At 4:15 pm, the Board of Trustees toured The Incubator located in room C313.

At 4:30 pm, Trustee Blazey called the FLCC Board of Trustees Education & Planning Committee meeting to order.

Agenda Amendment
Trustee Sheppard requested an amendment to the rules of order; discussion followed. Following discussion, Trustee Sheppard made a motion to call the question to change the agenda regarding the rules of order. Trustee Hicks seconded the motion. The FLCC Board of Trustees unanimously approved the motion to call the question.

Trustee Sheppard made a motion to change the procedures of the Education & Planning Committee; second by Trustee Hicks. Roll call vote:
In favor: Trustees Cass, DeVaney, Hicks, Sheppard
Opposed: Trustees Blazey, Geise, Hamlin, Martin, Mihalik, Wilkins
Motion fails

Old Business
Review November 2014 Education & Planning Committee minutes
Trustee Hicks requested a revision on page 2, under the enrollment report to include his comment as follows: “Trustee Hicks noted that from his perspective enrollment is down at all campus centers.” This revision will be made in the November 2014 Education & Planning Committee minutes.
New Business
Overview of the Incubator project: Dr. Melissa Miller, Dr. Kelli Prior
Drs. Melissa Miller and Kelli Prior gave a PowerPoint presentation overview of The Incubator project, which is a learning and tutoring area for the sciences. The Incubator is one of the projects supported through the Strategic Plan funds that trustees approved in May 2014. Over 2,000 visits have been made to the The Incubator since its opening in September 2014 and student comments have been very favorable.

Resolutions
None at this meeting

Updates
Enrollment
Ms. Urbaitis reported that 2015 winter session enrollment is currently down 11% as compared to 2014 enrollment data. However, she noted that 2014 winter session experienced record enrollment. Currently, spring 2015 enrollment is down .4%.

Trustee Hicks asked if a task force has been created to address the decline in enrollment for the past three years. Ms. Urbaitis replied that a Strategic Growth Committee is in place to address enrollment strategies. Also, in fall 2014, Dr. Risser established a Persistence Task Force to identify issues related to retention and recommend strategies.

Ms. Urbaitis also provided an overview of the enrollment data document that is available to trustees and the public at this meeting. She stated that out of 30 community colleges, FLCC ranked twelfth in total headcount growth between fall 2007 and fall 2013 at 19%.

There being no further business, at 4:54 p.m., on motion by Trustee Martin and second by Trustee Mihalik, the FLCC Board of Trustees Education & Planning Committee adjourned.

Prepared by, Submitted by,
Karen A. Hopkins Trustee Karen Davison Blazey
Assistant Secretary of the Board Chair, Education & Planning Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 7, 2015; 4:30 p.m.; Carpenter Board Room

Trustee committee members
Dr. Karen Blazey, Joan Geise, John Hicks, John Sheppard, Gabrielle Wilkins

FLCC staff liaisons
Kristen Fragnoli, Grace Loomis, Carol Urbaitis
Finger Lakes Community College Board of Trustees  
Finance & Facilities Committee  
December 3, 2014  
Presiding: Trustee James DeVaney

Trustees Present: Dr. Karen Blazey, Donald Cass, James DeVaney, Joan Geise, Barbara Hamlin, John Hicks, Stephen Martin, Donna Mihalik, John Sheppard, Gabrielle Wilkins

Trustee Excused: all present at this meeting


FLCC Students Present: Liz Coston, Rory Edmonds, Thomas Gordner, Sarah Lasky, Leah Miller, Haley Pasquale, Charles Tirodo, Ryan Wilmer

Guests: Richard Appel, Geoffrey Astles, Gary Baxter, Mark Blazey, Donald Culeton, Susan Cunningham, Byron Delavan, Caroline Delavan, George Ewing, Cynthia Fackler, Randall Farnsworth, Ethan Fogg, Ellie Fralick, Alison Grems, Robert Griswold, Michael Hagerman, Jan Hagerman, Gary Hooper, Lawrence Karz, Jana Lamboy, Patricia Malinowski, Jack Marren, Charles McCausland, Darlys McDonough, Alison Risser, Fred Risser, Marion Schwartz, Mark Sheppard, Robin Sheppard, Jude Thines, Craig Welch

Media Present: Michael Hibbard (Finger Lakes Times), Michael Johnson (Daily Messenger), Michael Murphy (Daily Messenger)

At 5:15 p.m., Trustee DeVaney called the FLCC Board of Trustees Finance & Facilities Committee meeting to order.

