

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HIGHER EDUCATION
and
ENERGY COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, June 3, 2009.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair
Legislator Cameron Alden
Legislator Vilorio-Fisher
Legislator John Kennedy

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Legislator Rick Montano - Legislative District No. 9
Legislator Kate Browning - Legislative District No. 3
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson - Counsel's Office
Gail Vizzini - Director, Budget Review Office
Barbara LoMoriello - Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Jack Caffety - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Linda Bay - Aide to Legislator Losquadro
Paul Perillie - Aide to Legislator Cooper
Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Nowick
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern
Dennis Brown - County Attorney's Office
Connie Corso - County Executive's Office
Charles Stein - Suffolk County Community College
George Gatta - Suffolk County Community College
Kevin Peterman - Suffolk County Community College
Thomas Germano - Appointee, SC Community College Board of Trustees
Shenole Latimer - Appointee, SC Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary

[THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:05 P.M.]

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee meeting of June 3rd. Could we please all stand for the Pledge?

(*Salutation*)

And, please, may we all stand for a moment of silence for those men and women who are fighting for our freedoms, both home and abroad.

(*Moment of Silence*)

Please be seated. All right. Good afternoon, again. Are you guys ready? We're good?

LEG. STERN:

We're good.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. What we're going to do first is we're going to discuss the Suffolk Community College Operating Budget. And I believe, Gail, you're going to be going first. Is it my understanding --

MS. VIZZINI:

Actually, Mr. Chairman, if I may. The College has a prepared presentation. It would be best if they went first and I'll just augment that presentation.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. You guys okay with that? All right. By the way, as the College is getting ready, I had the pleasure of being at the graduation on Sunday and it was truly a very positive experience. It went smoothly and it was really interesting to see so many people. I mean, it was overflow crowd I understand, Chuck told me, over into the Sagtikos and so we're talking many thousands of people. That was impressive. So, with that, how are you guys doing? You're about ready?

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

And Maurice DuBois was a good catch.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes, and Maurice DuBois, absolutely. A Long Island guy. Port Jefferson High School.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

My district.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, there you go. How could he be anything but great? George?

MR. GATTA:

Good afternoon. George Gatta, Interim President, Suffolk County Community College. Just as a brief follow-up, there was a very nice clip that was played yesterday morning on CBS News at the wee hour of 6:38 a.m.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I missed it.

MR. GATTA:

Maurice did speak in very good terms about his experience at the graduation, but, more importantly,

he briefly spoke about his Father's experience as a student at Suffolk many, many years ago. So it was just a nice highlight to the commencement ceremony on Sunday.

We have a presentation that has been previously presented to the Board of Trustees and was also presented both to the Executive and Legislative Budget staffs several weeks ago, almost I guess about three weeks ago. We'd like to run through it briefly. It touches on -- the first part is just some background on the budget and what we're doing to manage the College's finances, both this year and as we look to next year. I'll do the first half of the presentation and then Vice President Stein will talk about the numbers that are contained in broad terms and then we'd be glad to respond to any questions.

First, thank you to the Legislature for their past support of our budget, both our Operating and Capital Budgets. This year we'll prepare more students than ever in the College history for successful careers. Just by way of reference, we are now the largest Community College in the SUNY system. We've surpassed every college of the 30 Community Colleges in terms of head count and in terms of size of operation. This year more than 23,000 students will attend, that's just on the credit side of the College. In addition to that, we have in the vicinity of 10,000 people that take continuing education, corporate training, workforce development courses at the College. This year we have a 3.8% increase in FTE growth, that's what we project by the end of the year, and that was higher than we had anticipated. We had anticipated and built into this year's budget about a 2.75% increase, so demand has grown. Historic perspective, more than a 30% growth since 2000.

Reasons for the growth. First, we continue to be the most affordable on Long Island. Secondly, we're very responsive to the critical workforce needs within the region and nationally. We continue to expand our high demand programs. And we've talked in the past, I don't want to spend a great deal of time on this, but our partnerships with seven area hospitals has allowed us to expand our nursing and we're now the largest nursing program in the State of New York.

Culinary Arts, we opened our new facility just over a year ago, and we've grown to the point where we've exceeded our year four projections in terms of enrollment just after our first year in operation. So that program has flourished and that facility has proven to be a great investment, not only in the community of Riverhead and in Downtown Riverhead, but for the College and for the region.

Industry partnerships, again, working very closely with different industry segments within the region. Late this summer and for the Fall semester, we will cut the ribbon and open our new Workforce Development Technology Center at the Grant Campus. It will be a marriage of both our HVACR Program and our Advanced Manufacturing Program. I'm very -- we were very pleased to have several Legislators at a special program when we announced our new curriculum, our Associates Degree in Manufacturing Technology. Legislator Cooper, thank you for your attendance at that. Legislator Gregory was also with us that day, and we had upwards of 40 manufacturing companies, 40 of the 70, 75 that are working with us all in that manufacturing curriculum.

What's very exciting to us, and I think to the region, is not just the training, moving into a degree program and then linking with the four year institutions, but it's the work that we're currently doing with the K through 12 system. We are providing our curriculum to the K through 12 systems, different districts that would like that curriculum. They're providing it to their students and those students are able to come into our program with advanced standing. So it's a way of connecting not just with industry, but also with younger folks to show them, our young students, to show them that there are very -- there's a good career ladder within manufacturing, it is highly technical, and it is not the manufacturing of 30 or 40 years ago. They can go as high as a Masterate or Doctorate within the discipline and do extremely well in this area.

Other reasons for the growth, Honors Program. Our Honors Program has grown to over 800 students. Those students are transferring to some of the most prestigious four-year institutions in the country. We also service academically and folks that are financially -- that have real financial barriers, adult learners, displaced workers. Those are some of the schools that our honor students

and others are transferring to.

We're also working, both at the College and, again, within the K through 12 system, in offering the step program Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, providing these services to underrepresented populations within these disciplines, so that at a young age students can flourish within those, and then come to the College, participate in our programs and go on from there.

Helping folks make the leap from public assistance to self-sufficiency. Four hundred and fifty students have gone through that program into successful careers through the Bridge Program.

Liberty Partnerships, again, working within the school districts with an at-risk population to let -- to have young folks be successful and recognize that they have the ability to tackle college-level material and to make that transition as smoothly as possible.

Overall, all these efforts, they fuel the local economy. They support local businesses. They help keep young families in the County. So we certainly understand that our education is important, and we understand that there are -- there are rising costs associated with that education and the provision of the education. But we're also doing our part to try to maintain that affordability to support access. What are we doing? Diversifying our funding base. I talked about the partnerships, I talked about the manufacturing program, bringing Federal funds in.

We're also looking at every opportunity to implement internal efficiencies, to avoid costs where possible, and to achieve savings and operations. We're also using enhanced use of technology where we can, and with the development of some of our new enterprise resource planning systems we will see efficiencies in the longer term. We will be able to take limited staff and use it in a more efficient way.

A program that we've had over a number of years, we're looking at a new phase of energy efficiency programs. We implemented several years ago about a five-and-a-half million dollar energy efficiency upgrade for all of our or many of our systems, I can't say all, but many of our systems through the New York Power Authority. The attractiveness of the program is that it avoids the direct use of County or State dollars. We're not using capital funds, but rather NYPA is financing the improvements, and then those improvements are paid off through the savings that we achieve, through the energy efficiency savings we achieve. We're also, as part of that, receiving rebates from LIPA, and I'll talk about that in a minute. But these are some of the projects in a new phase that we would enter into and we would avoid coming to the County for these costs and we would be able to make these important improvements and enhancements to systems throughout the College.

