and what a wonderful honor it was for wonderful work accomplished by Dr. Kaminski. Dr. Rich shared that in regards the Financial Audit update that all areas of review have been completed. There were fewer errors identified this year compared to last year and that she was proud to say that our fiscal audit corrections were only one half a page which is excellent for government financial statements, Dr. Rich shared this is to the great work by Angela Garza, Director of Business and Accounting services. The Financial Audit exit conference is scheduled for the first week in July and will include the need for one member of the board of trustees to attend. Next, Dr. Rich referred to a previous March board meeting where Dr. Rich originally discussed collaboration with the Department of Health and a pollen monitoring station. Dr. Rich is happy to report that the contract has been finalized and in the next couple of months a pollen station will be installed on one of YVC's roof tops. It will be the first pollen station in Central Washington. This station will have data available by a Pollen Sense App, and the data will be a live tool students can eventually use in the classrooms. Yakima Valley College will be supplying the rooftop, power and someone to change the data collection tape. The Department of Health will be supplying an incentive for the person to change out the tape, Wi-Fi, and any additional support or equipment needed. Also, in the board packet is a fiscal report and a CTC Link report update.
- 4. Vice President for Instruction and Student Services-** Dr. Ernst stated that it was a pleasure to be here, and it is the final board meeting for the academic school year. Dr. Ernst shared that summer enrollment was up by 26% and Dr Kaminski will be sharing additional numbers later in tonight's meeting. Newly legislated Running Start funds are driving this trend, special thanks to Hilary Emerson and Sandra Zesati (on



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Grandview Campus) for helping facilitate this enrollment. The CCR numbers should be coming through shortly. Dr. Ernst shared that with the Express Admit Events the college was able to enroll 74 students on the Yakima Campus, on May 30th; the Grandview Campus will be having their event on June 26, 2024. Dr. Ernst shared that College and Career Readiness presented at the May board meeting and sorry Pedro Navarette cannot be here tonight due to it being held at the same time as Grandview's CCR Celebration, but this program recently went through a program review with SBCTC (state board) to ensure compliance with federal requirements, grant assurances, and overall program quality. Some of the findings shared with the review team were: CCR provides many opportunities for student enrollment, they have well-defined local community partnerships, faculty mentors and training opportunities, academic pathways for success, successfully implemented I-BEST (integrated Basic Education and Skills Training) Programs which include Pharmacy and Business Technology, with expansion in the fall to phlebotomy. The review team also made some recommendations to improve working on skills gains, which are required of all Basic Education for Adult (BEA) programs. Dr. Ernst stated that the recommendations and improvements highlight Yakima Valley College's CCR commitment to student success, equity, and quality programming. A full report will be provided to the board in the fall. Dean Navarette has shown as a successful permanent leader for this program as well as the dedicated administrators, staff and faculty help create the success of programs such as CCR. Dr. Ernst then transferred her reporting time to YVC's newly tenured instructor, Mark Fuzie, and our newest navigator for Health Sciences, Maria Armengol, to tell the board more about Guided Pathways a positive movement that has transformed our entire philosophy and student care here at YVC.

Mark Fuzie addressed the board, President and VPs. He shared that he started advising people back in 2012. In 2012, advising roles were inequitable. There maybe 188 students in the criminal justice pathway and none in advanced English. Guided Pathways help set a framework for students to go through limiting some of their choices to better help them success in their goals and careers, with guidance and support for them to help stay on their path. The framework can be broken down into four points:

- 1) Clarify "Map" story to tell
 - 2) Ask Students to match their pathway
 - 3) Support students to stay on their path
 - 4) Access students learning, not just with grades, but with conference to help make sure there are comprehensively understanding. Conferences, TRIO program, etc.
- These pathways represent the WA State CTC's guided pathways Mission. There are five pathways:

- 1) Arts- Humanities
- 2) Business
- 3) Healthcare
- 4) Social Sciences/ Education



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- 5) Exploratory- Added to include first generation students that really just don't know yet.

