

## MINUTES

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES FEATHER RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

#### **1. Call to Order:**

President Ware called the Regular Meeting of the Feather River Community College District Board of Trustees to order at 3:00: p.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2020, via a Zoom virtual platform.

*Trustees present:* Ware, Elliott, McNett, Saxton, Sheehan, Student Trustee Wilson  
*Trustees absent:*

#### **2. Agenda:**

The Regular and Consent Agendas for the July 16, 2020, meeting of the Feather River College Board of Trustees via Zoom were approved as presented, (Elliott/McNett).

Ayes:	Ware, Elliott, McNett, Saxton, Sheehan, Student Trustee Wilson
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

#### **3. Minutes:**

The minutes from the June 18, 2020, meeting of the Feather River College Board of Trustees meeting via Zoom were approved as presented, (Sheehan/McNett).

Ayes:	Ware, Elliott, McNett, Saxton, Sheehan, Student Trustee Wilson
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

#### **4. Items From the Public:**

Nick Goulet, Member of the Public, and Feather River College Head Football Coach, thanked the board of trustees for the opportunity to speak during public comment, and he acknowledged and thanked Jesse Williams, President, Associated Students of Feather River College (ASFRC) for his attendance and support.

Mr. Goulet read from a prepared document and stated the following. I lead a group of young men that represents the largest group of minority and ethnically diverse students on our campus and for that matter, the county. After being made aware of such heinous and vile comments made by Trustee Saxton, I feel a sense of responsibility to speak out on the matters of equity and discrimination to a Board that has taken an oath to uphold the District's mission of providing services for "a diverse student population" and to serve as a "cultural and economic leader for all communities that lie within the District." BP 1200 outlines that mission.

With all due respect, the resolution drafted last week, while significant, does nothing more than point out the obvious. It is a redundant document that tricks the public into thinking that action was taken. Whereas, Saxton doubled down and outwardly chose not

to support the resolution that the Board chose to adopt, stating, “thank God it’s a Resolution, not a law.” While the Board denounced his comments, Saxton has openly denounced your Resolution. He openly justified his right to openly discriminate...think about that and say that out loud...and he is in an educational setting? BP 2715 specifically and overtly details the appropriate behavior for a member of the Board through its Code of Ethics. Promoting interests of all students, promoting change through ethical procedures, and being an advocate of the District by encouraging support for the interest of the District are your words. As a member of the community and District, I implore the Board to address these violations in accordance with the procedures described in the AP. Once again, your words. Accountability is a duty, not an option.

I hold no political affiliation, agenda, nor want to limit anybody’s Constitutional rights. Being in violation of Board Policy, etc. is one thing and will be addressed further down the agenda. This is about human decency. I lead a group of young, impressionable men that I educate about self-awareness and the representation of themselves as well as a group. These principles are major pillars within our program and I must constantly remind them that we forfeit certain individuality to be a part of a greater good. Elected or appointed officials are no different. If any one of my players had taken the liberty of posting such hate speech on social media, that player would surely be reprimanded by our administration. If you want to align with a particular religion, support or not support gay marriage, or shoot wolves, that is your prerogative. Thank God, the latter is actually Law and not Resolution for such a law-abiding Christian, but our students deserve to have better examples, not ones that cherry-pick when the law or guidelines align with their religious or political beliefs. That is not your job!

So how can I uphold that standard when our own leaders are not being held to a higher standard? How is it that I am going to be able to recruit student athletes of color, who are responsible for a majority of the diversity on this campus, knowing that our district does not support their interests? This community of students within the Plumas County community accounts for a vast majority of diversity and student enrollment. They need to be represented properly and be made to feel comfortable and secure on this campus and community. When parents trust me with their loved ones, I am compelled to make sure that the representation of the college is one that views each student with equity and inclusion.

In closing, the current climate is one that you can choose to be pro-active or reap the consequences of in-action. I challenge Trent Saxton to resign his position on the Board and not fall victim to pride and ego. Proverbs 21:24 “The proud and arrogant person—“Mocker” is his name—behaves with insolent fury.” However, if seen wise in his own eyes and wishing to continue, I ask that the Board consider the appropriate measures and discipline that concludes with Saxton’s removal and resolute action. My players have not caught wind of this, but they will. Their reaction along with students of color and the gay/lesbian community will be based on your action. Look around, it is not hard to see the road we are heading down with this type of mindset in a leadership position. I will stand by my players and inclusive community – for God shows no partiality. Thank you.

