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3 **EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE**  
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5 **OF THE**  
6  
7 **SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
8  
9 **MINUTES**

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12 A meeting of the Education and Labor Committee of the Suffolk  
13 County Legislature was held hybrid via Zoom/in person in the Rose  
14 Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers  
15 Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New  
16 York on September 1, 2021.  
17

18  
19 **Members Present:**

20 Legislator Samuel Gonzalez - Vice Chairman  
21 Legislator Susan A. Berland  
22 Legislator Leslie Kennedy  
23 Legislator Kara Hahn  
24 Legislator Jason Richberg  
25 Legislator William Spencer  
26 Legislator Kevin J. McCaffrey - Chairman  
27

28 **Also in Attendance:**

29 Presiding Officer Robert Calarco  
30 Sarah Simpson - Counsel to the Legislature  
31 Amy Ellis - Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature  
32 Derek Stein - Aide to Presiding Officer Calarco  
33 Jenn Hann - Aide to Legislator Gonzalez  
34 Benny Pernice - Budget Review Office  
35 Ben Zwirn - Suffolk County Community College  
36 Dave Macholz - Suffolk County Community College  
37 All Other Interested Parties  
38

39 **Minutes Taken By:**

40 Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer  
41

42 **Minutes Transcribed By:**

43 Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary  
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1 (\*The meeting was called to order at 11:36 a.m.\*)

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3 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

4 Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Education and Labor  
5 Committee for September 1, 2021. Please rise for the Pledge of  
6 Allegiance led by Legislator Gonzalez.

7  
8 *Salutation*

9  
10 Please remain standing for a moment of silence for our 13  
11 servicemen that were killed recently in Afghanistan, and women.  
12 I'm sorry, 13 servicemen and women, and also for all the victims of  
13 Hurricane Ida.

14  
15 *Moment of Silence*

16  
17 Thank you. Please be advised that the Legislature has resumed in  
18 person public attendance. All in person public portion comments at  
19 legislative committee meetings will be here at the Legislative  
20 building. Safety -- COVID-19 safety protocols are in effect which  
21 require mask wearing of all individuals while inside the building.  
22 We will also be taking comments over Zoom.

23  
24 We'll go to the public portion. Madam Clerk, do we have anybody  
25 that's signed up?

26  
27 **MS. ELLIS:**

28 No, sir.

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

31 Thanks, very good. We have no appointments. We do have a  
32 presentation from Ben Zwirn. He will discuss the Suffolk County  
33 Community College Capital Budget. He will specifically speak about  
34 the Technology Building at the Grant Campus and the very successful  
35 automotive program in the Workforce Development Program. Ben, if  
36 you would, and I know you have a guest with you.

37  
38 **MR. ZWIRN:**

39 Good morning, members of the Education Committee. I'm Ben Zwirn  
40 from the College. I was here yesterday to talk about the Capital  
41 Program at the College at the General Meeting on the overall  
42 Capital Budget, and have come back today. There were some  
43 questions that were asked yesterday that we can address today, and  
44 we were very pleased to see that the County Executive has included  
45 all of the projects that we have been looking for. Some of them  
46 have been in the budget for a while and are just moving up to be --  
47 money to be appropriated next year. But the big one that we have,  
48 which is the newest project, which is one that you folks were good  
49 enough to put in a few years ago, is the Automotive Technology  
50 Building that we're looking to begin planning on in 2022 and then  
51 commence building in 2023. I have with me today Dave Macholz, who  
52 runs our Auto Tech Program, to answer some questions and talk a  
53 little bit about it. It is really one of the most successful and  
54 growing programs that we have at the College and we expect this to  
55 be a model for not only New York in our region, but for the entire  
56 country.

1  
2 The Department of Motor Vehicle's Commissioner is chairing a task  
3 force and Dave is on that task force looking to help the automotive  
4 industry across the State and especially the downstate area. We  
5 have -- the dealerships out here, if you try to buy a new car  
6 today, good luck. They just -- they don't have any. And if you  
7 want to have a car fixed today, you better know how to repair an  
8 iPad or a computer because pretty much today you're driving -- the  
9 new cars today are not like the old days where you can change the  
10 spark plugs in your driveway. You have to be fully trained.

11  
12 Doc Spencer asked me yesterday about students who are going for  
13 their Associates Degree, and there are a number of students at the  
14 automotive program that are doing that because they want to go into  
15 management at some point, so they want to get a degree in business,  
16 beyond just the technology phase. So that is true and then this  
17 program will increase, I'll let Dave talk about it, but this  
18 original program was designed on the Selden Campus to handle about  
19 60 students, and I think today, Dave, do you want to just say how  
20 many students we have signed up?

