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EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

A meeting of the Education & Labor Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on May 13, 2020, via video conferencing.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Presiding Officer Rob Calarco - Acting Chairman
Legislator Kevin J. McCaffrey - Chairman
Legislator Samuel Gonzalez - Vice Chair
Legislator Susan A. Berland
Legislator Kara Hahn
Legislator Leslie Kennedy
Legislator Jason Richberg

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Legislator Robert Trotta - Legislative District No. 11
Legislator Anthony Piccirillo - Legislative District No. 8
Sarah Simpson - Counsel/Suffolk County Legislature
Amy Ellis - Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Lance Reinheimer - Director of Budget Review
Jennifer McNamara - Director of Labor Relations
Alison McCann - County Executive's Office
Kevin Peterman - Suffolk County Community College Faculty Association
Dante Morelli - Suffolk County Community College Faculty Association
Mark Harris - Suffolk County Community College
Angelica Rivera - Suffolk County Community College
All other interested parties

TAKEN AND TRANSCRIBED BY:

Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer

1 (*The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.*)

2
3 **P.O. CALARCO:**

4 So welcome to today's Education and Labor Committee. If everyone
5 could please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator
6 McCaffrey.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

9 Thank you.

10 (*Salutation*)

11
12
13 **P.O. CALARCO:**

14 Okay. Thank you, everyone, and welcome to committee this afternoon
15 of the Education and Labor Committee. Per the Governor's extension
16 of his Executive Order, we are hosting today's meeting via Zoom and
17 will not be having any public portion. In addition, because we are
18 holding this virtually, as Presiding Officer, I am chairing today's
19 committee and will -- and appreciate Legislator McCaffrey's
12:30PM 20 deference on the matter, so we can keep Legislators from having to
21 come to the horseshoe today. So thank you, everyone, for coming to
22 committee.

23
24 We'll get right into our agenda. We do not have any
25 correspondence, and the public portion is suspended. We have no
26 appointments or presentations, so we'll go right into our
27 resolutions. We only have the one resolution before us today
28 in ***Introductory Resolutions. I.R. 1359 - Authorizing the County***
29 ***Executive to execute an Agreement with the Suffolk County Faculty***
30 ***Association, Suffolk County Community College, covering the terms***
31 ***and conditions of employment for employees covered under Bargaining***
32 ***Unit No. 3 for the period of September 1, 2019 through August 31,***
33 ***2022. (Co. Exec.)***

34
35 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

36 Motion to approve.

37
38 **P.O. CALARCO:**

39 Motion to approve by Legislator McCaffrey.

12:31PM 40
41 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

42 I'll second.

43
44 **P.O. CALARCO:**

45 Second by Legislator Gonzalez. And before we have any vote, what
46 I'd like to do is open it up to the College. And I don't know
47 who -- I guess Mark Harris will be speaking for the -- for the
48 College.

12:31PM 49
50 **MR. HARRIS:**

51 That's fine.

52
53 **P.O. CALARCO:**

54 Okay, so Mark. We also have Angelica Rivera from the College, and
55 potentially, I think, Ben Zwirn on the phone, as well as Dante
56 Morelli and Kevin Peterman for the Faculty Association, and Jen

1 McNamara from Labor Relations. If you guys could maybe just go
2 through -- whoever wants to start is fine -- go through the -- what
3 the contract does, what's the terms, just a brief overview for us.
4

5 **MS. MCNAMARA:**

6 I'm more than happy to do a brief overview. So it's a -- it's a
7 short-term agreement, it covers three years. It begins September
8 1st, 2019, and it expires August 31st, 2022. The contract covers
9 full-time teaching, adjuncts, as well as non-teaching faculty
10 positions.
11

12:32PM

12 There are raise increases for full-time faculty of 1.6% for each of
13 those three years. There are also adjunct wages aligned with local
14 community colleges at 2%, 2.5%, and 2.5% respectively. These are
15 significantly less than what some other adjuncts have received,
16 particularly in the CUNY system.
17

18 There is a significant change in this contract, which is an
19 increase to online student class size. For example, the class size
20 maximums are going to go from 23 students to 35 students per class.
21

12:33PM

22 That's sort of it in a nutshell. I don't know if anybody else
23 would like to add something else.
24

25 **MS. RIVERA:**

26 Yes. Good afternoon. This is Angelica Rivera. Just to emphasize
27 the point of the contract and class sizes, the increase for online
28 class sizes will help us reduce some labor costs as far as adjunct
29 hiring, because more of our full-time faculty will be able to take
30 on more students, and, therefore, having less sections.
31

