

**APPROVED**

**January 17, 2024**



Dave Kelm  
General Counsel

Item #E-3

January 17, 2024

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING  
November 15, 2023**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** Minutes of the November 15, 2023, Board Retreat meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held in person at the University of Illinois, Chicago, 828 South Wolcott, Chicago, Illinois and via video conference as permitted by the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7).

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023, Board Retreat meeting.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**MINUTES – BOARD RETREAT MEETING  
November 15, 2023**

A Board Retreat Meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education was held in person at the University of Illinois, Chicago, 828 South Wolcott, Chicago, Illinois and via videoconference as permitted by the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7). The meeting was recorded and an announcement to that effect was made by the Chair at the beginning of the meeting.

The following Board members were present in person: *Pranav Kothari, Chair, Sharon Bush, Jennifer Delaney, Andrea Evans, Jennifer Garrison, Veronica Herrero, Sylvia Jenkins, Sam Majka, Magnus Noble, Garth Walker, Clarence Wyatt, and Eric Zarnikow.*

The following Board members were present via videoconference: *Kenneth Shaw.*

Others present in Chicago: Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. Jose Garcia, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Gloria Gibson, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. David A. Kelm, Illinois Board of Higher Education; and Ms. Ja'Neane Minor.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, a quorum was present in Chicago allowing for participation by video conference. Additionally, all action items were recorded with roll call votes. The audio of the meeting was recorded and may be requested on the IBHE website.

**A. Call to Order/Roll Call**

- **Call Meeting to Order, Pranav Kothari**

Chair Pranav Kothari called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Acting Board Secretary Kelm took roll call. A quorum was present.

A motion was made by Board Member Herrero and seconded by Board Member Delaney to allow Board Member Shaw to participate via videoconference. A roll call was taken, and the Motion was approved.

**Opening Remarks by Chairman Kothari:**

Chair Kothari opened the retreat with some housekeeping comments regarding the Open Meetings Act and public participation.

The Chair outlined the goals for the Retreat to include:

- Refresh the Board on A Thriving Illinois and introduce the strategic plan to new Board members;
- Update the Board on Work Underway;

- Align the Board around next phase of work: strategies to expand/deepen or new strategies to launch; and
- Refine Board engagement/approach to meetings.

#### **Executive Director Ostro and Chief of Staff Minor:**

CoS Minor facilitated a brief “ice breaker” activity.

ED Ostro, joined by Illinois Community College Board Executive Director Brian Durham provided the Board with an overview of the Strategic Plan. Discussion ensued regarding strategies and what success may look like.

Chair Kothari led a discussion related to the priorities for the next three years. Specifically, a focus on “accountability” was discussed as well as expanding paths to transfer. A Board committee focused on accountability was considered.

Chair Kothari continued with a discussion involving Board meeting structure and engagement. Members discussed their experiences on other boards and how IBHE Board meetings could be better managed.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment during the Board retreat.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board Retreat, on motion of Board Member Jenkins and seconded by Member Delaney, a roll call vote was taken, and by unanimous vote, the Retreat adjourned at approximately 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by David A. Kelm, Acting Secretary to the Board and General Counsel.