

**THESE MINUTES ARE TENTATIVE AND WILL NOT BECOME OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED
BY THE BOARD AT THE SUBSEQUENT MEETING.**

**BROWARD COLLEGE
Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Board of Trustees
September 14, 2023**

An emergency meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Broward College was called to order at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2023 by Chair Alexis Yarbrough at the Willis Holcombe Downtown Center, 111 East Las Olas Boulevard, Building 33, Room 1208, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 333301. In attendance were Chair Alexis Yarbrough (physical), Vice Chair Zachariah P. Zachariah, Jr. (physical), Trustee Akhil K. Agrawal (virtual, then physical), Trustee Cindy Kushner (physical), Trustee Mario Zanotti (physical), and General Counsel Lacey D. Hofmeyer (physical).

Chair Yarbrough called for a motion to approve the agenda of the meeting. Trustee Kushner made the motion with a second by Trustee Zanotti. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

Chair Yarbrough called on Lacey D. Hofmeyer, General Counsel and Vice President for Public Policy & Government Affairs to introduce the registered speakers.

Marsha Levy expressed shock that President Haile at Broward College, and urged the Board to retain Gregory Haile as the President of Broward College. He expressed that his leadership has led others to try to emulate the work that Broward College does.

Craig Farley asked the Board to convince Gregory Haile of his decision to not leave the College. If Broward College loses him, it would be a major loss. He is admired by the community, and believes that losing him would be detrimental to the Foundation and its efforts to raise money.

Newton Sanon asked the Board to support to bringing College President Gregory Haile back. He has raised an unprecedented amount of money. Retaining talent is what businesses must do, and the College should try to retain him. He asked whether the Board would try to retain President Greg Haile. He then asked that the Board try.

There was a brief recess. Vice President Hofmeyer asked if she might remind the public to silence their devices. Chair Yarbrough agreed. Chair Yarbrough asked how many speakers remained since the Board had a subsequent meeting to this one. Vice President Hofmeyer said there were eight additional speakers.

Burnadette Norris-Weeks spoke in support of President Haile and stated that the Board should oppose any motion accepting the resignation. He is someone who supports the entire community, and offers so much to the community. He's garnered national attention, and is loved in the community. The Alliance has adopted the work of Broward College because of President Haile.

Bertha Henry asked the Board to resolve the differences between the parties in order to bring back Gregory Haile to the College. He encourages lifting the bottom of the community up.

Germaine Smith Baugh encouraged the Board to engage President Haile in a way that will allow him to return. The community will play close attention to what Broward College does from now on. Promise Neighborhoods and Broward UP are integral parts to changing the community, and they expect that the outcomes that have been promised come to fruition.

Daryl Wilcox recounted how he knows President Haile. He said that the situation doesn't smell right and urged the Board to do everything in their power to correct the situation to bring back Gregory Haile.

Kerry-Ann Royes asked what does it say that to the community that President Haile abruptly walked away. The College asked that the Board to reject resignation of Gregory Haile.

Melanie Geddes expressed her concern that President Haile resigned and expressed that President Haile was an asset to the community. She asked the Board to meet with President Haile. She asked the Board to ask themselves what if President Haile had never been President. She stated that President Haile is known to lead with integrity. She urged the Board to reconsider the accepting resignation of Gregory Haile.

Jessica Rodriguez asked the Board to keep Gregory Haile as the leader of the College as he has done great things for the College and the community as well. She stated that the College stands at the precipice of the largest capital campaign ever for a community college, and she wants to celebrate the future campaign success with President Haile back.

Perry Thurston asked the Board to consider his resignation. He said that he's worked with President Haile in the state political process and he's also seen President Haile work with students to help them achieve success. He stated that College cannot afford to lose Gregory Haile. He wants to be encouraged by Board in considering President Haile's return.

Vice President Hofmeyer stated that the registered speakers were concluded. Chair Yarbrough stated that like many of the people in the room she was surprised when the President emailed his letter to the Board. Chair Yarbrough stated that she was not sure how we got here. She was heartened by the number of community members that came to the meeting today. She is encouraged by how many speakers expressed how important that the College is and the importance of the programs the College provides are. She asked that the community in this room continue to be a partner to the College for the betterment of the community. She committed to an open and transparent process moving forward. The College is a community treasure. She would be happy to speak to anyone.

Dan Lindblade stated that he registered for the meeting, and some folks were unable to register. Typically, he's able to register to speak during a meeting. Chair Yarbrough stated that being open is important, and therefore we would continue to hear from speakers.