Old Business
Review November 2014 Finance & Facilities Committee minutes
Trustee Sheppard suggested including language to the section related to the resolution to approve an increase in the Geneva Campus Center construction project budget as follows: ‘Discussion followed regarding the need for additional college funds and the county’s accommodations to provide additional funds.’

Following discussion, committee members agreed that the November minutes will be revised to reflect the inclusion of the language stated above.

New Business
FLCC 2014-2015 operating budget
Mr. Fisher provided a summary of revenues and expenses, and stated that the budget is tracking as expected. He explained that the difference in year to date tuition revenue as compared to 2013 is due to a timing issue related to billing and reporting. He reported that 2015 winter session tuition is currently tracking at 75% of budget. Chargeback revenue has declined slightly due to the difference in the rate as compared to 2013.

Trustee Hicks asked Mr. Fisher for a 2014-15 fund balance projection. Mr. Fisher responded that it is too early in the fiscal year to project a fund balance. He stated that expenses are trending well in all areas of the budget and are in line with 2013 trends.
Resolutions
Bid acceptance: D-shaped collaboration tables & display stands
Mr. Fisher presented this resolution to accept alternate bid #2 with Spectrum Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 400, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-0400 for D-shaped collaboration tables at a cost of $1,890.72 each and display stands at a cost of $265.08 each.

Updates
Facilities
November fire smoke damage – most repairs have been completed, and the College is working to settle the insurance claim.

Geneva Campus Center – site work is underway, and project meetings are being held on site.

FLCC Viticulture Center – an issue with the roofing is being analyzed and the exterior stone work is being redone. The remainder of the project is progressing well, and equipment and furniture are being ordered in the near future.

There being no further business, at 5:25 p.m., on motion by Trustee DeVaney and second by Trustee Hicks, the FLCC Board of Trustees Finance & Facilities Committee meeting adjourned.

Prepared by, Submitted by,
Karen A. Hopkins Trustee James DeVaney
Assistant Secretary of the Board Chair, Finance & Facilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 7, 2015; Carpenter Board Room

Trustee committee members
James DeVaney, Donald Cass, Barbara Hamlin, Stephen Martin, Donna Mihalik

FLCC staff liaisons
James Fisher, Joseph Delforte
At 4:55 pm, Trustee Mihalik called the Audit and Enterprise Risk Management Committee meeting to order, and stated that she is pleased to have this committee established. The committee held its first meeting on November 21, 2014 when auditors from the Bonadio Group gave a detailed presentation of the College’s 2013-2014 audit report.

New Business
Review the November 2014 Audit & ERM Committee minutes
No discussion

2013-14 FLCC Audit presentation: Bonadio Group
Trustee Mihalik thanked the auditors for their thorough presentation at the November 21 meeting. She stated that the College is receiving credible financial information from the auditors that clearly demonstrates its investment in students, that appropriate processes are in place, and that the College is fiscally sound. She also stated that the College received a clean audit that indicates positive financial trends.

Trustee Mihalik introduced the auditors from the Bonadio Group: Craig Stevens, Jonathan Miller and Charlie Wood.

Mr. Stevens presented a high-level overview of the 2013-2014 audit report.

The most important finding: the auditors have rendered an unmodified report and clean opinion, there are no findings of improper use of student funds, and no deficiencies were identified.
Mr. Stevens highlighted the significant positive upward trend in the College’s fund balance, net operating costs per FTE as compared to other community colleges, and the distribution of expenses which indicates that the percent of operating funds the College spent on instruction is significantly higher than its peers.