12:33PM

32 Other items on the contract, there's a summary, there are a small
33 benefit fund increase, as well as we have gained some flexibility
34 in hours for our student services personnel, such as counselors and
35 librarians, to be open before and after business hours, as well as
36 we have a small contribution to the conference and travel for the
37 faculty. And then we have the longevity increases. There will be
38 no longevity increases for the term of this contract. That kind of
39 wraps that up.
40

12:34PM

41 **P.O. CALARCO:**

42 Okay. Dante or Kevin, did you want to add anything? And then
43 we'll throw it to Legislator McCaffrey, who is the Chair.
44

45 **MR. PETERMAN:**

46 I'll leave it up to the FA president, Dante.
47

48 **MR. MORELLI:**

49 Thanks, Kevin, and thanks, everyone else. And I'm not going to
50 really reiterate what Jennifer and Angelica have already said about
51 the contract. We went -- we decided on a three-year contract,
52 where we know other bargaining units in Suffolk County went for
53 longer terms. The reason why is because we are in a leadership
54 transition at the college, as you -- many of you know, trying to
55 find a new president. And the idea was to put something in place
56 before that new president were to take office, which is always a

12:34PM

1 good thing to have, and have a contract in place, so that person
2 doesn't have to come in and deal with that from the beginning.

3
4 We believe we negotiated in good faith with the College and the
5 County on this. We believe this is fair. We are very much aware
6 of the College's financial issues, and enrollment changes, and
7 whatnot, but we also think, perhaps, in light of where we are
8 today, things may change for enrollment for -- towards an upwards
9 trajectory moving forward, which would be great for the College.

12:35PM

10
11 So, overall, we think it's a good contract, it's a fair contract
12 for everyone involved, not only with the Faculty Association, but
13 the County and the College as well. I'm happy to answer any
14 questions from anyone, if you wish.

15
16 **P.O. CALARCO:**

17 Okay. So Legislator McCaffrey, as Chair, I'll defer to you to lead
18 off, and then -- and then I'll open it up to questions.

12:36PM

19
20 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

21 Thank you. I just think that I've reviewed the agreement and I do
22 believe it's a fair contract. And I like the aspect of, and the
23 timing couldn't have been better, about the changes to the -- to
24 the online learning, because we think that this maybe with us for a
25 while. So it's -- that's worked out very well. And the increases
26 are consistent, if not even definitely on par with the -- what
27 other colleges in similar situations are doing. And so I think
28 it's a fair contract and I look forward to supporting it.

12:36PM

29
30 **P.O. CALARCO:**

31 Okay. Thank you, Legislator McCaffrey. Legislator Trotta, you had
32 your hand up.

33
34 **LEG. TROTTA:**

35 Yeah, I have a question for Lance. Lance, are you there? I don't
36 see you.

37
38 **P.O. CALARCO:**

39 Lance is here, as is Benny.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

42 Lance is there.

43
44 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

45 And so is Benny.

46
47 **LEG. TROTTA:**

48 Lance, we had a discussion the other day about possible budget
49 shortfalls this year. Now I think we agreed that it was somewhere,
50 possibly could approach \$300 million this year; is that correct?

12:37PM

51
52 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

53 Yes, that's correct.

54
55 **LEG. TROTTA:**

56 Okay. So people are without work. They're facing a \$300 million

1 budget shortfall, not to mention we lost the lawsuit for the red
2 light cameras that could approach \$100 million. There's a pending
3 lawsuit with the mortgage tax, which could approach \$200 million.
4 If they were to come through, and we had to balance the budget this
5 year on those, it would be \$600 million. Correct me if I'm wrong.
6 We would have to lay off every single County employee, including
7 every police officer, July 1st in order to balance the budget this
8 year. Is that a fair statement, if, in fact, that were to come to
9 fruition?

12:37PM 10

11 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

12 I haven't run the exact numbers, but if you tried to close the
13 budget of 600 million on the backs of employees, it would be a
14 significant number of employees would have to be --

15
16 **LEG. TROTТА:**

17 Now, how --

18
19 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

12:37PM 20 Now we're talking two different budgets here. We're talking the
21 College budget versus --

22
23 **LEG. TROTТА:**

24 I'm well aware of that.

25
26 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

27 Okay.

28
29 **LEG. TROTТА:**

12:38PM 30 My questions are very simple.

31
32 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

33 Okay.

34
35 **LEG. TROTТА:**

36 We are in the middle of a disaster, bankruptcy waiting to happen,
37 and we're counting on the Federal Government to bail us out. This
38 County has been totally mismanaged. For anybody to even consider
39 anybody getting a raise is fiscally irresponsible. It's absurd.
12:38PM 40 So if I owned a company and it was going down the tubes, and the
41 employees came to me and said, "Oh, I want a raise," could you
42 possibly do that?

