

EAST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING—August 31, 2023

Special Vote via Email at 2:00pm

I. Approval of EACC Mascot Recommendation:

Board members were notified on Monday, August 28 by Anne Kelso that Dr. Cline would be sending an email on Thursday requesting official action by the Board for approval of an EACC mascot. It was noted that Dr. Cline had spoken with Tamara Johnson at the Times Herald, and a vote by email is permissible so long as the Times Herald is included in this email and all replies.

The following email was sent from Dr. Cline at 2:00PM on Thursday, August 31, 2023:

In February, the Board approved for the staff to work on adopting a campus mascot. After extensively involving the community, the campus, and students, we found there was great enthusiasm for choosing a mascot. However, there was not a strong consensus for any one of the three designs the committee originally proposed.

At the May meeting, we reported to the Board of Trustees that we believed the wisest choice was to gather additional input in order to be sure that the College makes the best decision. We learned much about what appeals to students during the process. Over the summer, we opened up an online portal for anyone to suggest a mascot and upload a design if they wished.

Several new suggestions were received. Utilizing what we have learned about mascots and what makes them appealing and suitable for the most uses, we brought some new designs forward for feedback. Student feedback was solicited at orientation, through meetings with groups and classes on campus, and through an online questionnaire. Faculty and staff input was sought at the annual August convocation meeting.

Following the gathering of all of this input, the mascot that we recommend is the **EACC Delta Dragons**.

The students and employees are excited about the mascot, and we have already received several suggestions such as “dragon wings” and “fire fries” to use in the café that would incorporate the Delta Dragon.

A staff member who worked with the students said their eyes lit up, their mouths dropped open, and they said, “I love it” when Delta Dragons was proposed. Comments from students included, “It’s original. There are no other mascots like a dragon.” They also said the Delta Dragons was a “slicker” mascot than other

suggestions. They mentioned wanting apparel and to see the mascot on doors, on banners, and even a statue.

We look forward to many creative uses of the mascot on campus. We hope to have mascot merchandise available when the new bookstore opens.

At this time, we ask that the Board vote to adopt the Delta Dragons as the official EACC mascot. This vote via email is in compliance with FOIA laws because the news media has been notified in advance that we would take an email vote. The news media is also included in this email so that EACC has ensured that the Board of Trustees' official action and our communications are transparent and open, in compliance with FOIA.

Please hit "reply all" when responding to this email with your vote.

We appreciate your generous and gracious support as we have continued to work on this project.

SAVE THE DATE: the Welcome Center opening is scheduled for Friday, September 29, with a ribbon cutting ceremony from 10-11 a.m., with the ribbon cutting promptly at 10:30. The building will remain open for the rest of the afternoon for tours and for people to purchase merchandise in the bookstore or food in the café. This event is open to the public, and we encourage everyone to join us.

The evening before, on Thursday, September 28, an invitation-only capital campaign/fundraising kickoff will be held.

Please join us at these events if your schedules allow. We would love to see a big turnout.

Voting Record:

YES	NO	NAME:	NOTES:
		Alan Curtis	Traveling/out of town
x		Beverly Devazier	
x		Jan Haven	
x		Brent Howton	
x		Ann Hudson	
x		Florine Milligan	
x		Rausch Hodges	
x		Al Miller	
x		Kevin Lewey	

*Email responses are printed and attached to the official minutes on file.

Brent Howton, Board Chair, replied that the vote to approve “Delta Dragons” as the mascot of EACC has been approved with no negative votes.

Others included on the email replies:

Tamara Johnson, Times Herald News
Rick Holt, KXJK/KBFC Radio
Lindsay Midkiff, AVP for Public Relations
Cathie Cline, President
Anne Kelso, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

Brent Howton, Chair
EACC Board of Trustees

Date