The College’s financial dashboard shows a decline in enrollment which Mr. Stevens assured trustees is a common theme throughout SUNY community colleges. The College has experienced a net increase in tuition and fees as compared to 2013, and operating costs have remained flat. The ratios included in the audit report are common in higher education industry. The primary reserve ratio, net income ratio, return on revenue, and current ratio are trending favorably. The current ratio, which reflects the College’s ability to satisfy its short-term liabilities with its short-term assets, indicates that FLCC continues to increase its fiscal strength.

Mr. Stevens stated that the actual financial statements are also included in the audit report.

Trustee Martin commented that trustee committee members met with the auditors in executive session for a candid discussion about the 2013-2014 audit report. He commended Dr. Risser, Mr. Fisher and his staff on an excellent audit report. Trustee Sheppard also complimented Mr. Fisher and Mr. Delforte on an excellent audit.

There being no further business, at 5:15 p.m., on motion by Trustee Martin and second by Trustee Sheppard, the FLCC Board of Trustees Audit & Enterprise Risk Management Committee adjourned.

Prepared by,  Submitted by,
Karen A. Hopkins  Trustee Donna M. Mihalik
Assistant Secretary of the Board  Chair, Audit & Enterprise Risk Management Committee

Trustee committee members
Donna M. Mihalik, chair; Stephen R. Martin; John T. Sheppard

FLCC liaisons
James R. Fisher, Joseph Delforte, Dawn M. Hess
At 5:25 pm, Trustee Geise called the FLCC Board of Trustees meeting to order.

Privilege of the Floor
Trustee Geise reviewed the rules of order: address trustees from the podium, state name, limit comments to two minutes. Trustee Hamlin will read letters into the minutes that have been received from community members.

Trustee Sheppard requested trustee privilege to speak. Chairperson Geise stated that only members of the public would be allowed to speak. Trustee Hicks made a motion to appeal the chairperson’s decision; second by Trustee Cass. Roll call vote:
In favor: Trustees Cass, DeVaney, Hicks, Sheppard
Opposed: Trustees Blazey, Geise, Hamlin, Martin, Mihalik, Wilkins
Motion fails

Speakers in support of Dr. Risser’s contract extension
Ellie Fralick read a letter of support from Ellen Polimeni, Mayor, City of Canandaigua
Craig Welch, chair, FLCCF
Leah Miller, FLCC student experience
Robert Griswold, former trustee
Marion Schwartz, donor perspective
Thomas Gordner, FLCC student experience
Gary Baxter – CCFL alumni
Matt Brown – community member; alumnus
Lawrence Karz, attorney in the community and for the FLCC student body for 40 years; adjunct professor
Trustee Hamlin read letters from Joanne Wisor, Geneva; Amanda Whitbeck, FLCC employee, Newark resident.

Speakers in support of Dr. Risser’s contract extension
Sarah Lasky, FLCC student and Senate Chair; member of SUNY Student Assembly
Randy Farnsworth, chair of the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce and its Economic Development Committee
Rory Edmonds, president of the FLCC Student Corporation
Ethan Fogg, director of the FLCC Alumni Association; speaking from a 17-year relationship with FLCC

Trustee Hamlin read letter from Harry Burt, former FLCC trustee and Geneva resident.

Speakers in support of Dr. Risser’s contract extension
Haley Pasquale, FLCC student experience
Elizabeth Coston, FLCC student experience
Susan Cunningham, retired secondary principal
Charles Tirado, FLCC student experience

Trustee Hamlin read a letter from Ronald Golumbeck, President, RG HR Group, Geneva.

All letters read at this meeting are appended to these minutes.
There were no speakers in opposition to Dr. Risser’s contract extension.

Approval of the Consent Agenda
Trustee Geise called for a motion to approve the November 5, 2014 Board of Trustees committee & regular meetings minutes.

Trustee Sheppard made a motion to amend the consent agenda; second by Trustee Hicks. Trustee Sheppard stated that he has several amendments to the consent agenda and this motion is to approve each amendment separately.

