

A Second Open Letter to the Closed Minded Cleveland Community College Interim President and the Equally Closed Minded Board of Trustees!!! By Robert A. Williams

As I stated in my first Open Letter, I am no "apple-polisher." I am also a resident, citizen, taxpayer and voter in Cleveland County North Carolina who speaks out loudly when I see waste, injustice, corruption, incompetence, malfeasance and cover-up in County Agencies. It appears Cleveland Community College high level Administration and Governance has a large dose of the previously noted negative attributes. Plus an unhealthy measure of disdain for the "little people." The public, the taxpayers who pay the bills and even the donors who have their names on your buildings.

When I read the draft minutes of the special meeting held July 30, 2017, especially the part regarding "Public Participation," It was shockingly obvious that the CCC Board of Trustees had not only gone back to their old, illegal and business as usual ways, they have done so with malice aforethought-full knowledge of what they were doing and no respect at all for the public. Or, they all have surrendered to the forces of evil and became evil themselves.

First, Minutes of meetings of government agency meetings are an official record describing in a full and accurate manner what transpired in that meeting. This record need not be

verbatim, but it must be close; fully and accurately describing everything that happened, what was said and any and all actions taken in the meeting.

As you will soon see, the July 30, 2017 draft minutes, the part described below, does not abide by the laws of North Carolina, ethical behavior, common sense or anything reasonable. The intent had to be cover-up as actions since this meeting also suit that description-cover-up. The same apparent intention of a forthcoming investigation of a previous investigation that found no wrongdoing when wrongdoing was and is obvious.

For your convenience the following is lifted from the draft minutes of the July 30, 2017 meeting-Public Comments only:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Westmoreland acknowledged the public guests and their desire to speak. As a reminder, Chairman Westmoreland read Public Comment Period at Board of Trustees' Meetings statement.

There were five public guests that signed in to speak. Brendan LeGrand, Susan Urbanski, Wanda Leonard, Libby Stone, and Ginger Bullock. Topics referenced included the allocation of money for Dr. Thornburg, the Board's ability in making decisions, a former employee and her experience with her contract not being renewed, the need for Trustees to attend Ethics training, and another former employee's experience in seeking an audience with the Board of Trustees.

Now, also for your convenience, I am enclosing my description of this part of the July 30, 2017 meeting that I included in an article I published August 1, 2017. The first day that CCC came under the leadership of Dr. Aiken. Please compare my full and accurate accounting of what transpired and what your so called "official record" as shown above stated. Notice the difference:

Chairman Wes Westmoreland conducted the meeting in a professional manner. As well as bringing up the public participation part of the agenda to the full board, which was accepted unanimously.

Brendan LeGrand was the first speaker. Mrs. LeGrand has scolded the Board of Trustees on several occasions, and rightly so, regarding the handling of the many scandals at CCC. On this occasion Mrs. LeGrand clearly informed the Board that the payoff to President Thornburg was rewarding bad behavior on Thornburg's part and was very unpopular with the public. "This is on you" Mrs. LeGrand told the Board, "you should put up the money" to pay off the debt that you created. Mrs. LeGrand also stated that Thornburg had not paid off the fine the Board had previously imposed.

Susan Urbanski spoke next. Ms. Urbanski has also spoken to the Board on other occasions regarding the situations and circumstances that caused her to quit CCC in disgust. On this occasion Ms. Urbanski recommended the Board to make their own decisions and not be unduly influenced by others who have their own agenda that may not be in the best interest of CCC. Ms. Urbanski also chided those that were going around saying "there are two sides to every story." When you are an employee and had to deal with Shannon Kennedy it was always one-sided and Kennedy didn't care for the little people. She added that "the other side of the story" was never heard by the Board, only Kennedy and her team had the ear of the Board. Many people were simply run off from CCC by the Kennedy crowd.

Wanda Leonard was the next speaker. Ms. Leonard told the Board about her own personal experience with being run off by CCC. Ms. Leonard had helped initiate a specialty nurses training program out of nothing at CCC and turned it into a very good programs where Hospital Emergency Rooms actually sought out her students at graduation. But Ms. Leonard somehow ran afoul of the Kennedy crowd and one day in the middle of a class, Director Becky Sain and HR Director Knicely came to her

classroom carrying a brown box, asked the students to leave the classroom, terminated Ms. Leonard's contract on the spot, packed her personal stuff into the box and escorted her to her car. Ms. Leonard stated to the Board that CCC used to be a good place to work but when Kennedy and her entourage took over "things went to hell in a handbasket."