We're also looking at, besides working with NYPA, working with National Grid on a gas program for a couple of replacements, saving about \$100,000 in the Sagtikos Arts and the Caumsett Buildings and then avoiding some fees that would be associated with that and achieving a lower rate structure for both Sagtikos Huntington Library at the Ammerman Campus and the Babylon Student Center.

In terms of grant funding, you can see the trend. It is up. We are aggressively pursuing a number of new grants as others have worked their way through the process. These are just a few: U.S. Department of Education funding for Career and Technical Education Act Funding, student support services programs, and then a number of them through the National Science Foundation.

Operational efficiencies. We've put in place a team of maintenance mechanics that work together throughout the campuses to tackle jobs that in the past we had sent out to contracts and we've been able to save on some campuses upwards of \$100,000 through -- through the use of those teams and doing these projects ourselves.

These are just a couple of examples of what we're doing out at the Eastern Campus; a few examples at the Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood. One project that you might be interested in and the County may be interested in is what we call -- we call the Magic Salt Treatment Project. In the past,

or last year at the Grant Campus, we spent about -- I think it's the next slide. We spent about, I think, \$18,000 on calcium chloride to melt the snow and ice on our sidewalks. We sent the Director of our Plant Operations to a seminar that I believe the Cauliflower Association of Long Island was putting on. It cost him \$20 to go to the seminar. There's a process where you mix a -- you mix rock salt with another ingredient, and the other ingredient happens to be a byproduct of the rum distillation process and it's -- the long and the short of it is that we went from spending about \$18,000 on rock salt, on calcium chloride, to about \$2,500 on this magic salt and achieved very good results. In fact, better in terms of environmental results. That just gives you an example of -- here are the numbers. It was 16,632 down to 2,419. So we're working on that with the other two campuses. Just to give you an example of the ways that we're looking at trying to save funding at the College, ultimately helping with the impact on both tuition and on the support we receive from the County and the State. Some additional examples of efficiencies, again, through plant operations at the Ammerman Campus.

In terms of staff realignment, I could go -- we could go through this in great detail, but the long and the short of it is that we're looking to cross train staff wherever we can so that during peak enrollment periods we have as efficient an operation to work with the students, reducing overtime costs, reducing overload costs, and have the process work as streamlined as possible. That's being implemented at all three campuses. It's already in operation at the Grant Campus and as we move into the new library at the Eastern Campus, when that's constructed we'll have more room, more room to have more of a one-stop shop for student advising, testing and registering.

Crisis response protocol, counselors on duty, doing training in-house to make sure all our counselors understand these procedures, having the staff in place at no additional cost. The Call Center, again, it's a one-stop shop where if one office is overburdened, we have the ability with our new phone system to transfer calls within the College, cross train staff so that we can have questions answered quickly avoiding, you know, long waits on lines to make sure that registration can happen quickly. Same day testing advising, that's what we're calling the one-stop shops so the students don't have to come, be tested, come back a week later, be advised, and then maybe come back a third time and then have to do the registration. We're moving towards doing that all in one day. Group advisement, where we can train students to use our new computer system in group sessions, 24 to 30 at a time, no additional cost.

Where we can, we're cutting mailing costs using E-mail and electronic communications. Electronic communication is now an official means of communication at the College and that will over a long run significantly reduce our mailing costs.

Some of the rebates we've received, LIPA and NYPA, almost \$800,000 in those rebates for those systems that were funded through the NYPA Program. And some of the avoided costs, the avoided electrical costs, amounted to about 1.2 million dollars.

So with all of these initiatives we're meeting our mission, we've supported significant enrollment growth, expanded partnerships and brought in additional resources from multiple levels, both within the private sector and the public sector. In the process we've enhanced access and all of that have inures to the benefit of the County's residents and businesses.

Before Chuck begins, I would just like to let the Legislature know that we, like community colleges around the State and around the country, are experiencing a tremendous interest being expressed in terms of new enrollment. Applications are up. When we put this budget together several months ago we had a sense that there would continue to be strong enrollment growth but -- and we've let people know that they should register early. So we don't know how much of the enrollment is associated with people wanting to register and get their courses now versus what's happening within the broader economy in terms of the cost of higher education, the impact of the regional and the national and the international recession on families, and so we're working very hard to maximize the amount of sections that we'll be able to make available and the seats that we will be able to make available for the Fall. We are monitoring it on a weekly basis and we're looking at everything we can

do to maximize access to the College, given the budget that we've presented to the Legislature.

Chuck will talk about some of the personnel costs. Many of those are -- you know, they are dictated by collective bargaining agreements. We have built in a 3% enrollment growth beyond where we are. We've added only additional funding in the adjunct and overload lines to accommodate staffing additional sections to handle that enrollment growth.

When Chuck talks about the budget, we've put in place a significant effort this year to safeguard our fiscal situation so that we have -- we had resources to deal with proposed budget cuts that were anticipated, but that did not materialize from SUNY and from the State budget. So we are -- we're working very hard to accommodate what we sense is going to be a strong enrollment growth and we want to continue to work with the Legislature and make you and the Executive Branch aware of what's going on at the College.

So with that as an overview and a backdrop, I'll let Chuck talk about some of the numbers in the budget, and then we'll be glad to respond to any questions that you might have, unless you have a question now.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes, hi, George. Thank you for your presentation. Vivian Viloría-Fisher -- Legislator Fisher would like to just ask a quick question to you on one of your issues.

MR. GATTA:

Sure.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

George, since this is not specific to the budget, I just had a couple of questions. How has the downturn in the auto industry affected -- I know we had gone to an Honors Program where there was a wonderful presentation on the Auto Program where I think Honda was the sponsor. Has that been impacted by the downturn?

MR. GATTA:

Actually, we have not experienced any impact yet. We still have partnerships with both GM, Toyota and Honda. Those partnerships -- there's been no communication to us that any of those are not -- are not being funded going forward. As a matter of fact, interest in that technical program continues to grow, and we are not able to accept all the applicants, all the qualified applicants, that apply to the program. When -- you know, these mechanics go out they work in dealerships, they work in private auto repair shops. People are not stopping -- you know, they continue to drive vehicles, and those vehicles, if they're not being replaced with new ones, need to be repaired. So the demand is still there. Very, very strong demand for those folks within that industry.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. And, George, I had another question, that is, I know that the utilization -- space utilization was well over 90% and I know how difficult it is to do scheduling with that type of level of utilization of space. With the 3.8% increase, and possibly even more --

MR. GATTA:

Yes.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Will you have to turn students away? I know that you said you are trying very hard to do it.

MR. GATTA:

There are two issues here. The first issue is in terms of space. We're looking to -- and we've reworked the master schedule in a way. We've run 6:30 a.m. classes. There are -- there are some times of the day that have not been extremely popular, but if students don't have a choice.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

6:30 a.m.

