

EDUCATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Education & Information Technology Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on November 13, 2012.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Sarah S. Anker, Chairwoman
Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Vice Chair
Leg. Thomas Cilmi
Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman
Leg. Thomas Muratore

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office
Thomas Vaughn, County Executive Assistant III
Christina DeLisi, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman
Rick Brand, Newsday
Kevin LaValle, Aide to Leg. Muratore
Kevin Peterman, Faculty Associate/Suffolk County Community College

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:03 PM

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Schneiderman.

SALUTATION

Please remain standing for a moment of silent meditation as we think of those overseas and in our country who have sacrificed their time, energy and lives so we have our freedoms.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

Thank you.

Do we have correspondence today? No correspondence. Cards, public comments? No cards. We do not have a presentation. And we're going to go to the Tabled Resolutions.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Okay. IR 1945. Okay. We are not tabling. We're going to just read the resolutions. They are not tabled.

IR 1945, Authorizing transfer of surplus blackberries, accessories and other telephone devices to AHRC. (Stern)

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

LEG. CILMI:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Motion passes. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

1946, Authorizing transfer of surplus blackberries, accessories and other telephone devices to Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk. (Gregory)

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Motion. Second over here, Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Motion passes. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 2001, Authorizing transfer of surplus blackberries, accessories and other telephone devices to The Retreat. (Schneiderman)

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Motion over here.

LEG. CILMI:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Second Legislator Cilmi. All in favor? Opposed? Motion carried. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Introductory resolution. We have **IR 2050, Appropriating funds in connection with the Learning Resource Center- Grant Campus (CP 2159). (Co. Exec.)** All in favor? Excuse me. Motion?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Motion. Second?

LEG. CILMI:

On the motion real quick?

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

On the motion. I'll second. Okay, go ahead.

LEG. CILMI:

So this is \$15.4 million. Maybe -- I know Kevin is not really the representative of the College, but maybe Kevin -- do you -- do you have an update for us? Can you update us on the status of this project?

MR. PETERMAN:

Sure.

LEG. CILMI:

Through the Chair, if that's okay?

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

That's fine. Are you okay, Kevin, of updating the status?

MR. PETERMAN:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Thank you.

MR. PETERMAN:

Kevin Peterman with the Faculty Association at Suffolk County Community College. I also happen to be a media librarian at the Grant Campus so I think I can -- I feel pretty comfortable about updating you.

I can tell you this: That the head librarian, Dr. David Quinn, and the architects and the Campus Dean, Dr. Jim King, had worked very well with the architectural firm. They happen to be very close by. And any time there's a question or a concern, there were there within a day. And we had a lot of give and take. And the library is going to be -- or the Learning Resource Center is going to be quite -- quite a building. It's going to be a green building. And we're looking forward to -- to

accommodating the students. And I think we're on a fast track. The architect was supposed to come by tomorrow, but because of the Hurricane they put it off two weeks. But we're -- that building is pretty well ready to go as far as architecturally. So I think we'll get the shovel in the ground next Spring.

LEG. CILMI:

And this resolution appropriates twelve-and-a-half million for construction and another almost three million for furniture and equipment, so.

MR. PETERMAN:

A lot of technology in there.

LEG. CILMI:

Yeah. Very good. Thanks, Kevin.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

In terms of design, Kevin, libraries seem to be changing rapidly in terms of how they're used and the purposes that they serve. As so much information goes digital, you know, Google is putting everything, it seems, on line. These -- we don't even call them college libraries. We call them learning resource centers, media centers. So in terms of this design, is it up-to-date in terms of technology and serving that purpose?

MR. PETERMAN:

Absolutely. In fact the Electronic Technology Unit, which is -- we call ETU, they're going to be located in that building. They're the technology backbone for the Campus. We're also not only incorporating in the library, but there'll also be some -- like a writing center and tutorial centers. It's going to be a real focus of the campus as far as -- not only can you go there and get knowledge, but you can get tutoring, too. So, it's really going to be a real, you know, place where the students can not only just get on a computer, we're also building a state of the art boardroom so that our Board, when they meet on the campus can meet there. We have outside groups. There'll be a nice facility to maybe do some fundraising, too.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

And I think, too, that's important. I know there's other colleges and universities struggling -- literally struggling to survive. And it just shows, you know, we are investing in education. And Suffolk Community College is doing well; extremely well, you know, considering what's out there.