Libby Stone spoke next. Ms. Stone stated that the CCC Website needed improvement. That minutes to meetings and other things could not be found. (I told the Board the same thing in a previous meeting.) Also some minutes were vague and didn't particularly provide an accurate accounting of what transpired in the meeting. I have discovered much of the same thing basically through many years until just recently, now that CCC and the Board are under a microscope and rightly so. Ms. Stone also stated that the CCC Board of Trustees should attend the mandated Trustee and ethics training.

Ginger Bullock spoke next. It was improvised but totally damning and powerful example of an inactive CCC Board of Trustees. Mrs. Bullock states "I am tired of seeing my name in the newspapers, Political Smack-Down and other Media" when the entire Board of Trustees, specifically Allen Langley, never spoke to me or asked me not one single question. (After the meeting I asked Allen Langley about this and Mr. Langley admitted Bullock's statement was true. According to Mr. Langley he had been directed not to talk to Bullock as the employee grievance policies did not allow this. I stated to Mr. Langley that the Board's Policies were clearly not effective and the CCC Board was hiding behind poor policies to justify their actions, inactions in this case. More about this in other articles.) Mrs. Bullock told the Board that she had PROOF to show what she has said is true. Mrs. Bullock asked the Board, "How can you review me without talking to me." And "What has taken you so long." Mrs. Bullock then described how she was treated when she was only trying to make sure the lessons she was responsible for were done properly and that

she simply got a letter in the mail that she was terminated.

No Board member had any comments, statements of questions for any of the speakers.

Now that the two accounts of the public participation at the July 30, 2017 meeting are compared side by side, it becomes totally obvious why CCC wants to hide and cover-up the content of this public participation information from their official records. Now that these two accounts can be compared side by side, and the CCC Board of Trustees were there to actually hear for themselves what was actually said, it is totally obvious that my account of this public participation is full and accurate and the CCC account is empty and wrong.

Therefore, I am requesting that this Open Letter number two be included in the August 8, 2017 meeting minutes in two places. First, in the section where the minutes of previous meetings are approved and second, in the Public Participation section of the August 8, 2017 meeting minutes.

Should the CCC Interim President and Board of Trustees refuse this request, No Matter, this letter and all other pertinent information will be published to the public and the CCC cover-up be damned. Remember, I am no "apple-polisher."

Regards,

Robert A. Williams

Phony Investigations???

Report by Robert A. Williams

I published an article on July 27, 2017 regarding a confidential report that Cleveland County School Board Chairman Phillip "Bully" Glover's wife Holly was alleged to be using CCS email facilities to solicit people to put yard signs endorsing Bully Glover for the School Board in their yards-a political activity that is probably illegal or certainly against policy. I immediately sent out to CCS a Public Records request under NC Public Records law inspect ALL of Holly Glover and Phillip Glover's emails records (sent and received) for the past three months. I specifically requested to inspect all of those email records as I (and every citizen) are allowed by law to do at no cost. The exact wording of my request for information is as follows:

"CCS, Under the Freedom of information Act as well as NC public Records laws I am requesting the opportunity to inspect and perhaps make copies of all of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Glover's emails sent and received through CCS Internet email accounts for the past three months."

Next thing (actually the same day) CCS Superintendent Dr. Stephen Fisher replies to my email by saying he had searched the CCS email system records which showed Holly Glover had not sent or received any email over the past three months. Fisher also sent me a copy of two "search" screens that showed no emails were sent or received by Holly Glover over that time frame.

Only thing is, Fisher did not respond to what I had asked for. His search screen records clearly showed "search terms" that said "Political Signs." Not "Phillip Glover for School Board Yard Signs" or anything of that nature. Fisher just totally ignored my request for Bully Glover's email records.

Also remember that I did not specifically request a CCS

investigation. All I asked for was an opportunity to inspect public documents. There is a big difference. It is called a cover-up. This is how Cleveland County Schools and also apparently the Cleveland Community College does their so called investigations. I believe I have ample and good reasons not to trust a word from either CCS or CCC regarding their investigations unless I can see for myself the records and documents that are used in the investigation as well as interview all concerned. But there is more.