MR. GATTA:

No, we have -- I think the number was upwards of six or seven hundred students coming at 6:30 in the morning for those classes. We're looking at middle and late afternoon classes. We're looking at scheduling classes on Wednesdays and Fridays. Fridays, again, not being a very popular day with students and with instructors, but Fridays being a very down day, utilizing that. That increases our capacity significantly. We're running classes on weekends and our evening sessions are very full at all the campuses. So we still have some space in terms of the capacity, but the challenge will be putting faculty, paying for faculty to teach all the sections that we may need.

We're doing a thorough review of everything at the College as we speak to find out where the real need is, what programs are in the highest demand, which ones might be -- might be necessary to scale back, but the objective is not to turn away students, which is happening. And if you read the literature, if you read the higher ed literature on a daily basis, California with their situation today, the State University system there said they would not be able to accommodate about 200,000 students next year. University of Miami -- excuse me, Miami Dade, there may be 30,000 students down at Miami Dade that are not able to graduate because of budget constraints. So our -- our challenge is to fund as many sections as we can and to make sure that those sections are run at limits that are both academically sound and fiscally sound.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, George.

MR. GATTA:

Thank you.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You're welcome. All right. Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of questions, George, to follow up on what Legislator Viloría-Fisher spoke about with the automotive program. If, in fact, there is disruption or individuals are dislodged, is there an ability with your automotive program to retrain individuals that may, in fact, have been trained on Chryslers, let's say, and now through contraction of dealerships, perhaps the demand is going to shift to the Hondas, the Toyotas, Kias, or what have you. Do you have the ability to take folks in for a set period of time to give them another skill set on top of what they have academically?

MR. GATTA:

Well, in addition to the Honda, the Toyota and the GM, we also have a General Automotive Program, so we're actually offering four different -- four different options, a specialty or a general list. But to answer the question, we're looking at every way that we can address this in different ways.

Clearly, the business of higher education is -- needs to change. We need to find new ways. It can't be that's the way we've always done it and that's the way we'll continue to do it. So it's not just in that area, but with some of the Federal stimulus money that's coming down, especially as it relates to individuals and their ability to access funds for training, our staff are working very closely with the Suffolk County Labor Department so that we can put in place programs that meet the needs of individuals in -- that have been in many different professions that need to come back to the

Community College to be trained for jobs and trades that are emerging now. And that's a discussion that I think we need to -- we need to have, because as that money becomes available, we will need to find a way, and I'm glad you asked the question, we will need to find a way to accommodate that funding within the College budget in a way that meets, you know, our -- the legal requirements, meets the financial requirements that we have, because we're -- you know, as a public entity, we're constrained to live within the approved appropriated budget.

So just as an example, if several million dollars were to be available to train individuals, we'd have to find a way to have that come into the budget, whether it could be structured as a grant or whether we could do some type of amendment to the budget, so that we could not just increase the revenue side to accommodate those students, but we'd also need to amend the appropriation side so that we could pay for the faculty and the supplies and the equipment that we would need to carry out that training. That's a discussion that I think is very ripe, very quickly to have, you know, very openly.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Do you -- are you an applicant for stimulus funding independently, or would that come through State Ed down to you?

MR. GATTA:

Well, no. We've applied for stimulus funding for capital projects.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. GATTA:

We've not received any yet, but --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. But not on the instructional side.

MR. GATTA:

Not on the instructional side. Again, we're working -- that money flows through the Workforce Investment Board. It's WEA funds that come down and will flow from the State -- from the Feds to the State to the County Labor Department, and then we will work with the County Labor Department to find a way to get it to the College so that we can fund the training for their -- for dislocated workers.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. One other thing. Your comments about the contraction for other universities is very pertinent as well, and we've had this conversation about the nursing programs. We currently I think seat 120, 130 students for the nursing program when it commences in September?

MR. GATTA:

Actually, we seat -- we graduate a little over 300 nurses a year and we take in -- we take in over 300 every year.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. But you're also aware that Stony Brook's program this September has been reduced by 50% as to the number of student nurses that they're going to take in, specifically because of that reduction in funding.

MR. GATTA:

Yes. And we're also aware that I believe it was New Paltz has eliminated -- you know, they're eliminating the nursing program, so nursing is under assault, not just within the region, but within the state.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. All right. I'll yield for now. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you, George. And we'll be glad to entertain Mr. Stein. Is this the last time you'll be in front of us, Chuck? Is that -- all depends?

MR. STEIN:

Every time I walk in I think that's the case, but.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We're just a group you just can't leave behind.

MR. STEIN:

I just love speaking with everyone here.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

As you should.

MR. STEIN:

Yes. I just, quickly, quickly just wanted to go over the budget overview. A lot of it you've heard already. We're exceeding our enrollment and revenue targets this year by about a million-and-a-half dollars. We've avoided the use of reserve funds. The budget that was adopted this year had expenditures exceeding revenues by a million-four-hundred and eighty thousand. We've made that up, and based upon some other areas that George has discussed. Beyond that, we are looking at about a \$1.7 million surplus that we're going to carry into next year.

We continue looking at every position to really make a determination as to whether or not it needs to be filled. We've restricted areas of expenditure, much the same as the County does. You know, the typical areas, the overtime, the travel, etcetera. Non-critical equipment we've pushed to the side. One of the areas that we held back on this year in anticipation of some State Aid reductions was the replacement of computers. We cannot do that again. We have to proceed next year. We've cross trained, redeployed staff. The efficiencies that George Gatta has gone over with you. The managing of the master schedule is really important. I want to stress what's going on. There's a committee that meets continuously on this, looking at every seat in every room of every building to maximize utilization.

Regarding next year's budget, we obviously recognize what's going on in the world, the State and the County with finances. We're looking only at a cost to continue situation and delaying some strategic investments. Obviously we're trying to support access, as has just been discussed, maintain services, deal with the employment needs of the people of our community, and to continue to maintain affordability. Much like the County, we've had to face certain realities in next year's budget. Increased health premium costs, the contractual salary adjustments, energy costs, these are things that we have to take into consideration. The enrollment growth that George Gatta has reviewed with you, the computers, we have to put those into next year's budget. And we also have to recognize that in about six weeks we're going to start the operation of the new Workforce Development Building at the Grant Campus. So you have to fund that.

We did not seek a County increase, recognizing the financial concerns. Of course, if the Legislature feels that it's important to give us some additional money, we'll be happy to accept it. The State base aid was only for FTE growth. Unfortunately, there is also a reduction in rental aid, so that's something that we have to take into consideration. The board's policy is to preserve the reserves, and of course you're well aware of the fact that we have a new MTA payroll tax that we have to pay for, and we had to put that into the budget.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

How much is it?

MR. STEIN:

Well, just going down the list here, and I'll shoot right to the bottom, which the estimated MTA payroll tax on an annualized basis is \$370,000. So I won't editorialize my feelings about it, but that's something we have to crank into our expenditures.

LEG. ALDEN:

Pathetic.

MR. STEIN:

So, the additional costs that we're facing for next year are over \$9 million, plus we have to make up the structural imbalance that we had. So, in grand total, we've had to look to make up \$10.7 million. We're going about that by carrying over 1.7 million. The State aid FTE growth on a net basis after taking out the reduction in rental aid comes to a million and a half dollars. A -- an annual tuition increase of \$200. That's \$100 per semester will yield 5.4 million. The 3% growth that we're looking at will produce 1.9, million, and some minor other revenue gives us our total need. That pretty much concludes the numbers section. And we've been discussing these numbers on a continuous basis with the Budget Review Office, as well as the Budget Office, and there has been a lot of conversation back and forth on it. So I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Montano.

