

***Cultural Education Trust Board Meeting  
September 29, 2008  
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.***

CULTURAL EDUCATION TRUST BOARD MEMBERS

Chair, Regent James C. Dawson      Commissioner John Egan  
Regent Joseph E. Bowman, Jr.      Assemblyman John McEneny  
Professor Jeffrey Kraus

Also in attendance: Consultant Rick Morris of Woolley Morris

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STAFF

Deputy Commissioner Jeffrey Cannell	Liz Hood
Sam Bogen	Carol Northrup
Christina Phillips	Kathleen Roe
Penelope Drooker	Mark Schaming
Loretta Ebert	Clifford Siegfried
John Hart	Christine Ward
Len Simms	George Webb
Carol Desch	Richard Trautwein
Ruthanne Brod	Kathleen Marinelli

1. Regent Dawson welcomed everyone and began the meeting with a request to review and approve the agenda. With agenda approved, Regent Dawson continued by requesting any open comments or corrections pertaining to the June 13, 2008 meeting minutes. With none presented:

**Motion to approve the June 13, 2008 meeting minutes:**

Made by: Regent Bowman

Seconded: Professor Kraus

Disposition: Motion carried.

2. A discussion regarding term of appointments and related staggered terms for the CE Trust Board members ensued and resulted in a decision that Rich Trautwein, Office of Counsel, draft and submit to the Board written recommendations to amend the bylaws to provide for staggered terms at the next scheduled meeting.
3. Cliff Siegfried, Director and Assistant Commissioner for the NYS Museum, gave a detailed presentation on the gallery renewal, supported by a PowerPoint presentation, that included a walk-through of the Master Plan; redevelopment of space and galleries themselves; spoke about the infrastructure and associated costs; upgrades, e.g., ITS, lighting, carpets, etc.; need to acquire specimens/objects, etc.; and an overview of how the gallery renewal will be funded using bonded and appropriated funds under the Board's purview, augmented by other previously appropriated funds.

Questions and clarification relevant to budget; money, hard money, bonds, bond sales and bond costs, PIT Bonds and changes in bonding structure; lease purchase option were discussed.

There was concern about the various exhibits - what we are losing and what would be retained. Cliff Siegfried explained that some exhibits would remain, while some elements would be reused in other exhibits. Assemblyman McEneny asked if collections and displays that are coming out of the exhibit could be lent to other institutions. The Assemblyman also suggested that the web site be used to provide a virtual tour of old exhibits even after they are replaced in the galleries. Staff will examine the options for this.

There was a question about the status of climate control for the new exhibits and about how well protected the collections will be. Cliff Siegfried answered that climate control would be improved since the new gallery design specifically avoided covering air returns and vents. Case design would assist and provide tighter environmental controls and protect artifacts from fluctuating temperature and humidity controls from within the exhibit galleries. Environmental controls should meet museum standards and aim to protect the artifacts and exhibit displays to the best of our ability.

Gallery opening is planned for fall 2010

**Motion to approve the Gallery Renewal plan as presented:**

Made by: Commissioner Egan

Seconded: Assemblyman McEneny

Disposition: Motion carried.

Sam Bogen reported that he would draft a letter to Commissioner Mills for Regent Dawson's approval to indicate the Trust Board's approval of the plan and to request that it be conveyed to the Division of the Budget as provided by statute.

4. Assemblyman Jack McEneny asked whether webcasting is required for the CE Trust Board meetings. Prior informal review suggested that these meetings are exempt. Regent Dawson asked Rich Trautwein to review the requirements and present a written opinion and recommendation to the Board at its next meeting. If webcasting is required, arrangements should be made for future meetings. Regent Dawson also asked for the creation of a Trust Board section of the OCE web site.
5. New Facility and Land Search
  - Jeff reminded the group, that further effort on this project was placed on hold while OGS explored options within the Albany city limits.
  - Commissioner John Egan reported that OGS had done an unsuccessful search within the city for a 15 acre property. OGS simultaneously reviewed the possibility of using the Health Department's Wadsworth Labs located in the Empire Plaza as the site for the facility. In order for the NYS Department of Health to centralize its labs, it is hoping to move its Wadsworth Labs facility within two years to the Harriman Campus thus leaving the current location available. Commissioner Egan indicated that he could not

- Assemblyman McEneny urged consideration of the Harriman Campus, where 170 acres are available, as a potential location either for the Museum collections if Wadsworth can accommodate only the Archives and Library collections or for the whole facility if Wadsworth cannot be used at all. There was general acknowledgement that the Harriman site would provide great potential for synergy with the University at Albany. Jeff indicated that the Harriman site was earlier suggested but that we were told it was off the table in previous discussions. Commissioner Egan said that there will be a decision on acceptance of one or more of the bid proposals to develop the campus by November. The state is also looking at siting the State Data Center there. A high level policy decision would have to be made before Harriman Campus space could be considered for the stewardship facility.
  - There was discussion about the required acreage, size of the building, and the number of employees to be housed at the new facility. Regent Dawson reemphasized collection growth and the need to build that in to planning phases for 10, 20, 30 years out. The concept has been that as collection size grows and funds become available, the facility would experience modular growth via phases to house future collections and staff and would require the acreage to do that.
  - The group agreed to defer this topic until the next meeting. In the interim, staff will further define requirements. Regent Dawson requested an 8-10 page summary/analysis report on the feasibility of using the Wadsworth Labs. The report will include the space needs of each institution over the next 20-30 years and an assessment of when the Wadsworth Labs might become available to be renovated. Commissioner Egan will provide Wadsworth Labs floor plans and will arrange for a tour of the space by additional OCE staff.
6. Jeff asked for authorization to begin the RFP process for an architect. The group decided to wait until the next meeting to consider that.
  7. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 10:00 am. Meeting materials will be sent in advance.