At this point I am certain that the Glover's CCS email records have been "sanitized" by something along these lines. Search for their emails, delete anything incriminating and then search again, knowing that nothing will show on that second search. Print out the search screen that shows nothing and "crow" about how nothing out of the order was found-everything is OK.

And Crow they did. I just received another report from a trusted source that stated "Someone close to CCS Board and CCC Trustees is spreading the word that Dr. Fisher has conducted an internal investigation and found no issues with Ms. Glover's email."

So, now folks, you have the truth of it. You also can see why I don't trust either CCS or CCC unless I can independently verify what is the truth of the matter actually is. I could claim "trust, but verify" is an idea that I came up with, but that concept and phrase has been around for a very very long time. It just seems us folks in Cleveland County have to learn that lesson over and over again. It is probably too late to actually find any email records of Holly Glover asking for political favors, as alleged, over the CCS taxpayer paid for internet system. But it is not too late to start cleaning up the mess at CCS by electing Danny Blanton, Robert Queen, Kevin Whisnant and Rodney Fitch to the School Board on November 7, 2017.

An Open Letter to New Cleveland Community College Interim President and Board of Trustees. –And Public Record Requests –By Robert A. Williams

August 6, 2017

Dear Dr. Aiken and the Cleveland Community College Board of Trustees,

My first reports from Cleveland Community College regarding Dr. Aiken taking over as Interim President on August 1, 2017 was that there was a lot of “apple polishing” going on at CCC. Next I see the agenda for the August 8, 2017 Board of Trustees meeting and there are the same presenters as before the recent “scandals” broke, giving the impression that everything is again business as usual at CCC. Then I see Dr. Aiken’s first email message to the CCC administration and staff that states in part “While little will be gained by focusing on the past, I hope that we can rebuild community confidence and campus morale quickly. I look forward to meeting each of you. I will soon visit each department and confirm the many fine things that are already occurring. Feel free to visit me and share your ideas of how we can make improvements in the campus. Change can be healthy especially when it is accompanied by viable solutions.”

I would like to take a few moments to make some comments and

explain in detail just how disappointed and concerned I am with the direction CCC appears to be taking.

First, I will say that most of you already know that I am no "apple polisher" and I make no apologies for that. I have spent all of my working career in the nuclear engineering field where the path to excellence is only found by finding and fixing problems, never by phony press releases falsely proclaiming "Happy Days are Here Again!" A perfect example of failing to comprehend this concept was the shutting down just this week of a new generation of nuclear plant being constructed near Columbia, SC. 5,000 workers were dismissed and billions of dollars were lost.

Now, to the point at Cleveland Community College.

Such a statement as "little will be gained by focusing on the past" in the present situation at CCC is totally false, misleading and a planned deception. Again, "Code Words" for business as usual." Scandals at CCC are not in the "past" just because the CCC Board of Trustees have spent over six months in gridlock. The scandals are still smack dab in the "present" at CCC and those scandals, problems and issues talked about all over CCC and Cleveland County for months now are just as real today as they were ten years ago when they first started to surface and nothing was done. Replacing Former CCC President Thornburg was only the start of the problem fixing process at CCC, not the end of that process. Any objective evaluation of CCC will tell you that. Rebuilding community confidence (receiving donations from the public) in CCC will never occur by such "moving forward" propaganda as the new Interim President and the same old gridlocked Board of Trustees seems to insist they are doing. People in Cleveland County are smarter than you apparently think they are.

Next, I see from certain documents that the newest investigation of past employee complaints and concerns will only be two days spent investigating the records of the

original investigation that was previously conducted without even speaking to those employees who made the complaints and voiced their concerns in the first place, right before being dismissed from CCC for their trouble. By all indications this latest investigation plan will be a cover-up of a cover-up. Any "hope that we (CCC) can rebuild community confidence and campus morale quickly" is just wishful thinking. All you have to do is look at the present Cleveland County School Board Elections to see that the simple booting out of CCS Superintendent Dr. Bruce Boyles, "fixing" an audit of fraudulent school credit card charges, the DA's Office refusing to press charges and withholding information from the public and other miscellaneous cover-ups never fixed anything at CCS and the same old problems just keep festering. Why the CCC Interim President and Board of Trustees would follow such a path of failure is well beyond reasonable comprehension.