MR. MONTANO:

Chuck, just very quickly, could you go back to those last two slides so I could take a quick look at them again? The one before that. That was the one before that, then. Yeah, that. Okay, thanks.

MR. STEIN:

I just want to point out where it says utilities waste, about 435,000 of that amount was really a reclassification from the 3000 series to the 4000 series. And that's why you see a reduction in -- a net reduction in other areas, so.

LEG. MONTANO:

As cost increases, all right.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator -- I'm sorry, Legislator Fisher.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Hi, Chuck.

MR. STEIN:

Hi.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I saw very briefly in one of the slides the word Banner, and I know that's the -- that's the group that will handle our payroll when the College is doing it's own payroll?

MR. STEIN:

It will handle payroll, student records, student services. It's a full administrative system.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Actually I met somebody from Banner because they also do the Stony Brook University. You know,

they do a lot of colleges around the State.

MR. STEIN:

Many, yes.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

And this was a representative I met there. But I was wondering, I did see a number next to it I don't think that -- will there be a great increase when we move the payroll from the County doing the payroll to the College doing the payroll? Have you come up with those numbers yet on that?

MR. STEIN:

We expect that -- well, currently, and even in the 2009-2010 budget there's an interfund transfer from the College to the County for systems, 608,000 I think is the number that's in the budget. The anticipation is that the cost will be below that when the College does take over. That 608,000 will still be coming to the County, because that payment is actually made in the Fall, it's the November timeframe and it's an after the fact type of expense. We received the bill for your 2009 expenditures, which happens to fall within our 2009-2010 budget so -- because the fiscal years are different. And so that amount would still be coming over to the County in the Fall. Subsequent years the cost anticipation will be lower to the College for processing payroll.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

What indication do you have of that? Have they given you an estimate on this? I'm sorry, my finger keeps slipping off of this. I'm just wondering what hard numbers we had that it will be lower. Has Banner given you a number on that?

MR. GATTA:

Well, we, the College, four years ago the College purchased the entire Banner software system. We've been implementing that over the time period. So going forward, there will be no cost. Banner will -- there will not be a charge for Banner, it will only be as upgrades come down for the entire system. We will implement those using existing IT staff.

With respect to payroll, the Banner system is much less labor intensive than the current PPS system that we utilize that the County owns. So longer term we see this system requiring less hands on. Then we've got a tremendous need within the College, there's not less of a need for human resources, so as some of those functions are less labor intensive, some of the folks that are currently working within the payroll system could be working in other areas of the College. We're not looking at downsizing in total, but there are many efficiencies within that operation that we anticipate will come to fruition. So it should cost us significantly less in the long-term to accommodate this within the program that we already own.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I wasn't clear on that. I thought that there was still costs that were anticipated going to Banner. But we have the software, the training is done of our personnel, so these are just personnel costs, is what you're saying at this point? Whatever it would cost our personnel to run this system that we already own.

MR. GATTA:

That's correct.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Are there any further questions from the Legislature? All right. George, just quickly, the thought occurred to me that we're making room for classrooms and things like that. Have you given any contemplation for off-campus classes, anything that like that, if we come to that point where we just

can't find any more room on campus?

MR. GATTA:

Again, I'm glad you raised the point. We still have some capacity at the Riverhead Center and we're using that. We've utilized to a great extent the Sayville Center, but we have the room to expand within Sayville. As the new Learning Resource Center at the Eastern Campus comes online, that will free up space in the Peconic Building, which will allow -- and it will also provide some additional instructional space and learning laboratory space within the -- within that facility. We have already approved and we will be in design very shortly. We've just started the RFP for the architects and engineers for the new science building, the \$32 million science building on the Ammerman Campus.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Of course, local architects and engineers.

MR. GATTA:

We are certainly cognizant of the County law --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I'm just kidding, George.

MR. GATTA:

-- and we will certainly operate within the confines of that law.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

As I knew you would. I'm sorry. Sometimes I can't help myself.

MR. GATTA:

That's certainly all right. So with the science building, with the new library at the Eastern Campus and then with the plans in subsequent years and depending on what the Legislature does with the new Learning Resource Center at the Grant Campus, all of those will provide additional instructional space, because functions that are currently housed in certain buildings like the Sagtikos Arts Building, that will free up space in Sagtikos Arts for additional laboratories and classrooms when we move to the new library. Same thing with Peconic Building at the Eastern Campus, same thing with the Kreiling Building, and there is funding in the Capital Program to renovate Kreiling because some of the -- all the labs in Kreiling will move over to the new science building. We'll be able to then retrofit. So we're looking at all of that. If there's a need and if we have the ability within the budget to rent and we need off campus space, we can do that and we've, you know, we've shown that we can do that pretty quickly.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Good. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes, Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

George, tell me about the sequencing, if you will, about the three buildings that I guess we consistently have restored into the Capital Budget. If I hear what you're saying, you're actually moving forward with the planning and design for Ammerman and we are deferring what's going on with the library at Grant, or are the two moving parallel?

MR. GATTA:

Well, the Grant Campus funding, we've -- we did request that we advance the planning money I believe to 2010 or was it 11? Do you remember?

MR. STEIN:

2010.

MR. GATTA:

2010. So that's something that I believe currently was not advanced by the Executive Office.

LEG. KENNEDY:

No, but I know that we're in the midst of the Budget Working Group, as a matter of fact, and we, when we adopt the Capital Budget I think we might see -- I think it's my recollection that we addressed that request to accelerate some of the planning funding. So if that is the case, then will you have the capacity to progress both projects simultaneously? What I don't want to do is, is get into this concept that we're only moving one of the projects at a time in deference to the other campuses.

MR. GATTA:

Well, given what we have on the drawing board now, the Eastern Campus Library should be in construction by the end of this year. The design is 90% done. We're currently going through a project labor agreement and analysis so that should be in construction.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good.

MR. GATTA:

The Science Building at the Ammerman Campus, the funding is in place for the planning dollars and we're advancing. We're hoping to get designs back later this year, so if we were to get the design money for the Learning Resource Center, the Library at the Grant Campus next year, we could advance that, I would say, in the second half of next year.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. GATTA:

And we could sequence it that way.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good. All right.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Please.

LEG. MONTANO:

Just so I'm clear. When is the money -- in what year is that money in, is it 2010, the planning you said, for the Grant Campus?

MR. GATTA:

For the Grant Campus, I believe that's what we requested it for.

MR. STEIN:

We requested it in 2010.

MR. GATTA:

Just for the planning money.

LEG. MONTANO:

The planning, right.

LEG. KENNEDY:

The Exec's Office had put it in '11.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah, I think we moved it up. All right. You know what, we'll get to that later.

LEG. KENNEDY:

We're going to see it shortly. We're going to adopt the Capital Budget next Tuesday, I believe, aren't we?

MS. VIZZINI:

That's correct.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. So the recollections I think will be --

MR. NOLAN:

The College budget?

LEG. MONTANO:

Capital.

MR. NOLAN:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. We got a yes.

MS. VIZZINI:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

One for Gail. Okay. We're good? Okay. Thank you very much, gentlemen. If there are no further questions, you're welcome to stay.