Trustee comments:
Sheppard: inference that the board will approve a resolution when stated in the title
Geise: to change entire order of business at this meeting is not feasible
Sheppard: does not propose to change the order of business, but simplify the order of business
Martin: is comfortable with the spirit and wording of the agenda as received, and stated that Roberts Rules being followed
Sheppard: believes that Roberts Rules has not been followed since he came on the Board

Trustee Geise called the question on Trustee Sheppard’s motion. Roll call vote:
In favor: Trustees Cass, DeVaney, Hicks, Sheppard
Opposed: Trustees Blazey, Geise, Hamlin, Martin, Mihalik, Wilkins
Motion fails

Trustee Sheppard made a motion to approve a single amendment to the consent agenda: 1) inclusion of conduct of business in small boards, and rules of procedures in committee and full board, 2) strike “approve the” from the title of the resolution to approve the college president’s contract, 3) strike “approve the” from the title of the resolution to approve the FLCC/CMAC agreement; second by Trustee Hicks. Roll call vote:

In favor: Trustees Cass, DeVaney, Hicks, Sheppard
Opposed: Trustees Blazey, Geise, Hamlin, Martin, Mihalik, Wilkins
Motion fails
Following discussion, on motion by Trustee Martin and second by Trustee Blazey, the FLCC Board of Trustees unanimously approved the November 5, 2014 Board of Trustees committee minutes as revised & regular meeting minutes as written.

Chair’s Report
AGB document review: Board Responsibilities
Trustee Geise stated that this additional information was requested by trustees at their November retreat.

Trustee comments:
Sheppard: corrected statement he made at the November Board meeting that this is a governing body, not a legislative body, and noted similarities between these bodies.

Geise: the reason that board members are appointed is to relieve the pressure of reappointment and allow members to focus on the best interests of the group they represent, i.e., Finger Lakes Community College.

Mihalik: public boards have a responsibility to separate conflict of interest from the appointing body and the group they serve.

Approve the College President’s contract
Trustee Geise stated that under the Public Officers’ Law, trustees may discuss the employment history of a particular person in executive session. However, no decisions are allowed to be made in private, and all decisions will be made in the public realm.

Executive Session
At 6:36 pm, Trustee Geise called for a motion to move into executive session under provisions of Section 105 of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law to discuss the employment history of a particular person. The FLCC Board of Trustees will return to public session. On motion by Trustee DeVaney and second by Trustee Martin, the FLCC Board of Trustees moved into executive session.

Trustee Sheppard commented that the conduct of this voting procedure is not compliant with the Board’s bylaws because it is not a roll call vote. Discussion followed regarding language in the FLCC Board of Trustees bylaws:

Article VIII: Meetings
Section 6 – Voting Procedure
Every Board member present shall vote “aye”, “nay”, or state “abstention.” Should any Trustee abstain from a Board vote, that fact shall be recorded in the minutes. In the event that an abstention creates a tie vote, the abstention shall be counted as a “nay” vote.

Following discussion, Trustee DeVaney made a second motion to move into executive session in order to call the roll; second by Trustee Martin. Roll call vote:
In favor: Trustees Blazey, Cass, DeVaney, Geise, Hamlin, Martin, Mihalik, Wilkins
Opposed: Trustees Hicks, Sheppard
Motion passes

At 7:49 pm, on motion by Trustee Martin and second by Trustee Mihalik, the FLCC Board of Trustees moved out of executive session.

Approve an extension of the College President’s contract
Trustee Martin made a motion to approve an extension of the College President’s contract for the year 2015-2016; second by Trustee Mihalik. Trustee Sheppard opposed this motion, then withdrew his opposition.
Trustee Blazey made a motion to call the question to limit debate on motion as stated; second by Trustee Martin. Roll call vote:

In favor: Trustees Blazey, Geise, Hamlin, Martin, Mihalik, Wilkins
Opposed: Trustees Cass, DeVaney, Hicks, Sheppard
Motion fails because a two-thirds vote in favor was not achieved

Trustee Sheppard and Hicks debated the question for the following reasons: opposed the salary, opposed the $25,000 bonus included in the approved contract, and highlighted perceived deficiencies in performance, price and process.

