

**CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
HIGHER EDUCATION INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

September 03, 2015

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Higher Education Investment Committee was called to order by President Berry at 4:00 p.m., in the City Hall Council Caucus room, 4035 Broadway. Roll was called and the following members were present:

Marjorie Brant John Hampson Randy Holt Colin Hopkins Bill Wise

Ex-Officio members: Council President Berry, Stephen Smith and Tami Kelly were present. Also present was Don Walters.

1. Ms. Brant moved to approve the Minutes from the previous meeting, as written; seconded by Mr. Holt. Motion was unanimously approved.
2. Dr. Wise shared some concern over what his role can be on the Committee. He asked Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, to check with the Ethics Commission. Mr. Smith said he would do so and report back to the Committee.
3. Mr. Holt moved to appoint John Hampson as Chair of the Committee; seconded by Ms. Brant. Motion was unanimously approved.
4. Chair Hampson reviewed the Agenda with everyone. Ms. Kelly stated that the items shown are more of a running list of topics/issues for the Committee rather than items that all need to be decided today.
5. Dr. Wise provided some statistical information on registered students at Columbus State for the last five academic years (e-mail attached).

Discussion took place on whether scholarship money should be given to students who just receive a Certificate rather than a Degree. This will need to be decided as part of the final criteria.

Dr. Wise noted that the SW Education Foundation requires a 3.0 grade point average to apply for their scholarships. He said those scholarship students broke down as follows: Columbus State – 1 =, OSO = 24, Capital Univ. = 6, 1 or 2 to other colleges. He said his conversation with Mr. Metz of Columbus State included how they fund scholarships. Columbus State requires a 3.0 gpa or 2.8 gpa with a 24 on the ACT. He suggested that the first pass would be for students with college core classes, since statistics show that students with these classes are more likely to finish college; a 3.0 grade point average be required or the sliding scale of 2.8 + a score of 24 or better on the ACT. Dr. Wise said Mr. Metz also offered to come and speak to the Committee; run the program through Columbus State; refund money to the City if a student doesn't show up for semester classes. Dr. Wise pointed out that most scholarship dollars are given to the college directly rather than the student and most colleges are used to handling this.

6. Mr. Hopkins voiced concern over the requirement that makes students live in Grove City after they have graduated college and the potential collection of those dollars if they don't. He suggested giving the scholarship after graduation, if they live here, to pay on any loans.

Mr. Berry explained that one of the objectives of the Program was to have them live here; go to school here and to give back to the community. He said the community deserves something back for its investment. He said it was his understanding that the money is needed up front, but he is flexible. Mr. Holt stated that he too, thought students needed the money to start, rather than as a reimbursement.

Chair Hampson asked Mr. Hopkins to find out how much Central Ohio students have in debt coming out of college and report back at the next meeting. He then asked if students had to live in Grove City or go to South-Western City Schools. It was clarified that the ordinances says they must live in Grove City. Mr. Berry suggested adding those who work in Grove City, but after Mr. Walters shared how many potential applicants that would become, it was decided to stay with high school students. After further discussion, *the Committee agreed that applicants must live within the corporation limits of Grove City to be eligible. They also agreed to not have this become a reimbursement program.*

Ms. Brant asked if they had come to a conclusion about the requirement to live in Grove City for three (3) years after graduation. Mr. Berry said he would be willing to discuss softening that if there were more volunteer hours required.

The Committee did agree that while a student is receiving scholarship dollars, they must reside in the City limits.

7. The Committee discussed school qualifications. The High Schools that residents attend are: Grove City High School; Central Crossing; Grove City Christian; Bishop Ready; St. Charles; Charter schools; and Home schooling. *It was agreed that as long as the applicant is a Grove City resident, that the school is irrelevant. It was also agreed that the applicant must have a high school diploma or equivalent (G.E.D.).*
8. Discussion took place about the requirement that the college must be in Grove City.

Mr. Walters said while trying to build a Center for Higher Learning, there were colleges that had agreed to be part and offer courses in the Center. He said we could have agreements with those schools and create a consortium. *The Committee agreed that if an applicant were accepted into one of the schools located in the City or part of a consortium, they would be eligible regardless of their grade point average.*

9. Chair Hampson said he would put together an application for the Committee to review.
10. The next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 10 at 3:00.

Items to be discussed will include: Maintenance requirements; Why don't people finish; Tie breakers for limited funds; dollar amount.

11. A motion was made to adjourn and was approved by unanimous consent.

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Secretary


Ted A. Berry
President of Council