

**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 26, 2013.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Sarah S. Anker, Chairwoman  
Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Vice Chair  
Leg. Thomas Cilmi  
Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman  
Leg. John M. Kennedy, Jr.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature  
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Ben Zwirn, Suffolk County Community College  
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office  
Kevin Peterman, Faculty Associate/Suffolk County Community College  
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer  
Thomas Vaughn, County Executive Assistant III  
Arthur Cliff, appointee SCCC Board of Trustees  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:**

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:00 PM**

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Will all Legislators on the Education and Technology Committee please come to the horseshoe. Okay, we're going to start our Committee meeting. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Horsley.

**SALUTATION**

Thank you. Please remain standing for a moment of silent meditation and prayer as we think of those in our military, and especially those that are fighting for our freedoms as we enjoy our Thanksgiving with our families and just keep them in our prayers.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED**

Thank you. Okay. On our agenda we do not have public comment. We do not have a presentation. We have introductory resolutions. I'll move forward with those resolutions.

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

We have **IR 2051, Appoint member to the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees (Arthur Cliff) (Pres. Off.)**

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

We have a motion. I'll second the motion. On that motion, Arthur, would you like to come forward? Hi, Arthur. Can you give us a little background about your experience, you know, in dealing with the college and why you're interested in -- in being on the board?

**MR. CLIFF:**

Well, I was asked by your Presiding Officer at the time, Bill Lindsay, he called me up, asked if I would serve on the Community College Board; told me some of his concerns that he had that he thought that I could bring to the table with my experience that I've had in County government. For those of you don't know, I was a police officer in Suffolk County, a retired Sergeant after 38 years of service, 22 years of which I was the President of the Superior Officer's Association.

And in the past Bill had spoken to me about serving on the Charter Revision Committee, which I also did at his request. And the operations of the County and the function of the government and more specifically the Community College in a role that it plays for our students to keep them here and to give them, you know, a good start -- my son, Scott, attended Suffolk for two years and is now going to Farmingdale to finish his four-year degree. So, you know, I'm personally very familiar with the operations of the college. And having been the union president for years, having dealt with the unions at the college understand also the operations and what the role of a trustee would be.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Do we have questions? Legislator Schneiderman.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So, on the board of trustees, obviously a lot of the work will focus around higher education and, you know, the programs at the college. Anything that you can bring to the table in terms of educational background or is it all just through law enforcement?

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**MR. CLIFF:**

Yeah, all basically in law enforcement. Yes, that's correct.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Do you have any particular vision and direction you'd like to see the college moving in?

**MR. CLIFF:**

Well, I see the role of the college as very important specifically for the -- the feeder group. It could be to allow industry technologies specifically to move into Suffolk County. I think it offers the student whose, we educate here in Suffolk County's public schools, to continue and earn an associates degree obviously or to move on, if they want, but there is a need to allow the college to give what industry or labor needs in Suffolk County, specifically the role of technology as it comes down. We have Stony Brook University who, you know, move -- I guess, moved to a higher level but we need somebody in between, somebody that can provide to the -- to the industry and to the technology that is coming to Suffolk, programs that specifically would, you know, feed right into that labor market.

I think that's important that we keep Suffolk County Community College strong and I can see its role in -- in completing that.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. There are three campuses. There's -- one of those three campuses is in my neck of the woods. I represent the South Fork area.

**MR. CLIFF:**

Right.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I want to make sure whoever's on the board will look at it as one college system and not forget about any of the campuses. Sometimes I feel like it's a -- I want to make sure that campus doesn't become a stepchild. So any thoughts on that?

**MR. CLIFF:**

I understand. No, I understand your concerns. And as I mentioned that's where my son, Scott, went.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Oh, he went to eastern campus?

**MR. CLIFF:**

He went to eastern campus, yeah.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

There's about 4000 kids, I think, who go there.