Mr. Fuzie discussed the SB 5194 Bill, and how he became the faculty director of the Guided Pathways Program from Tomas Ybarra back in 2020-2021. Currently the WED program is not fully supported by these programs, due to the needs in the community. Guided Pathways supports 15 essential practices and takes faculty and staff, that are invested deep and wide, includes in escapable engagement for students and includes a math and English program that students can complete in 1 year to earn college level credits. Math was previously where most students were falling behind. Guided Pathways works in conjunction with programs such as TILT and ESCALA to help ensure learning for all students. Mr. Fuzie recognized what Dr. Kaminski said earlier in the evening, nothing just happens here at YVC it takes a team. Mr. Fuzie shared that his team is constantly asking, "Does this hurt or favor a particular group." Always learning to better help serve students. These efforts also work with increasing career counseling, especially successful with hiring professionals such as functioning faculty, counselors, navigators, and advisors to help reach not just 60-80% of students, but 95% of students, still wondering how to access the remaining 5%. Mr. Fuzie then transferred his time to Navigator, Maria Armengol.

Ms. Armengol stated that she was hired in March and is very new to her position and role. Ms. Armengol stated that she was hired because of a need for the students to navigate school and be successful, especially first-generation students. Sometimes students just do not know where to go. Every student comes with different questions, such as not being able to register for a class or needing to get connected with an advisor. Navigators are there to help students connect to resources, such as financial resources like scholarships. Not only are navigators there to help students but also help faculty. Some events navigators have been able to host for students are Coffee with Navigators, Express Admit, Yak Nights, New Student Orientation. At the new student orientation Navigators helped students log onto their school portal and CTC Link as well as sign up for classes. Chair Ortega asked, how do they identify students or does everyone get enrolled for a navigator. Mr. Fuzie shared yes everyone has access to a navigator. The students get to select a degree, and pathway tool from one of the 5 pathways previously mentioned, and then the student must attend mandatory advising. The student must meet with their advisor twice within earning their first 30 college credits. There is technology to help make sure students are doing that. The tech is currently a little leaky but always improving. Dr. Kaminski asked if this was a



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coincidence but someone from EAB just reached out to her to schedule a meeting to discuss this tech being used to track students.

5. President

Community Relations Report – Dustin spoke about the upcoming YVC Voice that will be coming out this summer and highlighting two students that will be attending Harvard University this Fall- also included a written report in the board packet. Trustee Cate asked if the students were attending Harvard on scholarships? Mr. Wunderlich was unclear about their funding resources, but that they had tremendous faculty support. Trustee Cate stated this is very interesting and looks forward to reading the article. Chair Ortega stated that this is great news.

Human Resource Activity Report – Written Report included with the board packet

President's Report –Dr. Kaminski addressed the board and shared about all the wonderful events that had been happening around the campus. Dr. Kaminski recently attended Trustee Tuesday and saw that Trustee Flores was present. Dr. Kaminski said she had recently attended a meeting discussing the allocation model from the state board and was glad to see VP Rich was on the Committee. Dr. Kaminski saw Trustee Cate at the Vet-Tech pinning ceremony earlier today and looked forward to the Nursing Pinning ceremony tomorrow along with Commencement at the SunDome. She has enjoyed plenty of Costco cake at all the wonderful pinning and celebratory events. Dr. Kaminski was also happy to report to the board of trustees that the Yak Nights event was a phenomenal success on both campuses. Dr. Kaminski then shared the summer FTE numbers with the board members (handout in official board packet), which included that the Arts & Sciences Enrollment were up by 57%, WED had a 6 % decrease, and CCR was down by 14%; with the increase in Arts & Sciences to the total FTE was increased from last year. Dr. Kaminski then shared with the board a handout on graduation statistics for this 23-24' academic year that included gender, ethnicity, programs, etc. (handout in official board packet). Trustee Cate asked if the higher number of females was common or if the number of males were dropping. Dr. Kaminski referred to Sheila Delquadri to answer the questions. Ms. Delquadri shared that male enrollment was dropping nationwide, and that our average student age of 27 includes our CCR program students and that YVC has a young population of students for a Community College. Dr. Kaminski shared a highlight that 5% of this year's graduating students were from the Grandview campus. Dr. Kaminski then shared an update that has been concerning the college from the FAFSA and WASFA simplification process (handout in official board packet). There have been 4,040 FAFSA applications received and only 16 selected for the verification process. The number at this time last year was 6, 242 applications, this is short 2,000 applications from last year. WASFA applications have been received. Dr. Kaminski that on June 10, 2024, the state board were updating CTC Link to allow it to load the FAFSA



