

**Minutes of the Amarillo College Board of Regents Special Meeting of July 25, 2023**

**AMARILLO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, July 25, 2023**

**REGENTS PRESENT:** Ms. Anette Carlisle, Chair; Mr. Jay Barrett, Vice-Chair; Mr. John Betancourt, Secretary, Ms. Michele Fortunato; Ms. Irene Hughes; Dr. Paul Proffer; Ms. Peggy Thomas; Dr. David Woodburn

**REGENTS ABSENT:** Mr. Johnny Mize

**CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Ms. Kathie Fuston, Representative for the Moore County Campus; Ms. Sara Pesina, Representative for the Hereford Hinkson Memorial Campus

**CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Mark D. White, Executive Vice President & General Counsel; Mr. Bob Austin, Vice President of Enrollment Management; Mr. Kevin Ball, Vice President of Communications & Marketing, Dr. Tamara Clunis, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Ms. Cara Crowley, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives; Ms. Cheryl Jones, Vice President of Human Resources; Mr. Chris Sharp, Vice President of Business Affairs; Mr. Joe Bill Sherrod, Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Ms. Denese Skinner, Vice President of Student Affairs

Garrett Eggleston – Marketing Special Projects Coordinator

Joe Wyatt – Communication Content Producer

Lisa Gray – Executive Assistant & Paralegal/Interim Asst. Secretary to the Board

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**The Special Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Ms. Anette Carlisle, Chair of the Board of Regents. She welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was present.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

Ms. Anette Carlisle described the situation after the Trustees of Austin Community College announced Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart as its sole finalist for the position of Chancellor of the district. Ms. Carlisle thanked her current board members for being a wonderful team and together they would make the decisions regarding the process for retaining, selecting or hiring a new college president if necessary.

**CLOSED MEETING**

At 5:02 p.m., Ms. Anette Carlisle called a closed session so that the regents could deliberate the appointment, reassignment, compensation and duties of a College President pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code. The closed session concluded at 5:35 pm and no final decision, action or vote was taken in closed session. The open session reconvened at 5:36 p.m. and a quorum was still present.

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Ms. Michele Fortunato explained the state-mandated 21-day waiting period before finalizing leadership changes and the need to be prepared if the president chooses to leave.

**Ms. Fortunato moved that in the event Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart resigns his position at Amarillo College, the board appoint Denese Skinner to the position of Interim President to perform all responsibilities and duties of the College President as set forth in the Board of Regents' Policy Manual, the Coordinating Board Rules and the applicable legislative provisions. The interim position would become effective if, and when, Dr. Lowery-Hart separates from the College, and Ms. Skinner would serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the board.**

**She further moved that Denese Skinner be paid a stipend, in addition to her regular pay, in the amount of \$5,000 per month as compensation for performing these duties. The stipend will commence upon acceptance of Dr. Lowery-Hart's resignation, if that happens. The motion was seconded by Mr. Betancourt. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Carlisle asked Ms. Denese Skinner to make some remarks.

Ms. Skinner thanked the board stating, that she was honored to have this opportunity, and "We will not miss a beat and Amarillo College will continue to be great."

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items for discussion Mr. Barrett moved, seconded by Ms. Fortunato, to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

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John Betancourt, Secretary