

**MID MICHIGAN COLLEGE Board of Trustees Special Meeting**  
**March 17, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.**  
**Esther C. Conference Room, Harrison Campus**

Present: Jane Zdrojewski, Board Chair; Richard S. Allen, Jr., Secretary; Dr. Karen Moore, Treasurer; Nathan Weisenburger, Trustee; Lois Pittsley, Trustee; George Gilmore, Trustee; Tim Hood, President

Absent: Dr. Michael Jankoviak, Board Vice Chair

Guests: Scott Mertes, Provost; Lillian Frick, Vice President of Finance & Administration; Matt Miller, Vice President of Student Services & Advancement; Sherry Kyle, PT Executive Assistant to the President & Board of Trustees; Annette Sturdavant, PT Executive Assistant to the President & Board of Trustees

Agenda Item I: CALL TO ORDER

The Board Chair called the special meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Item II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Trustee Gilmore with support from Trustee Moore to approve the agenda as presented in the board packet. All ayes – motion carried.

Agenda Item III: PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

Item V-A: EVENT CENTER DISCUSSION

Vice President Miller shared that the discussion for the meeting is a follow-up from the March 4, 2025 Regular Meeting at which further information was requested by the Board concerning the different scenarios and related options for construction of the proposed Event Center at the Mt. Pleasant Campus.

Board Chair Zdrojewski informed members of the Board of Trustees that although Vice Chair Jankoviak is unable to attend the special meeting, he shared with her his input concerning the project and is in full support of proceeding with the full-sized original design.

Trustee Allen asked whether the building of the Event Center at the Mt Pleasant Campus would appear to be an issue with residents of Clare and Gladwin counties. He had discussions with a few folks in that regard and requested information that would be helpful in answering any future comments he may encounter.

Provost Mertes stated that the Event Center has been a part of the College's ongoing Master Plan. As projects in the Master Plan are put into motion, they proceed once approved by the Board. The Event Center is currently in design and development stages, with a couple of scaled down versions for consideration. The Board's desire to acquire additional information on proceeding with the Event Center at full scale led to the meeting this evening.

Board Chair Zdrojewski shared that the Center was designed from information gathered in meeting with local communities, College staff, faculty and administration, Mid's athletic program needs – which led to the need for a multi-purpose facility to serve many different needs.

Trustee Moore requested to know if the concerns Trustee Allen has encountered are regarding the facility itself, or its location in Mt Pleasant.

The Board Chair reminded everyone that Mt Pleasant is now a part of Mid's tax base and has the largest share of students in attendance. Mid's presence in Isabella and Gratiot counties and beyond is very strong. The College's athletic programs are very much based in that area.

Trustee Weisenburger shared that the athletics and the Tech Center have achieved national recognition. He thought perhaps a list of potential answers to any questions could be developed to address any questions that may arise from community members who express concern or require additional information.

Trustee Allen stated that perhaps it may not be any more than a few folks who have questions about the Center. Trustee Weisenburger added that he felt the Event Center will be a huge success and great addition to the College's facilities.

The Board Chair stated that the bidding, cost and funding of the Center are the focus of the meeting. All the proper notifications for the meeting have been posted.

Vice President Miller informed trustees that many students from Clare and Gladwin counties attend the Mt Pleasant campus. Detailed information in regard to a list of questions from Trustee Pittsley have been shared with trustees and the administrators, and some of it is relative to this.

Trustee Allen asked if having an Event Center provides more of a college/university atmosphere.

Trustee Moore requested that Vice President Miller continue with additional information on how the Event Center came to be part of the Master Plan, and perhaps that would provide the answers needed as we proceed.

Dr. Miller proceeded with an overview of the role of the Center as related to Mid's Master Plan.

Trustee Pittsley, who serves as the Trustee delegate on the Mid Foundation Board of Directors, shared that fundraising to support for the Event Center is currently in motion. An important part of serving on the Board of Trustees is to be proud and supportive of all aspects of the College. Trustee Pittsley expressed her concerns regarding economical and political factors, including tariffs and etc. as related to any current building projects. What if building costs are higher than projected...what are our comfort levels of funding? How much contingency is left?

