SUMMARY OF MEETING

A meeting of the Massachusetts Community Colleges Trustees’ Association (MCCTA) was held in Café East at Middlesex Community College on Wednesday, April 20, 2016.

I. Meeting Convenes and Introduction:
At 4:30 p.m., Trustee Tina Sbrega, Board Chair at Mount Wachusett Community College and President of the Massachusetts Community Colleges Trustees’ Association, called the Spring Meeting to order.

Ms. Sbrega started by discussing the important role that the MCCTA has as a resource to community college trustees, a forum for discussion and the exchange of information and best practices. She mentioned that the MCCTA has a very special guest at the meeting; the Honorable Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker of the House. Trustee Sbrega also wanted to thank both Middlesex Community College President James Mabry and Trustee Board Chair Jim Campbell for hosting the meeting at Middlesex’s Bedford campus. Further, she was pleased to once again honor student trustees through the MCCTA Student Leadership Awards for the third year. Also she wanted to thank Mike Mizzoni for coming, who recently took over for Jennifer Perkins permanently at the DHE’s Office of Trustee Relations.

II. Remarks:
MCCTA President Sbrega then introduced Speaker Robert A. DeLeo, who was the recipient of the MCCTA’s ‘Community College Champion Award.’ She thanked the Speaker for all of his support to the community college segment, and specifically, for spearheading the successful STEM Starter Academy programs at the community colleges. Trustee Sbrega then invited up two STEM Starter Academy students from Middlesex Community College up to present Speaker DeLeo with his award. Two Middlesex Community College students spoke briefly and presented Speaker DeLeo with the 2016 Community College Champion Award.

Speaker DeLeo thanked Ms. Sbrega for the kind introduction and especially thanked the students for their hard work. He discussed the key role the community colleges serve in society as both the access to higher education, but also as the backbone of the workforce development system. He thanked Bill Hart, the presidents, the trustees and all of the students for their hard work.

III. MCCTA Student Leadership Awards:
Trustee Sbrega thanked Speaker DeLeo for his remarks and once again, for his longtime support of the system. She continued by mentioning the important and critical role that student trustees have in representing the student voice on community college boards, and that their insight helps serve the collective community college mission in Massachusetts. She added that the MCCTA acknowledges their
valuable contributions and service to their campuses each year with the annual Student Leadership Awards.

Trustee Sbrega invited Speaker DeLeo to stay standing to help present each student trustee with their Student Leadership Award. Each student trustee was introduced by Ms. Sbrega and was presented with an award. After each student trustee received their recognition, they took a picture with Speaker DeLeo, Trustee Sbrega, and other campus representatives.

Trustee Sbrega remarked that it was always wonderful to see students from across the Commonwealth recognized for the extra work they volunteer to do on behalf of their college. Ms. Sbrega added that they would take a brief break for dinner, and then mentioned that she was going to continue on with the rest of the meeting’s business in about 10 minutes. MCCTA members broke for dinner, and returned at 5:18 P.M.

IV. Approval of Minutes:
MCCTA President Sbrega announced that they could now continue on with the meeting business. She asked for a motion to approve the MCCTA Fall Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2015.

Upon a Motion duly made and seconded, the December 8, 2015 MCCTA Fall Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

V. Board of Higher Education Segmental Representative Report: Dr. J.D. LaRock, Chair of the North Shore Community College Board of Trustees:
Ms. Sbrega invited up Dr. J.D. LaRock, Board Chair at North Shore Community College and the recently elected BHE Segmental Representative to the Board of Higher Education. She mentions how this will be her first report, as he replaced former trustee Stacey Luster after she stepped down last year. Mr. LaRock was elected by a vote of the board chairs last December.

Mr. LaRock thanked Trustee Sbrega for the introduction. He described the recent activity of the Board of Higher Education. This activity included the status and response of the developmental math pilots, early college pathways, as well as the looming announcement of the Governor’s Commonwealth Commitment initiative. Although some of the details would still have to be worked out in the coming months, he thought the Commonwealth Commitment still was a great initiative that could assist students in the state. He then asked if there were any questions from the membership.

VI. Executive Officer’s Report: Bill Hart, Executive Officer, Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office (MCCEO):
Trustee Sbrega thanked Mr. LaRock for his remarks and advocacy on the Board of Higher Education on behalf of community college trustees. She then invited up the Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office (MCCEO) to offer remarks on the state budget and other statewide initiatives. Mr. Hart thanked Trustee Sbrega for the introduction. Mr. Hart updated members on the progress of the FY2017 state budget. He mentioned that it was perfect timing to get Speaker DeLeo to a meeting, since the House members will address their budget during the following week; the Senate would debate its own budget in May. He mentioned that the House Ways and Means Budget proposal was released the previous week, and there were a few modest items that provided incremental increases to the segment ($2.6M in the funding formula, and a slight increase to MassGrant). He continued by mentioning that several amendments were filed to increase a few different appropriations before
the House finalizes its version the following week. He noted that he would continue to keep trustees informed via E-Flash of developments on the FY17 budget as it passes through the House, Senate and eventually to the Governor’s desk.