Trustee Mihalik spoke in support of the College President and the contract extension.

Trustee Martin made comments in support of Dr. Risser focused around credible data, strong leadership, positive community partnerships, and effective strategic planning.

Trustee Geise called the question on the motion to extend the president’s contract. Roll call vote:

In favor: Trustees Blazey, Cass, DeVaney, Geise, Hamlin, Martin, Mihalik, Wilkins
Opposed: Trustees Hicks, Sheppard
Motion passes

President’s Report

Approve the revised Operations Agreement between the Friends of CMAC & FLCC

Trustee Geise thanked Dr. Risser and Mr. John Park, Ontario County Attorney, for their efforts to reach a tentative agreement with the Friends of CMAC.

Dr. Risser reported that she first met with Virginia Clark to discuss revisions to the contract for relevancy. A second meeting was convened with Ms. Clark, Dr. Risser, Mr. John Park, Ontario County Attorney, and Mr. James Bordeau, Constellation Brands attorney, to finalize the agreement.

On motion by Trustee Martin and second by Trustee Sheppard, the FLCC Board of Trustees unanimously approved the revised operations agreement between the Friends of CMAC and Finger Lakes Community College.

P-Tech grant

Provost Fragnoli presented a brief overview of the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-Tech) grant. FLCC is the higher education partner with the Geneva City School District, Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES and industry partners FAME and Digital Rochester to develop and implement an innovative high school model designed to serve disadvantaged and historically underrepresented students.

Letter from Senator Nozzolio

Dr. Risser noted that trustees each received a letter from Senator Nozzolio in response to trustees’ concerns about the SUNY assessment initiative.

Upcoming Meeting with Chancellor Zimpher

Dr. Risser reported that she and members of the NYCCAP executive committee are scheduled to meet with the Chancellor in Albany on December 8, 2014. Discussion topics include community college assessments and the unwieldy process of StartUp NY.

NYCCAP Lobbying document

Dr. Risser made trustees aware of the NYCCAP lobbying document in their packets.
Committee Reports

Education & Planning Committee: Trustee Blazey
Resolutions: None at this meeting

Audit & ERM Committee: Trustee Mihalik
Trustee Mihalik requested a motion to approve the following resolution that was discussed during the Audit & Enterprise Risk Management Committee meeting: Accept the 2013-14 Audit Report.

There being no discussion, on motion by Trustee DeVaney and second by Trustee Sheppard, the FLCC Board of Trustees unanimously approved the resolution to accept the 2013-14 audit report.

Finance & Facilities Committee: Trustee DeVaney
Trustee DeVaney requested a motion to approve the following resolution that was discussed during the Finance & Facilities Committee meeting: Bid acceptance: D-shaped collaboration tables & display stands.

There being no discussion, on motion by Trustee Mihalik and second by Trustee Blazey, the FLCC Board of Trustees unanimously approved the aforementioned resolution.

Trustee Liaison Reports

FLCC Association: Trustee Hamlin
Trustee Hamlin reported that the FLCC Association Board of Directors met on November 18, 2014. The agenda included a discussion of the Child Care Center enrollment being at capacity, the bookstore receiving spring course materials, cleaning of the student housing physical plant, and Association personnel continuing to work on the IRS issue.

FLCC Foundation: Trustee Geise
No report

FLCC Projects Committee: Trustees Blazey, DeVaney
Trustee DeVaney noted that the Geneva Campus Center and FLCC Viticulture Center projects are moving forward.

FLCC Student Corporation: Trustee Martin
Trustee Martin reported that Rory Edmonds, Student Corporation President ran an efficient and concise meeting. FLCC alumni have established a mentorship program with the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce; the College held a successful Veterans Day event; several Honors House events are scheduled; Karen Stein, RN, provided an update on the Healthy Campus initiative; a spring semester safety series focused on spring break awareness has been planned; and Directors engaged in a brief discussion about the status of the college mascot initiative.