The Reverend Matt Warren introduced himself to the board of trustees and others participating in the meeting. He reported that he serves as an associate faculty

instructor on ethics and is the acting president of the Feather River College Federation of Teachers Associate Faculty Chapter. He stated that he wanted to relay to the Board that he has been contacted by several members who have shared their disappointment over Trustee Saxton's comments in the past few weeks. He added that while he would like to applaud the board for reiterating FRC's commitment to serve our community with both equity and excellence, and to foster an inclusive environment for students, staff, and our communities, as a unit the chapter feels there is no place for the racist, bigoted, and homophobic remarks by Trustee Saxton. Reverend Warren added that while we recognize the First Amendment rights of all of our communities, the freedom of speech is not immunity from consequences. He stated that together with colleagues and the full-time faculty, their unions are exploring whether or not Trustee Saxton's remarks constitute a hostile work environment for members and that he may return to the board with any news on these developments. President Ware thanked both individuals for their public comments and the agenda was moved.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **\* A. Motion Items**

President Ware asked if there was any discussion on the Consent Agenda and hearing none, 1) Ratification of Personnel Requisitions, 2) Ratification of Personnel Actions, 3) Payroll and Commercial Warrants 4) Budget Transfers 5) Budget Augmentations/Reductions 6) Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Plumas Rural Services – Plumas Transit Systems (PRS) and Feather River College (FRC) for PRS to provide transportation services through Plumas Transit Systems within Plumas County for FRC students with valid identification cards 7) Approval of Agreement between Feather River College and Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, A Professional Corporation, to provide special services as a member of the Northern California Community College District Employment Relations Consortium 8) Approval of Mutual Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement between Feather River College and Nelnet, Inc. that will allow Information Technology (IT) at Feather River College to receive the integration documents related to determining work required to set up potential payment plan software. There are no direct costs to look at the integration documents. 9) Approval of Institution Participation Grant Agreement between Feather River College and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office that will extend online capabilities for instructors to engage with students using Canvas Studio, a communication tool that allows instructors and students to collaborate through video and audio media 10) Approval of Cooperative Agreement for \$15,000.00 between County of Plumas, a political subdivision of the State of California (COUNTY), and Feather River Community College District (FRCCD) for County to provide preventative health care and health education services to students enrolled at Feather River College, and 11) Approval to cut, bale, and stack Feather River Community College District pasture hay and to provide 50% of the total hay crop tonnage to the Roberti Ranch for their haying services were approved as presented, (Sheehan/McNett).

Ayes:	Ware, Elliott, McNett, Saxton, Sheehan, Student Trustee Wilson
Noes:	None
Absent:	None

Abstain: None

**6. REGULAR AGENDA**

**\*A. Motion Items**

- 1) Kevin Trutna, Superintendent/President, requested Approval to Accept Donation from Gerie Bunch. He explained that the donation consists of photography equipment and darkroom supplies and that the college continues to teach some of the techniques for using the equipment. Derek Lerch, Vice-President of Instruction/CIO, reported that he had contacted the Art Department prior to accepting the donation and it is excited to receive the equipment and supplies. There being no objection or further discussion, the request for Approval to Accept Donation from Gerie Bunch, was approved as presented,

Ayes: Ware, Elliott, McNett, Saxton, Sheehan,  
Student Trustee Wilson  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

- 2) Kevin Trutna requested Approval to Accept and Implement State of California Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Grant Agreement #120, for \$299,138.00 between SNC and Feather River College for the Implementation of the Feather River College Watershed Protection Project. Dr. Trutna explained that the grant application was a competitive process and a multi-year project. He also stated that the award is a positive thing for FRC as well as the health of the campus forest. When asked to comment, Derek Lerch stated that the application process started with the Board of Trustees approving a resolution some months back that was related to the application. He explained that the result of the principal work of Darryl Jury, along with others, has resulted in the award of this five-year project. There being no objection or further discussion, the request for Approval to Accept and Implement State of California Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Grant Agreement #120, for \$299,138.00 between SNC and Feather River College for the Implementation of the Feather River College Watershed Protection Project was approved as presented (McNett/Sheehan).

