Aims District Board Meeting

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 2:38 PM by Board President Sandy Neb. Other Board members present included Mike Freeman, Mike Geile, Walt Richter and Larry Wood. College President Dr. Marsi Liddell was also in attendance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

On motion of Mike Geile the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

IV. Citizen Participation
There was no request for citizen participation.

V. Consent Agenda
a. Minutes of the November 3, 2010 District Board Meeting

On motion of Larry Wood the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda as presented.

VI. President’s Report – Dr. Liddell
a. External Auditor’s Report – Dennis Yockey; BKD,LLC
Mr. Yockey summarized the report of the external audit for the 09-10 fiscal year, stating that the audit had been performed in accordance with government auditing standards. He told the Board that the audit resulted in a clean or unqualified opinion, the best report possible.

He reviewed the prepared summary of the audit, highlighting the following points
- Fiscal Year 2010 was good year for the Aims Junior College District.
- Net assets increased 25.2%, due to a spike in the oil and gas portion of property tax revenue. It is not anticipated that the revenue will be at this level in the next year.
- The State has significant budgetary issues and is sharing the pain with other entities. In FY 2010 the District received ARRA funds to offset the reductions from the state, but these funds will not be available in the future.
- Future budget projections are causing some concerns, but the college has reserves to offset anticipated downturns in revenue.

Mr. Yockey also pointed out the following items from the audit document:
Operating expenses held fairly constant other than new expenses in the helicopter program.

There was an increase in headcount in 2009 and 2010.

The Statement of Net Assets shows that total assets are up $16.1 million over the prior year, to a total of $113 million.

There was also an increase in net assets of about $17 million, much of which is invested in the plant. Liabilities decreased slightly.

Operating revenues, including tuition and fees, are up, but even so an operating loss occurred, as the district relies heavily on non-operating revenues. The mix between operating and non-operating changed due to changes in GASB regulations which now require that Pell grants are recorded as non-operating revenue.

The economic outlook discussion, including a decline in state appropriations and the end of ARRA funds, makes it incumbent on the Board to monitor and assess the budget situation.

Several years ago there had been compliance issues with federal expenditure activities under programs and grants. There have been significant improvements in this area with no audit findings.

Trustees commented on the need to manage College assets to ensure the institution moves forward in the future, especially with the significant reduction in state allocations that are predicted.

Mr. Yockey added that the District is in good financial shape with strong net assets. He thanked Mike Kelly and his team for their work in preparing for the audit.

Dr. Liddell thanked Mr. Yockey for the professionalism of the audit team. She also thanked Mr. Kelly, the financial services department and everyone who works to maintain the assets of the college, especially the strong human assets at Aims.

b. Financial Update – Dan Erbert

Budget Director Dan Erbert presented the fiscal report for the period ending October 31, pointing out that Contracted Services - Other had been broken out for this report. The Board had no questions.

c. President’s Executive Summary

Dr. Liddell reviewed the following topics for the Board:

Colorado Joint Budget Committee – Dr. Liddell and Mike Kelly recently testified in front of the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). The committee discussed the shortfall for the coming year. The projection of $550 million for Higher Education may be optimistic. The College is planning with several scenarios, but it will be additionally difficult due to loss of ARRA funding. It is hoped that the State can make up this short fall with revenue generating methods rather than only cost containment.
All College Action Committee (ACAC) Update – This is a strategic planning group for the college, made up of representatives from administration, faculty and staff. ACAC also oversees current AQIP action projects. The committee is reviewing how the College uses data to drive programs and initiatives. They are also looking at the schedule currently used for several nationally benchmarked surveys. The committee is trying to schedule them in order and spread them out to create less impact on the teaching schedule.

Four Aims students recently received their bachelor’s degrees through the Aims-Franklin Alliance.

At Board request, a summary of staffing for the Student Services Division was produced and made available to Trustees today.

As part of Governor Ritter’s Complete Colorado Initiative, Student Services will be sending a letter to non-completers. The letter will offer assistance to help students complete college. Admissions and Records is coordinating an email to recent non-graduates. The number of responses from this letter will be tracked.