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applications into the system, unfortunately WASFA was still having technical issues to keep it from loading into CTC Link, WSAC is working with a vendor to try and fix this error. Dr. Kaminski reported to the board the financial aid office is continuing to work with state board daily to finalize the 24-25' set up by 6/21/24, and summer awarding is underway 417 students have been awarded to date. Also, 23-24 was a reconciliation close our year and was looking great to be on track for a timely completion. This is some good news about financial aid, but not great news. Dr. Kaminski then shared with the board information requested by the board chair on where the college was at with the AFT-Y negotiations. Dr. Kaminski shared that she is not on the negotiation team, so she cannot discuss the details, but can look into the history of a timeline of when the process started to where we are now and she can point out a few things (handout in official board packet). Dr. Kaminski reported that June 30, 2022 the teams agreed to roll over the CBA for a year, January 23, 2023- YVC lost their permanent HR director that had labor law knowledge, so the college contracted with a Labor law attorney to help progress forward motion, September 23, 2023 both teams mutually agreed to proceed with a PERC mediator to benefit negotiations, November-December, 2023 the PERC mediator met with just the AFT-Y negotiating team, January, 2024 the PERC mediator began meeting with the Admin Negotiating Team, March, 2024 the PERC mediator began meeting with both teams; May, 2024 there have been three joint meetings with the PERC mediator and there are two dates scheduled for the month of June, 2024. The problem about meeting with a mediator is that the teams are subject to the meet when the mediator has availability, and this can slow down the speed of the negotiation process. This may be a trade off to make sure that a good product of a CBA is produced. Dr. Kaminski then shared a power point presentation with the board showing a graph of proposals: 127 proposals, 112 by AFT-Y and 15 by YVC Admin Team. Dr. Kaminski stated that in 2022' there were only 4 proposals made, that is why the speed of this negotiation was much easier. There are a lot more proposals for this negotiation. Dr. Kaminski than shared another slide to the board of the progress of the 127 proposals, that only a third of the proposals have been tentatively agreed to subject to a package and there are still 81 proposals in the negotiation process. Dr. Kaminski just wanted to share with the board an overview of the process thus far as previously requested from the board. Chair Ortega confirmed that she had requested this information and thanked Dr. Kaminski for providing it today. Trustee Cate mentioned that she was happy to see progression. Chair Ortega agreed and stated that negotiations can be tedious work on both sides of the table.

Professional- Ms. Monserat Vargas, AFT- YPS President- introduced herself to the board of trustees and that she has been recently appointed as the new President. Ms. Vargas stated that the financial aid numbers may be shocking, but she is hopeful the application numbers will bump up over the summer months, especially as the financial aid team navigates around student's family members that don't currently have social security numbers. Ms. Vargas stated as the new President for the exempt



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staff it will be an honor to serve and speak on behalf of the exempt union. Their goals are for an equitable wage scale, and a benefit package that mirrors what the classified staff are receiving. Ms. Vargas stated that she has been employed by the college for nine years and has met many of the staff and wants to build community. Ms. Vargas shared with the board that she recently attended a weeklong institute for financial aid, where there were people that have been serving in financial aid departments for 30 years, we keep each other here. Financial aid needs passionate people working for our students. Ms. Vargas stated students have been referred to financial aid by IBEST programs, CCR, BA, AA, and WED Departments, they are doing something right.