Vice President Frick provided information in regard to Trustee Pittsley's concerns and questions. Ms. Frick shared that she is very comfortable in the use of funding sources for the Event Center. The College is in good financial shape. Past Boards of Trustees have been comfortable in not allowing the contingency fund to fall below \$10 million. There are also alternative funding sources, including bonding. In 2 years, the bonding for the Harrison Campus renovation project will be paid in full. We are very cautious not to financially overextend ourselves in any building projects. Vice President Frick shared that financing the project through bonding is more expensive, and in her conservative opinion, funding from existing College resources. The Trustees thanked Vice President Frick for her opinion.

Provost Mertes provided a few important points which led to the Center being built at the Mt Pleasant Campus that would be helpful in understanding how and why the project evolved. 1) Mt Pleasant is now in the College's tax district. 2) Over the past recent years, the Harrison Campus experienced a much-needed renovation/facelift, which includes the new Poet Center, new equipment for the advanced manufacturing complex, and a 18-hole disc course. 3) Most athletics and athletes are based in the Mt Pleasant area and are extremely successful. 4) the Harrison Campus medical and nursing programs received necessary updated equipment and renovated space during that time as well. Dr. Mertes added that the Event Center rose to the top as discussions concerning the College's Master Plan took place. This was a very thorough process with input from many sources and the Center was identified as needed for the College.

Trustee Allen shared that there were building projects in the past at Harrison that were not successful after 7 or 8 millage proposals, including a community center and community pool facility. Hence his need for additional information and verification to move forward with the project.

The Board Chair noted that we should designate someone to spearhead talking points as related to the Event Center.

Trustee Pittsley asked where the funding comes from for the Campus Beautification projects. Vice President Miller provided an overview of funding for this portion of the Master Plan.

Vice President Frick added that the Campus Beautification and Event Center projects both allow a very safe financial balance for Mid. Payments are disbursed for these projects over a period of time, not a large balance all at once.

Trustee Allen asked if the need for an auditorium has risen for discussion during the Master Plan development. Dr. Miller replied that it has come up in information gathered but not considered a priority at any time.

Board Chair Zdrojewski called for a motion to proceed with the business at hand.

Trustee Weisenburger asked for the total amount for the Event Center, to which Vice President Miller responded \$15.6 million. He added that the pre-ordering of steel and electrical components makes it necessary to proceed and keep in the timeline of the overall project.

Trustee Gilmore presented a motion to approve the \$15.6 million dollars for proceeding with the original design of the Event Center.

Trustee Pittsley requested total costs for the steel and electrical components. Dr. Miller stated that the totals are as reflected in break-downs in the original Master Plan and have not changed. Total for steel is \$240,000 – and the electrical costs are \$150,000.

Trustee Pittsley asked what would happen if the \$15.6 million is approved and then after bids come in, the total is considerably higher. Vice President Frick responded that the project has a cap on it, anything that goes over the amount is a breach of contract. This was discussed during the development of scaled down versions.

Trustee Gilmore's motion for approval of the \$15.6 million for the Event Center drew support from Trustee Weisenburger. A vote of aye was given by all trustees present, with Vice Chair Jankoviak absent. Motion carried.

Vice President Miller informed Trustees that the various bidding on the project and its components will be scheduled to take place. He asked whether the Board desired that the project bidding is put in motion, or if the Trustees desired to have it presented to them for approval and review.

The Board Chair stated that she felt we have hired experts to manage the project and it should move forward as planned to stay on schedule. Any concerns or issues can be brought to the Board if they should happen to occur. The other members of the Board of Trustees agreed. Trustee Pittsley thought a progression of the project on a calendar report would be a great visual for the Board.

Vice President Frick added that if it is decided that bonding should be used at any time during the project, it would need the Board of Trustees' approval. Board Chair agreed and also if the internal funding sources change at all through the project, it would need to come before the Board. Vice President Frick will provide monthly updates on the Event Center at board meetings.

The Trustees will be informed when groundbreaking takes place. Trustee Pittsley thanked the administration for the presentation and stated that the updates will be very appreciated by the Board.

A motion for adjournment was presented by Trustee Pittsley at 4:59 p.m., and supported by Trustee Weisenburger. All ayes – motion carried.

Recording Secretary,  
Sherry Kyle  
Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees

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Jane Zdrojewski, Board Chair

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Richard S. Allen, Jr., Board Secretary