

## MEETING MINUTES

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Board Chair Takamura called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.M. and noted a quorum.

### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Vice Board Chair Takamura asked for a motion to approve the following minutes:

#### **A. December 7, 2022 regular and special meeting**

*Trustee Cooper moved to approve the minutes for the regular meetings held on December 7, 2022. Trustee Norouzi seconded and the motion carried.*

Vice Board Chair Takamura recognized the Lunar New Year, celebrated by many Asian cultures and encouraged everyone to join festivities in Seattle’s International District this weekend. She also expressed her gratitude for being able to represent the Board at recent enjoyable RTC events including, the MLK event today, with keynote given by Judge Nicole Gaines Phelps, the Diversity Potluck and the staff/faculty engagement event with Dr. Harden: Cocoa with Dr. Yo.

Vice Board Chair Takamura recognized the newest RTC board member, Tim Cooper, who joined today’s meeting in person. Trustee Copper was born and raised in Washington and has lived in Renton with his family for the past 17 years. He works at Kaiser Permanente of Washington where he is the Director of Medical Specialties, overseeing the entire state of Washington. He is honored to be on the RTC board and affirmed how critical technical colleges are to the whole education system. He looks forward to getting to know the RTC community. Vice Board Chair Takamura noted that the board is still looking to fill the Labor Seat.

Vice Board Chair Takamura thanked everyone for the well written and informative board reports they are much appreciated.

### **3. COMMUNICATIONS**

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| <b>A. General Information/Introductions</b> | Dr. Harden introduced Nathe Ezelle, the new and first manager of RTC’s Welbriety Center, which opened January 10. Manager Ezelle has been with RTC for 2 months, hailing originally from Portland, Oregon. Manager Ezelle reported that the center provides services for those who are recovering, their allies, and all who join in the wellness around recovery and also wellbeing around mental health. He is establishing programming at the center, and will be scheduling guest speakers, events. Resources are also provided to student. Manager Ezelle is currently building partnerships with the Kent Department of Public Health and others. In addition to being the center’s manager, he is also a case manager on campus. Dr. Harden thanked Manager Ezelle and noted the important of this work and the center at this particular moment. ED of DEI, Doris Martinez introduced her new EA Maritza Ogarro who began her employment at RTC Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2022. Ms. Ogarro most recently came from UW School of Drama and before that, the State Attorney General’s Office of Civil Rights. Ms. Ogarro is proud to be at RTC supporting the DEI work. |
| <b>B. Correspondence</b>                    | There was no correspondence.  |
| <b>C. Public Comments from the Audience</b> | There were no public comments.  |

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- D. Student Leadership** Associate Dean of Student Engagement and Retention, Wade Parrot provided an update from student leadership. Associated Student Government (ASG) is planning for Black History month in February, and a guest speaker has been retained; Rishad Norris, who offered the keynote at Highline Community College’s Black Brown Male summit in November will be speaking at RTC the 1<sup>st</sup> week February. ASG is also collaborating with ED Doris Martinez around DEI efforts on campus, including going into classrooms to share DEI event/other information with RTC students and faculty. This collaboration and classroom presence fulfills a winter quarter goal for ASG. Associate Dean Parrot reported that ASG now has 4 leaders and continues their recruitment for the last 3 and noted that the next Student Senate meeting is Monday, January 23 at noon and all are welcome to join. Takamura also requested Associate Dean Parrot extend an invitation to ASG and students to join the RTC Board meetings as they are most welcome.
- E. Renton Federation of Teachers** RFT President, Donna Maher thanked the president and trustees for consistently inviting RFT leadership to board meetings. She spoke to the challenges living in today’s world with COVID, the general mental health issues, and increased expenses. She noted how limited everyone is with resources and reserves which also impacts RTC enrollment: school may be the last thing on students’ minds. RFT President Maher has questions and concerns about evaluating program viability but expressed support for faculty to evaluate their own data and also ensure the State Board receives accurate data. RFT President Maher noted the opportunity the college has to improve programs, raise the bar, and spotlight RTC as the premier technical college in the State of Washington.
- F. Written Communication Reports** Reports were included in the board packets.

**5. DISCUSSION REPORTS**

- A. Administration/Finance** VP Jackson offered a presentation explaining the errors that were discovered in ctclink in December, which are being resolved. All tuition collection reporting moving forward should be correct in ctclink. The State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) confirmed that Deployment Group-6 (DG-6) colleges (9 of them) had been impacted. SBCTC is determining the best way to reimburse the DG-6 group for the current and past fiscal years, which primarily include amounts from the BAS (Applied Bachelor’s) programs. VPA Jackson reported that student disbursements were not impacted by the ctclink error.