**MR. CLIFF:**

Yeah, yeah. It's really grown. And I think it's something that we should be proud of.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And I think, too, what you said about vocational education. We are playing, I think, a real critical role in training our kids for the jobs in our community. And sometimes -- and this may be a criticism of our high schools, you know, they're preparing them for academic types of careers, but a lot of the jobs locally are, you know, in service industries, you know, servicing homes like carpenters and landscapers and plumbers and technology and graphic arts. I mean, there's a lot of local jobs,

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but I think it's really important that Suffolk County Community College continues to offer degrees in fields where the kids can stay in our community when -- you know, after they matriculate.

**MR. CLIFF:**

Well, you know, I understand. And I also think an important one, and I know you didn't skip it, is the Culinary Arts Program.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Culinary.

**MR. CLIFF:**

It's in Riverhead.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

HVAC.

**MR. CLIFF:**

Another great feeder group there.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Even viticulture. The training of the -- work at the wineries, which is great.

**MR. CLIFF:**

That's very good, yes.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Hotels. All of that's really important. You know, so they'll stay in the community after we've trained them; we don't lose that expertise.

**MR. CLIFF:**

I agree.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Legislator Horsley.

**P.O. HORSLEY:**

Hey, Artie, it's been a -- it's been a long, long process. And I apologize for that. I know that you have -- you were looking forward to this awhile back and it's -- it's taken it's -- it's taken its time. But the day is here so it is all good in the end.

First of all, I'm pleased that your son took advantage of the step to Farmingdale State. That's where I teach so I like that. That's great.

I guess my question -- well, let me -- before we start that, let me just -- just comment to Legislator Schneiderman's thought that -- that the Riverhead campus is left out. He can rest assured because this Legislature is always supportive of the Riverhead campus whether it be the new library or the gymnasium or all the monies that we put into Riverhead. We're with you, Jay.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Let me clarify because we've been doing okay. We got a new fitness facility coming, we have a beautiful new library, so. So, I'm always making sure that we don't get left out. I didn't say we did get left out. I'm making sure we don't get left out, not that we have been left out because I think we're doing okay.

**P.O. HORSLEY:**

All right. I'm glad to hear that and we appreciate your advocacy.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you.

**P.O. HORSLEY:**

Let me just -- do you have, you know, the -- first of all I -- I believe that under the present administration, the college administration, we moved in a direction where we're -- we're pushing for scholarships for those -- for those folks who can't afford even a community college with the foundation. We're moving to have the -- the junior college be a stepping stone into the Farmingdale States and Stony Brook and the like. And I would hope, at least I'd like to get a word from you about do you -- you know, do you see that the present administration's movements towards that goal have been positive? Are you going to be supportive of -- of those types of actions? Because certainly we are and we just want to make sure our appointees that are -- that are on the board are supportive of the direction of which the college has been moving in the last couple of years.

**MR. CLIFF:**

No, I -- I agree totally. I mean, it certainly seems to be the direction we need. I wasn't aware, honestly, about the Foundation's scholarship so it's another good reason for us to keep our educated youth locally to keep them here. And if we can do anything to -- to help in that way I think we should.

**P.O. HORSLEY:**

That's great, Artie. And I'm sure they can use the help so -- the Foundation. So and, you know, if you could lend a hand in keeping them moving forward, that would be -- that would be positive for all of Suffolk. By the way, the college itself is, if we can toot our own horns, has been one of those -- those highlights of Suffolk County that has kept our young people here. Really, when you look at the numbers, it's -- you see that the June -- those that went to Suffolk, they stay in Suffolk. Where oftentimes some of our college kids once they -- once they leave, they're gone. So we're very -- it's such an integral part of -- of the fabric of Suffolk County. And I -- and I appreciate that you're here today and you're willing to give us your support, your time.

**MR. CLIFF:**

Absolutely. And I think that is a key that too many times we educate our youth for them to leave and go to other parts of the country. So we can keep them here in any way, shape or form. We have to exercise anything we can to get them here.