MR. STEIN:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Ms. Vizzini, would you like to spend a few minutes with us and go over the Budget Review's look-see, review of this budget?

MS. VIZZINI:

It would be my pleasure, Mr. Chairman. And one of the reasons you invited the Working Group to your committee was in the context -- this is a year of transition for the County and the Community College in that we are now no longer governed by the Plan C Agreement, but, rather, by the Sponsor Services Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding. The short of that is that consistent with changes to the State regulations, the local sponsor no longer has line item authority. You are accustomed to me saying if you increase the County contribution by, you can decrease the rate of tuition increase by. The Budget Review Office report will no longer be making line item recommendations to you since you no longer have that level of scrutiny over the expenditures.

However, we do provide the College and we are providing the College in the '09-2010 budget over \$38 million in the County contribution. So we will continue to do our due diligence for you, review their request along with the County Executive's Budget Office, and let you know the major areas of increase or decrease in expenditures, revenue, fund balance, reserve, etcetera. But most of this is

based on the information provided to us by the College.

As you know, the College will be going in its -- off on its own in terms of the personnel system and the financial system. However, the agreements stipulate that we will, the Budget Offices, will still have made available to us the same level of information that we have gotten in the past.

I think the College has done an exemplary job in telling you the major changes, the highlights of which they did not ask for, nor are they recommended by either Budget Office for any increase in County contribution support over the current level. They requested and the budget presents a \$200 increase in tuition on an annual basis. The State aid, as Chuck mentioned, is relatively flat, except for that modest net \$1.5 million over the current year, which had to do with the growth in enrollment.

Chuck highlighted for you the areas of expenditure that they chose to take their reductions in. Of concern to us, as well as the College, is not replacing aging computer equipment, but I think that was pretty clear from their presentation that this is not something that can continue for a number of years.

I want to bring to your attention, and we will be issuing our report probably -- we're shooting for Friday. I was hoping to get it to you today, but it was just not something that could be done in the context of having to prepare the Capital, the Capital Budget Report and the changes to the Capital Program. In the County's General Fund Operating Budget, there is a line that is now approaching about \$10 million, which is referred to as the General Fund expenditure for out-of-county tuition. These are our Suffolk residents who opt for whatever reason to attend other community colleges. Most of them go to FIT and Nassau Community. There is -- there are some figures and historical costs that are reflected in our report, which will be ready for you Friday, as I said. But this dollar amount has escalated from five million back in early 2000 to ten million. It's an expense to the General Fund. It's not shown in the College budget, but it's part of Education Law that requires the local sponsor to subsidize the tuition for our residents who attend other schools.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Can I ask you a question about that?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Gail, can Legislator Fisher ask a question?

MS. VIZZINI:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Gail, and -- is there a line indicating how much we get from -- does that go into our General Fund when another county pays out-of-county tuition for students coming here?

MS. VIZZINI:

Actually, yeah, we get about over \$500,000 from other --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

So we get \$500,000 and we pay out 10 million? Whoops. Is that right?

MS. VIZZINI:

I saw Chuck stand up, but I don't think he's going to correct me. That goes to the College.

MR. STEIN:

(Nodded yes).

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

It doesn't come to the General Fund?

MS. VIZZINI:

It's revenue to the College.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I see.

MS. VIZZINI:

Correct? Yeah. There's just a few things I wanted to highlight for you. The Welfare to Work Program, which the College -- the Legislature has consistently over the past two years provided a modest but workable sum of \$29,000 for the continuation of this mentoring program to high risk students. There's no specific line in the Operating Budget for the Community College for this program. However, there appears to be sufficient monies for them to continue it, and more importantly, there are a lot of efforts on the part of the College and BOCES where they've incorporated their strategies to serve the TANF population. So the three entities, Executive and Legislative Budget Office and the College believe there's sufficient monies to continue the program or the intent of the program.

The other concern that we have had in previous omnibuses is the County employee computer training. This is something that basically has been sacrificed because of budget cuts. There is no specific funding in the current year or next year in the College's budget to provide computer training, Excel, Word, etcetera, for County employees.

The County Executive's budget -- I just wanted to highlight, particularly for the Working Group, the budget document includes the County Executive's resolution to adopt the budget. In the past, it has been our practice to expunge the resolution, because we would do our own resolution adopting the College budget, so that is something that we should probably incorporate in the resolution.

Also, in last year's omnibus adopting the College, you approved the inclusion in the '08-'09 College Budget, which is prepared and still prepared, the actual document is prepared by the County Executive, and will be printed by the County Executive. You approve the inclusion of three schedules. The whole idea was to have one page that you could go to where you could see the connection between the General Fund and the College, and another page that you could go to so you could see the summary of all the expenditures, personnel, equipment, supplies, etcetera. The idea was transparency and straightforwardness. None of those schedules are included in the County Executive's proposed document, so I would encourage the Working Group to support the Budget Review Office's recommendation that the -- it's a positive thing, it's a transparent presentation, and those schedules should be included.

Both offices believe that there's a likelihood that the current year ending fund balance will be perhaps over two million, if not more, than is estimated by the College. But, as you well know, should a fund balance come in greater, it can be used to offset future years' expenses. This is something that is also going to be under the discretion of the Board of Trustees in terms of the use of the fund balance and the use of the reserve funds.

Just in closing, we should have our report to you Friday. We should also have the omnibus resolution for the changes to the Capital Program to you Friday as well.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Gail. I've got to tell you that the other night I was speaking to one of the administrators over in Nassau Community College, and I told them about the \$10 million and they said and we expect every penny of it. They knew of it and they were -- well, and they followed it

intently. Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah. Actually, I wanted to get back to that point. The ten million doesn't all go to Nassau, you said that's across the State. So just so I'm clear, the 10 million goes out, 500,000 comes in from other counties. What -- this is probably not to you, Gail, probably more to Chuck or to George. What is -- what do you attribute that disparity to? It seems to me that Suffolk offers one of the better educational opportunities and it doesn't seem that we're attracting the out-of-county students. Is that the way this program works?

MR. STEIN:

Traditionally and historically a fairly significant number of Suffolk students leave Suffolk to go to other schools. The numbers have somewhat abated over the last ten years or so, and, in fact, we were doing fairly well. If you look, though, there's a Local Law that says if the number of students attending other schools is below the 1994-95 year, there's a small amount per student that would come to Suffolk Community College. We stopped receiving that last year because the number exceeded the 1994-95 numbers. On a percentage basis, though, when you consider the fact that our enrollment has grown dramatically, we're still, I believe, in a fairly good position in terms of reducing the number of students --

LEG. MONTANO:

That are leaving.

MR. STEIN:

-- as compared to the total growth.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right.

MR. STEIN:

But the problem is that the dollars are tied to what is being charged at those other schools.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. The figure I think she cited was five million in 2000; ten million today. How much of that would you say is a tuition increase, if you know?

MR. STEIN:

A fairly large percentage. I don't have it off the top of my head.

LEG. MONTANO:

So the numbers may have remained the same. The dollar amount for the cost of education probably brings us to the 10 million.

MR. STEIN:

Yeah. There's something that Gail and I have discussed that's going to require a little bit more analysis. When other local sponsors provide increases in support, that actually increases the charge back -- the charge back rate.

LEG. MONTANO:

What do you mean by increases in support?