21  
22 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

23 Sure. We have about 140 new students starting the program  
24 tomorrow. Our program is pretty much 100 percent full, which kind  
25 of bucks the trend for enrollment in community colleges. We're  
26 always full and we had about 275 applicants to the program this  
27 year, so a new facility would give us the ability to expand our  
28 footprint, accommodate more students and also to help the local  
29 business community with much needed workforce personnel. So, you  
30 know, it's a tremendous opportunity.

31  
32 As Mr. Zwirn mentioned, I am on the Governor's task force, the  
33 Excelsior Automotive Task Force. This is a nationwide problem, the  
34 shortage of skilled labor, skilled technicians, and the median  
35 salary has something to do with that, but the median salary is a  
36 little bit different for our students because our students are  
37 leaving with credentials not only from the College in the form of  
38 certificates and degrees, but with embedded manufacturer training  
39 credentials.

40  
41 So we have currently eight official partners that we have contracts  
42 with at the College. We have Toyota, Honda and General Motors.  
43 They're our three oldest partners. And we've recently over the  
44 last five years created partnerships which Mopar CAP, which is now  
45 Stellantis, which is Chrysler Fiat. We have a partnership with  
46 Subaru, with Nissan, with Ford, and most recently we are one of  
47 only eight community colleges in the country and the only one in  
48 the State that has a partnership with Tesla. We're actually  
49 training Tesla technicians at the Selden Campus. It's a phenomenal  
50 program with a world of opportunity and, you know, unbelievable  
51 support from both the, you know, local and regional community.

52  
53 **MR. ZWIRN:**

54 Another question was asked yesterday was that would we close the  
55 Selden facility if we open a new facility on the Grant Campus, and  
56 the answer is that's to be determined. It's very possible that we

1 would need both facilities going forward so we wouldn't be that  
2 anxious to close it because there are bays in there. I mean, it's  
3 a fully working facility. So, I mean, I would think that we would  
4 probably keep it and hopefully that there would be an overflow that  
5 they'd be able work. It might be easier for some students to get  
6 to the Selden Campus as opposed to the Grant Campus. But we have  
7 space on the Grant Campus. We have the Technology Building that is  
8 almost done, that there was groundbreaking several years ago.  
9 That's going to be filled pretty much with cyber security and  
10 perhaps wind turbine technology where we're going to be part of  
11 that program out in the Atlantic Ocean. We'll be training some of  
12 the service people who have to be working on those turbines.

13  
14 So there's a lot going on in the future that looks very bright in  
15 areas that are going to need a workforce, and we're right at the  
16 forefront. And as I said, Dave's Program -- the Commissioner of  
17 Motor Vehicles who heads up this Task Force came down to the  
18 College and visited with us and said, "This is a marquee program  
19 that we would like to duplicate across the State and this is going  
20 to be the showplace", and we certainly have the facilities. And,  
21 you know, in the past and hopefully in the future we've had  
22 tremendous support from the Legislature to make that happen.

23  
24 So we're here to answer any questions you might have. I'm here to  
25 thank you for your past support. You guys have always been there  
26 and we try to be there when you guys have some projects that you're  
27 working on. Legislator Mazzarella has just -- the Board of  
28 Trustees just passed, this is the first time I've got a chance to  
29 see you in person, but at the last meeting on Thursday the Board of  
30 Trustees passed the Explorer Program to get academic credit and  
31 that was a program that was championed by Legislator Mazzarella and  
32 it's going to happen. We have a Narcan demonstration and training  
33 program that's going to be on the Eastern Campus shortly at the  
34 Legislators request, to use the Eastern Campus in the Shinnecock  
35 Building.

36  
37 So we're there if you need us. We are a community college in every  
38 sense. The new President, Dr. Bonahue, he wants to keep that  
39 legacy going and even increase it wherever he can. And this  
40 program is just one of -- I think this is going to be a home run  
41 for not only the College, but for the County.

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

44 Thanks, Ben. We appreciate the presentation and we really  
45 appreciate the innovativeness that's going on at Suffolk Community  
46 College and continuing to evolve and find those needs and gaps in  
47 the educational process and environment, so we appreciate all the  
48 work you're doing.

49  
50 I know some of my colleagues had a few questions but I just want  
51 to, before we go any further, Dave, I just need you to put your  
52 name on the record so the stenographer has that.

53  
54 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

55 Sure. It's David Macholz. Last name is M-A-C-H-O-L-Z.

1 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

2 Very good. And then I know one question was asked of me is we know  
3 we have a new President and we'd like to arrange for him to come to  
4 our meeting. We'll get the date of our next committee meeting. It  
5 would be great if he could come to that meeting and we can all meet  
6 him formally in person. I know a few people have reached out to  
7 him about just getting with him privately, and that's fine, too,  
8 but it would be great if he comes to our meeting as well. With  
9 that, I know I had a question from Legislator Hahn.