Faculty – Ms. Rachel Dorn, AFT-Y Yakima President, addressed the members of the board and recommended some adjustments be made to the May board minutes, including: our college was not proposing layoffs (our added), and that instead of the minutes stating several signatures, it should have been 2/3rd of faculty (2/3rd change from several). Ms. Dorn shared with the board information regarding the new state advising that was happening in the Deccio building with Navigators and tech folks. Ms. Dorn then addressed the information supplied by Dr. Kaminski to the board regarding bargaining negotiations. Ms. Dorn stated that YVC has proposed more proposals according to her records, some of the issues that were proposed were mutual concerns that possibly AFT-Y proposed first. Ms. Dorn stated that according to her numbers 40 articles have been tentatively agreed to, and that there were 70 proposals left unresolved at this time. Ms. Dorn stated that she is using the same tracking document for negotiations as in the 2020-2023 bargaining negotiations, and once the mediator joined some of the articles were split into more than one item. Due to mediation this unresolved number looks bigger than it is. Ms. Dorn stated that the reason for only 4 proposals in 2022' was due to the CTC Link software being launched, so some proposals were just rolled over to the current bargaining negotiations. This was not the intent not to address these proposals, the prep was there the team just waited a year. Ms. Dorn stated some of us had cancer. Ms. Dorn shared with the board that there were two meeting scheduled for next week, and she hopes folks come prepared to utilize those meetings. Ms. Dorn also shared with the board that when the 2020' CBA was successfully bargained because there was more time allocated, the teams would bargain every Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday all day for one whole quarter which moved the process quickly. Ms. Dorn stated that the AFT-Y is holding out that there will be an agreed upon contract by Convocation next year. Chair Ortega questioned June. Ms. Dorn confirmed Convocation in the Fall. Ms. Dorn stated the last thing she would like to mention to the board is the number of retirements and resignations of tenured folks that have occurred, with no new tenure positions coming through. Ms. Dorn stated that half of the faculty are special faculty and are one a one-year contract. Some of the special faculty have been employed five-seven years at YVC. Ms. Dorn stated that it is hard to bring talented folks to YVC. Ms. Dorn would love to see movement to tenure. Ms. Dorn questioned, "how do we decide who to move to tenure?" Special



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faculty need encouragement that they can rely on YVC to have their backs, and when they have a problem that they feel safe to be able to speak up.

- G. Call to the Public** – Chair Ortega stated that at this- time the public is welcome to make comments. Jocelyn Sheehan let Chair Ortega know Guadalupe Huitron-Lily signed up to speak.

Guadalupe Huitron-Lily thanked Ms. Sheehan for pronouncing her name correctly this time. Ms. Huitron Lily then addressed the board of trustees and shared that Ms. Huitron-Lily was invited October 15 and 16th to a conference out of over 100 applicants. Ms. Huitron-Lily speaks as a licensed social worker and faculty member. For the past two years, she has been working on a program to help students with homelessness, SSEH. This program meets students needs for housing and nutrition. Since being a part of the program student enrollment has increased and the program disperses all funds allocated from the state. Unfortunately, the equity data is stating that these students are not passing their college credit requirements at the same rate as their peers, who did not receive SSEH funds. Ms. Huitron-Lily used her training and experience as a social worker and public health professional to reimagine a program that would holistically support these students, including support: emotionally, mentally, and academically to make sure their basic needs are met. Since the change of the program students are passing their courses at the same rate as the rest of the student body. The SSEH program has the most modest budget, about \$115,000.00, a portion goes directly to supporting students. Due to outreach efforts, there are more students than funds available. This past May, the program had to post no longer accepting applications. Ms. Huitron-Lily stated that she is aware that YVC has hired a lawyer to negotiate the faculty CBA and now with the other unions on campus. Ms. Huitron-Lily stated that the way the college spends their money matters, and the college needs to value students. There is a choice to be made. Who will the limited funds go to? A first-generation student of color who is a mother fleeing domestic violence or a lawyer who has not delivered.

- H. Date of Next Meeting**— The next meeting will be Thursday, September 12, 2024. Yakima Campus, West Campus Conference Room, 038-122 Meeting Room D. 1704 W. Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima WA 98902.

- I. Executive Session** -NA

- J. Action Items.** NA

- K. Adjournment.** The regular meeting was at adjourned at 6:23 p.m.