Ayes: Ware, Elliott, McNett, Saxton, Sheehan,  
Student Trustee Wilson  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

- 3) Kevin Trutna requested Approval of Addendum to Feather River College 2020-2021 Tentative Budget. He explained that some restricted grant funded programs were left out of the 2020-2021 Tentative Budget when the board of trustees approved it the previous month. After additional explanation and there being no objection, the request for Approval of

Addendum to Feather River College 2020-2021 Tentative Budget was approved as presented, (Elliott/McNett).

Ayes:	Ware, Elliott, McNett, Saxton, Sheehan, Student Trustee Wilson
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

- 4) Kevin Trutna requested Approval to Adopt Feather River College Salary Schedules for the 2020-2021 Academic Year. There being no objection or further discussion, the request for Approval to Adopt Feather River College Salary Schedules for the 2020-2021 Academic Year was approved as presented. (Elliott/Sheehan).

Ayes:	Ware, Elliott, McNett, Saxton, Sheehan, Student Trustee Wilson
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

- 5) Kevin Trutna explained that Stephanie Leaf, Member of the Public, contacted him a day after last month's board meeting asking him if an item could be placed on the agenda. Dr. Trutna also explained that he has been communicating back and forth with Ms. Leaf on the request so that she has a better understanding of the terms used in policies and procedures, but that he did not know her personally. Dr. Trutna indicated that members of the public are requesting that Trustee Trent Saxton be censured and/or that the Board request his resignation pursuant to BP 2345. Dr. Trutna explained that the item is an action item from the public and Ms. Leaf would speak first to the request, and then additional comments would be added from Reverend Kendra Fredrickson.

Stephanie Leaf introduced herself and stated she is a thirty-year resident of Plumas County and she has had the pleasure of taking classes at Feather River College. She added that she has a high regard for the college and the contributions it makes to the communities. Ms. Leaf requested that the board of trustees pass a motion of censure against Trent Saxton and/or ask for his resignation from the board. She stated that on July 7, 2020, the board of trustees passed a resolution condemning racism, and promoting diversity, and she thanked the board for doing so. She explained that she felt it was a good first step in the right direction towards making FRC a welcoming place for students of all backgrounds and all identities. She noted that the resolution focuses on discrimination, but the content of the resolution makes it clear that there is discrimination of many types including discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression. Ms. Leaf stated that the resolution further indicates that the FRC Board of Trustees values the commitment to promoting increased individual self-worth, dignity, and safety, and the right to learn and work in a safe environment free of discrimination. She reported that within hours of the board's

passing of the resolution, Mr. Saxton posted the following statement on social media. "Christians do not accept homosexuality as a norm; you can't cherry-pick the Bible and remain a Christian. This seemingly godless board may adopt this resolution, but my Christian faith, and my belief in God will not afford me to support this anti-Christian resolution." Ms. Leaf added that on another post Mr. Saxton stated, "If you are a Christian, email the paper, and let them know that the FRC Board is trying to ban you from campus", and in yet another he refers to the gay lifestyle as a sin. She stated that she believes these comments demonstrate Dr. Saxton's refusal to uphold the board's resolution. She added that these comments also violate section 2715 of the board's bylaws that requires trustees to advance, protect, and promote the interests of all citizens. Further, she stated they demonstrate Dr. Saxton's total contempt for the FRC Board, and even worse, his willingness to work behind the scenes to undermine the work of the board and the principles that the college is attempting to advance.

Ms. Leaf continued by stating that in an earlier letter to the board she mentioned that Dr. Saxton has shown in multiple ways his contempt for the widespread movement towards racial justice, Black Lives Matter (BLM), his contempt for people who have different gender identities, and for anyone that does not conform to his belief system. She indicated that she submitted some posts from Dr. Saxton that show his willingness to violate laws that he disagrees with and keep vicious epithets on those that oppose him. Ms. Leaf indicated that she wanted it to be clear that she does not want to curtail Dr. Saxton's freedom of speech as a private citizen, he is free to express his views anywhere he wants. She added that these views, along with his actions to subvert the goals of the college are inappropriate for a member of the college's Board of Trustees. Ms. Leaf closed her comments by stating that for behavior inappropriate of someone occupying the role of FRC trustee she would request Dr. Saxton's resignation from the Board

Stephanie Leaf introduced Reverend Kendra Fredrickson, Pastor, Evangelical Lutheran Church, who would be co-presenting with her. Reverend Frederickson stated that she was going to read a statement written by the Plumas County Gay Straight Alliance (PCGSA) and the document was written as follows.