10  
11 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

12 Thank you, Legislator McCaffrey -- Chairman. Welcome. Thank you.  
13 We love the Sharks. My daughter was at Suffolk Community College  
14 for a few years there. I'm wondering about in this automotive  
15 program have we set up, and I hope I didn't miss you saying it, a  
16 pipeline. We have a number of positions, you know, in DPW,  
17 mechanics, that are always needed, and in PD etcetera, so I was  
18 just wondering if there's any kind of connection there.

19  
20 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

21 Probably a small one. I know we have visited some of the DPW  
22 facilities. They've reached out to us in the past to try to put  
23 students on internships, so there is active communication that  
24 happens there but no official pathway per se, but we do have an  
25 open line of communication with the DPW. For example, the building  
26 that's back here, I think it's the Police Garage, Ben and I were  
27 there, you know, maybe two summers ago when it was probably four or  
28 five of our students, you know, former students and graduates that  
29 were actually working there. So nothing official but they are very  
30 active.

31  
32 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

33 I think we should work to -- we have a lot of needs, a lot of  
34 needs.

35  
36 **MR. ZWIRN:**

37 They grab every student from the College that they can get. The  
38 foreman at the facility back here by the old 4th Precinct said,  
39 "We'll take every student we can get from Suffolk Community  
40 College". The problem that they have now is that they're competing  
41 with the private sector and the jobs in the private sector are very  
42 competitive compared to the public sector, especially when they  
43 start. But we do have students that are working in DPW and they're  
44 very well received.

45  
46 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

47 And just to add to what Ben said, too. This is part of the reason  
48 that we need this facility. You know, 140 students come in every  
49 year. There's 400 new car dealerships in the New York Metro area  
50 between Nassau, Suffolk and the boroughs, and we do have students  
51 that will, you know, work in any of those locations, although the  
52 majority are in Suffolk. But that's essentially why we need more  
53 students coming in, is because literally my phone rings every  
54 single day, four or five times a day, with *we need technicians, we*  
55 *need technicians, we need technicians*, and we just don't have them  
56 to give. We have pretty much 100 percent placement.

1  
2 **MR. ZWIRN:**

3 Anecdotally, when I got my car, it was out in Southampton, and the  
4 young lady who was my salesperson was a Suffolk County Community  
5 College grad, because when I filled out the application for  
6 financing she said, "You work at Suffolk". She went on to get a BA  
7 from Stony Brook and very proud. She was graduated out of the  
8 Eastern Campus. Two of the technicians at the dealership were  
9 Suffolk grads as well and they were very pleased with them and they  
10 wished they could get more. All the dealers on the East End have  
11 help wanted tech signs out in front of their places. They just  
12 can't get them. I was at a Jeep dealer out there, they had flown a  
13 guy in from Kentucky to interview him to work in their shop, and he  
14 just said the cost of living was just too high here in Long Island  
15 so he went back to Kentucky. But they're reaching out everywhere.  
16 That's why this is a great program at a great time.

17  
18 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

19 And then in addition obviously there's also programs like at  
20 Farmingdale State College for aviation mechanics. Is there any  
21 kind of connection in case folks are interested in that pathway?  
22

23 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

24 Yes. We have an articulation agreement with Farmingdale, so if  
25 students want to go on to a four-year degree after completing our  
26 program, they can do that. In fact, Farmingdale has basically  
27 closed the first two years of their automotive program and is now  
28 referring students to Suffolk, you know, to do the first two years.  
29 So, yeah, we do have a pathway that way.

30  
31 We don't have an articulation with the aviation, but students are  
32 aware of the opportunities to move to, you know, to other ancillary  
33 areas within this as well. I know there's a tremendous need within  
34 the County also for marine programming so, you now, we've looked at  
35 some of that. We've actually had communications and discussions  
36 with Yamaha Outboards, Mercury Outboards, and they're prepared to  
37 do programming with Suffolk as well if we can accommodate the  
38 space. So this new facility would actually open up a lot of  
39 opportunities, you know, for additional programming not only at  
40 Farmingdale, but also at Suffolk, to take care of these some other,  
41 you know, sectors within the transportation industry.

42  
43 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

44 That's a great -- you know, and even farming. I don't know, you  
45 know, what kind of equipment, you know, you work on in the  
46 automotive program, but there's, you know, there's probably  
47 opportunities for farm, you know, that kind of equipment as well.  
48 So that's -- you just opened up a new area of questions in terms of  
49 boat mechanics I guess is where you're going. There's nothing  
50 existing, we're on an Island, lots of marinas.