43
44 What planet are you people on thinking that this is okay? This is
45 ridiculous. To even consider this is obscene, is an affront to the
46 taxpayers. It's insane. You know, I would love to pay them
47 \$400,000 a year, but you aren't in touch with reality. No one here
48 is in touch with reality, except maybe Legislator Piccirillo.

12:38PM 50 I just -- I was just at a blind shop where the guy was crying in
51 his office, because 35 years he built this and he's going to go
52 bankrupt. And we're giving people raises. It's obscene.

53
54 I will not support this, and I will fight vigorously. And I will
55 promote any way I can. Any of these raises that we've given over
56 the few years, I've been saying from the beginning this is

1 happening, this is going to come, and here it is. So, obviously, I
2 love you guys, I'd love to give you a raise, but I would have to be
3 insane to give you a raise. Thank you.

4
5 **P.O. CALARCO:**

6 Thank you, Legislator Trotta. Legislator Kennedy.

7
8 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

9 Oh, I get to follow Rob, yay.

10
11 **P.O. CALARCO:**

12 You had your hand up.

13
14 (**Laughter**)

15
16 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

17 Okay. While everything Rob said is probably close to reality, I
18 think that this is probably one of the most conservative writings
19 that I have seen in the County of Suffolk -- in Suffolk in a lot of
20 years. I want to commend you for keeping full-time down below 2%.
21 That's quite unusual. The rest of the things in here are really
22 pretty good.

23
24 I will support this, because I supported all the others. And I
25 will tell you the same thing I told all the others. Should we fall
26 into -- there's a specific name for a municipal bankruptcy, which I
27 can't remember. Should we fall under that, which there is a large
28 possibility that that could happen, then this will be for naught.
29 I just want you to be aware this will be done for. I told
30 everybody else the same thing from way, way back, and -- but I just
31 do want to commend you for being reasonable people in here. After
32 all, you bring money into the County. Your education of our
33 students brings money in, so we have to be thankful for that.
34 That's it. Good luck.

35
36 **P.O. CALARCO:**

37 Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. Legislator Piccirillo.

38
39 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to thank the people at the
41 College for trying to come up with this in this time, but,
42 unfortunately, we have this back and forth where people think this
43 is two sides of the aisle. I see one big aisle here. There's only
44 two of us that are actually talking about the truth. The party's
45 over. The music stopped, nobody has a chair. And just yesterday
46 we saw a bill to rob another 44 million from the Sewer Fund. We
47 already got sued for that. We're taking money out funds for clean
48 water to pay salaries.

49
50 We cannot give raises right now. The taxpayers can't even afford
51 food, and we're talking about giving raises? I just can't even
52 believe this is up for discussion. This should have been pulled
53 and you should have went back to the table. It's bad timing on
54 your part. It's not you. I don't blame you for putting your
55 budget together, for putting this contract together, but the time
56 is what the time is. Let's get back to table and figure out what

1 we're going to have to do to make sure that we could provide
2 services, not raise everybody's taxes through the roof, and give
3 out raises in a time where we're facing 20% unemployment.

4
5 I mean, this is -- the definition of insanity is doing the same
6 thing over and over again and expecting a different result. I
7 cannot support this. I will not support raises for anyone until we
8 right this fiscal ship, and we have our fiduciary responsibility to
9 the taxpayers to do so. So I can't support this. And with that, I
yield back, Mr. Chair.

12:42PM

11
12 **P.O. CALARCO:**

13 Thank you, Mr. Piccirillo. Legislator Richberg.

14
15 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

16 Hi, everybody. How are you doing? Thank you for your work. So my
17 first question is really to BRO. So, Lance or Benny, how much is
18 our share of the -- in running the Community College? Like what --
19 I know we're supposed to be 33, 33, 33, but what's our share? Like
how much are we paying every year, roughly?

12:43PM

21
22 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

23 Benny, do you have that number?

24
25 **MR. PERNICE:**

26 Yeah. So it's not a straightforward calculation as far as those
27 percentages go. And because the College is a full-opportunity
28 college, meaning they allow everyone that applies to go there, it's
29 not third, a third, a third. It's -- the State's supposed to pick
up 40%. Then the student share is -- is still a third, and the
County's share is twenty -- I want to say 26 or 27, something
around there. But there's a lot of things that go into that
formula that make it kind of difficult to explain as far as -- for
instance, when the College uses its own reserve fund, that counts
as part of the County's share. There's a lot of --

12:43PM

36
37 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

38 Oh, really?

39
40 **MR. PERNICE:**

41 There's a lot of -- a lot of the things that the students pay are
42 not included in the student's share. So it's a -- it's a weird
43 formula, but the County pays forty-something million in --

12:44PM

44
45 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

46 Forty million?

47
48 **MR. PERNICE:**

49 It's -- no, it's north of 45, but it's --

50
51 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

52 Okay.

53
54 **MR. PERNICE:**

55 -- out of direct --

1 **LEG. RICHBERG:**
2 So 45 million. And how much does the State, roughly, put in?