**Statement to Feather River College Board of Trustees July 16, 2020**

*This statement is presented on behalf of the Plumas County Gay Straight Alliance (PCGSA).*

The mission of the PCGSA is as follows: our mission is to work towards a more accepting environment in Plumas County, CA for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, through education, support, social action, and advocacy. We are here today to advocate for people who are LGBTQIA+, specifically current and prospective students and staff of Feather River College who identify as such. With this in mind, the PCGSA supports FRC's Resolution "Rejecting Racism and Supporting Diversity at Feather River College," but has some concerns as discussed below.

On 6/30/2020, FRC's update to students (found on their website) says, "Driven by our dedication to equity, the FRC community does not tolerate discrimination or racism. FRC purposefully fosters an inclusive environment to support the development, potential, and value of all individuals." If this is true, FRC leadership will see the importance of student safety and realize it cannot have persons of strong bias and discriminatory/prejudicial personal opinions in positions of power.

PCGSA has considered FRC to be a supportive part of our mission against discrimination of people who are LGBTQIA+. However, we now find some serious questions coming to the surface from our community members in regards to the possible treatment of such students and staff. Specifically, the PCGSA would like to address recent Facebook posts made by Trent Saxton, Trustee at FRC, speaking against those he calls homosexuals. If a current LGBTQIA+ student or potential student were to see the comments written by him, we believe they might feel like this campus is an unsafe environment for them. Following, we address three issues Saxton has posted about on Facebook.

First, Saxton refers to the science of XX and XY chromosomes as the only factor in determining someone's "gender." He uses the word "gender" when it would be more accurate to say, "sex assigned at birth." There is a difference between sex and gender. A person can be born with male or female sex organs, a combination of both, or ambiguous sex organs. Some people who are born with external genitals which fall into the typical male/female categories have internal organs and/or hormones which do not match. In addition, humans can be born not only with XX or XY chromosomes but also with extra X and Y chromosomes. Saxton's assertion that there are only males and females is erroneous as a matter of biological fact and is detrimental to anyone who does not fit into the majority. <sup>1</sup>

Second, gender is determined by a variety of factors. Many cultures have a long history of recognizing at least three genders (the Jewish and Christian Bibles have three, when eunuchs are included), and the current understanding is that gender is more of a spectrum. Gender refers to more than sex assigned at birth and includes how one identifies, how one expresses themselves, to whom one is physically attracted, and to whom one is romantically or emotionally attracted. Gender identity goes beyond XX and XY chromosomes. <sup>2</sup>

Third, Saxton states, "If approved, all Christians in this County would be in violation of the FRC's College Resolution in its current format. Christians do not agree with same sex marriages." Again, this information is not correct. Christians of different denominations are divided on the issue of same sex relationships. There are hundreds of different denominations of Christians in the U.S. and more and more of them are becoming LGBTQIA+ welcoming and affirming, including affirmation of same sex marriages. In the latest Pew Research Center study on the topic, 62% of Christians believe homosexuality is acceptable. Therefore, Saxton does not speak on behalf of all Christians, not even all Christians in Plumas County. <sup>3</sup>

In closing, the PCGSA fully supports FRC's Resolution "Rejecting Racism and Supporting Diversity at Feather River College," and feels Saxton's current public views against parts of this resolution and against people who are LGBTQIA+ are harmful to the wellbeing of FRC students and staff who identify in this way. We refer to the Board Policy Manual section 2715 "Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice Board of Trustees," especially items 1-4, regarding the Board of Trustees "standards of excellence" which state, "Each member of the Board of Trustees will:

1. ... hold the educational welfare of the students ... as their primary concern ...
2. ... ensure ... equality of opportunity for all students regardless of race, creed, sex, religion, ...
3. ... maintain independent judgment unbiased by private interest ...

4. ... uphold, implement, and enforce all laws and codes” (underlining my own).

