

# NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Board of Trustees Special Meeting; Cont. from March 20, 2021  
NMTI, Lower Base  
March 22, 2021

## I. Roll Call:

### Present:

1. Chairman Mario Valentino
2. Treasure Carmelita Faisao
3. Trustee Catherine Attao
4. Trustee Rick Kautz
5. Interim CEO Jodina Attao

### Excused Absence:

1. Vice Chair Ray Pangelinan
2. Secretary Irene Holl

## II. Re-address Unfinished Business:

### A. Tabled motion- OPA Audit Tabled by Vice Chairman Ray Pangelinan

Trustee Attao reminded all that from our previous meeting (March 8, 2021), she was tasked to look into the requirements of seeking OPA's assistance. Information was forwarded via email to Chairman Valentino, which is basically submitting a "Letter of Request" that explains the reason for their Audit. As discussed in previous meeting, the purpose of requesting the need an audit is to get an overall accountability for property, items, etc, so Technical Institute will have a clean start to where we are at. Also, just to ensure that when the Technical Institute does get audited, it will give some reassurance as to where our starting point is at.

There was much discussion where Trustee Kautz shared that since this audit is not from the public law, there shouldn't be a need for an OPA audit; most especially, as the next audit is June.

Chairman Valentino shared that the need for this OPA audit is for the Technical Institute can get a fresh start of knowing exactly what they have, especially since there are questions of the credibility of the Asset report in the Transition plan. So this OPA audit is an effort just to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party cross reference the data. He pointed out as an example of the current property of chairs, camera, speakers, etc, all do not have any tags.

Trades Employee Claus Bier shared that they don't have tags because they belong to him.

CEO Attao and Trustee Faisao agrees that another inventory should be conducted. CEO Attao will reach out for assistance from Dante or Lucio and provide updates.

### B. Bank accounts

Need to get meeting minutes approved and need the Board Resolution signed. As of now, Trustee Kautz was able to open a "Restricted" account. Trustee Kautz was also able to pick up a bank account application, with a bank number on it under the "Northern

Marianas Technical Institute.” This application, that is so endorsed by Secretary of Finance, is turned it over to Chairman Valentino. Chairman Valentino acknowledged the document received, with the last for numbers of 7530, signed and wet stamp of Secretary Atalig, and has roughly \$13,000 in it (from Trades Allocated Funds account). Application is passed on to CEO Attao.

To set up a Trust fund, we can use the same minutes and same resolution, just change the verbiage.

Discussion is to have an account at the different banks- Bank of Guam and First Hawaiian Bank. Chair recommends Trust Fund to be at Bank of Hawaii, so there will be no co-mingling of funds.

Next meeting, will be discussed and passed is the Resolution for Bank Account, and for Trust Fund Account (changing the verbiage on the Board Resolution).

#### C. Da’ok Academy Facilities Use

Trustee Kautz shared that Da’ok has students that migrate with NMTI courses. Since there is no place for them to go, and they are helping NMTI financially, the contract expires end of May, beginning of June. Money that is going to pay for any obligations will be going out of the Trades account.

Chair Valentino asked clarification on the Adult Education. Is this Trades money? Trustee Kautz said, “Yes.”

All agree that we need to have “continuity” of courses. Only concern is to ensure that the usage of the facility is being properly balanced between NMTI and Da’ok.

#### D. Employees and Contracts

Discussion on PL 20-92, on reading the parts of the law. LSR OAGNMTI 2020-654, dated November 20, 2020, was read out loud, to include emailed to all Transition Committee members during transition timeframe.

Trustee Kautz shared that there is a misinterpretation of PL 20-92 regarding “Personnel” and he shared that Senator Quitugua (author of 20-92) also agrees on the misinterpretation.

CEO Attao would like to give everybody a chance to include review of previous performance evaluations. She would like to see how best they can all work together and build a stronger foundation.

Lt. Governor recommended that we keep the classes on-going and would like to support their completion. Trustee Attao would provide the data of current classes, timeframe left, number of students and the instructors names to CEO Attao for further planning.

With continued discussion and disagreements on what the interpret of the PL 20-92, and the LSR, Chair Valentino shared that we seek the guidance from the AG’s office. All other feedback is “opinions.” As Board of Trustees, we need to follow the law and follow the guidance of the AGs office. We are not Lawyers and cannot make decisions

based on what we think when it's against the guidance of the AG. Therefore, if the LSR needs to be changed, maybe an amended PL 20-92, or additional provisions be added. But that is not with the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Kautz shared that all Board of Trustees were supposed to go and meet with Senator Quitugua and not sure what happened.

Takeaway: Chairman Valentino will go with the law, with the recommendation with those currently in session, will give them a contract to complete their classes.

#### E. EDA Grant

Chairman Valentino signed some documents and received confirmation that the EDA documents were received.

CEO Attao received a "to do" list with a deadline at the end of the month, from Trustee Kautz.

- EDA grant signed by Interim CEO- Done.
- Expenditure plan for 2022 needs to be done and submitted to DOL- Chairman Valentino has met with DOL Secretary Benavente. Chairman Valentino would like to arrange a meeting with DOL Benavente and CEO Attao to discuss further details.
- Quarterly report of CW expenditures for 2021, due by the end of March.
- Request of \$175K must be submitted to CNMI DoL, for the remaining 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter for 2021.
- FY 2022 Budget of Local Appropriation must be completed by end of March and submitted to Office of Planning and Budget, OMB.

A meeting between Interim CEO Attao and former CEO McPhetres will be arranged to discuss more on items that need to be turned over.

Executive Session motioned by Trustee Kautz and seconded by Trustee Faisao.

Executive Session called back to order at 2:58pm, Lower Base at NMTI Campus.

For next meeting, Chairman Valentino will poll the board for the next meeting and will share with the Board any requested meetings by the Education Committee.

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Attao, seconded by Trustee Millie. Adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Reviewed by:

  
NMTI BOT Secretary, Irene Hon

  
NMTI BOT Chairman, Mario Valentino

Adopted by Board of Trustees: 7/15/2021  
Date

