

ISOTHERMAL

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APRIL 22, 2025
RUTHERFORD COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Board of Trustees of Isothermal Community College met on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Trustees James Hutchins, Eddie Holland, Bill Miller, Amy Jenkins, Tony Helton, Seema Daigle, John Condrey, and Dave Hunt, as well as Dr. Margaret Annunziata and staff from Isothermal Community College were present.

Chairman Bryan King called the April 22, 2025 special meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners to order. Present: Chairman Bryan King, Vice Chairman Alan Toney, Commissioner Michael Benfield, Commissioner Donnie Haulk, and Commissioner Hunter Haynes. Vice Chairman Alan Toney moved to approve the agenda on behalf of the Rutherford County Commissioners. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees Chairman James Hutchins called the meeting of the Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees to order. Chairman Hutchins addressed the Board of Commissioners with appreciation and discussed the long standing partnership between the two parties beginning with the creation of Isothermal Community College.

Dr. Margaret Annunziata thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support for Isothermal Community College in the work that the college does for the community. She stated that the College has seen the second year of significant increases in enrollment with a 10% increase last year and an additional 5% increase this year.

Dr. Annunziata presented the budget request from Isothermal Community College with an increase over the previous year of \$236,462 (7.81%). This is due to repairs to facilities, electricity costs, and insurance which includes cyber insurance. Dr. Annunziata announced that with the new Health & Sciences project, the first focus of the College was seeking funds from sources other than Rutherford County as the tremendous needs in Rutherford County were recognized. General Assembly appropriations and fund raising yielded a majority of the funds; however, to prepare for the skills the students will need, there is a \$4,000,000 shortfall. For these needs, it was requested that the Board consider a \$4,000,000 appropriation from the ¼ cent sale tax for capital construction for public education for both Rutherford County schools and Isothermal Community College.

Dr. Annunziata announced that a Facility Capital Audit Plan was completed by state facility auditors to identify upgrades to Isothermal Community College buildings. This audit revealed projects totaling \$49,766,681 are needed. These projects were prioritized with the priorities of approximately \$4,000,000 needed in the upcoming fiscal year from the ¼ cent sales tax. Dr. Annunziata said the project needs from

the study had been put into three levels. Level 1 totaled approximately \$24,000,000, Level 2 totaled approximately \$12,000,000 and Level 3 totaled \$13,000,000.

Isothermal Community College Finance Chairman Dave Hunt reported that there was a savings in personnel costs because a third-party janitorial team will be providing services rather than Isothermal Community College employees.

Chairman King advised that the ¼ cent sales tax was a funding stream for educational capital needs that could mean the County would avoid having to raise property tax for these needs; however, the sales tax is being used for debt service so the capacity will need to be determined.

Chairman King thanked the Isothermal Community College Board for the dialogue and the teamwork.

Chairman Hutchins declared the meeting of the Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees adjourned.



CHAIRMAN

MR. JAMES HUTCHINS



PRESIDING
PARLIAMENTARIAN/SECRETARY
MR. BILL MILLER