Mr. Hart also announced the date for the upcoming Phi Theta Kappa event at the State House, which just like the MCCTA Student Leadership Awards, provides a showcase the great students our segment has to offer. He wanted to thank Mike Mizzoni from the Department of Higher Education for his outreach and work with the Association and MCCEO. Also, he wanted to again congratulate Trustee J.D. LaRock on his work as the new BHE segmental representative.

VII. Treasurer’s Report:
MCCTA President Tina Sbrega introduced President Mabry to provide the MCCTA Treasurer’s Report. He provided remarks on the MCCTA FY16 budget to-date and proposed dues and a budget for FY17.

The reserve heading into FY15 was $17,979. The reserve heading into FY16 was $15,458. Though FY16 expenditures were on track to be under-budget at around $38,000, the balance forward into FY17 was still projected to be just $7,544.

He mentioned that with a projected budget for FY17 to cover adjustments, the new budget would need just under $44,000. He added that it means that a $2,000 campus assessment would be inadequate. President Mabry suggested raising the MCCTA dues up to $2,500 to maintain a small reserve while being sensitive to the budget realities across the segment. He finished by adding that the draining of the reserve began in FY13 when no dues were assessed, and dues have been as high as $4,500 per campus.

MCCTA President Sbrega thanked President Mabry for his remarks. She asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Treasurer’s Report passed with unanimous support.

VIII. New Business:

• Assessment of FY17 Dues
In reference to President Mabry’s recommendation, MCCTA President Sbrega asked if there was a motion to set the FY17 dues at $2500 per college.

Upon a Motion duly made and seconded, there was a proposal to set the FY17 dues at $2500 per college. This motion carried with unanimous support.

• Report of the Nominating Committee:
Trustee Sbrega then brought up that the MCCTA By-Laws state that the Association must elect its officers every two years at the Spring Meeting. The current officers were:

President – Trustee Tina Sbrega, Vice President – President Dan Asquino
Treasurer – President James Mabry, Secretary – Trustee Jeff Linehan

Trustee Sbrega then reminded members that to find prospective officers, per the By-Laws, there is a Nominating Committee that meets and discusses candidates to recommend to the Association biannually on the floor of the
Spring Meeting. She mentioned that multiple notices went out reminding members that they were once again electing MCCTA Officers. The notices also mentioned her decision to step aside as President of the MCCTA to allow new perspectives and fresh ideas.

This year, Trustee Sbrega chaired the Nominating Committee, which had three additional members, two trustee board chairs and two college presidents in total. The other members were: Trustee Pamerson Ifill, President Dan Asquino, and President John Sbrega. The Committee met via conference call, and started by discussing the strategic vision that they believed MCCTA Officers should convey. They were looking for Officers to bring new ideas while maintaining momentum in the development of trusteeship and the exchanging of best practices. The Committee also hoped that some consistency could properly catalyze the MCCTA forward.

Trustee Sbrega mentioned that the Nominating Committee recommended that the following candidates be offered as a slate for MCCTA Officer positions: “for president, Jeff Linehan, Northern Essex Community College; for vice president, Dr. Daniel Asquino, Mount Wachusett Community College; for treasurer, Dr. James Mabry, Middlesex Community College; and for Secretary, Miguel Lopez, Quinsigamond Community College.”

- **Election of MCCTA Officers**
  Trustee Sbrega mentioned that the Nominating Committee presents a slate of candidates. Trustee Sbrega stated that additional nominations were open from the floor, and asked if there were any additional nominations for each of the four officer positions. No further nominations were presented.

  Upon a Motion duly made and seconded, there was a proposal to elect the following candidates as a slate for MCCTA officers: “for president, Jeff Linehan Northern Essex Community College; for vice president, Dr. Daniel Asquino, Mount Wachusett Community College; for treasurer, Dr. James Mabry, Middlesex Community College; and for Secretary, Miguel Lopez, Quinsigamond Community College.” The motion carried unanimously.

**IX. Old Business:**
Trustee Sbrega entertained any questions from MCCTA members, and asked if there was any old business to discuss.

President Asquino then announced that he wanted to present Trustee Sbrega with a small token of the group’s collective appreciation, an engraved vase, for her hard work and leadership throughout the past few years.

**X. Adjournment:**
Trustee Sbrega thanked Dr. Asquino for his support, and Bill Hart and Dave Koffman for their work throughout her tenure. Ms. Sbrega wished Trustee Linehan the best of luck.

*With no further items to come before the Association, there was a motion for adjournment duly made and seconded which carried with unanimous support.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
David Koffman
Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office