I do want to thank you. I took a tour on the staging areas at the Brentwood Campus. And I was absolutely impressed, not only for the -- on the accommodations -- inside you had EMS workers from all over the country. And then on the outside you had National Grid Station area between 1,000 to, I think, 1500 people were either lodging or even, you know, eating the food, eating lunch, eating dinners.

So I just want to thank you. Your staff -- what I heard back from National Grid and EMS, they -- they said it was one of the best places they've ever been able to stay and to lodge, you know. And these are people that go out to different emergencies throughout the country. They said everything was just, you know, beyond their expectations. So, I just want to thank the Community College and your staff.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

He doesn't have it on.

MS. ORTIZ:

You have to hit the button.

MR. PETERMAN:

Oh, we got a new mic? I'm sorry. I'm glad you moved up in the technology. (Laughter) I do want to mention that some of those members are in the Guild and they're Tom Breeden's members and some of them are ours. And we are very proud that we were able to help out in this time. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Okay. We have another question. Okay, Legislator Horsley.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Yeah. Hey, Kev. I do have a question on the library, just really nothing to do with the bill, but the -- it used to be that they used to rate, whether it was Middle States or whatever, the number of books that were in the library, that it has to have a certain amount and stuff like that. Is that still part of the -- how they rate colleges and college libraries? Is that still part of the game?

MR. PETERMAN:

Yes, it is. Yes, it is. It is still part of the game. And believe it or not students still take out books. But you also know that we're also getting something called e-books, electronic books. So things are really moving in a direction.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

So does that count towards --

MR. PETERMAN:

Yes.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

They say "oh, it's got 35,000 --" you know.

MR. PETERMAN:

Yes. Actually we have -- I think we have about 55,000 volumes at the Grant Campus.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

There you go. And that's obviously enough to -- for the new library to keep your accreditation and --

MR. PETERMAN:

Absolutely.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Move us forward to the next --

MR. PETERMAN:

Yeah.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

-- millennium.

MR. PETERMAN:

Yes.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:
Excellent. Thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:
Legislator Schneiderman.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:
On that comment, actually my daughter who's in public school in Southampton, they gave every kid in her grade iPads. And I guess it's cheaper than all the textbooks. So now she -- all the homework assignments, she actually does them on the iPad. But textbooks, they're all there. It's pretty incredible. And I think ultimately it's a savings for the school, significant. Plus, you know, ecologically you're not cutting all those trees to make all that paper. And then you don't have all the storage room that you need, you know, for all those textbooks. So, I think it's a -- ultimately it's a win/win.

MR. PETERMAN:
The e-books are not free, though.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:
What was that?

MR. PETERMAN:
The e-books are not free.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:
The e-books are not free, that's true. But, actually, Kevin, I wanted to ask you about a completely different project, which is the Fitness Center at the Eastern Campus. And it's under -- it's being designed -- right now where are we. We have an architect.

MR. PETERMAN:
Yes, yes. It's the same architect that happened to get the Grant Library project. It's my understanding that there was a meeting with the architects. And I believe -- I'm not -- I feel a little uncomfortable not being -- I'm not a spokesperson for the College, but I do know that there was some concern about the Eastern Campus being in the Pine Barrens. And I know there was some discussion about where the building can be located. But, I mean, I know that the College at some point is probably going to go before the Pine Barrens Commission to discuss the project. But I really don't know anything more than that.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Oh, okay. But it's being designed?

MR. PETERMAN:
Yeah. The -- yeah, they're working on it. They've had a design Committee with input from Administrators and the faculty.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Right. And I would hate to spend a million plus on design and find they can't build it because it's in the Pine Barrens. So I think that's probably prudent to get your approvals in place.

MR. PETERMAN:
Yeah. I think the College has got that as one of their top priorities.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Okay. Yeah, I just want to be kept in the loop on that project.

MR. PETERMAN:

I'll certainly do that.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Okay. Okay, thank you so much, Kevin. Appreciate you coming up here. Okay, we have a motion. It's been seconded. All approving this motion? Yes? Opposed? Motion carries.

(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)

Anything else? It doesn't look like there's anything else on our agenda today. Are there any questions from the audience? Okay, this Committee is adjourned. Thank you.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:14 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**