Student Perspective: Trustee Wilkins
Trustee Wilkins reported that the Student Association and bookstore will pilot the sale of gas cards and public transportation cards that students may purchase with their financial aid. Students are adjusting well to the new O365 email platform. Student Association is in the process of creating its 2015 events calendar as well as supporting students through the end of the fall semester.

Other Business

Parliamentary Procedures: Trustee Sheppard
- Need prior notice of actions requiring 2/3 vote
- Identify that in call to meeting, note inclusion (ex: motion to approve agendas)

Trustee Martin noted that there could be a last minute change to the agenda, and he is confident that every effort will be made to inform trustees in advance of a meeting.
Trustee Hicks expressed empathy for management confidential employees and stated that, when necessary, they need to be allowed a hearing before the board. He requested that a discussion of this issue be added to the January 2015 Education & Planning Committee agenda.

There being no further business, at 8:37 pm, on motion by Trustee Martin and second by Trustee Mihalik, the FLCC Board of Trustees meeting adjourned.

Prepared by, Submitted by,
Karen A. Hopkins Trustee M. Joan Geise
Assistant Secretary of the Board Chair, FLCC Board of Trustees

Next meeting: Wed., January 7, 2015, immediately following the Finance & Facilities Committee meeting Carpenter Bd. Rm.
Dear Members of the Finger Lakes Community College Board of
Trustees,

I am writing this letter as I return from teaching two courses at FLCC
this morning. As an adjunct professor I have the opportunity to work
in two departments of the college and witness first-hand the changes
which are strengthening the curricula for students. Community
colleges are centers of educational opportunity that are inclusive and
welcome all who desire to learn, regardless of wealth, heritage, or
previous academic experience. FLCC has made great strides

President Risser chartered changes that strengthen programs available
to FLCC students. Changes have been guided by competent
curriculum specialists and involved input from many full and adjunct
staff members. She has also involved the community in the change
process. Focus groups and individual conferencing provide a
perspective which Dr. Risser used to help bring about change.

I have been involved in education and managing educational change
for years and I know that change is not easy. I speak from experience
when I say Dr. Risser knows that change takes time and requires a
great deal of cooperation and consensus building. I feel she has done
just that. FLCC is fortunate to have someone who can look to the
future and recognize the outside forces which require educational
institutions to change to address societal needs.

Sincerely,

Ellen Polimeni
December 2, 2014

Ms. Joan Geise
FLCC Board Chair

Dear Ms. Geise:

This letter is written in support of the contract extension being considered for President Barbara Risser.

I am the immediate past Chair for the FingerLakes Workforce Investment Board. I am also recently retired as the Human Resources Vice-President for ITT Goulds Pumps in Seneca Falls and am a founding Board member of Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturing Enterprise (FAME).

In the capacities mentioned above, I have worked extensively with Barbara Risser. She has served on the WIB Board, has promoted FAME and its platforms with new curriculum at the college and has entered into partnerships with local employers, including ITT. She has been creative in her approach to opportunities and has provided encouragement and leadership to further the growth of FLCC in Victor, Geneva and Canandaigua.

One look at the Campus and it becomes obvious this is a thriving and excellent place for learning.

I cannot think of another Educational Leader that has had a more positive impact on this community. President Risser has supported the open pursuit of educational options that are responsive to local employer and business needs. She has led a campus enrichment and expansion that enhances the stature and presence of the college to all in the area.

I strongly encourage the FLCC Board to renew her contract and to recognize the tremendous value that she brings to the School.

Sincerely,

Ron Golumbeck
President, RG HR Group

17 Bay View Terrace
Geneva, NY 14456

585-721-0528
December 2, 2014

Joan Geise  
Chair, Finger Lakes Community College Board of Trustees  
3325 Marvin Sands Drive  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Dear Joan:

I had the pleasure of serving on the Finger Lakes Community College Board of Trustees from 1995 until 2012. Following that service, I joined the Board of Directors of the FLCC Foundation. There is no other community service I am more proud of then my tenure at FLCC, I have seen firsthand the growth of the College over that time period and would like to express my admiration for the achievements that have been made during Dr. Barbara Risser’s term as President of the College.