3
4 **MR. PERNICE:**
5 I believe it's 50-something.

6
7 **LEG. RICHBERG:**
8 Okay, fifty. And then the students?

9
10 **MR. PERNICE:**
11 I couldn't tell you off the top of my head. Again, the number that
12 would be reported in that typical ratio you're talking about really
13 has nothing to do with what the students pay.

14
15 **LEG. RICHBERG:**
16 Okay. But just is it more than 50 million or less than 50 million?

17
18 **MR. PERNICE:**
19 Oh, definitely more.

12:44PM 20
21 **LEG. RICHBERG:**
22 More than 50 million. All right. So 60 million, roughly?

23
24 **MR. PERNICE:**
25 I don't have it in front of me. And, unfortunately, in order to do
26 this, I can't have my County computer in front of me.

27
28 **LEG. RICHBERG:**
29 Okay, no problem. All right. So let's -- so -- and in terms of
12:44PM 30 the percentage, so 45, 50 is from -- 45 from the County, 50 from
31 the State. So if we're coming up --

32
33 **MR. PERNICE:**
34 Again, I'm speaking round numbers. I don't know. I can't recall
35 off the top of my head.

36
37 **LEG. RICHBERG:**
38 Right, ballpark, that's fine. I understand. It's COVID, we all
39 have to adapt, it's not a problem. So we're talking about
12:45PM 40 \$95 million between the County and the State to get this -- to move
41 the school forward. And I think the budget for the Community
42 College is what, \$225 million, Dante?

43
44 **MR. MORELLI:**
45 (Nodded yes)

46
47 **LEG. RICHBERG:**
48 I see a lot of shaking heads, so I do pay attention.

49
12:45PM 50 **MR. MORELLI:**
51 Yeah. My understanding, that's approximately what it is. We have
52 found over the last couple of years the student share has gone up
53 well over 50%. Currently, last year, it was a 54% cost of the
54 students.

1 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

2 Right, that's what I thought. I couldn't remember what the number
3 was, so thank you, Dante. So the students are paying half of
4 whatever comes out. So if the -- in some respects, we could make
5 the argument that we are -- instead of that 2.5 or 1.5%, we're only
6 responsible for half of that, right, between us and the State?
7 Benny or Lance?

8
9 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

10 (Nodded yes)

11
12 **MR. PERNICE:**

13 Well, so that the County contribution is a matter of policy, so
14 it's not supposed to decrease. Our State aid could be in jeopardy,
15 but, theoretically, you can approve this contract and not
16 contribute anymore County funding.

17
18 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

19 Okay. So thank you very much, because I just wanted those round
20 numbers. And so I want to thank, you know, the Faculty
21 Association, the Administration, the Community College for coming
22 together and doing a shorter term contract. I can remember hearing
23 my colleagues, especially those who aren't participating, I guess,
24 asking for shorter term for contracts, you know, saying doing these
25 eight-year contracts is unreasonable, we need to be smarter, we
26 need to be better, we need to be doing this, we need to be doing
27 that. And so now we have a three-year contract and now we're still
28 ridiculous. So I don't know where -- how you guys can balance the
29 knife if you're doing a shorter term contract to sort of give us
30 some flexibility and that's still wrong, but if you're giving us a
31 10-year contract, that's wrong, too.

32
33 But, in my opinion, I like -- I see your perspective on this.
34 You've got a new president coming in. Hopefully, she or he has the
35 ability to negotiate a contract for another term and get you folks
36 moving. My next -- I think I yield my time. Thank you.

37
38 **P.O. CALARCO:**

39 Thank you, Legislator Richberg. Legislator Gonzalez.

40
41 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

42 Yeah. So, Dante, and everyone at the College, this contract that
43 I'm seeing here, it's funny, because even across the country, a lot
44 of the raises that are coming in are above 2%. So, structurally,
45 you guys did a phenomenal job. And like Legislator Kennedy said,
46 to keep the full-time faculty wages under the 2% is something
47 extraordinary to me, which I think is well done by both parts.

48
49 Looking at the adjunct wage increases at 2, 2 1/2 and 2 1/2, again,
50 nationally, it looks like is pretty much steady. The -- everything
51 that I look at this particular contract here, the small increase in
52 benefit funds, and, you know, I think it's -- it was very well
53 made. I know it took a little longer than expected, but there was
54 give and take, and I find that great. And looking at the increases
55 for the adjunct, also, I think would be -- if I'm not mistaken, it
56 would be less, correct, Dante, on this particular contract here,

1 you would be hiring less?