Therefore, I plan to do an independent investigation of my own regarding the many scandals, issues and problems at CCC. I will enlist assistance as necessary to evaluate the situation such that all sides and angles are considered. I plan to interview all concerned and involved and provide an independent report to the Citizens of Cleveland County of my findings.

To accomplish this, please consider this portion of this letter as an official request, Under the Freedom of Information Act and North Carolina Public Records laws, to inspect and be able to copy as necessary:

1. Every document, report, email, records, recordings and meeting minutes that were generated in the original investigation as well as those conducted by this second investigation regarding the scandals, issues and problems at CCC. Basically, I want to see everything that the investigator sees, determine if anything has been left out and go from there.

2. The right to be present and record any and all polygraph (lie detector) testing as well as inspect all records, documents and questions involved and developed from such testing.

My authority to ask for the items noted above arise from North Carolina and Federal Law and the United States Constitution as well as the fact that I am a citizen and resident of Cleveland County, North Carolina and the United States of America.

Please provide your assistance in assuring that my legally allowed requests for the information asked for is provided in a prompt manner as presently the few requests for information that I have made appear to be "slow-walked" within your system at CCC. I am certain those delays are by the direction of top level CCC personnel and are an indication of cover-up all by itself. I will consider any unusual delays and obstructions to my investigation to be the same.

If you have any comments or questions, please call me at 704-538-8257 or email me at raw@shelby.net. I will protect the identity of those members of the public or CCC Staff and administration that would like to remain anonymous in their communications with me.

Regards,

Robert A. Williams

Two Registered Sex Offenders Attend School Function with

CCS Permission!!! –Neither Sheriff's Department nor School Board Notified in Advance!!!– School Board Policies Violated!!! CCS Cover-up Mode in Progress! –Report by Robert A. Williams

Sources have informed us that two registered sex offenders requested permission from CCS to attend a school function and Superintendent Stephan Fisher granted them permission. Fisher allegedly did not notify the School Board nor the Sheriff's Department about granting such permission.

School policies allow such attendance in special circumstances but require escorts for each registered sex offender from the moment they arrive on school property to the moment they leave school property. But confusion amongst CCS resulted in the sex offenders not being escorted and one sex offender not being properly identified.

Then, when witnesses who learned that sex offenders were on school property and made a report, CCS allegedly blamed the Sheriff's Department by saying that the Sheriff's Department was required to provide escorts for sex offenders on school property.

Folks, this is a mess that is being covered up by CCS and the School Board. It is like the Sheriff's Department is tasked with keeping track of sex offenders but the schools Superintendent knowingly allows sex offenders on school property but doesn't tell anyone about it.

It is obvious that CCS is out of control and the School Board members, except Danny Blanton, act like a bunch of ostriches by sticking their heads under the sand. Then claim they don't know anything about it and then deny that anything happened because they refused to know anything about it. School Board Chairman Phillip "Bully" Glover, so quick to tell you that everything is going well at CCS under his leadership is totally silent in this matter.

Well, this is an Election Year for the School Board and four seats are up for election.

We recommend voting for Danny Blanton, Robert Queen, Kevin Whisnant and Rodney Fitch on November 7, 2017. These four would work to get a Superintendent who does a proper job (as well as everybody else) and make the whole CCS transparent.

Kathy Falls gets Break on Signatures!!! General Assembly Rewards Falls' Bad Behavior Report by Robert A. Williams

Despite all the bad behavior from School Board member Kathy Falls, her complaints and lawsuit that cost taxpayers lots of money, the North Carolina General Assembly has passed a law that only affects Cleveland County in 2017 only and probably only lazy Kathy Falls in particular.

Basically, after all is said and done, the new law allows

unaffiliated registered voters and registered voters running under the "Petition Process" to only have to get 500 signatures of Cleveland County registered voters instead of 2,535 signatures on a petition that has to be filed with the Cleveland County Board of Elections by September 22, 2017. Unless someone else gets a wild hair, this new law will only benefit one person, Kathy B. Falls, who will be able to skip the primary elections and have her name on the ballot in the General Election November 7, 2017. Smooth sailing for Kathy Falls, never known to work a job in her life.