The Governor’s Higher Education Strategic Planning (HESP) committee visited the campus to share their recommendations with the community. Their report is being delivered to CCHE and CDHE has decided to adopt this report as the strategic master plan for next decade. Higher Education CEOs should be able to comment before this is finalized.

The College has received inquiries about the installation of solar panels on our rooftops. Dr. Liddell and College personnel met with company representatives, but aren’t sure it is advisable, with a long term (20 year) commitment required. The College has also been approached by an investment company to see if it might be possible to purchase Greeley Campus land to be used for oil and gas wells. This is a very preliminary discussion.

VII. Information Items

Dr. Liddell summarized the following information items:

a. Board Calendar
   A special Board of Trustees meeting will be held on December 13 to certify the mil levies for the Aims Junior College District.
   Next Board meeting will be January 26 with no meeting in February

b. Course Fees
   The Academic Deans were very comprehensive in sharing changes to course fees.
   These fees will take effect in Fall Semester 2011.

c. New Hires: Non-exempt Staff
   o Nicholas Hoyle, IT Support Specialist, non-exempt, replacement

d. Leaving the Employ of the College
   o Greg Gaiser, Program Director I, Aviation
   o David Laurence, Chief Facilities Management Officer, Facilities & Operations
   o Gene Kind, Building Maintenance Supervisor, Facilities & Operations
e. New Hires: Non-exempt Staff
   o Tae Stamper, Instructional Lab Coordinator, Allied Health, non-exempt staff, replacement

VIII. Action Items
There were no action items for Board consideration

IX. Comments from Board Members
- Walt Richter – I will be leaving for Thailand soon. Aims has had a good relationships with educators in Thailand in the past, but due to a variety of issues, not all plans were completed. I will meet with some of the people we worked with in the past. They may possibly wish to send a contingent to Aims, but requests will go through the President’s Office.
- Mike Geile - The audit is a very important process. As we enter into difficult times, the fact that the College has been audited shows the strength of our financial situation and helps us to make qualified decisions.
- Larry Wood – I was able to tour the Greeley Campus. The college is very impressive with a lot of ground and buildings that are well maintained. We have the ability to grow if necessary. I am certain that community colleges will be an important part of the recovery of the economy.
- Mike Freeman - Thanks to Dr. Liddell and David Laurence for the tour. It was great to see areas I haven’t visited before
- Sandy Neb – Our biggest asset is our people. Thanks to them for all they do.

X. Comments from Board Reps
   a. Faculty (Marsha Driskill or Tracey Trenam, ACEA Board Reps)
      Faculty representatives had no comment.

   b. Aims Staff Association (Karen Brighton or Amy Kegg, ASA Reps)
      Karen Brighton told the board that ASA raised money through the Marketplace sale during convocation. This money will be used to give merit awards to staff members who are also pursuing their education. ASA will host a special reception in early January. The event will be social and fun to acknowledge staff for what they do for the College.

   c. ASACC (Robert Small, ASACC President)
      Mr. Small told the Board that the students held an e-cycle event for students and staff to recycle electronic equipment. ASACC is also working with the Greeley Police Department on a Santa Cops program to provide toys for underprivileged children in the community. There are many great programs being planned for spring semester.

XI. Adjourn to Executive Session
Board President Neb requested a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss real estate issues and receive advice of counsel as allowed by CRS 24-6-402 (4) (a) and (b). Invited to
join the session were Dr. Liddell, Stow Witwer, Sandra Owens, Mike Kelly and Karoline Woodruff.

**ON MOTION OF MIKE FREEMAN THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 3:31 PM.**

XII. **Reconvene in Regular Session**
Ms. Neb reconvened the Board into general session at 4:44 PM. The Board took no action.

XIII. **Adjourn**

**ON MOTION OF LARRY WOOD THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 4:44 PM.**

________________________________   __________________
Walt Richter, Secretary     Date