51  
52 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

53 One of the complications with the marine industry from my research  
54 is that the median salary, it appears to be low. And the other  
55 thing is there's not many marine mechanics. So the thought process  
56 when developing a program is well, this isn't really an area of

1 growth. I think of it in the opposite way because I know you have  
2 a Commission, you know, through the Legislature for the marine  
3 industry which all of these individuals are telling you they need  
4 people to grow. So I think it's more of a causation thing than it  
5 is a problem with it not being a good job. They just don't have  
6 the people to train. So there is really no post-secondary program.  
7 There is Wilson Tech that does some training in the marine area,  
8 but nothing at the college level, and we're hopeful that maybe we  
9 can put something together, whether it's classes or eventually a  
10 full program.

11  
12 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

13 Yeah, I would imagine if you built that into your plans we would be  
14 supportive of that for sure because obviously with a thousand miles  
15 of coastline and X number, I don't have that number, of marinas  
16 here, it's certainly something so many of us live and breathe Long  
17 Island because of our love of the water and being on the water and  
18 it's part of who we are as Islanders, so great direction.

19  
20 How about partnership with our Sheriffs? I was just informed that,  
21 you know, our jail has an automotive shop and, you know, in terms  
22 of transitioning, you know, when inmates leave and having jobs. Is  
23 there any kind of partnership there?

24  
25 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

26 I don't have any formal connection with them, but we'd be happy to  
27 explore that if you could refer us to, you know, who would be the  
28 appropriate person to speak with.

29  
30 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

31 Yeah, I think -- I think that's worth thinking about for sure.

32  
33 And then on a different note, away from the automotive, you know,  
34 Ben, we had discussed the possibility of training 911 Operators  
35 through the College. You know, because here we, you know, we  
36 started out the conversation with there's -- we have real needs for  
37 mechanics and etcetera, etcetera. We have needs for people who  
38 want to be 911 Operators and I think -- I think there has to be a  
39 more planned and thoughtful and comprehensive work between the  
40 Community College and Suffolk County employment, 10,000-ish  
41 employees here. There are areas where we have real needs. Nursing  
42 is one of them. I know you have a nursing program. I know the pay  
43 is much higher outside here, but we have to start thinking. We  
44 have needs in our government for certain employees, certain  
45 positions, and I think it's a no-brainer that the Community College  
46 is the training ground for that. And especially when we see needs  
47 that we have a hard time filling, you know, speaking to you all and  
48 finding ways to help us.

49  
50 **MR. ZWIRN:**

51 When you first raised that issue we all thought it was a good idea  
52 for training of 911 Operators, but we started looking into it  
53 immediately and we ran into roadblocks with Civil Service. They  
54 have certain requirements that they have to be met and it wasn't an  
55 easy mesh between us teaching and them -- and getting a position in  
56 as a 911 Emergency Services Operator. The individual who was

1 working on it is Dr. Paul Beaudin, who's leaving today for a  
2 similar spot up in Lawrence, Massachusetts, so we're going to have  
3 to get somebody else who comes in to take his place to start it up  
4 again. But I know we looked into it right away and he hit  
5 roadblocks and I don't think he got a chance because he was on his  
6 way to another position, that we'll take another look at it and see  
7 if we can --

8  
9 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

10 Yeah, and I don't think I ever thought it would be seamless because  
11 it is, you know, Civil Service test, you know, there's background  
12 checks, there's an extensive -- but nobody, nobody enters -- and  
13 that training can be used for many other things and with many other  
14 places for sure, and no one enters a community college class  
15 thinking they're guaranteed a job. So I do think that just because  
16 it's hard doesn't mean we can't try to find a way to help some sort  
17 of pipeline, even if it's not seamless.

18  
19 **MR. ZWIRN:**

20 It doesn't mean if they get a certificate and then they take the  
21 Civil Service test and they've had --

22  
23 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

24 Right.

25  
26 **MR. ZWIRN:**

27 They've had a leg up in their training, no question.

28  
29 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

30 Right. And maybe they have to take fewer months of training after  
31 they're approved, you know, they don't have to duplicate what you  
32 offered and what they completed at the College.

33  
34 **MR. ZWIRN:**

35 I think there was some backup as there's a proprietary situation  
36 there. It wasn't going to be seamless, so we'll take another look  
37 at it.

38  
39 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

40 Let's keep talking.

41  
42 **MR. ZWIRN:**

43 Absolutely.

44  
45 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

46 I want to be part of those discussions.

47  
48 **MR. ZWIRN:**

49 Sure.

50  
51 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

52 Thank you. Thank you so much for looking into it, because it's an  
53 area -- we need those operators ten years ago if you know what I'm  
54 saying. This has been a fight we've been fighting for far too long  
55 to --

1 **MR. ZWIRN:**

2 My sister-in-law is an Emergency Service Operator in East Hampton  
3 and after 20 years she burned out. She put her papers in.