2

3 **MR. MORELLI:**

4 As -- well, we have a -- 75% of the faculty at the College are
5 adjuncts, actually. So there are quite a few available to teach
6 classes and take on various assignments, whether they're
7 instructional classroom assignments or noninstructional
8 assignments. So I don't anticipate, and perhaps maybe Angelica
9 would want to chime in here, a massive hiring of new adjuncts,
10 because we have so many on our seniority lists.

12:49PM

11

12 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

13 Correct. And then looking at the online classes, which, you know,
14 out of everything that's negative comes -- there's something
15 positive that we can definitely look into this thing. I think this
16 is phenomenal as well. Exactly what Jason said, I see the numbers
17 in there and how we are dividing this as a pretty smart contract
18 from both part. We're giving and they take. And I believe there
19 was a 90% approval from membership, Dante?

12:50PM

20

21 **MR. PETERMAN:**

22 Yes.

23

24 **MR. MORELLI:**

25 Yes, that's correct. It was like 89.6% voted in favor of the
26 contract from our membership.

27

28 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

29 Okay. So that's, you know, rounding it up 90%. When you have a
30 90% approval by its membership I think that's phenomenal. Great
31 job by everyone. I will be approving this on my part. So thank
32 you.

12:50PM

33

34

35 **P.O. CALARCO:**

36 Thank you, Legislator Gonzalez. Legislator Piccirillo.

37

38 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, to Budget Review, please. Hey,
40 Lance.

12:51PM

41

42 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

43 Yeah, sure.

44

45 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

46 Lance, what is our ability to pay any of these contracts that we've
47 currently got ourselves involved in?

48

49 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

50 Well, I think the bigger question is what is our ability to pay for
51 County Government under these circumstances where we're facing a
52 \$350 million shortfall.

12:51PM

53

54

55 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

56 Even better.

57

58

59

60

1 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

2 You know, that's -- so to single out one particular --

3
4 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

5 No, I'm not singling out, just for the topic of this conversation.

6
7 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

8 Well, we -- you know, we all know, you know -- you know, we did a
9 baseline projection of what the shortfall is for 2020 and it's --
10 you know, it's -- sales tax is center to our problem. Sales tax is
11 down significantly. And, you know, our baseline was a \$310 million
12 shortfall. You know, that number can increase as the economy is
13 closed longer, and it looks like Suffolk County, you know, won't be
14 fully open until summer or September.

15
16 You know, we're trying to do projections in realtime. We're doing
17 projections without history, and we don't know what the future is.
18 So I don't like throwing numbers out there, because I don't want to
19 be an alarmist, but we're dealing with a significant budget problem
20 that New York State and this country hasn't faced in my lifetime,
21 and I'm a little older than you. So --

22
23 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

24 Just a little bit.

25
26 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

27 Yeah, just a -- just a bit. But --

28
29 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

30 He's so bad.

31
32 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

33 -- good questions, but I don't like to tie them to employees or to
34 contracts or -- you know, it's greater than the sum of the
35 individual parts.

36
37 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

38 Sure. I just -- back to our fiduciary responsibility. If this
39 body continues doing what they're doing, contract after contract,
40 borrowing bill after borrowing bill, we're going to have no choice
41 but to call for a Financial Control Board, because no one here, no
42 one, wants to take the bull by the horns and show bold leadership
43 and say we cannot continue to do this. This has nothing to do with
44 the College, they just have bad timing right now coming in. We
45 need a Financial Control Board in to handcuff us, because we can't
46 make any decisions. You want to know why we can't make those
47 decisions? Because it's all about campaign contributions and who
48 are they going to endorse in the 2021 elections. That's all this
49 is about, and I know firsthand what it's about.

50
51 Maybe not for everyone, but for a lot of members of this body, we
52 have totally, totally turned our back on the taxpayers. We have
53 bankrupted this County, and we have made taxpayers flee for North
54 Carolina and South Carolina and Florida, because we can't do the
55 right thing. We need a total change of policy going here on in.
56 So I am going -- if this contract is approved, I have no choice but

1 to call for a Financial Control Board, and I hope my colleagues
2 will join me. I yield back.

3
4 **P.O. CALARCO:**

5 Thank you, Legislator Piccirillo. Legislator Berland.

6
7 **LEG. BERLAND:**

8 Oh, thanks, okay.

9
10 (**Laughter**)

11
12 I will agree with one thing, that timing is really, you know, not
13 opportune, clearly. But that being said, you know, not only --
14 and, I mean, I'm an adjunct professor at Hofstra Law, so I
15 understand, you know, what adjunct professors have to go through,
16 and especially in this environment.