MR. STEIN:

For example, Nassau County every year has provided Nassau Community College with a 3.9% increase in local support.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

MR. STEIN:

That amount of local support is part of the formula that determines what the charge back rate is, so --

LEG. MONTANO:

I see. Let me ask you this, Chuck. Does Nassau -- does Nassau County have dormitories?

MR. STEIN:

No.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. So it's not a dormitory issue.

MR. STEIN:

No. Nassau basically draws a lot of its --

LEG. MONTANO:

Go ahead.

MR. STEIN:

That \$10 million that was referred to, in terms of Nassau Community College, they draw from Suffolk, they draw from Queens and Brooklyn.

LEG. MONTANO:

So they draw because of the curriculum or the programs that are offered, or do they draw for just other reasons? I mean, what's -- if I'm living in Brentwood, I'd rather go to the Brentwood Campus than drive all the way to Nassau, unless there's a program in Nassau that I can't get over here. That's the question I'm asking.

MR. STEIN:

A lot has to do with where people are --

LEG. MONTANO:

Go ahead. I'm sorry, Chuck.

MR. STEIN:

A lot has to do with where people are working, the students. A lot has to do with where they're living. If a student lives on the western border of Suffolk County, it's actually a shorter trip.

LEG. MONTANO:

To Nassau.

MR. STEIN:

To Nassau Community College than it is to Suffolk Community College.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. So it's not the curriculum and it's not the housing, in your opinion, it's more just whatever is convenient in terms of -- certainly when we're talking about Nassau or somebody who went Upstate it wouldn't apply, but that's what I'm getting from you. It's really the convenience factor. It's not curriculum, it's not housing, it's not other issues that are not being addressed here. And I see Kevin back there.

MR. STEIN:

I don't think anybody is going to beat our instruction or our curriculum.

LEG. MONTANO:

That's what I thought. From what I understand, it's one of the better institutions, you know, statewide. But before I'm done -- Chuck, thanks a lot. Kevin, did you want to -- did you want to address that?

MR. PETERMAN:

You're asking me if I'd like --

MR. MONTANO:

You need to come up if you are going to address it. If you have anything to add to the questions, then I would appreciate hearing it.

MR. PETERMAN:

Kevin Peterman with the Faculty Association at Suffolk Community College. I'm glad you asked that. I do want to add to that. I think Chuck's right on the money about a lot of times there are residents that work in Nassau County and choose to take the course at Nassau because it's right there. But I think there's another item that you really need to consider, and I think Legislator Kennedy was touching on it before, and some of that is facilities.

The reason in my opinion, being at the Grant Campus, that sometimes students go to Nassau is because of the facilities. We desperately need that library at the Grant Campus. And I urge you to put the planning money in 2010. It's really important when students come on campus they feel like they're on a campus. We've done great things over the years. The campus has certainly improved with some of the buildings. But when you walk into a library and it has two group study rooms and it can only hold 50 students in the reference area, students walk -- when students come on a campus to address what college they want to go to, that's important stuff.

And I urge you to consider, if the Working Group hasn't made its decisions yet about capital projects, certainly some planning money in 2010 for the library I personally believe would go a long way. But I do think some of the points that Chuck made about location, people taking courses -- because we talk to, you know, Nassau Community College faculty, we get a, you know, a sense of what's going on, but I do think facilities are a major portion of that situation.

LEG. MONTANO:

Thank you, appreciate it.

MR. PETERMAN:

Thank you.

MS. VIZZINI:

Mr. Chairman.

LEG. MONTANO:

Go ahead. Anyone who wants to add, go ahead.

MS. VIZZINI:

Thank you. Just in terms of the comparison, Nassau and Suffolk, the FIT is -- represents about -- you know, of the 3,688 Suffolk residents who attend out-of-county community colleges, 554 go to FIT. That program, as you well know, is very unique.

LEG. MONTANO:

Exactly. My brother went there. That's a specialized type of education and that would draw a student for the curriculum. But aside from FIT -- and that's what, 500 out of 3600 students?

MS. VIZZINI:

Correct. And seven hundred -- this is also based on '07-'08 actual data which is as current as we were able to get from the Comptroller's Office.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right, and that was my point, aside from the specialty that --

MS. VIZZINI:

FIT.

MR. MONTANO:

FIT offers, really there's no value educationally in terms of curriculum for someone to attend one of the other community colleges. They may choose to do it for other reasons, but it's not an educational issue and it's not a housing issue.

MR. STEIN:

Unless they're studying mortuary science. You know, that's offered there.

LEG. MONTANO:

Got you. Exactly. All right. Thanks. I appreciate that.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thanks. Tuition; what's the difference in tuition between Suffolk and Nassau?

MS. VIZZINI:

I think we're -- there's a \$46 difference now. We're \$46 lower on a full-time basis for '09-2010.

LEG. ALDEN:

And who do we actually cut the check to, Nassau Community College?

MR. STEIN:

The County, yeah.

LEG. ALDEN:

So when we reimburse, we reimburse the College.

MR. STEIN:

(Nodded yes).

LEG. ALDEN:

And it's done on, I'm guessing at this, as a percentage of what their tuition is?

MR. STEIN:

No. The way it works is each student -- a resident student pays a certain amount, a nonresident student would pay double that. What the student then does is they go to the Chief Financial Officer of the county where they get a Certificate of Residency. That Certificate of Residency is then provided to the college. The college uses that to charge back, in our case, to Suffolk County, that second amount. So you're reimbursing Nassau Community College, they're going to be at what, 3622? They're going to be at 3622. So instead of that student paying double 3622, the host county, in our case Suffolk, pays Nassau that second amount of 3622.

LEG. ALDEN:

It's all choice. And if I choose to go out of state or if I choose to go to a private school, I know I'm going to pay "X" amount plus or double if I go to a public school as Suffolk Community College is.

What was the justification that New York State came up with for the charge back? And also, who verifies the address? Because if I'm over in Nassau County, I'm going to issue as many of those certificates as I can and I'm going to have Suffolk pay as much as I can.

MR. STEIN:

That's why you go to the Chief Financial Officer. The Suffolk student who's going do Nassau Community College would have to go to Joe Sawicki's office.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, to our Chief Financial Officer?

MR. STEIN:

Yeah, our Chief Financial Officer --

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

MR. STEIN:

-- verifies the address, issues the certificate. The student then delivers that to Nassau Community College. Nassau Community College takes all of those certificates that they get and basically sends a bill.

LEG. ALDEN:

We have to find a way to -- whether it's through New York State to -- if somebody's going to exercise that choice, and that's fine, they should be able to go to any school that they want to, but choice -- part of the choice is the expense.

MR. STEIN:

It's New York State Law.

LEG. MONTANO:

It's not County.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, I know. That's why I'm saying, New York State really has to -- that's something we have to make them revisit I would think.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I agree.

LEG. ALDEN:

And Fashion Institute is what, it's a four-year school though, right?

LEG. MONTANO:

No, it's two. Two and four.

MR. STEIN:

It's two and four but it's also, for some reason, classified within the other -- with the community colleges, and that's a State designation.

LEG. ALDEN:

You know, really, in reality, it's a four-year school. It doesn't really fall in what Suffolk Community College is. All right.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm just going to throw one more plank on what my colleagues have already laid out. Of the 3600 students that are going out of County, cut out the 500 for FIT because clearly we don't have that, out of that remaining 3100 do you have the ability to ferret out how many of them are actually enrolled in a program that's duplicative of what we provide here?