4  
5 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

6 Yeah, it's extremely difficult.

7  
8 **MR. ZWIRN:**

9 She just said she couldn't -- it's relentless, you're forced with  
10 overtime, and at some point you just can't -- she said, "I just  
11 can't do it anymore".

12  
13 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

14 Yeah, we have to find -- we are working to fix that and having a  
15 pipeline of people trained, you know, would be just a small piece  
16 of it, so thank you.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

19 Legislator Gonzalez.

20  
21 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

22 Hey, Ben. Thank you, thank you so much for being here. Originally  
23 you said it was going to be a home run.

24  
25 **MR. ZWIRN:**

26 Yes.

27  
28 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

29 I think it's going to be a grand slam. I really do.

30  
31 **MR. ZWIRN:**

32 Just make sure you give us thumbs up.

33  
34 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

35 I do believe so, only because, Ben, those in my district and in  
36 Legislator Berland's, not Hernandez, Berland's districts, many of  
37 them are forced to have to go to work. And some of them after,  
38 you know, after they go to school are also forced to go to work,  
39 and some of them aren't prepared for college. And the  
40 certification program is going to be, like I said, a grand slam for  
41 them because it prepares them for good jobs, good paying jobs in  
42 the mechanics and it's new technology. And, Ben, I think that this  
43 is going to open the doors to other certifications at the College.  
44 Okay, I speak with Toyota on a constant basis. I have a dear  
45 friend who's a representative there. And definitely part of your  
46 phone calls is probably Toyota calling you up. Just imagine all  
47 these manufacturers that are in line waiting for them to graduate.  
48 Good jobs, union jobs, that, you know, making the prevailing wages  
49 that they need to do, and now you stop these young men and women  
50 from going to jobs that are paying the minimum wage. That breaks  
51 the cycle and many in my community are not ready for college, but  
52 they are ready for good working jobs in today's technology, so my  
53 hat's off to you.

54  
55 The question that I do have is will there be different hours of  
56 teaching for those that do have to go to work during the day after

1 they leave high school or work nights. Will there be different  
2 times that they can go and take these certification classes?

3  
4 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

5 The answer to that is yes. And, Legislator Gonzalez, I just want  
6 to mention that, you know, your community is of particular interest  
7 with where this building is. In fact, the automotive teacher in  
8 Brentwood High School teaches for us as an adjunct at night. So we  
9 do have an evening track and that's the plan, is to try to be as  
10 accommodating to student's schedules as possible so that we  
11 understand. I mean, the Community College student, they're coming  
12 to the College because in most cases, you know, it's a monetary  
13 thing. They can't afford to go to a four-year school, and in that  
14 case most of them have to put themselves through school. So we do  
15 have accommodating schedules in which they can either come during  
16 the day and alternate the time that they're on campus with time at  
17 work or come in the evening.

18  
19 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

20 I appreciate that, I really, really do. I'm just so happy at all  
21 the major auto manufacturers that you guys have spoken about, okay.  
22 I can just imagine them watching all these students behind the  
23 glass, looking at each and every one of them and say *I'm recruiting*  
24 *this guy right here, I'm recruiting this woman right here.* I can  
25 just imagine. And because of this I can just imagine the culinary  
26 industry and maybe their certification program just, I mean, I am  
27 so happy. I am so happy that this is going to be in effect. Thank  
28 you for the opportunity. Continue the great work. Again, this is  
29 definitely a grand slam.

30  
31 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

32 Thank you.

33  
34 **MR. ZWIRN:**

35 Thank you.

36  
37 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFEY:**

38 Legislator Richberg.

39  
40 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the presentation. So I  
42 have a couple of questions. And you mentioned a lot of businesses  
43 that you have coordinated with, Ford Dodge. Have we looked at  
44 diesel mechanic or heavy machinery as well? I'm only asking, you  
45 know, I know the Chair, you know, is a former truck driver and I  
46 know, you know, this is an area where we definitely also need folks  
47 to be working in as well, and I think -- so let's just start with  
48 that question.

49  
50 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

51 So to answer your question, yes, we have looked at it and there's  
52 tremendous opportunity there as well. The trucking industry,  
53 obviously transportation and logistics in a place like New York  
54 with the port, right, obviously, but Long Island with the  
55 complications that we have in transportation trucking is an  
56 essential piece. It's something that we have to further explore,

1 but there are willing partners in that arena as well. Some that  
2 come to mind that have helped other schools across the country are  
3 companies like FedEx, UPS, who have set up programs, you know,  
4 specifically to get people into those areas. Right now we just  
5 don't have the physical space to accommodate that. This new  
6 building would not necessarily be able to accommodate that per se,  
7 but it's something that we can look at for certain.