17
18 And I applaud the College for everything it's doing to increase the
19 number of students who can, you know, take classes virtually come
12:54PM 20 the Fall, and increase those, you know, the numbers for that,
21 because, you know, from what I'm hearing from my constituents with
22 their children who were planning on going to a college away, you
23 know, they're deferring. They're not going and they're looking for
24 alternatives, and the alternative they're going to look for is
25 Suffolk Community College, and they're going to look for those
26 online classes. And, you know, though -- so I think the College
27 may luck out in the end and actually be one of the institutions
28 that makes more money as a result of this, because kids are going
29 look to stay home, they're going to look to continue their
12:55PM 30 education, and they're going to look to those institutions that are
31 offering that. And so I applaud the College for forward-thinking,
32 and for, you know, doing the right thing.

33
34 And I am going to, you know, support this contract. I -- you know,
35 I think it's important that we do that at this time, and that we --
36 you know, we show that we support a major institution in our
37 County. And it's in my district, so I'm with you, and it has
38 nothing to do with, you know, endorsements or anything else.

39
12:55PM 40 In all due respect, Legislator Piccirillo, I don't think this is
41 the time to throw that kind of stuff out, because I don't think any
42 of us are thinking about, you know, endorsements and re-elections.
43 We're thinking about how to get out of our houses and how to
44 educate our children. And I think that, you know, we need to
45 concentrate on that now and try to work together to make that
46 happen. So you have my support 100%. Thank you.

47
48 **P.O. CALARCO:**

49 Thank you, Legislator Berland. Legislator Trotta.

12:56PM 50
51 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

52 You're on mute, Rob.

53
54 **P.O. CALARCO:**

55 It's a good thing.

(**Laughter**)

1
2
3 **LEG. TROTTA:**

4 Can you hear me now? Look, I just want to echo, the College is
5 great. I'd love to give everyone \$400,000 a year, but,
6 unfortunately, Republicans, Democrats alike, have lost sight of
7 reality. And this is just a sinking ship and you people are
8 throwing cement blocks on it. It boggles my mind, that maybe you
9 guys have been in government so long. I know Legislator McCaffrey,
10 I don't think his members are making what they were making in 2008.
11 It's just obscene to me, it's fiscally irresponsible. And I
12 applaud Legislator Piccirillo's call for a Financial Control Board,
13 because, quite honestly, we need one. I've never thought more. I
14 always thought we did, but now I really believe that you people
15 have lost all sight of reality. Very nice people, but totally
16 shot. Thank you.

17
18 (**Laughter**)

19
20 **P.O. CALARCO:**

21 Thank you, Legislator Trotta. Legislator McCaffrey.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

24 Thank you. I just have a question. Do we have anymore outstanding
25 contracts that are left to be --

26
27 **P.O. CALARCO:**

28 I believe this is the last one. Jen, do you want to answer that?
29 Are there any other contracts with any bargaining units open that
30 have not been -- that are coming due as well?

31
32 **MS. MCNAMARA:**

33 Yeah. I believe we have not yet settled the Investigators, the
34 District Attorney Investigators. Angelica, do we have anymore at
35 the College?

36
37 **MS. RIVERA:**

38 Yes, we have --

39
40 **MS. MCNAMARA:**

41 We have one, right?

42
43 **MS. RIVERA:**

44 We have the Administrative Offices. The Administrator's contract
45 hasn't been --

46
47 **MS. MCNAMARA:**

48 There's a couple, I think. Mostly done, but there's a couple
49 outstanding.

50
51 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**

52 Okay. All right. Thank you. And I'll just reiterate my support
53 for this agreement, which is not tied to any campaign
54 contributions, but to this institution, which I think provides good
55 education to our students who need it the most. Thank you.

1 **P.O. CALARCO:**

2 Thank you, Legislator McCaffrey. Legislator Kennedy.

3
4 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

5 This Union contract is not going to bust the County. If anything
6 busts the County it's what was done for the last eight years. By
7 not supporting our educators, what kind of a message are we
8 sending? This is the -- one of the most conservative contracts
9 that I've seen in the County in a lot of years. These are the good
10 guys, we're punishing the good children.

12:58PM

11
12 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

13 Unbelievable.

14
15 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

16 We have to learn who exactly we have to take from. I still support
17 it. I just -- I don't think this makes us need a control board by
18 passing this, I sincerely do not.

12:59PM

19
20 **P.O. CALARCO:**

21 Okay. Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. Legislator Gonzalez.

22
23 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

24 Yeah. I'm -- listen, I'm going to piggyback on what Legislator
25 Susan Berland had said and Kevin McCaffrey had said about this.
26 This has nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing to do with any
27 campaign contributions. I don't -- I don't understand why that is
28 the first thing that comes out, it's all about the campaign
29 contributions. Let me tell you something, under the circumstances
30 today, that is the furthest thing from my mind.

