

**Minutes of the Amarillo College Board of Regents Status Update and Regular Meeting of December 11, 2023.**

**AMARILLO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
December 11, 2023**

**REGENTS PRESENT:**

Ms. Anette Carlisle, Chair  
Mr. John Betancourt, Secretary  
Ms. Michele Fortunato  
Ms. Irene Hughes  
Mr. Johnny Mize  
Dr. Paul Proffer  
Ms. Peggy Thomas

**REGENTS ABSENT:**

Mr. Jay Barrett, Vice-Chair  
Dr. David Woodburn

**CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**

Ms. Kathie Fuston, Representative for the Moore County Campus

**CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT:**

Ms. Sara Pesina, Representative for the Hereford Hinkson Memorial Campus

**CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Kevin Ball, Vice President of Communications and Marketing  
Ms. Cara Crowley, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives  
Mr. Chris Sharp, Vice President of Business Affairs  
Mr. Frank Sobey, Incoming Vice President of Strategic Initiatives  
Ms. Denese Skinner, Interim President  
Mr. Mark White, General Counsel

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Joy Brenneman – Executive Assistant, Asst. Sec -Board of Regents  
Mr. Michael Cuvillo – Amarillo Globe News  
Chief Aaron Huddleston – Interim Chief of AC Police  
Ms. Courtney Milleson – Professor, Speech/Communications  
Ms. Sadie Newsome – Director of Media, Communications & Marketing  
Ms. Martha Sell – Amarillo Community Member

**The Special Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Ms. Anette Carlisle, Chair of the Board of Regents. She welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was present.**

**EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM FOR COLLEGE PRESIDENT**

RFP No. 1403 for an Executive Search Firm for a College President was advertised in the Amarillo Globe News on Sunday, September 17, 2023 and Sunday, September 24, 2023. Four executive search firms submitted proposals.

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Ms. Fortunato reviewed the process of the sub-committee. Four proposals were received by the October deadline and, after review of packets and reference calls, two were selected to be interviewed: Gold Hill Associates and the Association of Community College Trustees. After the interviews, the sub-committee felt that Gold Hill Associates was a better fit for Amarillo College. They are a smaller firm and were very familiar with AC, its leadership, past and present, and its programs.

The estimated cost of the search was \$60,000 with a timeline of four to six months. The fee was reduced because the college had done preliminary work with the Aspen Institute. Gold Hill Associates also provides a guarantee that a new search may be done at no cost if the new president leaves within one year.

Mr. White and Mr. Sharp will draft a contract with Gold Hill Associates which will be submitted for approval at the January 23, 2024 regular Board meeting.

It was noted that any applicants for the president position, internal or external, will use the same process for submitting applications.

**Mr. Betancourt moved that the Board of Regents select Gold Hill Associates to assist with the presidential search, and that Chris Sharp, Vice President of Business Affairs, and Mark White, General Counsel, are directed to negotiate terms and present a proposed final contract to the Board for approval in January. Ms. Fortunato seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Mize moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Thomas. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.

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**John Betancourt, Secretary**