8  
9 I think there's room for growth pretty much in the entire  
10 transportation industry as Legislator Gonzalez said before. You  
11 know, this building will be probably Suffolk's single most  
12 workforce -- I'm trying to figure out how to phrase this. The  
13 largest direct response to workforce that we've probably ever done.  
14 So I do anticipate there will be other industries that will ask us  
15 to do the same thing, and the wonderful thing about that is they're  
16 going to provide wonderful jobs for the young people that are  
17 coming into the area. So it is something that we do want to look  
18 at.

19  
20 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

21 And to that point, you know, my colleague, Deputy Presiding Officer  
22 Hahn, brought up the aviation and marine engines. Have we reached  
23 out to the Coast Guard and the Air Force in reference -- I mean the  
24 National Guard, the Air National Guard, in reference to what, you  
25 know, prerequisites they're looking for for folks? Because I know  
26 we have, we bring a lot of folks back here, especially to work on  
27 the helicopters for the Police Department but, you know, if we are  
28 curtailing our program to sort of fit with what they need, you  
29 know, maybe we can see another set of folks, especially in the  
30 Coast Guard, because those folks work on, you know, on aircraft  
31 literally all over the world in different, you know, hazardous  
32 conditions.

33  
34 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

35 We have not had direct communications with any of those groups, but  
36 I do know we have some classes that happen at the Air Force Base  
37 out in Westhampton Beach, not mechanical classes, but there are  
38 opportunities for growth that we would be happy to explore.

39  
40 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

41 And the last thing I would say is it looks like there is, and I  
42 just did a cursory search for Formula One and NASCAR engine  
43 mechanics. There's a certification. I don't know if we've looked  
44 at that as well, because I know they're dying for mechanics for a  
45 variety of reasons. And I know, I mean, it would be cool to say  
46 that we have a NASCAR or a Formula One mechanic from Suffolk  
47 Community College, but I don't know if we've looked at that  
48 certification, but I think that would be also interesting to look  
49 at.

50  
51 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

52 We haven't, but it indeed would be exciting to the students for  
53 sure, so we can certainly look into that.

54  
55 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

56 Thank you. And thank you, Mr. Chair.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

3 Thank you. Legislator Berland.

4  
5 **LEG. BERLAND:**

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ben, it's great to see you. I'm sorry, what  
7 was your name?

8  
9 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

10 Dave.

11  
12 **LEG. BERLAND:**

13 Dave, sorry. Dave, nice to meet you.

14  
15 **MR. ZWIRN:**

16 Ben and Dave. We do country folk at --

17  
18 **LEG. BERLAND:**

19 Ben and Dave.

20  
21 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

22 It sounds like an ice cream.

23  
24 **LEG. BERLAND:**

25 Yeah, no, you don't want that ice cream, not anymore. No, no, no.  
26 Anyway, I've been very supportive of this project from the start.  
27 I think it's a great idea and I agree with Legislator Gonzalez on  
28 the opportunities that it's going to afford our constituents  
29 specifically.

30  
31 You did say that there's adjunct professors, you know, who teach at  
32 night. I'm a lover of adjuncts. I'm an adjunct myself at Hofstra  
33 Law School, but my question is I know this is more Capital Budget  
34 and what's happening, but what is the plan for more full-time  
35 professors at Suffolk as opposed to -- I know there's been an  
36 increase in adjuncts, there's been a decrease in full-time  
37 professors. I'd like to know what your plan is going forward  
38 because I think it's important that students have the continuity  
39 of full-time professors that they can, you know, office hours and  
40 see the people and have conversations with their students. And as  
41 an adjunct I think adjuncts bring a tremendous amount to, you know,  
42 to the table, but I think that, you know, full-time professors as  
43 well need to be addressed. So what is your plan going forward with  
44 that?

45  
46 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

47 So we have -- right now we have six full-time faculty members in  
48 the program and only four adjuncts. So our balance is fairly  
49 decent. I can let Ben speak to the College plan for, you know,  
50 incorporating more full-time.

51  
52 **LEG. BERLAND:**

53 That's really what I meant. I didn't mean this program  
54 specifically. I meant for the College in general.

1 **MR. ZWIRN:**

2 I think what happened in the last go around, some of the full-time  
3 professors retired and I don't know if they were replaced. I don't  
4 think they cut any full-time professors unless the classes that  
5 they teach didn't -- there were no students. But I think as a cost  
6 saving measure they did look for adjuncts as opposed to that, but  
7 that's something that we deal with. And some of the Legislators  
8 have mentioned to me, and I've passed it on to the Administration,  
9 that they'd like to see more full-time professors in the mix than  
10 adjuncts. Generally adjuncts certainly are less expensive because  
11 they don't get benefits and it's more flexible as far as classes  
12 go. But we hear you and I know it's -- we have a new President who  
13 comes out of the faculty world so I think he will be sensitive to  
14 it as well. But that's something that goes on through, you know,  
15 the negotiations and I can certainly get your position back to the  
16 Administration.