If any FRC Board of Trustee is unable to embrace the resolution “Rejecting Racism and Supporting Diversity” or abide by the Code of Ethics, we feel it is their duty to resign from the Board of Trustees. Finally, if FRC plans to continue to serve “as a cultural, and economic leader for all communities that lie within the District,” as stated in their Mission Statement, then the Board of Trustees needs to address this situation quickly and wisely so our community can feel safe and at ease again.

Reverend Fredrickson thanked the board of trustees for allowing her to present the statement and she noted the 120 signatures from others that had signed on to the statement in support.

Stephanie Leaf followed up with closing remarks stating that their point was not to say that Dr. Saxton is right or wrong, and they were not wanting to debate him or infringe upon his right to freedom of speech. She added that their point is Dr. Saxton’s public statements and actions as a member of the board run counter to and undermine the basic operating principles of the college. Ms. Leaf stated that for the good of the board, the college, and the community she hopes that board members will vote to censure Dr. Saxton and/or ask for his resignation from the Board of Trustees of Feather River College.

President Ware asked Dr. Trutna what the options were for the agenda item, and he explained like any other action item the board of trustees could move to approve, modify, discuss, or agree to table the agenda item. Trustee McNett moved to table the item until an appropriate legal response has been received by the board, and the motion failed due to lack of a second. Trustee Sheehan then made a motion that the board disavow Trustee Saxton’s statements on social media, seconded by Trustee Elliott. Trustee McNett stated that he would be in favor (of the motion) if legally appropriate. Trustee McNett added that the District’s board policy states that if there is a question regarding violations of the Code of Ethics, the board president will take the necessary steps to resolve the issue. He emphasized that there is a procedure on how to address the issue and he recommended that it be followed. Trustee Elliott stated that he would like to have a legal review of the procedure to be sure the board is on solid ground with it. Trustee Sheehan reminded trustees that there is a motion to disavow on the floor, and he explained how it could be approved now without legal review. He added that he is more than willing to withdraw his motion if the board feels like it needs to work with AP 2715, but in his opinion doing nothing is inappropriate. After brief discussion, Trustee Sheehan withdrew his motion to disavow Dr. Saxton’s comments, and Trustee Elliott withdrew his second to the motion. Trustee McNett then motioned to table the agenda item and refer it to legal counsel, and Trustee Elliott seconded. Trustee Saxton asked to be heard, and he stated that he understands that there is disagreement with his politics and religious beliefs, but it has no place at this table. Kevin Trutna stated that he would refer the item to legal counsel, and it would be returned to the agenda for the August board meeting, (McNett/Elliott)

Ayes:

Ware, Elliott, McNett, Sheehan, Student

Noes:	Trustee Wilson
Absent:	Saxton
Abstain:	None
	None

## **B. Roll Call Items**

None

## **C. Special Items/Reports**

1) Jim Scoubes, Vice-President Business Services/CFO, presented the District's Monthly Financial Report as of June 30, 2020. He reviewed the Unrestricted General Fund Summary and reported revenue of \$15,950,749 and expenditures that totaled \$14,877,218 for the period. He reported that the current revenue total does not include June apportionment received from the State of California of \$443,916. He added that the District processed both month-end and mid-month payrolls, and is processing end of the fiscal year accounts payable so the books for 2019-2020 can be closed. Mr. Scoubes also reviewed the Restricted General Fund Summary included in the quarterly report, and noted that the numbers are not complete due to final end of the year adjustments. He reminded the board that the Tentative Budget approved the previous month was a four-month budget predicated on the first four months spending from the prior year. He also reported that according to the Plumas County Treasurer's Investment Report from the month of May 2020, the District received 1.78% interest on its investments. He briefly explained his strategy for the final budget, and answered questions posed by Dr. Trutna or other board members.

### **2) College Update - FRC Response to COVID-19 Disruption**

Prior to the three part college update, Kevin Trutna asked Derek Lerch to bring up the final PowerPoint slide in the presentation, so the board could see and focus on some on the questions that still need to be answered or remain a concern as the campus moves towards reopening. Dr. Trutna mentioned single or double housing capacity for COVID-19 safety is still an issue of concern, and with teaching, the three main class categories issues are lecture, lecture/laboratory, and hard-to-convert laboratory classes. He addressed the limitations on COVID-19 testing, staffing patterns for offices, and the lack of direction Higher Education is receiving from the state also remain concerns for reopening.