Dan Lindblade urged the Board to reconsider accepting the resignation of Gregory Haile. He believes that there is way to disagree without being disagreeable. He's seen the Board minutes which show some disagreements. He urged that the Board hear President Haile out.

Bob Swindell thanked the Board for its service. He stated the Board was at a precipice. He asked the Board to take a pause and urged the Board to reconsider the resignation of Gregory Haile. He stated that President Haile is valued in this community.

Chair Yarbrough stated there was time for one more speaker.

Ana Valladares stated that President Haile has brought the American Dream to many. She urged the Board on behalf of all the students and staff members to do everything in their power to keep President Haile as the president of the College.

Bacardi Jackson asked for the last speaker's remaining time, and Chair Yarbrough agreed. Ms. Jackson commented on the importance of keeping Gregory Haile, who has a personal commitment to the staff and

students at Broward College. He is a visionary leader, she said. She urged the Board to reconsider his resignation and sit down with him to see how his service to the College can be continued.

Chair Yarbrough asked for a motion to accept the resignation of President Haile. Trustee Agrawal moved to amend the motion of President Gregory Haile's resignation. Trustee Zachariah seconded the motion. A discussion proceeded on the motion.

Trustee Agrawal stated he has heard from many and powerful voices within the community. He expressed his shock in receiving the letter. Some of the comments suggest that the Board let President Haile go, and he has no knowledge that anyone asking President Haile to go. He stated that he's been in leadership many places, and has yet to receive a resignation letter via email. He supposes that it has something to do with sunshine laws. He spoke to President Haile and stated that President Haile was an asset to the College and would love to understand what this issue is. There are questions being raised about the College's enrollment and performance, as every board in this position must do. The Board is acting in the best interests of the community. No board member, to his knowledge, has asked him to resign. If we can figure out a way to preserve President Haile's value to the community, the Board should consider it.

Chair Zachariah would like to try to resolve this situation. In terms of the rumors that he's heard about letting him go, he has not heard anything like that.

Trustee Kushner wants an opportunity to have a discussion with him, and wants to get an opportunity to fix it.

Trustee Zanotti concurred that there was no intention from the Board to let him go. Second, he would like to see if there is a positive way to resolve this situation.

Chair Yarbrough concurred, and wanted to assure the public that that there was no request that President Haile resign. She was surprised to see his email from him. She stated that she still has not spoken to President Haile following that letter. He is not here today to explain his actions. She added that there have been difficult questions at many meetings about enrollment, revenue, and operational controls, which is appropriate for the Board to do as a matter of its required functions. There has been no indication any public or private meeting that she's been at where the President has received a request to resign. She agrees there should be a dialogue, and at present we do not know why we are here considering his resignation.

Vice President Hofmeyer stated that as matter of procedure the Board could amend the motion under consideration to instead ask that the Board engage in a dialogue with President Haile. The Board would move then second that amendment. After that has been completed, the Board could vote on the amended motion. She stated that motion would render the rest of the motions moot.

Trustee Agrawal moved to amend the motion for the Board to engage President Haile in a dialogue to understand the motivation to resign. Trustee Agrawal thinks that the Board needs greater clarity. Trustee Kushner seconded. The amended motion passed unanimously. Chair Yarbrough asked that we may notice another meeting on this issue in the future. Vice President Hofmeyer sought to clarify whether the Board was seeking to meet President Haile in a public meeting or bring the motions back to a public meeting. Trustee Agrawal asked whether these meetings must be in the sunshine because he's looking for a candid answer from President Haile. Chair Yarbrough said that there is no prohibition in speaking with President Haile individually. Chair Yarbrough said that she would work with Vice President Hofmeyer on how the Board would come back to the table. Chair Yarbrough mentioned that she was not sure how President Haile would feel about a public meeting, and therefore asked if it was fair to reach out to President Haile individually. Vice Chair Zachariah strongly urged each person to reach out individually. Chair Yarbrough thanked the public for attending.

The meeting adjourned.

The link to the video of this emergency meeting can be found here: https://broward-edu.zoom.us/rec/play/h6qoqEIDbMXJYssRtjO2DRA18AFCXsrWPzKKf45Wah3zIy8Lm9fxuZwaT91np3mB0E8qqpfadr5AIVgC.JtJt89ypIMY09GJE?canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&startTime=1694705623000&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fbroward-edu.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2Fa6KxZ1BCKR7HG3iNb2gnJzlybW2XITSYMOXpQywcUvdoLOTNgjjGuSHr85taC5yG.Gj0Fr6E9IgUJSQDh%3FstartTime%3D1694705623000