17  
18 **LEG. BERLAND:**

19 Yeah, I'd appreciate that. If you can keep the Legislature, you  
20 know, informed about, you know, what the plan is going forward  
21 because I understand it's a cost savings, you know, to have adjunct  
22 professors, but I think it's so much more beneficial for your  
23 students to know that there's a larger number of full-time faculty  
24 that are available to them as well. So please, you know, keep us  
25 posted on what the status of that is.

26  
27 **MR. ZWIRN:**

28 Absolutely.

29  
30 **LEG. BERLAND:**

31 Thanks so much.

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

34 Thank you. I know I had Legislator Gonzalez on the list, but  
35 Legislator Hahn had a question along this line, if you don't mind.

36  
37 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

38 I think it's more of a -- it's clarification. So completely agree  
39 with Susan, I'm sorry, Legislator Berland. Sorry, we're more  
40 formal here. But I think also they weren't just lost retirements.  
41 I think some went over to Administration and I think there have  
42 been some moves and it's just we want to maintain the excellent  
43 quality of education that is offered. We boast all the time about  
44 Suffolk Community College as being really the best, most affordable  
45 quality education, and the decline in the full-time faculty is very  
46 concerning. So, you know, agreed.

47  
48 **MR. ZWIRN:**

49 I will bring your positions. It's not in my -- I'm not the one  
50 doing the hiring or the negotiations, but I will certainly bring  
51 your positions back to the Administration as I always do.

52  
53 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

54 Thank you. I think we all share those concerns. Legislator  
55 Gonzalez.

1 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

2 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just briefly. As you can hear my colleagues  
3 and brothers and sisters here as they think of the expansions of  
4 this wonderful program that is coming forth, I also want to add  
5 that in our district, Legislator Berland and myself, Suffolk buses  
6 are now being converted. I have eight in my district that are all  
7 electric. So it's something that if you haven't, if you haven't  
8 spoken with John yet, please let me know. I can contact you, I can  
9 give you the information. But I'm expecting over a dozen electric  
10 buses in my district alone and that is going to be very, very  
11 important. I know they always look for the new mechanic and so  
12 please keep that in mind, because I just remembered as they were  
13 talking about the expansions, even in energy, how the IBEW is just  
14 working with the turbines and wind and that is something, you know,  
15 for later, but I'm just thinking about Suffolk buses. I looked at  
16 this engine and it's not even an engine, you know, it's not a  
17 Cummins engine and you understand what I'm saying, but it's so  
18 different. So keep that in mind, especially currently because  
19 they're buses and it's new technology.  
20

21 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

22 If I might add, Legislator Gonzalez. John Lombardo from the  
23 College has been working with I believe it's Commissioner Drago and  
24 there was a conversation, I believe, that took place about electric  
25 vehicles at the County and we're working on, you know, having a  
26 conversation with her office about what we can do as a college to  
27 help. You know, not necessarily a full-time program, but a program  
28 that could, you know, help fill a workforce need for training, you  
29 know, in that area. So we're happy to help how we can.  
30

31 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

32 Any there anymore questions? Legislator Mazzarella.  
33

34 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

35 Good afternoon and thank you for the presentation. It was very  
36 informative. And I won't beat a dead horse, but I will also echo  
37 my colleague's sentiments on the full-time staffing at the College.  
38 There's plenty of evidence that shows the learning experience is,  
39 you know, increased and more quality when there are more  
40 full-timers, so I would also like to say I'm supportive of that.  
41

42 I wanted to, and thank you, Ben, for, you know, getting that  
43 Explorer Program where children are now going to be able to get  
44 college credit in high school and go on to pursue a career in law  
45 enforcement. I think it's -- it makes me think, and we're talking  
46 about wind turbines. I saw the new President on Monday, I had a  
47 conversation with him, and we spoke a lot about the new technology  
48 that's coming to our shores in the way of wind. And I offered him,  
49 and I'll offer it to you, that maybe in looking at this Explorer  
50 Program that maybe we can expand into other industries and do  
51 something similar, because I think what's going to happen now is we  
52 have this brand new industry that is, that again is coming to our  
53 shores. It's going to be good jobs, good paying jobs, good union  
54 jobs. Our young people need to know about that industry and I  
55 think they need to know about it before they get to college. So as  
56 we travel on this path towards renewable energy maybe we can look

1 to possibly get a course or two into the high schools that will  
2 capture the interest of young people to say *hey, this is an*  
3 *industry I'd like to go into*, because I think it's going to be  
4 tough for them to really have the information with which to make a  
5 decision to say *hey, I'm going to the new training facility* without  
6 maybe having an introduction. So I did speak to the College  
7 President on that and he was very interested as well in maybe  
8 getting that into some of the maybe like larger high schools that,  
9 you know, could accommodate it. I just thought I would put that  
10 out there. So thank you.