### **Instruction**

Derek Lerch stated that he would echo and expand on some of the issues that Dr. Trutna mentioned. He stated that one of the problematic or confounding things about the questions FRC is facing about the fall semester has been both the lack of clear guidance at the statewide level and whether or not that guidance is actually necessary for FRC to move forward as a district. He reminded everyone that the last clear guidance from the California Department of Public Health was received March 7, 2020, and there has been silence since that time. Dr. Lerch added that in

the face of that silence, local colleges like FRC have been working with local public health agencies to try to determine what is reasonable and safe for reopening. He reported that guidance is anticipated shortly from the state and a glimpse of that guidance has just been received in the last couple of days for K-12 districts that appears to be providing at least some local control over reopening to K-12 districts and how much flexibility they will have. He added that he is hopeful that the same flexibility will translate to Higher Education in terms of allowing FRC to set a course that makes sense to it in the conditions the county is facing.

Dr. Lerch notified the board that based on the watch of the COVID-19 outbreak across the state and in Plumas County, discussions with public health, faculty union, and academic senate leadership, he had just notified faculty that face-to-face instruction in lecture classes would not be prudent on August 24, 2020, when fall classes are scheduled to begin. He added that the update made faculty aware that this is the reality, and what they need to prepare for, and that time is of the essence.

Dr. Lerch stated that the bigger questions that Dr. Trutna alluded to on the hard-to-convert classes is something that FRC does not have clarity on right now from either the state or public health. He added that even without the clarity, it has always been FRC's intent to show local public health officials that FRC has a strong and comprehensive plan in place to allow for limited face-to-face instruction in places where it would have to compromise its educational product by switching to distance education with a relative strong assurance of minimal risk.

Dr. Lerch stated that there is much to be determined in the next few weeks, and he is meeting with Council on Instruction (COI) on Tuesday, July 28, 2020. He also stated that after this meeting he is hoping and planning to send out comprehensive guidance for the fall semester even though some of these issues are dependent on the State of California and local public health agency to determine what is realistic and safe. He added that all of this would require continued and expanded support for faculty as there is going to be a push for more distance education.

### **Student Services**

Carlie McCarthy, Vice-President of Student Services/CSSO, reported on staffing in Student Services offices stating that offices are operating at reduced capacity, and several 10-month employees are off contract during July. She also reported that for those positions that require a staff person's presence like student accounts, social distancing measures are in place, and Plexiglas barriers have been installed. Ms. McCarthy talked about student outreach and engagement and reported that she keeps students informed with bi-weekly emails and all students will be invited to participate in virtual meetups planned via Zoom, and that the first meetup is scheduled for July 22, 2020.

Ms. McCarthy transitioned to the next slide and talked about what offices in Student Services are doing to prepare for the fall semester. She stated

that programs that serve local school districts are prepping to provide services virtually if necessary. She added that staff are also preparing to work from home, documents are being converted to electronic files, and categorical grant programs are purchasing laptops for students. Ms. McCarthy reported that the Financial Aid Department is processing the Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSAs) being submitted and working with housing and coaches who can reach out to students for needed information. She added that a virtual College and Career Fair will be put on by the UC's and CSU's this year instead of FRC hosting the fair, and she hopes to work with faculty to do some FRC program promotion for this virtual event. Ms. McCarthy informed the board members that events normally planned for the fall semester like the Educational Talent Search Freshman Focus Camp, and the Student Equity and Achievement Leadership Camp have been moved to spring.

Ms. McCarthy's next PowerPoint slide focused on returning students to campus, and she reported that the task force formed to guide this return is meeting to discuss COVID-19 testing, student housing, athletics, general students, agriculture/equine, horse boarding, and orientations. She added that the return of students to campus is scheduled to begin the week of August 17, 2020, in pre-arranged organized groups. She stated that students would sign a waiver and begin COVID-19 testing protocols in partnership with Plumas District Hospital (PDH). She informed the board that she talks with PDH weekly about determining testing capacity and at this time PDH is looking at approximately 90 tests per day. She explained that once a better feel for which students will be returning to campus, whether it be for athletics, housing, or campus-based classes, these would be the students needing to be tested. She explained that once these students receive the Rapid Antigen COVID-19 test, there would be about a four-hour timeline for the results. She added that during this time, daily screening protocols would be provided to waiting students and orientations could take place outside in small social distanced groups. She also described a release form being created for COVID-19 and any other activity that the student plans to engage in while attending FRC.