MR. STEIN:

(Shook head no.)

LEG. KENNEDY:

You don't. There's no way to capture what --

MR. STEIN:

(Shook head no.)

LEG. KENNEDY:

Really. So when they furnish this certificate, that's it, blank, they could be in Liberal Arts, they could be in Forestry, they could be in Mortuary, they could be in anything.

LEG. MONTANO:

Based on residency only.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, but then, again, if we're going to get at an ability to relieve ourselves from that, we ought to at least know what these students are taking if we have to pick up the tab. And that comes out of State reg or is that State Law?

MR. STEIN:

State Education.

LEG. KENNEDY:

State Education Law? Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Fisher.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Chuck, one of the things you didn't mention, which I recall coming up in the past when I had chaired this committee, is the factor of transportation. That sometimes students who are in Western Suffolk actually can catch the buses going to Nassau Community College more easily than Suffolk County buses. I thought I remembered that being a factor. I don't know if our transportation has become better in the interim, but I do remember that being a factor.

MR. STEIN:

Public transportation in Suffolk is difficult.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

And I recall it being a major factor. So certainly we would expend our money better if we take that \$10 million and put it in our bus system here and keep our students in Suffolk County.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Sounds like a takeover. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How is -- for these purposes how is residency defined? Is it just simply

walking into the Comptroller's Office and saying this is my address and give me a certificate? Is there any kind of facts and circumstances test? Is it voter registration? Is it -- who and how is residency determined.

MR. STEIN:

You have to prove that you've been a resident of Suffolk County for one year by bringing in phone bills, mortgage payments, some evidence that you, in fact, are a Suffolk County resident and have been so for a year.

LEG. STERN:

So going the other way, then, if somebody is attending a community college Upstate and somebody is working part-time and taking classes as well and they hold a job up there, they've even voted up there, but their parents happen to live here. What's to prevent them from charging back or declaring Suffolk County as their residency? Does anybody look into any of these circumstances or just because they happen to also have lived in Suffolk County and might have relatives still here, whether they intend to return here or not, do they still have a sufficient string attached to Suffolk County?

MR. STEIN:

The student has to demonstrate that they are the Suffolk County resident and have been so for one year. And they have to do so with various means, including their driver's license and other factors that they have to basically prove to the Comptroller's Office that they, in fact, have been meeting those requirements in order to get the certificate that they're going to bring back to their other school.

LEG. STERN:

So it's not just an address, it's these other factors as well that's required to be reviewed?

MR. STEIN:

Yeah. Sufficient proof of residency. And I don't have them memorized, but there are items that are checked.

LEG. STERN:

Those items are actually listed within that same provision of the State Law?

MR. STEIN:

I believe so, but I could get the information together to you.

LEG. STERN:

Would you, please? I'd appreciate that. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Fisher.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Chuck, I just wanted to say, I'm listening to the questioning and it doesn't enure to the benefit of the student to lie, because if they actually do live Upstate, they would be paying that -- the tuition of the County. So it doesn't really enure to their benefit to lie about where they live.

LEG. MONTANO:

And that would be fraud.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

It would be fraud that wouldn't benefit them, so there's no reason to question where they live.

MR. STEIN:

If anything, students will try and demonstrate that they are a resident of that community so they don't have to go through the hassle of coming back and getting the certificate and everything else.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

But just so we're clear, they're allowed -- you're really allowed a dual residency. You can actually vote in your college town and live in Suffolk County. I mean, there's just, you know, the standard residency laws. All you're saying is that in order for someone to get this tuition reimbursement they have to have these ties to Suffolk a year preceding their enrollment. And once they're in they stay in that system.

MR. STEIN:

Let me clarify.

LEG. MONTANO:

Go ahead.

MR. STEIN:

It's not the student who is getting the reimbursement.

LEG. MONTANO:

It's the college.

MR. STEIN:

It's the college.

LEG. MONTANO:

But the student has to -- the student really has to pay -- the student is the resident and the proof of residency comes from here in Suffolk County is what you're saying and then is transferred to the college.

MR. STEIN:

Correct.

LEG. MONTANO:

Gotcha.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Who knew that we were going to get into this depth on this issue. Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

Just to clarify. My daughter, who goes to Marist College, took a summer course, one summer course at Nassau Community College, and she provided a --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Traitor.

LEG. COOPER:

I don't think it was available at Suffolk. But in any case, she provided a photocopy of her driver's license and that was enough for her to get 50% reimbursement of the tuition that was paid. I don't know what reimbursement Nassau Community College got, but I know that we received a 50% reimbursement check from Nassau Community College in return for providing a photocopy of her driver's license.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

That has to be out-of-county amount.

MR. STEIN:

I don't know how much you paid. Did you pay the double tuition? You know, there are a lot of questions here in order to come up with the answer.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Actually, it's interesting that she only needed a driver's license, because to establish residency to play golf as a Suffolk County resident, you need a driver's license and two other forms of I.D. before they actually let you pay the residents. Our contribution to the College is how much, 38 million?

MS. VIZZINI:

Correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

And then 10 million more to out-of -- so one-fifth of our expenses for education, instead of going to our educational facilities, go out of county. That's amazing. Okay.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Have we done this one to death or?

LEG. ALDEN:

No, not really.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We need to revolt. We should secede.

LEG. ALDEN:

This is another example of New York State not having much sense.

LEG. COOPER:

Cameron, what will we do, when you're term-limited out, for you to run for State office so you can fix all this.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

It's on your shoulders, Cameron.

LEG. ALDEN:

If I wanted to go up to Albany, I think I would have been there by now, but.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We'll leave this issue on the table.

LEG. ALDEN:

Maybe I'll go Federal.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Very good. Let's move on. Are there any other further questions of either the College or Ms. Vizzini?

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

No.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We're good? Thank you very much. And we do appreciate all of your input. All righty. Let's move to the agenda. All right.

TABLED PRIME

For the Tabled Prime the first is **1327 - Adopting Local Law No. -2009, A Charter Law to establish a new process for adopting the Suffolk County Community College Operating Budget. (Horsley)** I understand there is a small issue involving the language, and I'm going to defer this to Mr. Nolan.

MR. NOLAN:

Yeah. Just a couple of moments ago the Budget Office, County Executive's Budget Office, indicated they would like to review the bill. They may have a request for a change. This bill doesn't go in effect until the 2010 budget next year, so this really -- we could adjourn this for one cycle and get their input if the sponsor would so like.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I have no problem in tabling it for one time. However, I got to tell you that hearing about this ten minutes ago is a little annoying, just for the record. All right. I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Second by Legislator Stern.

LEG. ALDEN:

I make a motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Excuse me?

LEG. ALDEN:

I make a motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Apparently, they feel that it's -- Mr. Nolan?

MR. NOLAN:

Just table.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. We have a motion to table. We have a motion and a second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. Duly tabled for one cycle only. **(Vote: Tabled 5-0-0-0)**

MR. BROWN:

Thank you on behalf of the Budget Office.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You're welcome. **1346 - Appointing Thomas J. Germano to the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees. (Pres. Officer)**. I understand Mr. Germano is here. Come on up.