11  
12 **MR. ZWIRN:**

13 We have a Beacon Program and an Early College Program that is run  
14 by Guy's wife at the College, Legislator McCaffrey's Aide. So,  
15 Guy, give her a call, will you, because that's something that she  
16 runs with the high school students, getting them on the College  
17 campus to talk about. So it's something that we can all work  
18 together on that nicely in-house. It completes the circle.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

21 Legislator Kennedy.

22  
23 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

24 Thank you. Gentlemen, my peers have stated all the facts and the  
25 questions. I just have to say not only are we all proud of what  
26 you do, your ability to see a need and to go forward to assist not  
27 only our constituents, but those that are mechanically inclined and  
28 not ready for a college degree yet, you're just amazing and we  
29 thank you. That's it.

30  
31 **MR. ZWIRN:**

32 We thank you. A proud alum of Suffolk County Community College  
33 Nursing Program.

34  
35 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

36 It's the truth.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

39 Legislator Gonzalez had one more.

40  
41 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

42 I promise, this is the last one. It's just that this is a topic  
43 that's really, you know, very intriguing, very important to my  
44 district, my community. Have -- because now I'm thinking your  
45 Explorers, I know that Suffolk Eastern BOCES has a mechanic  
46 program, and many of the students that go there go to the high  
47 school at my district and it just -- it lines up whether can they  
48 also get college credits for the work that they're doing in the  
49 industry that we're talking about right now. They're maintenance,  
50 they're mechanic, is intriguing to me whether that can be feasible.

51  
52 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

53 The answer is yes. Actually we have an articulation through the  
54 Beacon Program, through Lisa Calla at the College, that works with  
55 Eastern Suffolk BOCES to give the students a three credit course in  
56 automotive if they decide to co-enroll. So they're able to apply

1 for that. That exists at Eastern Suffolk and we're interested in  
2 doing one at Brentwood, too. So I can directly have a conversation  
3 with the automotive instructor there and try to get that going.

4  
5 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

6 Can you keep me in the loop whatever you need?

7  
8 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

9 Certainly.

10  
11 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

12 I would like to facilitate and support, there is no change. You  
13 can use my big mouth with Brentwood.

14  
15 **MR. MACHOLZ:**

16 Absolutely.

17  
18 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

19 Thank you.

20  
21 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

22 Anybody else? I just want to wrap up. If you ever want to  
23 consider a joint program, we need people to drive those trucks, the  
24 driver training program. And I can guarantee you every one of  
25 those companies, FedEx, UPS, obviously the union ones, YRC, ABF,  
26 they'd all want to contribute in terms of making that a joint  
27 partnership, so if there's any interest in driver training. I know  
28 some community colleges in other places do provide that training.  
29 It would work out very well and we could get some funding from some  
30 of the sources there.

31  
32 **MR. ZWIRN:**

33 We have looked at that as well, and there is a program on Long  
34 Island where it's a private company that is, quite frankly, is less  
35 expensive than the College right now doing just that. But we are  
36 looking at it because there's definitely a shortage of, since the  
37 pandemic, you know, they said gasoline prices are going to go up,  
38 not because there's a shortage of gasoline, but because there's a  
39 shortage of delivery drivers to bring the tankers to the gas  
40 stations. And that's true nationwide so that's something we have  
41 looked at and we can further look at it.

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

44 Great, thank you.

45  
46 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

47 Legislator, let's work on that.

48  
49 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

50 Sure.

51  
52 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

53 Let's get that together.

54  
55 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

56 Absolutely. And then September 29th is our next committee meeting.

1 I'd like to try and get the President and then we'll send out a  
2 formal invitation, but if you can just kind of pencil that in that  
3 would be great, because I think everybody would like to have the  
4 opportunity to speak with him.

5  
6 **MR. ZWIRN:**  
7 I'd be glad to.

8  
9 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**  
10 Great, thank you. Okay. Thank you for the presentation.

11  
12 **MR. ZWIRN:**  
13 Thank you very much.

14  
15 **MR. MACHOLZ:**  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**  
19 We have no Tabled Resolutions, no Introductory Resolutions, no  
20 Procedural Motions and no Home Rule Messages. I don't believe we  
21 have anything else. With that, we stand adjourned.

22  
23 *(\*The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.\*)*  
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