### **Administration**

Kevin Trutna reported that weekly Plumas County Joint Information Center (JIC) meetings take place, and these involve the hospitals, law enforcement, school districts, and other county units that have pandemic responsibility. He also reported that there was mainly positive feedback on the opening of the fitness center and the members are appreciative to be back using the facility. Dr. Trutna also reported that a walk-through of campus classrooms and offices was done last week with Andrew Woodruff, Director, Plumas County Health Department, and Jerry Sipe, Director, Plumas County Environmental Health and there was discussion on how FRC is going to reopen and keep students and staff safe. He also noted that the California Community Colleges Athletic Association (CCCAA) will limit games and has moved all athletic competition to the spring semester. He noted that the college has received no word to date on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement.

Dr. Trutna transitioned to the next slide that focused on Corona Virus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funding. He reviewed what had already been dispersed to students and he noted that the remaining amount of \$11,277 would be held to see what comes up in terms of student need. He also reported that the institutional portion of CARES funding amounting to \$299,576 has been received, and is going through campus committees for input. He explained that \$68,265 of this amount has been committed for Wellness Center personnel, along with a \$3,000 commitment for a Healthy Roster/Safer Play app that students can download, answer health questions, record their temperature, and the information can be tracked. He explained that the remaining \$228,311 would be held for needed and discussed usage. Trustee Sheehan stated that if the residence halls are held to 50% occupancy, the facility could be roughly \$500,000 in the hole with this budget. Dr. Trutna concurred and stated that a lot of this is the reopening plan, and there is a waiting list for housing now, but that could change when we start talking about online instruction. He reminded the board that the reopening plan is based on the California phases for reopening and county public health review, and it includes college students and staff responsibilities. He explained that staff and students would be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing their own areas with resources and supplies provided by the District.

Dr. Trutna returned to the final slide describing the concerns that still exist for FRC's reopening. He stated that now would be the time for the board to ask questions so everyone remains on the same page. He asked Carlie McCarthy to speak to housing capacity and she reported that historically housing has operated at over-capacity because there was a need for it. She explained that housing is full right now with a wait list, but public health has concerns about roommates in a confined space, and seem willing to work through those concerns with us. She stated that they had talked about phasing in the return of students, which is already built in the reopening plan, and another idea that will be presented to them would be to have students agree to a 14-day home quarantine and temperature check screening before they arrive and go into FRC's COVID-19 testing protocols. She described what the approach to room assignments would be, and emphasized that as soon as changes are made to teaching modes, there are going to be students that do not come because they will be scheduled into all online classes. Ms. McCarthy stated that it is her hope that FRC does not have to reduce to 50% capacity, as this would be difficult for students and the college.

Dr. Trutna stated that he wanted it clear to the board that currently double-occupancy is scheduled and that single occupancy has been recommended which would be detrimental for FRC's student body and programs.

Trustee Saxton asked Dr. Trutna if any leaders in the communities had been contacted to let them know what FRC's plan is for reopening and ask them if they have any concerns about the influx of people. He also asked

about the price for COVID-19 testing, and Carlie McCarthy responded \$75.00 per test. Trustee Saxton asked again about informing community leaders about renting to returning students that could be infected or not, and Dr. Trutna responded that FRC does not get involved with housing outside of campus facilities.

Trustee McNett asked Ms. McCarthy about the re-testing of students that might leave the area and come back, and she talked about the testing limitations in terms of the inability to control or track the activities students engage in or where they go. She stated that the testing and re-testing of students will depend on what type of student is being served because some populations like athletics and equine have greater influence over their student's behaviors. Trustee Sheehan mentioned the broad community-testing going on through Plumas District Hospital for individuals without symptoms, and Dr. Trutna stated that a contract with PDH for testing would be on the August 13, 2020, agenda for the board's approval.