For many years, I advocated for the development of a viticulture program at the College. I was so pleased to have been on the Board when the program was approved in 2009 and students enrolled in the fall of 2010. Barbara had a vision for a new home for the program, a viticulture and wine technology program soon to open in Geneva. The construction of the facility was supported through state funds obtained by Assemblyman Brian Koib and Senator Michael Nozzolio.

The College finally opened a facility in Victor and made plans for a brand new campus center for the residents of Geneva and surrounding communities. As Geneva is my home, I know how important the new facility and the programs that will be provide there are to my community.

I was part of the process to create a strategic plan for the College, the first of its kind, in 2007-2008. As a member of the Projects Committee, I had a front row seat to the progress on the new Student Center and the accompanying renovation to the main building. These projects created appropriate student spaces and classroom spaces for the students.

Enrollment at the College grew substantially during the recession and the subsequent decline was not as steep as other institutions. At the same time enrollment was growing, state support for community colleges decline by 21%. With Barbara’s leadership and the support of the Board of Trustees, the College met its obligations to provide affordable education to all who entered the doors through the strategic use of the fund balance.

I strongly support the extension of President Barbara Risser’s contract at FLCC. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Harry Burt
Hi Dr. Risser,

Our entire way of being has evolved since 2007. Our outward appearance (logo and building) is different, but our WAY is different, too. We connect with students more than we ever have… we’re doing that with the hallway monitors, social media, fun events and programming, etc. All of these things have grown or come into existence for FLCC since you’ve been here. You empowered us to do these things. And YOU stop to talk to employees, like me, and students while you’re out and about. You’ve encouraged us to all do the same, and to be 625 Strong. Those are the intangible things that make FLCC the way that it is, and they are hard to measure or recollect when reflecting on the past 7 years because they just ARE the way of life here now. We take for granted that not all institutions work this way, communicate this way, and respect our students/employees this way.

So that’s my two cents, and I hope some of it might be helpful this evening. Good luck!

Amanda Whitbeck
Assistant Director of Marketing
3325 Marvin Sands Drive
Canandaigua, NY 14424

phone: 585.785.1462
e-mail: amanda.whitbeck@flcc.edu
twitter: @Amanda_FLCC
Dr. Risser
Joanne Wisor [jwisor@rochester.rr.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 03, 2014 3:27 PM
To: Joan Geise

December 2, 2014

Joan Geise
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Finger Lakes Community College
3325 Marvin Sands Dr.
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Dear Ms. Geise:

I am writing to express my support for the renewal of the contract for Finger Lakes Community College President Barbara G. Risser. I was a member of the FLCC Foundation Board from 2001 to 2007, following my term as mayor of Geneva. Since my tenure on the Foundation, I have remained an interested bystander and continue to keep myself updated on activities and growth at the College.

I have found that to be a much easier task since the tenure of Dr. Barbara Risser. It seems that news about the College is frequently in our local paper and FLCC is no longer a “best kept” secret. And it is certainly locally evident as I drive down Pre-Emption Road to our Ag Tech Park, or the Pulteney Street construction site in Geneva.

Barb came to the College in 2007 with a clear vision of what Finger Lakes Community College could and should be and she has execute on that vision. Even through a substantial enrollment increase and a concurrent significant decrease in state aid, Barb has managed to keep the vision and mission upper most as difficult decisions needed to be made.

The College’s reach into the communities it serves has never been greater. I was there for the opening in Newark, and visited the Victor site. The College has worked with local businesses to create new programs like the viticulture and wine technology program, an advanced manufacturing degree program, and the machining program with G.W. Lisk, Clifton Springs. The academic needs of the students and the community was at the forefront in the planning for each new campus center that Dr. Risser has championed. It’s also gratifying to see members of the FLCC community at local events and supporting local initiatives such as Geneva 2020.

Dr. Risser has been an inspiring leader with a vision for our College as an economic driver for our area in so many ways. Growth is always a challenge; it’s comforting to know there is competence at the helm.

Sincerely,

Joanne Wisor

815 South Main Street, Geneva