Now, the question arises, Why did the General Assembly limit the Kathy Falls law to just 2017? Why not include 2018 and from now on? Why should Kathy Falls be the only person that will ever benefit from this new law? Aren't we supposed to be a country, state and county where everyone is treated equally? Speaker of the House Tim Moore, Representative Kelly Hastings and Senator Warren Daniel, please answer those questions!!!

**More on Thornburg!!! –Alleged
Involvement in More Sex
Scandals & Possible misuse of
Credit Cards!!! –Thornburg
ally, President of NC
Community Colleges,**

Resigns—Gives no reason!!

Report by Robert A. Williams

There is an old saying, “When it rains, it pours.” This is typical of scandals too. When Cleveland Community College President L. Steve Thornburg got caught using that “vulgar” password (“fuckshannon69”) after ten years and the word got out, Thornburg had to go. Only an “ostrich-like” (head in the sand) CCC Board kept Thornburg from being immediately dismissed for cause. And then rewarded with around \$200,000 more of taxpayers. But as far as Thornburg goes, there is more allegations of wrongdoing coming in on a regular basis. Read on.

On July 29, 2017 I received a piece of mail without a return address. The letter contained a short message saying this:

Mr. Williams,

The scandal that is going on at Cleveland Community College is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the vastness of this scandal. There is a Breakfast Club that Steve Thornburg was a part of that needs to be looked into to see how far this scandal really reaches . Companies are using women to build their business via sex. I have two kids and I must stay anonymous, But I work for a company that has ties to the Board at CCC and operate in the same manner. The owner is a member of that exclusive Breakfast Club.

Concerned Citizen

This article will be sent to the CCC Board of Trustees so they can't deny knowing anything about this Breakfast Club sex allegation. We will see what they do and report accordingly. There is more.

Gary Blake, another ally and friend of Steve Thornburg had a high level position (Principal) at Cleveland County Schools and regularly ate out on weekends and paid with CCS Credit Cards. These weekend occasions took place not only in Cleveland County but also in Spartanburg, Hickory, Forest City and other locations that had fancy restaurants. Allegations are Steve Thornburg accompanied Blake on this area tour of fancy restaurant. Speculation is that Blake would pay one time with a school credit card and Thornburg would pay the next time with a Cleveland Community College credit card. We urge the CCC Board of Trustees order an immediate accounting of Thornburg's credit card charges and deduct from Thornburg's payoff all fraudulent credit card charges.

Note that Gary Blake is now Grade 6-12 Principal at Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy, A Charter School in Rutherford County, where CCC Board member Allen Langley sends his kids to school. You have to wonder why the Cleveland County School Board appointed someone who sends their kids to a charter school in another county to the CCC Board of Trustees???

Now we have confirmed news that Dr. James C. "Jimmie" Williamson, President of the North Carolina Community College Board and reportedly a strong supporter and ally of Dr. Steve Thornburg has resigned from that \$285,000 position without giving a reason? Is there some association with the Thornburg scandals at CCC that has rubbed off on Williamson? Or, Did Williamson resign to something better so his buddy Steve Thornburg could takeover Williamson's old position as the NC State President of the Community College Board?

Folks, stranger things have happened than this right here in Cleveland County. We are going to have some killer articles coming out soon regarding shenanigans just as wild and weird as the saga at Cleveland Community College. You never knew about all the corruption oozing around Cleveland County government agencies. but we are going to tell you about them. If you are smart, you will go to the ballot box every election

and vote out all incumbent School Board members (except Danny Blanton), all the County Commissioners, the DA and Judges. Stay tuned!!

A New Sex Scandal at Cleveland Community College—Or Not??? —You Decide !!!!!—Report by Robert A. Williams

Former CCC President Steve Thornburg was caught with having a “vulgar” password (fuckshannon69) on his College Computer System for ten years and it ended up costing him his job and his reputation. Former CCC Board of Trustees member and now re-appointed by the School Board Allen Langley has a bit of explaining to do with his own language on Facebook regarding a female employee at CCC. We have listed the Facebook exchange below exactly as it was written. The pictures were face shots and the copies I received from sources was not clear enough for scanning.