VPA Jackson reported that enrollments are projected to drop over the next two years if trends continue. This is primarily a result of students taking reduced credit loads (from 12 to 9.7 per student) while headcounts are expected to slightly decrease, per formulations from the multi-year budget tool (est. at RTC 2022) which looks at future enrollment trends using projection parameters grounded in transformational moving averages that factor COVID, CPI, and unemployment. Adult Basic Education is an area of decline as are Prof-Tech programs. The significant drop in Prof-Tech programs is expected to continue through at least 2025. Projections for GenEd remain constant; CCP continues their drop, apprenticeship shows a slight growth. For the current year, we are expecting about 200 less FTE than what was initially budgeted, which will result in monetary decreases of \$900K. We are anticipating another 50 FTE drop in 2023-2024; and about 40 FTE drop in 2024-2025. Other colleges are experiencing similar trends, with ProfTech heavy technical colleges experiencing the largest losses. RTC is down 15%, compared to the 6-8% drop other Washington state technical colleges are experiencing. Per Dr. Harden, enrollment declines and reduced credit loads have been occurring over the past 9 years and COVID decelerated drops. People are feeling uncertain with changes in the world with COVID events, and other happenings impacting student outlooks around enrolling and completion. This

thinking is impacting our entire community. This information is being shared with trustees so that it can be understood with regards to RTC's planning strategies. VPA Jackson is exploring options to create a comprehensive Student Success Management plan addressing the current outreach approach, which will also include recommendations on program mix and whether it is working or if resources need to evolve and shift in order to build more successful programs. Dr. Harden reported that while funding and enrollment concerns will be shared with legislators in Olympia in the coming days, legislators do have awareness of these issues and are making investments in workforce education to help. Dr. Harden further iterated that her President's Advisory Council, comprised of community and business leaders, share concerns regarding dropping enrollments in healthcare and other programs. RTC will spend the next few months disseminating current state information to students and faculty and collecting input to parlay into RTC planning. Governor Inslee released his budget in December 2022, which included funding for high-cost programs: \$30M year after year. VPA Jackson will provide a budget update in March. He noted that the RTC contingency fund will cover RTC expenditures through the current fiscal year

**B. President's Report**

Dr. Yoshiko Harden provided a report highlighting activities subsequent to the December Board Meeting. She thanked the MLK Day speaker, Judge Phelps and also reported that a film will be shown tomorrow, January 19 at RTC's Blencoe Auditorium. Dr. Harden also shared information about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and education wherein he earned his PhD at the age of 26. And it was from then and inside 13 years that he did all his work before he was assassinated. Dr. Harden recommended people read his final book, *Where Do We Go from Here*, which is very different from his earlier books. Dr. Harden asked people to reflect on the question if we are better off today than in 1960 with racism, poverty, and war alive today. She posited that there is still much work to do around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Harden thanked everyone at for pulling together RTC's first MLK events. Dr. Harden informed trustees that she has several meetings and events scheduled in the next few weeks, including a student engagement event on January 30: Cocoa with Dr. Yo. She is meeting with legislators in Olympia January 24, February 1 and 3 to show and garner support for the State Board's legislative capital and operating budget request proposals. She will be joined in Olympia by Trustee Norouzi, former RTC Board Trustee/current Foundation Trustee Tyler Page, VPA Jackson and Welding Instructor and RFT Vice President Rick Geist. A student will also join each of the legislative meetings. In addition to meeting with individual legislators, RTC is joining forces with Green River Community College and Highline Community College to host a joint legislative reception, February 1 in Olympia. Trustees, Presidents and leaders from each of these colleges will attend to speak with the legislators. Thank you to ED of Marketing and Communications, Katherine Hansen for working with the colleges to coordinate this. Dr. Harden met with the Superintendent of the Renton School District (RSD), Dr. Damien Patenaude and looks forward to building a mutually beneficial partnership with RSD. Dr. Harden also met with the new ED of the SBCTC, Dr. Paul Francis. She will work more closely with him and SBCTC colleagues and also Dr. Amy Morrison, as she is now serving on the SBCTC Workforce Committee. Thank you to RTC Manager, Gerald Bradford for organizing the RTC Diversity Potluck. And thanks to the eighty-plus staff and faculty members and also Trustee Takamura who attended the Cocoa with Dr. Yo event. A survey sent to all to collect data and input from the event. And lastly, Dr. Harden will be inducted into the Renton Rotary January 19 and also looks forward to building community partnerships within Rotary.

**6. BOARD of TRUSTEES**

**A. Trustee Recruitment**

Dr. Harden reported that we have 2 potential candidates that she will meet with to discuss joining the RTC board and filling the labor seat. Board Secretary Alanna Malone is coordinating additional meetings with candidates and Board

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Chair Entenman and Vice board Chair Takamura to further the discussion and recruitment efforts.

**7. MEETINGS**

**A.** The next regular board meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2023.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business, Trustee Cooper moved to adjourn the Board of Trustees' regular meeting at 4:24 pm seconded by Trustee Norouzi; the motion carried.*

DEBRA ENTENMAN, Board Chair  
Board of Trustees



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Renton Technical College

YOSHIKO HARDEN, President  
Board of Trustees



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