12:59PM

31
32 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

33 Yeah.

34
35 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

36 The furthest thing from my mind. I have people that are starving.
37 I got people that are out of work for all this -- all this time. I
38 have students today that I am afraid are going to not go to the
39 university, because now they have to work with their parents in
40 order to provide for their families. So that is the farthest from
41 the truth. I have students that are -- that are supposed to be
42 going to Suffolk County Community College. I got students that are
43 supposed to be going there to the Grant Campus, because a good
44 majority of them are coming from my district. And they're telling
45 me, "I can't do this, because my father isn't working, my mother
46 isn't working, and now I have to try to do something to bring in
47 money so that we can eat." So to come out and say that it's just
48 -- that's irresponsible.

12:59PM

49
50 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

51 What does that -- what does that have to do with going to school?

52
53 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

54 That is irresponsible.

01:00PM

1 **P.O. CALARCO:**

2 Legislator Piccirillo, let him finish.

3
4 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

5 It is irresponsible of saying that we -- it's all about the
6 campaign. Come on, man. We're all working in our district to make
7 the lives of our elderly, of those people that are unemployed, of
8 those people in the hospitals, of those -- that's what we're
9 worrying about. That's what we're worrying about. And we're going
10 to throw something in the air, then, just to create what, havoc?
11 No, that's not what we're doing. Okay?

12
13 I got individuals, man, that need now to work. And you know what,
14 this contract is probably going to allow them to continue to study,
15 okay? Reward these kids that have studied for the last 12, 13
16 years, and at least they could take their courses online, which is
17 what they're trying to do. One-point-six percent? Are you
18 kidding? Two, 2 1/2, 2 1/2? Some chump change on their medical
19 that they're paying into anyway? Come on, stop using that. Let's
20 go someplace else. Accuse me of doing something else, but
21 campaign? Dude, I don't have to run until next year. The only
22 thing I got to worry about now is to make sure that these people
23 get enough masks, that these people get enough gloves, that they
24 get a plate to eat.

25
26 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

27 Point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is this a filibuster?

28
29 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

30 What filibuster? No.

31
32 **P.O. CALARCO:**

33 All right, guys. All right, guys, please.

34
35 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

36 This is my opinion.

37
38 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

39 Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

40
41 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

42 Okay? This is my opinion.

43
44 **P.O. CALARCO:**

45 Listen, you all have the --

46
47 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

48 Just like everybody else had a chance, I have the chance to say
49 what I have to say.

50
51 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

52 Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

53
54 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

55 If it hurts you, that's another problem. You want to take it
56 personal, that's another problem.

1 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

2 Point of order.

3
4 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

5 I'm speaking about my district and about what this contract is
6 going to do.

7
8 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

9 Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

01:02PM 10

11 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

12 That's the end of it.

13
14 **P.O. CALARCO:**

15 All right, guys. Guys, let's -- let's focus on the contract.
16 We're here to ask questions about the contract, and that's the
17 issue that we have before us. Legislator Gonzalez, do you have
18 anything else you want to add about the contract?

01:02PM 19

20 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

21 No, I don't have anything else.

22
23 **P.O. CALARCO:**

24 Thank you very much, Legislator Gonzalez. Legislator Piccirillo,
25 again, the rule goes both ways. You certainly lodged some
26 allegations against some of the colleagues, so please keep your
27 questions to the contract and the issue at hand.

28
29 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

01:03PM 30

31 Sure. Thank you, Mr. Chair, appreciate you yielding. I don't -- I
32 don't see how we equate money and support. I heard Legislator
33 Kennedy say, "Well, I'll support this, but if things go bad, then
34 we know what's going to happen." That's like jumping off a bridge
35 and somebody shooting you. We don't have any money left. It's
36 over, the party is over. We should be in emergency session
37 deciding what we're going to pay for and what we're not going to
38 pay for. And to think that, oh, we're just going to give out
39 raises, that just goes contrary to everything that Legislator
40 Gonzalez just said. We're raising taxes to pay for contracts with
41 people who are out of work. They can't afford to pay. They can't
42 afford to buy groceries, masks, go to the doctor. That's all
43 related to what we do as County, State and Federal Government.

01:03PM 40

44 We must pause. I think we need to talk, all 18 of us. I know we
45 haven't done that yet, but it needs to be done. We need to come up
46 with a spending plan that protects our County employees and
47 protects the taxpayer, and until we do that, I can't support any of
48 this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49
50 **P.O. CALARCO:**

01:04PM 50

51 Thank you, Legislator Piccirillo. All right. I haven't weighed in
52 yet, so let me just -- I know that there are a lot of concerns out
53 there, and, certainly, the timing for the Faculty Association is
54 less than ideal. The reality is, is they did negotiate this
55 contract several months ago. They agreed to wait to bring it over
56 until the AME contract for the College was brought over. We did

1 that two months ago and failed to do the Faculty Association's
2 contract. So they should not be held in penalty for being patient.