Athena Smith: The picture on the left was made my profile picture one year ago. The picture on the right was taken this morning. Not exactly the same angle, but this was a big eye opener for me! One year and less 63 lbs. I think it shows here. WOW #weightloss #weightlossjourney #diet #lifestylechange #getfit #gethealthy #getactive #gone

Jennifer Thomas: I am so proud of you!!!

Brooke Boyd Bem: Hey! You look amazing. Huge difference! Keep it up!

H. Allen Langley: Is it about time for nudy shots?

H. Allen Langley: Just asking.

Athena Smith: O lord H. Allen, as flattering as that is, that'll never happen.

This exchange has been sent to many persons around Cleveland County and beyond. I think the CCC Board of Trustees should have access to this Facebook exchange by one of their Board members so nobody will be blindsided. It is up to the CCC Board of Trustees and Allen Langley to decide what, if anything, is done about this and proper notice to the public be given of any board decision or explanation.

Allen Langley has already told me that he wished he had not made these statements, that they were done in jest, didn't mean anything, were no big deal, but he apologized nonetheless. I agree with all that except the part that the statements were no big deal. I think the statements as well as previous published statements Mr. Langley has made without speaking to the whistleblowers themselves regarding investigations he has been charged by the CCC Board of Trustees to lead should disqualify Mr. Langley from leading the investigations from here on out as there is potential bias and certainly a perceived bias at the least. This is polarizing and multiplied by the CCC Board of Trustees as well as the School Board who re-appointed Mr. Langley without discussion of this issue or any issues regarding potential wrongdoing of both CCC and CCS as related to the investigations.

Others have not been so kind to Mr. Langley and the CCC Board of Trustees as a whole.

Hal Trammell of the Palmetto News-Opinion made the following comments. In part regarding the “nudy” picture statement

There’s nothing in the handbook

I can almost understand why the Cleveland Community College Board of Trustees remained silent after they came back from their closed session, last Sunday evening. After the local newspaper coverage of the investigations that were ongoing, it makes perfect sense. I wouldn’t want them talking either. Especially, after this revelation:

One such claim is of an inner-office affair among two high-ranking employees at the college. “Though there is nothing in the handbook that prohibits office romances, Langley said the committee still decided to investigate.”

Sorry, but if you think that a handbook’s lack of mentioning that it doesn’t prohibit a married man and woman, having an affair, clears them of wrong doing...The handbook probably doesn’t have anything in it that would prohibit a man seeking a woman to send him a nude picture either. I haven’t seen a handbook that is made up totally of common sense. Handbooks are fine, for the purpose they are supposed to achieve. But it’s hard to believe a trustee would make such a statement to the news media, in regards to such serious allegations. Yes, quiet please!

There’s nothing in the handbook about tattletales, but they abound. Same for bullies on staff. Same for “hall monitors” and busy bodies on staff. When the upper crust behaves as if their underlings are beholden to them, and they should hop aboard the mutual admiration society, that’s a good sign it’s already a bridge too far.

Maybe, a new administration will come in, and bring back some integrity and good will to the place that was once loved by many. What was once a fine institution of instruction, has of

late, become a den of obstruction and destruction. That isn't in the handbook either, but it's time for it to stop.

Please provide your comments at the end of this article or send me an email so I can publish your response. Allen Langley, the CCS and CCC Board members are encouraged to tell their side of the story regarding this issue. Something others were not allowed to do regarding their issues.

Documentation re: Jo Boggs

Click on arrow at right top to expand.

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file="http://citizensforgoodgovernment.org/online/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Boggs-file.pdf"]

Special Called Meeting For Closed Session—CCC Board of Trustees—Sunday 6 PM July 30, 2017—No Action Taken!!! —Report by Robert A. Williams

First of all the CCC Board of Trustees are getting better at a few things. They gave proper notice for this meeting according to NC Law. They followed NC Law when they went into Closed

session and when they came out of Closed Session. They followed their agenda except for one thing, a good thing. They allowed members of the public to speak by adding a "Public Participation" item to the agenda. Adding a public participation part of the agenda when one was not pre-planned or required by law has not been allowed by the Commissioners or the School Board. Hopefully this will catch on. All of the governmental agency folks should remember who pays the bills. But, the Board of Trustees are not there yet. Calling a special meeting that was not an emergency meeting on Sunday Evening shows a bit of poor planning and poor scheduling. And, not taking any action on anything surely raises questions about what this group is up to. There is a saying that "all's well that ends well." That, however, remains to be seen.