**P.O. HORSLEY:**

Well said. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay. I just want to mention also a very important component with the community college is the police training that -- that they have there. And, you know, again public safety, it's nice that we have such a great relationship. You know, so many parts about, you know, with Suffolk County, bringing them together, the community college, you know, it's vital. And I think, you know, it's important that we have a -- you know, voice that will connect with, you know, everything there. I had visited there during the hurricane. And it was -- it was very impressive how the community college was able to take a very strong leadership role in keeping the area secure by -- by having places for people to stay and to eat and to, you know, for placement for those firemen, policemen, LIPA; all the above was at the Suffolk Community College.

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**MR. CLIFF:**

Beautiful. I'm glad to hear that, yeah.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Yeah. And, you know, when they brought people even from out-of-state they were housed at Suffolk Community College. So, again, it's a wonderful place to know that we have and that we can feel secure, you know, with these issues that happen especially emergency issues. So, any other Legislators have questions? Okay. There was a motion, a second. Oh, I'm sorry. Oh, Legislator Kennedy.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yeah. Artie, hi, how are you?

**MR. CLIFF:**

Hello, John.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Good to see you again.

**MR. CLIFF:**

You, too.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

It's not a question, but, I guess it's just -- talk to me a little bit about, your role, I guess, now as a -- a board member on -- a board trustee. For all the years that you been in Labor on the behalf of an organization in some respects, I don't want to say you're going to be on the other side, but you'll be in a little bit different place.

**MR. CLIFF:**

Yes. Quite honestly, a trustee's responsibility is to the operation of the college and the policy that is -- make sure that's followed and implemented. But I think there is a relationship between my former role in Labor and now moving forward to serve as a trustee should you approve it.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, absolutely. You know, I'm going to be approving it. I made the motion. And I'm glad to hear that. Likewise, I would imagine that you feel the same way particularly with all the construction work and the capital work that's done on the college campus?

**MR. CLIFF:**

Yes. And to make sure it stays here. You're right. And with the three campuses and we forgot earlier, the feeder, the one we have in Sayville also, there's a little auxiliary there so --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And we worked very hard, as a matter of fact, with the Nursing Program to go ahead and get that up and established. And, you know, I have always been a strong supporter, as well, of the internship opportunities. As a matter of fact, Ben Zwirn, was in my office yesterday. And I would just ask you as a trustee to continue to help, try to open doors, for the student body when it comes to, I guess, the mission of an Associates Program, which is to as often as possible give students and graduates the opportunity to go and become transitioned into the workforce. Take the education and put it into a job.

**MR. CLIFF:**

Yeah, I agree. It's very important.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Good. Thank you, Artie.

**MR. CLIFF:**

Sure.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay. I think we're -- we're good to go. Okay. So, all in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)** Legislator Kennedy made the motion. I seconded it. Yes.

Okay. I think we're good to go. Any more questions or comments? Oh, I think we do have one more resolution.

**MR. CLIFF:**

Thanks very much. Enjoy your holiday.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Mr. Cliff, just so you know, you won't -- you don't need to come to Riverhead for the general session. Okay? Thank you.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay. We have **IR 2066, Rescinding Adopted Resolution No. 532-2013 amending the 2013 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the acquisition of a Suffolk County New Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (CP 1815). (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

We have a second. All in favor?

**LEG. CILMI:**

On motion.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

On the motion, Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I'm just curious to know, through the Chair to Mr. Vaughn, I guess, what -- what the administration is doing in place of this agreement since this didn't pass? Or the agreement passed, but, I guess, the bond didn't pass at the time if I recall correctly. Is that correct?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Correct. So the agreement passed earlier this year; the bond did not. If you'll recall the agreement when it passed was in offsetting. It was an amended capital project. So what this resolution will do is leave that money that was there tied to this project, make it available as an offset for something else if it's needed at the end of the year that we are quickly running into.

What is our plan going forward? We're going to go back to the drawing board and take another look. This is something that plan -- that a -- I was going to say Planning, pardon me, that IT has been taking a look at going forward. If you're recall this -- there is money in the Capital Program next year specifically set aside for Microsoft.

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**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay, thank you.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Any more questions? Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **APPROVED**

**(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)** Thank you, Tom.

Okay. We have -- we do not have anything else on our agenda. This meeting is adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:18 PM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**