Dr. Trutna moved to address the number two and three categories of concern surrounding teaching. He stated that now that the lecture classes have been decided on, the focus would turn to the essential infrastructure classes that could be taught with social distancing. Dr. Trutna explained that the real question is the hard-to-convert laboratory classes that academically cannot translate to online. He wanted the board to know and understand that on this issue FRC is really negotiating with the Plumas County Health Department and trying to come to a point where these classes can be taught. President Ware stated that she felt the college is doing its due diligence in consultation with the health department. Dr. Trutna noted that within a day or two, the county health director will have the draft re-opening plan and he can respond to it. Dr. Trutna touched on the creative staffing patterns that may be implemented as the college reopens.

Derek Lerch stated that from an instructional perspective the group is aware of the data shown last month on the success rates for mathematics and English for the disrupted spring semester, which were far below what is normally seen and expected. He also stated that we know that students do best when they have as much support as possible, and this is especially true for marginalized students that need more support to succeed. He emphasized that the college is doing everything it can to keep as many support services for students available this fall so that the societal issue of the haves getting ahead and the have nots falling behind is not exacerbated.

Carlie McCarthy added that it is a priority for Dr. Trutna, Dr. Lerch and her to make the decisions in collaboration with public health to reopen and inform FRC students as soon as it can. She explained that waiting until August 1, 2020 to inform them would not give them even enough time to complete the self-quarantine and temperature check protocol. Trustee Saxton asked if anyone believes that in the next three weeks the situation

is going to get any better to say so. He added that since this does not seem likely, are there those that believe these re-opening decisions could be made without guidance from the State of California. Carlie McCarthy responded that collaboration and review with the public health department is still part of the decision because FRC needs to show that it is doing its best to provide a safe learning environment for its students while keeping its communities safe. Trustee Sheehan asked if anyone has responded specifically to the department of health concerns about double occupancy, and Dr. Trutna explained that the director would be given the draft plan so he can comment on it and realize that single occupancy will force students out into the communities where they will be more at risk for spreading the virus.

- 3) Kevin Trutna addressed the agenda item on the 2020-2021 Employer Fixed Payroll Costs. He stated that the item was informational in nature and is offered annually to the board. Trustee Sheehan asked about classified PERS and Social Security data at 26%, stating it seemed high. Dr. Trutna explained that the District has fixed payroll costs for both PERS and Social Security for classified employees, and yes, the percentage is high.

#### **D. Communications, Presentations, and Reports**

- 1) **Board of Trustees**

No Report

- 2) **Associated Students**

Angelina Wilson, Student Trustee, reported that ASFRC leadership is planning to meet with students online and is trying to share information as it becomes available so they can prepare. She asked that Carlie McCarthy and Derek Lerch keep her informed as decisions are made.

- 3) **Academic Senate**

Chris Connell, Academic Senate President, stated that in the last two weeks, he has talked with most of the full-time faculty and some part time faculty, and while they are on vacation, they are working to get their classes ready for fall. He stated that many choices have to be made, and there remains quite a bit of uncertainty. Dr. Connell explained that it is not a simple process to convert a lecture lab class to an online class, but faculty are busy tackling the issue. He added that we are going to get there and faculty are looking forward to getting there correctly and serving our students well.

- 4) **Classified Senate**

No Report

- 5) **Instruction**

Derek Lerch stated that it is worth acknowledging how well the college is working together at this time. He added that he has spent significant time with faculty leadership in the last few weeks and he is thankful to be

working with such a thoughtful, committed, and flexible group of faculty members.

6) **Student Services**

No Report

7) **Superintendent/President**

Kevin Trutna shared information from his written report stating that Tom Heaney, History Professor, has developed a series of online games based on historical events that can be accessed through the website. He also commended Merle Trueblood, Athletic Director, who has fulfilled his six-year term on the CCCAA Management Council, working as the administrative representative in charge of the north and south soccer regionals, semifinals, and the championship soccer competitions. Dr. Trutna added that the CCCAA Management Council implemented Title IX throughout the state, and Mr. Trueblood was a statewide resource for all 115 schools in reference to Title IX athletic issues, including required documents for state and federal reports.

Dr. Trutna also highlighted from his written report that Terry Baumgartner, Head Baseball Coach, had 12 FRC players commit to other schools on scholarships totaling over \$250,000.

Dr. Trutna explained that after the end of the semester, a survey was sent out to staff, which asked questions pertaining to what went well, and what improvements could be made regarding communication and the COVID-19 disruption. He explained that the responses are included in his written report and are a good read that provides perspective on what worked.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

KT/ch