3
4 They are also bringing us a contract that I think is eminently
5 fair. It is not seeking any kind of large contributions. And in
6 some ways it is timely, given the crisis, and given that education
7 is moving more and more into an online platform, and, in fact, they
8 have completely finished this year in an online platform. To be
9 offering concessions there so that we can educate more students in
01:05PM 10 that platform with using fewer faculty is certainly, I think, a big
11 give-back to the College, especially given the times that we're in.
12

13 The County's contribution here is -- I think we're about 40
14 million. Is that accurate, BRO? I think that's what we're at this
15 year.
16

17 **MR. PERNICE:**
18 It's about 45.
19

01:05PM 20 **P.O. CALARCO:**
21 Okay. But that's a -- that's a negotiated rate that we do, and
22 it's not tied to this contract. The College has its own
23 independence from us. In fact, our budget -- when we approve their
24 budget as an up or down vote, that's because of their autonomy that
25 they are granted. So it's their responsibility to determine their
26 budget and how they will accommodate these salaries accordingly.
27 And it doesn't mean the County is committed in any way to
28 increasing our contribution this year.
29

01:06PM 30 What's interesting about a Community College is they're actually in
31 the opposite relation to the economy than a lot of other entities.
32 And as the economy falters, the community colleges actually see
33 their numbers increase, because more and more people are seeking an
34 education that's more affordable. So students coming out of high
35 school choose the Community College as an option to get started
36 before they go on to a four-year college that's going to cost a lot
37 more.
38

01:06PM 39 And a lot of residents who are looking to reinvent themselves go to
40 the Community College to find those opportunities, and they start
41 seeing their student enrollments rise. And that's good for the
42 College, not just because it's good to educate more students, but
43 their State Aid is a full-time equivalency. So they're getting
44 money from the State based on how many full-time students they have
45 at the College. And as they see those numbers rise, they start
46 getting more of the dollars in from the State, and that helps them
47 provide their programming, and they provide a whole verse set of
48 programming that is tougher and tougher to provide as student
49 populations decrease.
50

01:07PM 51 This contract was actually negotiated in mind of the financial
52 challenges the College was facing at the time, and I think that
53 they're going to actually start seeing their financial situation
54 improve over the next year as their student population increases,
55 which means increased tuition and increased State Aid. Regardless
56 what the State does, it will probably result in increased State

1 Aid.

2
3 So I think that they are well positioned. I think that we have to
4 maintain our commitment to the Community College, and that also
5 means maintaining a commitment to the employees who provide that
6 education in the Faculty Association.

7
8 So I'm more than comfortable supporting this contract, I think it's
9 very fair. And, certainly, as the year goes on and we have to
01:07PM 10 figure out what the Federal Government is or isn't doing to help
11 the counties and the State and everybody else deal with the
12 national crisis, we will have to, you know, reevaluate everything
13 and anything as we move forward. But the Community College is --
14 really, this is their contract with their employees, it's their
15 budget to figure out, and we are just committed to the \$45 million
16 that is in the budget from us this year that we agreed to.

17
18 So with that, I don't think we have anybody else. So we have a --
19 I believe we have a motion and a second, do we not, Madam Clerk?

01:08PM 20
21 **MS. ELLIS:**
22 Yes, we do.

23
24 **P.O. CALARCO:**
25 Okay. So if we can have a roll call, please.

26
27 *(*Roll Call By Amy Ellis - Clerk of the Legislature*)*

28
29 **CHAIRMAN MC CAFFREY:**
01:08PM 30 Yes.

31
32 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**
33 Yes.

34
35 **D.P.O. HAHN:**
36 Yes.

37
38 **LEG. KENNEDY:**
39 Yes.

01:08PM 40
41 **LEG. RICHBERG:**
42 Yes.

43
44 **LEG. BERLAND:**
45 Yes.

46
47 **P.O. CALARCO:**
48 Yes.

49
01:08PM 50 **MS. ELLIS:**
51 *Seven. (Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)*

52
53 **P.O. CALARCO:**
54 Okay, it is approved. I have no other items on the agenda for this
55 afternoon. So with that, thank you to everyone from the Community
56 College and the Faculty Association for coming. I think we will

1 make sure you're able to be here on Tuesday virtually as well,
2 because I'm sure there'll be more questions at that time, and --
3 but congratulations on this first step forward. And thank you,
4 Jen McNamara, as well, from Labor Relations, for being with us
5 today. All right. With that, we have nothing else, so we are
6 adjourned. Thank you, everyone.

7
8 *(*The meeting was adjourned at one 1:09 p.m.*)*
9

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