Welcome, Mr. Germano. And thank you for hanging in there. And it's good to see you learning about the College, the intricacies of the College already. Why don't you just spend a minute and just tell a little bit about yourself and, again, thank you for being here and being patient with us.

MR. GERMANO:

Thank you for inviting me and thank you for the consideration. I've spent most of my adult life in the academic world. I was 28 years the Director of Cornell University's Industrial and Labor Relations School on Long Island, another year-and-a-half at Dowling College. And prior to going to Cornell I taught at a number of colleges as an adjunct, at Queens College, Empire State College and SUNY Farmingdale. When it was a community college it was a two-year college.

I also practice arbitrations, mediations, presided over a few thousand cases, both in public and private sectors, and I've conducted a number of national and international seminars, training programs, and conferences dealing with every issue from violence in the workplace to bioterrorism in the workplace. And probably my specialties are conflict resolution, collective bargaining contracts. And it was interesting hearing everything that I did today about the college because if I'm confirmed I do have a number of questions, but I think also a number of ideas that I might be able to share and hopefully contribute to what the College is doing, most of which I was very impressed with learning.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. Germano. Are there any questions of Mr. Germano? Nope? Mr. Kennedy?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Just one quick one. And thank you very much for coming before us. And, certainly, there's absolutely no qualifications or questions at all about your qualifications; you're more than qualified. But I'd ask, you must be aware that we very recently went through a negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the College since Plan C has actually ceased to exist, there was a Court of Appeals case to throw it out. Do you have some familiarity with that perhaps?

MR. GERMANO:

A little bit. The little bit I would say is that however it turns out I believe both entities still need each other, and the best relationship would be a cooperative one.

LEG. KENNEDY:

That sounds good. As a matter of fact, spoken like a true arbitrator. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Are there any further questions? Legislator Fisher.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I don't really have any questions. Your resume speaks for itself. I just want to thank you for stepping up and we look forward to working with you.

MR. GERMANO:

Thank you. I look forward to working with the College and the Legislature.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Anything else from our august body?

LEG. KENNEDY:

I will make a motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Excellent.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I'll second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Mr. Kennedy makes a motion to approve Mr. Germano for the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees. Seconded by Legislator Fisher. All those in favor? Opposed? You've been approved. *(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0).*

MR. GERMANO:

Thank you very much. It's an honor.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We're truly grateful for your service. We look forward to working with you in the future. I think you're going to have a lot of fun with this. It's an interesting and intelligent board. You don't have to be here next Tuesday, so just by being here today and passing this, that's all we're going to require.

MR. GERMANO:

Thank you all. Thank you all very much.

LEG. ALDEN:

But don't pop the champagne open until after Tuesday night, because everybody has to vote on it.

MR. GERMANO:

I see. That's fine, that's good.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you for that qualification. All righty.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1438 - To appoint Shenole Latimer as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Browning) Is Shenole here?

MR. LATIMER:

Should I speak here?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Either/or.

LEG. ALDEN:

If you don't want to keep your finger down, stand up there. If you want to push your finger down, sit there.

MR. LATIMER:

I can use the exercise. Okay. There we go.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Mr. Latimer, please tell us about yourself. That's a good start.

MR. LATIMER:

Thank you very much for having me here today. As you know, my name is Shenole Latimer. I'm a performing -- I'm a professional performing artist, and when I say "professional", I don't use that term lightly. I've been doing this for 17 years and it's more than the case of where 100% of my

income is from being a performer. I use the term "professional" because I have a certain set of skills that lead me to become an advisor to many people concerning things about the arts, in particular, music. I'd like to be able to use those skills to help my community out a little bit better, and, hopefully, maybe get rid of some of the disconnect between what other performing artists called nine-to-fivers, civilians, and with the artists, because I find that with certain programs, that when they're in the midst of being, I guess, organized, that sometimes there's a little disconnect between the language used between both parties, and that actually sometimes leads to some costs that may not need to be done.

For example, very quickly, the Town of Glen Cove, the Glen Cove BID used to have an event called the Jazz Night, and I remember that one of the problems was that the musicians were complaining that they couldn't be heard, because they're mostly acoustic instruments. So their complaint was, "Oh, we need something to make us louder." Now, the Glen Cove BID didn't understand that that just meant something to make the acoustic instruments a little bit more -- give them a little bit more presence, so they went ahead and hired a sound person that would be good enough for an arena, thereby spending a lot of money. That's just a small example of where there's a disconnect between artists and civilians.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Civilians.

MR. LATIMER:

So I'd be happy to answer any questions, because I know I'm relatively unknown around these circles.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

And this is not a question directed to you yet, but how many people are on this board? Do we know?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

It's huge.

LEG. ALDEN:

Then there's --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I know there's at least 18, because each Legislative District has a representative. Michelle Stark I guess chairs it, right?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Legislator Browning was here before, but the person that you are replacing, do they know that you're replacing them?

MR. LATIMER:

Actually, honestly I am not quite certain. I haven't had a chance to clarify that. I do know that Kate Browning was here earlier. She's aware of my bid.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes, in fact, Legislator Kate, when she -- she said she wanted to be here. She had to run off to I think it was a meeting. She tapped me on the shoulder, she said, "Please apologize. He's a great

guy, he's wonderful." He's this and that and whatever. I said, "I got it, I got it, he's okay." So Kate is clearly aware.

LEG. ALDEN:

Maybe we can put on Mr. Latimer's shoulders to make sure the outgoing member of that committee feels loved, because sometimes we replace people -- you know, we don't tell them until they're replaced.

MR. LATIMER:

That's certainly understandable, and I'd be more than happy to address that.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. All right. Do you have the time to serve on the Board?

MR. LATIMER:

I'm sorry?

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you have the time to serve on the Board?

MR. LATIMER:

Yes, I do. Actually, as a performing artist my days are relatively open in the sense that most of what I have to do pertains to phone calls and e-mails anyway. As a self-employed person, my schedule's flexible. I make my schedule. I'm not sure how else I could -- I guess not being a civilian, I have certain freedoms in my schedule that wouldn't normally be allowed to most people.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you for stepping up then.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I had no idea that artists and politicians have such similarities. Ours are not 9 to 5 either, so we get it.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

That's because we're performing artists.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Some would say song and dance men.

MR. LATIMER:

You guys are warriors, too, you're not civilians.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Mr. Latimer, thank you very much. I have a motion?

LEG. STERN:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion by Legislator Stern, seconded by Legislator Alden. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)**. Again, as we mentioned before, you don't have to be here next Tuesday for the regular meeting. Then you'd have to sit there all day long, so that's one reason why we don't do that. Thank you for your service and congratulations.

MR. LATIMER:

Thank you all very much.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

And I wish you had entered with your sax, you know.

MR. LATIMER:

Oh. Next time I'll have to bring it.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All righty. And, lastly, ***1440 - Accepting and appropriating a 100% reimbursed grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a HOME Investment Partnerships Program and authorizing the County Executive to execute agreements. (County Exec)***

LEG. ALDEN:

Can we put it on the Consent?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Sure. Legislator Alden makes the motion and wants to put it on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Legislator Fisher. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. ***(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)***. And I -- tabled subject to call. I think that's it. All right. Motion to adjourn.

LEG. ALDEN:

You got it.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And I second the motion. All in favor? We're adjourned.

[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:34 P.M.]