

**Wake County Board of Commissioners
Special Work Session
August 20, 2018
1:00 P.M.
Wake County Justice Center Room 2800**

Commissioners Present:

Jessica Holmes, Chair
Sig Hutchinson, Vice-Chair
John Burns
Greg Ford
Erv Portman
James West

Commissioners Absent:

Matt Calabria

Wake County Staff Present:

David Ellis, County Manager; Ben Canada, Assistant to the County Manager; Denise Hogan, Clerk to the Board; Yvonne Gilyard, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Portia Johnson, Executive Assistant to the Board; and Michelle Cerett, Executive Assistant to the Board.

Others Present: Tom Looney, Chair, Wake Tech Board of Trustees, and Fred Moore, Consultant, ABG Consulting.

Chair Holmes called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. David Ellis, County Manager, provided an update on the candidate search for the Chief Financial Officer position. He said Ms. Emily Lucas, Interim Finance Director, interviewed very well and he is excited to announce that she has been selected for the position. Mr. Ellis said Ms. Lucas will oversee the Budget and Finance offices as well as serve as the school liason. He said the interviews for the Housing Director position will occur in September.

Mr. Tom Looney, Chair, Wake Tech Board of Trustees, shared the purpose of today's meeting. He said Wake Tech is recruiting a new president and the board of trustees is requesting Board of Commissioners input. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support of Wake Tech. He said ABG was selected as the recruitment company. Mr. Looney said they have created a search committee that consists of their Board of Trustees, faculty and staff from Wake Tech, the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, Wake Med Hospital and the court system.

Chair Holmes asked for the timeline to hire a new president. Mr. Looney said Wake Tech plans to have the position filled by the end of the year, but it will depend on the candidate. He said the interim president will begin next week, and he will stay as long as necessary to ensure a smooth transition.

Mr. Fred Moore, Consultant, ABG Search Consultants, said he is a native North Carolinian and he is excited to be part of this process. He shared the list of questions the panel has compiled to assist with the information gathering process. He requested a response from the commissioners to each question.

Questions

- What do you value most about your involvement with Wake Tech Community College?
- What opportunities should the new president consider?
 - Opportunities include new initiatives, program expansion and items that should be strengthened?
- Upon which challenges should the new president focus?
- Imagine we are five years into the new administration. Looking back, what has been accomplished that you find most gratifying?
- What qualities, talents and skills do you deem most important in a new president?
- What experiences do you want to see in a new president?
- What educational credentials should the new president hold? How important is an earned doctorate? Does the new president need to hold a Ph.D.? Ed.D.? J.D. or other professional degree?

Mr. Moore asked for responses to question #1.

Chair Holmes said she values the consistency of the engagement of Wake Tech. She appreciates Wake Tech staff involving the commissioners in the school events.

Commissioner Portman said he is impressed with the professionalism of Wake Tech.

Vice-Chair Hutchinson commented on the success rate of Wake Tech.

Commissioner Burns said Wake Tech staff keep the commissioners informed of the events happening at the college.

Commissioner Ford commented on the consistency and success of Wake Tech. He said he is impressed with the accessibility of Wake Tech and all they do to engage the community.

Commissioner West commented on the change in demographics of Wake County and said Wake Tech has adjusted well to keep up with growth. He said Wake Tech is a great example of a holistic approach to education.

Mr. Moore asked for responses to question #2.

Commissioner Portman said technology is important. He said the effectiveness of the candidates education is important as well as their ability to measure outcomes.

Commissioner Burns said Wake Tech is ahead of other colleges with opportunities. He said he feels Wake Tech could raise its status.

Vice-Chair Hutchinson said it is important for Wake Tech to stay connected to the business and technology fields.

Commissioner West said Wake Tech is a leader in technology.

Chair Holmes commented on the intern program at Wake Tech. She said the program creates real world opportunities for students.

Commissioner Ford said the extension of the virtual campus has been successful and he would like to see those services continue.

Mr. Moore asked for responses to question #3.

Commissioner Burns said he feels a decrease in state resources will be a challenge. He said it is important for the new president to have the ability to maintain state resources.

Commissioner West said he feels a challenge is going to be motivating young people to continue their education.

Mr. Moore asked for responses to question #4.

Commissioner Burns said the continuation of the robotics program would be a success.

Commissioner Portman said he would like to see proof that growth has continued at Wake Tech.

Vice-Chair Hutchinson said innovation, the ability to listen, and demonstrated successes are important.

Commissioner West said your job gives you authority, but your behavior earns you respect.

Commissioner Ford said the current president Dr. Stephen Scott lived by the mission of the college and shared his successes with others. He said he feels a candidate with a history of teaching would best suit the position. He said good communication is also important.

Chair Holmes said having someone with teaching experience is a bonus, but not a necessity. She said Dr. Scott is well educated, but has the personality to interact with everyone. She challenged the selection committee to be open minded to all applicants.

In the interest of time, Mr. Moore asked for additional input the Board of Commissioners have to offer to assist in their search.

Commissioner Burns said the successful replacement for Dr. Scott should be able to make a success out of any situation.

Commissioner West said honesty and integrity are important.

Chair Holmes said Dr. Scott's shoes will be difficult to fill.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Holmes adjourned the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Cerett
Executive Assistant to the Board