

THE OFFICIAL MINUTES

The Big Bend Community College Board of Trustees held a study session Thursday, December 12, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. in the ATEC Hardin Community Room in Building 1800 on the Big Bend Community College campus.

1. Call to Order

Present: Mike Blakely
Anna Franz
Jon Lane
Stephen McFadden
Mike Villarreal

Trustee Mike Blakely explained that safety and security are the topics of this study session. No action will be taken.

Director of Safety and Security Kyle Foreman presented to the Board. He shared that there are three primary functions of the safety department: emergency management, environmental safety, and security. He also explained that the Port and Job Corps are BBCC's neighbors and when there is a campus incident, they are notified; and they notify BBCC when they have an incident.

The most important function of the three is security of the campus. There are eight officers and Director Foreman is on duty throughout the week. The officers have law enforcement and security experience. The crime rate on campus is very low even though the neighborhood across the street accounts for 50% of the Grant County Sheriff's calls.

Director Foreman works closely with the Director of the Residence Halls, Hugh Scholte. Partnering with the campus with "community-oriented policing" is essential. It builds mutual trust between security staff, students, and employees.

The Clery Act became law in the 1990s due to an incident that occurred on a campus that had not shared previous criminal incidents publicly. The act mandates higher education institutions disclose security policies and crimes on campus. Fines imposed by the Department of Education stemming from violations of the Clery Act are the result of colleges protecting their reputation above protecting their students. BBCC's annual campus security and fire report is posted on the website and widely distributed and available on campus. Notifications and timely warnings are also prescribed by the Clery Act. BBCC uses e-mail, text messages, twitter and Facebook for notifications.

Director Foreman developed the campus-wide multi-hazard plan, which documents emergency procedures including lockdown and evacuation. BBCC recently had a lockdown due to incidents that occurred at the neighboring Grant County Airport.

Director Foreman explained that on-campus training is very important. BBCC recently partnered with several area law enforcement agencies and allowed active shooter simulation training on campus. President Leas encouraged law enforcement to continue tactical training on campus whenever possible.

There are eight active cameras on campus, and they can be controlled remotely. A consultant visited campus and shared information regarding additional camera locations. Director Foreman has the ability to monitor the live video from his office and cell phone. The iPad located in the security vehicle also accesses the video footage. This gives security officers the ability to monitor several areas on campus at once.

Mike Blakely commented about the lack of graffiti on campus. Director Foreman reported the improved lighting around campus has created a safer environment and discouraged acts of vandalism.

Environmental safety is also addressed by Director Foreman. He said the safety committee meets monthly. The group discusses incident reports, and they problem solve issues.

Another safety and security action reported by Director Foreman was taken at the childcare. A number lock pad was installed on the daycare door, which ensures only employees and parents who know the code may enter. Also, AEDs are being purchased as a result of partnership with Moses Lake Rotary. Director Foreman thanked students and employees for their partnerships to make BBCC safer and more secure.

Trustee Stephen McFadden encouraged President Leas to allow and publicize additional law enforcement training opportunities. Trustee Jon Lane asked about the availability of campus building maps to law enforcement. Printed and online maps are available for law enforcement agencies. Board Chair Mike Blakely commended Director Foreman for his involvement students, clubs, and employees.

Director Foreman stated he is arranging fire drills to begin in January. Personal accreditation training for security officers will be a priority for 2014.

The study session adjourned 11:30 am.

Mike Blakely, Chair

ATTEST:

Terrence Leas, Secretary