Back to the Meeting.

Ten Board members were present. Members Rev. Dr. Lamont Littlejohn and Chris Turner were absent. Hold-over Board Member June Yarboro was present along with newly appointed but not sworn in Board Member Allen Langley was present and sitting with the Board. Still President and still Secretary to the Board (until July 31, 2017) Dr. Steve Thornburg was absent. Another person sat in to take the minutes of the meeting.

Attorney David Teddy attended this meeting instead of regular CCC Board Attorney Ralph Meekins. Teddy was sporting a sling supporting his left arm resulting from a fall out of his hammock. Teddy had booked a trip to Ireland to play golf and his injury prevented him from playing golf, so Meekins went to Ireland instead.

Chairman Wes Westmoreland conducted the meeting in a professional manner. As well as bringing up the public participation part of the agenda to the full board, which was accepted unanimously.

Brendan LeGrand was the first speaker. Mrs. LeGrand has scolded the Board of Trustees on several occasions, and rightly so, regarding the handling of the many scandals at CCC. On this occasion Mrs. LeGrand clearly informed the Board that the payoff to President Thornburg was rewarding bad behavior on Thornburg's part and was very unpopular with the public. "This is on you" Mrs. LeGrand told the Board, "you should put up the money" to pay off the debt that you created. Mrs. LeGrand also stated that Thornburg had not paid off the fine the Board had previously imposed.

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good place to work but when Kennedy and her entourage took over "things went to hell in a handbasket."

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Ginger Bullock Spoke next. It was an improvised but totally damning and powerful example of an inactive CCC Board of Trustees. Mrs. Bullock states "I am tired of seeing my name in the newspapers, Political Smack-Down and other Media" when the entire Board of Trustees, specifically Allen Langley, never spoke to me or asked me not one single question. (After the meeting I asked Allen Langley about this and Mr. Langley admitted Bullock's statement was true. According to Mr. Langley he had been directed not to talk to Bullock as the employee grievance policies did not allow this. I stated to Mr. Langley that the Board's Policies were clearly not effective and the CCC Board was hiding behind poor policies to justify their actions, inactions in this case. More about this in other articles.) Mrs. Bullock told the Board that she had PROOF to show what she has said is true. Mrs. Bullock asked the Board, "How can you review me without talking to me." And "What has taken you so long." Mrs. Bullock then described how she was treated when she was only trying to make sure the lessons she was responsible for were done properly and that she simply got a letter in the mail that she was terminated.

No Board member had any comments, statements or questions for any of the speakers.

Chairman Westmoreland asked for a motion to go into Closed Session and Board member Bill Turpish made a clear and concise motion to go into closed session and included all the required sections of NC State Law that are required to go into closed session. It is obvious that this Board is making a large effort to get the legal requirements in running their Board Meetings in accordance with the law. The motion passed unanimously and the public was asked to leave the meeting room.

The Closed Session attendees included all Board members present, including Allen Langley (as a guest) as well as the CCC Public Information Officer, Paula Vess, a secretary to take minutes and Attorney David Teddy. I am uncertain of the lawfulness of inviting guests and Public Information Officers into official Closed Sessions.

The Closed Session lasted the better part of two hours and the members of the public attending the meeting were speculating what was being discussed. Everything from where was CCC going to get the cash to pay off Thornburg (I had heard the plan was to take money out of allocations to repair roofing, but they likely were told that was illegal.), to terms of the Interim President's Contract.

Whatever transpired in the Closed Session is unknown as when the Board came back into Open session, they took no action regarding the Closed Session and adjourned the meeting. It will be interesting to see what comes out of this because no action was voted on in open session as is required by law. In many respects it seems that whatever they do that came out of the closed session will be illegal. Maybe I was doing too much bragging previously about the CCC Board trying to conduct their meetings in accordance with state law.

After the meeting was adjourned I asked the Public Information Officer "what is the public information that is coming out of this closed door meeting?" Ms. Vess told me that it was

confidential right now. I stated (since I have requested to be placed on the CCC Sunshine List) "I want to be one of the first to know."

I had some other conversations after the meeting that will be the subject of forthcoming articles. Stay Tuned