

BRISTOL

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINI RETREAT MINUTES

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

The Bristol Community College Board of Trustees Mini Retreat was held on Wednesday, March, 19, 2024, in person at Bristol Community College's Fall River campus located at 777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, Massachusetts, in the John J. Sbrega Health & Science Building (J-211, Conference Room). The Mini Retreat began with lunch and gathering time from Noon until 12:45 p.m.

Trustees present: Joan Medeiros, Chair; Jeffrey Karam, Vice Chair; Lynn Motta, Secretary; Renee Clark; Maria Gonzalez; Silvia Jones; Tony Lima; Todd McGhee; and John Morris

Trustees absent: Pamela Gauvin

Other Attendees: Sedgwick Harris, President; Lucinda Poudrier-Aaronson, Board Liaison; April Lynch, Chief Strategy Officer and mini-retreat facilitator; Joyce Brennan; Emmanuel Echevarria; Andrew Fisher; Steve Kenyon; Jo-Ann Pelletier; and Judi Urquhart

After lunch (12:45 p.m.), April Lynch began with group introductions designed for Trustees and members of the President's Leadership Team (PLT) to get to know each other.

Members of PLT left noting they would be back later in the afternoon to assist with some small group work.

With two new Trustee recently appointed to the Board, April Lynch began with an icebreaker designed for Trustees to get to know each other. She asked Trustees to share the following answers with the group (around the room):

- What is your why?
- What is your strength? Your superpower?

April Lynch thanked the Trustees for participating in the ice breaker and shared they would spend the next 45 minutes or so reviewing the college's strategic planning process – past and future.

First, she shared she wanted to close the loop on the 2020-2025 strategic plan by noting key accomplishments in the areas of:

1. Academic Innovation
2. Organizational Excellence
3. Equity
4. Partnerships

April then reviewed some of the lessons learned from the previous strategic planning process as we move forward with the new process. She highlighted key trends that would impact a new strategic plan for 2025-2030.

She presented updates on the work completed to date in support of the development of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. April noted that Phase I efforts included engagement of stakeholders, summarization of data, completion an environmental scan and SWOT analysis, and the identification of the common themes.

April then provided a summary of keys points from student and community partner feedback during Phase I of the process.

She identified some key emerging trends including:

- Data and Technology
- Student Centered College
- Culture of Continuous Improvement
- Community Affairs and Development

April noted that Phase II efforts would include an internal scan, deeper dives into data gaps, feedback and finalization of key pillars, closing the loop with stakeholders and ultimately, the development of the 2025-2030 strategic plan. She presented the projected Phase 2 process and timeline. She also noted regional opportunities and the regional issues of concern to consider.

April asked Trustee to consider the workforce of the future from employers' perspective asking them three questions.

1. If you were to think about Bristol as a driver of economic growth in the region, what would that look like?
2. What partnerships would support what you identified?
3. What role do you think the Board should/could play in helping with this development?

She then presented the factors needed for Bristol Community College to be an economic driver in the SouthCoast which included:

- Industry Collaboration
- Research & Innovation
- Skilled Workforce Development
- Entrepreneurship Support
- Community Engagement
- Policy Advocacy

April asked Trustees to work in small groups facilitated by members of PLT to brainstorm the all the ways the college could impact these factors. In small groups they discussed factors that drive economic growth, the partnerships that would be needed in the next five years, and how the Board of Trustees could help with these developments.

April collected this small group brainstorming work to be included as a significant component of the Phase II portion of the development of Bristol's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

At approximately 3:45 p.m., April thanked the Trustees for their enthusiastic engagement and involvement in the strategic planning process at this phase in the process.

Trustees came back together as a larger group to discuss the summative results of the 2025 Board Self-Assessment. Chair Medeiros facilitated this discussion including the most important board education topics identified by Trustees. Suggested board activity and board education topics included:

- On-going advocacy for the college's interests (state and national agencies and legislators)
- Current and emerging safety and security issues for the college
- Town Hall meetings with students and/or Student Senate (student voice)
- Entrepreneurship and small business relationships - respective Chamber of Commerce(s)
- Local and regional networking opportunities
 - Career Fairs
 - Sector specific events
 - Green science
 - Healthcare

Chair Medeiros and President Harris each thanked the Trustees for their time and participation. In wrap-up, President Harris thanked Trustees for the opportunity to serve as Bristol's fifth president and he asked the Trustees to continue to be positive "influencers" in our communities for the college.

The mini-retreat ended at 4:05 p.m.