

Board of Higher Education Special Meeting

August 25, 2022
8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Omni Parker House Hotel
Kennedy Room
60 School Street, Boston, MA 02108
&
Livestreamed, Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

The August 25, 2022, Board of Higher Education Meeting (“BHE” or “the Board”) held a hybrid special meeting in-person at the Omni Parker House Hotel, and virtually on the web-conference platform Zoom.

The following Board Members were present:

Chris Gabrieli, Chair - Attended in Person
Mary Burns - Attended in Person
Ann Christensen - Attended in Person
Veronica Conforme - Attended Remotely & in Person
Patty Eppinger - Attended Remotely
Travis Lawrence, Voting Community College Student Member- Attended Remotely
Paul Mattera - Attended in Person
Judy Pagliuca - Attended Remotely
James Peyser, Secretary of Education - Attended in Person
Paul Toner - Attended in Person
Bill Walczak - Attended Remotely

Andrew Whitcomb- Non-voting UMass Segmental Student Advisor- Attended Remotely

The following Board Members were absent:

Alex Cortez

Department Staff and Search Consultant Representatives Also Present:

Constantia Papanikolaou, Chief Legal Counsel
Elena Quiroz-Livanis, DHE Chief of Staff
Dr. Jay Lemons, Academic Search
Carlos Medina, Academic Search
Shawn Hartman, Academic Search
Jennifer Kookan, Academic Search

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Chris Gabrieli called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. Roll call attendance was taken (see above for attendance roster).

II. DISCUSSION

List of Material's Used

- CVs and Cover letters for each of the four finalists (Marty Alvarado, Mary Churchill, Lane Glenn and Noe Ortega)
- [August 25 Special BHE Meeting Recording](#)

Chair Gabrieli began by thanking the members who served on the Commissioner Search Advisory Council and advanced the slate of four candidates for the finalist interviews. He invited Dr. Jay Lemons to inform the Board members that the four final candidates will be interviewed by the Board of Higher Education, and thereafter, each will engage in a public forum facilitated by Massachusetts College of Art and Design's President, Mary Grant.

Chair Gabrieli explained the interview process, stating that the four finalists will have approximately one-hour interviews each, the Board members will receive a thirty-minute break around 11:30 a.m., and the interview process will end by 3:00 p.m.

After hearing no further questions or discussion, Chair Gabrieli invited the first candidate, Dr. Noe Ortega.

III. INTERVIEWS

A. *Noe Ortega* ***Former Secretary of Education,*** ***Pennsylvania Department of Education***

Chair Gabrieli provided Dr. Ortega with an overview of the interview process. Dr. Ortega then began the interview by introducing himself, and noted his professional history, personal goals and why the position is the right fit for him.

He spoke about his role as the Secretary of Education in Pennsylvania, being an educator, and Massachusetts being aligned with his mission to create an equitable system to provide educational opportunities to all. He concluded by stating that his goal has always been to advocate when the opportunity allows him to; it is a calling to which he is responding.

The interview questions began with Board member Burns and continued successively with the final question by Board member Mattera. Dr. Ortega noted that individuals questioning the value of education and enrollments trends are two of the greatest challenges public education faces today. He provided an example of a time he helped improve outcomes and move students towards success by opening satellite centers in South Texas, to help the Latinx community and improve post-secondary education. He also spoke about working in centralized and decentralized systems.

Board members Patty Eppinger, Bill Walczak, Judy Pagliuca, Paul Toner, Andrew Whitcomb asked follow-up questions. Once clarification was provided, Dr. Ortega provided a closing statement and thanked Board members for their time and consideration. During the closing statement, he emphasized the importance of making education accessible for students who stand to benefit from any change that happens state level, leadership work in education, transformational change in institutions, and decision-making for young individuals who have yet to attend college.

Thereafter, the Board members took a ten-minute break and reconvened at 10:15am.

B. Marty J. Alvarado

***Executive Vice Chancellor for Equitable Student Learning, Experience, and Impact,
California Community College Chancellor's Office***

Chair Gabrieli introduced Ms. Alvarado to the Board members and provided an overview of the interview process. Ms. Alvarado then began the interview by introducing herself, and noted her professional history, personal goals and why the position is the right fit for her. She emphasized that being a parent and a leader requires being a leader; the goal is progress, not perfection. She also spoke about her practiced transformational leadership, having the ability to advance coalitions and resources, and co-leading the California Community College System through the pandemic through the social unrest and through the

transformative change of the environment. She commented on volatile environments needing consistent presence, trusting relationship, and an ability to make decisions. Ms. Alvarado stated that she embraces change and believes in higher education.

The interview questions began with Board member Burns and continued successively with the final question by Board member Mattera. Throughout the interview, Ms. Alvarado spoke about there being a need for disruptive change in higher education, and the need to think about how we accelerate the pace for continuous improvement and evolution. She also spoke about California's Community College Board recently adopting a new evaluation and tenure review criteria, which requires D.E.I.A. and progressive proficiencies to be included in all evaluation and tenure review processes. Ms. Alvarado expressed the significant impact of the equity within our system. She also expressed that if you have an equity agenda, the state will need to invest in the public higher education substantially and deliberately. Ms. Alvarado informed the board members that code switching is a political skill that is necessary to achieve the goals of the Board of Higher Education.

Board members Patty Eppinger, Bill Walczak, Andrew Whitcomb, Secretary Peyser, and Chair Gabrieli asked follow-up questions. Once clarification was provided, Ms. Alvarado provided a closing statement and thanked Board member for their time. During her closing statement, she spoke about the role requiring practice, learning and humility to navigate these environments to continue to leverage experiences in ways that correct the missteps. She ended her statement by stating that she loves the equity agenda and the table that has been set by the Board to make an impact, and she believes she can contribute to it.

At this time, the Board members had a thirty-minute lunch break and reconvened at 12:00pm.

C. *Mary L. Churchill*
Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives & Community Engagement,
Wheelock College of Education and Human Development, Boston University

Chair Gabrieli introduced Dr. Churchill to the Board members and provided an overview of the interview process. Dr. Churchill then began the interview by introducing herself, and noted her professional history, personal goals and why the position is the right fit for her. She noted that she has the ability to face challenges head on, innovate, persist and succeed. She spoke about expanding

online programs, partnering with local employers, growing early college initiatives, and pursuing merger opportunities.

The interview questions began with Board member Burns and continued successively with the final question by Board member Mattera. Throughout the interview, she mentioned working with Success Boston and Boston Education. She spoke about her municipal work being centered around the underserved community during covid. She also spoke about meeting with local for faculty at Salem State University and City Hall's union representatives to address grievances. She noted that she has skills in persuasion, convening, networking, bringing people together, and having difficult conversations.

Board members Chair Gabrieli, Secretary Peyser, Bill Walczak and Andrew Whitcomb (non-voting member) asked follow-up questions. Chair Gabrieli noted that member Pagliuca had to step away. Chair Gabrieli and Secretary Peyser then also asked follow-up questions. Once Dr. Churchill provided further clarification and responses to the Board, she provided a closing statement and thanked Board members for their time. During her closing statement she expressed her love and dedication to her career in higher education, research, her PhD in Sociology, focusing on race class and gender, teaching, her work in financial aid, continuing education and academic affairs, and her leadership to open doors to all residents.

D. Lane A. Glenn
President
Northern Essex Community College

Chair Gabrieli introduced President Glenn to the Board members and provided an overview of the interview process. President Glenn then began the interview by introducing himself, and noted his professional history, personal goals and why the position is the right fit for him. President Glenn noted his experience in Massachusetts and other states, and having the executive level of experience that he believes is needed from the next commissioner. He also spoke about Massachusetts having one of the worst Hispanic college attainment rates, and Northern Essex Community College having one of the highest Hispanic attainment rates in the state.

The interview questions began with Board member Burns and continued successively with the final question by Board member Mattera. Throughout the interview, Dr. Glenn noted his work on early college at Oakland Community

College. Dr. Glenn spoke about being the Chair of the Northeast Consortium of Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (NECCUM) for the past five years. He also spoke with about leading Massachusetts' Committee for Learning Outcomes Assessment for the past 10 years.

Board members Judy Pagliuca, Bill Walczak, Andrew Whitcomb, Secretary Peyser, and Paul Toner asked follow-up questions. Once clarification was provided, President Lane provided a closing statement and thanked Board member for their time. During his closing statement he highlighted that he spent his career trying to close equity gap and make sure that everyone is getting the best education possible. He also spoke about being a strong collaborator, having campus-level executive experience, and working closely with organizations.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.