DRAFT

AGENDA
STUDY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
(734) 242-7300, Ext. 4311

Monroe County Community College
La-Z-Boy Center
The Board of Trustees Room. Z-203
1555 S. Raisinville Rd
Monroe, MI 48161
5:30 p.m., June 9, 2025

Present: Julie M. Edwards; Aaron N. Mason; Mary Kay Thayer; Kristy Svatek Whitson

Not Present: Lynette M. Dowler, Nicole R. Goodman, Linda M. Roberts

Also Present: Ryan Bayer, Scott Behrens, Joshua Myers, Kojo Quartey, Frank Thomas, Quri Wygonik, John Wyrabkiewicz; Grace Yackee, Penny Dorcey (secretary)

1. Chair Mason called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is for a pre-discussion on the 2025-2026 budget. No votes will be taken. The regular agenda is suspended for this meeting.

2. 2025-2026 Budget Discussion
   Chair Mason restated that the purpose of the meeting is for pre discussion on the 2025/2026 budget. No votes will be taken. The regular agenda is suspended for this meeting. Mr. Mason commented that the budget has to be submitted in June, and past experience has been such that we try to tackle too much in our June meeting at the end of the month; therefore, we have this study meeting earlier in the month to give a snapshot of where the upcoming budget stands at this point in time. There could be some tweaks and changes in the final budget, but this is authority is generally delegated to the President and his staff. They prepare the budget for the next year. The Board asks questions that better inform them. Mr. Mason explained that he delegates authority to the President and his staff, they prepare the budget for the next year, the Board asks question to get informed. We do not start from scratch or recreate the budget, or throw something shocking and new into the next meeting. Hopefully, all Trustees have had discussions with President Quartey in their one-on-one sessions, or in this meeting where we get to ask questions about where he is navigating the College and navigating his relationship with us as a Board. What exists in this room is the Board as a whole and President Quartey as an employee, and he is presenting this information through himself and his staff.

3. President Quartey announced that he was in Lansing this past Thursday and Friday and that the Board will see some state appropriations numbers in the presentation based on the governor's recommendation. The Senate also has a recommendation, but the House is nowhere close. There is a battle raging and Lansing and they are hoping to have the budget resolved by July 1st; however, he alerted the Board that it appears it could go as long as sometime in September without a resolution from the House. Next, he informed the Board that if there is time after the main part of the budget, he would like to take some time to go over his millage renewal plan with the Board, as it relates to the upcoming budget. Dr. Quartey sent a copy of the plan to the Trustees last week so they could take a look at it ahead of time. He turned the floor over to Curtis Creagh, Vice President of Finance and Administration, with support from Frank Thomas, Director of Financial Services., to present the budget discussion.

4. Curtis Creagh, Vice President of Finance and Administration, went over the various funds in the budget. The Largest fund is the General Fund (01) which is where the operating funds are housed. This fund is used to record and report transactions related to academic and instructional programs and their administration.

   Mr. Creagh noted that he is about to retire at the end of June and is happy to be able to discuss the budget with the Board. The information he and Frank Thomas, Director of Financial Services, are presenting is the culmination of many of hours and much time across campus. There are still some components that, even at this late date, the budget team is still putting together, which is typical for this time of year.

Mr. Creagh remarked that to begin the budget building, the team puts together all the various funds exist to record particular special functions of the college. The **General Fund** (01), which is the largest fund, it is all about the day-to-day operations of the college. Next, the **Retirement Designated Fund** (02), includes monies the College receives from the State. The **Designated Technology Fund** (20), records the funds for technology fees and student related software, hardware, and equipment. The **Auxiliary Fund** (31, 33, 35) is used to account for transactions of those activities that deliver products or perform services to students, the community, the staff or those that support educational programs, such as the bookstore, food service, childcare, and campus/community events. **Restricted Funds** (40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47) account for federal funds such as the Pell Grant, SEOG, and Title III. The **Student Loan Fund** (59) was a fund that was used to handle loans out to students, but it is a very small fund right now and stagnant ($20,000).

5. The **Endowment Fund** (61, 62) also has some funds which includes long-term investment earnings. Next, the **Unexpended Plan Fund** (72) accounts for the monies that the College uses to handle interest on the HVAC system. The **Maintenance and Replacement Fund** (80), accounts for projects on campus that are above a certain figure. The **Maintenance and Improvement Fund** (81), accounts for the millage monies and expenditures. The **Physical Properties Fund** (89), records the College's assets such as buildings and equipment. This is also where we record our depreciation.

6. Mr. Creagh explained that the **General Fund** has four main categories: **Tuition and Fees**, **Property Taxes**, **State Appropriations**, and **Other** funds. Frank Thomas, Director of Financial Services, took over the next presentation, showing the Board a slide (#5) from the College's data research team that Quri Wygonik heads up. The slide shows that enrollment headcount for fall, winter, spring, and summer going back to 2018. Our registration fee is $40 and is based on headcount. Each person pays a registration fee. Slide six shows billable contact hours. The rest of tuition and fees are based on billable contact hours. Billable contact hours are shown on the left of the chart. As you move to the right, the gold line turns to purple, showing show what we are estimating for the upcoming academic year (25/26). This is what we are basing the 25/26 tuition and fees on. Mr. Thomas moved to slide seven, which shows that winter and fall are trending up. Slide eight shows the same upward trend for summer. Conservatively looking, summer 2024 shows a big jump; however, we cannot base tuition on one semester. Dr. Quartey noted that Dr. Behrens indicated that enrollment jumped by 4 percent that semester. Dr, Behrens attribute the jump to many good people across the campus are doing good work.

   Mr. Thomas went to slide number eight, Tuition Calculations. The slide features tuition itself without the fees (registration fees, technology fees and Lifelong Learning fees). Mr. Creagh and Mr. Thomas each used two different methods, and if the results are close, they feel they are on the right track. They then take the actual number of billable hours and break it down by residency status and the actual totals. Then they take the tuition amounts and multiply that by the billable hours, to come up with the dollar amount they should be receiving. The black number ($7,307,265.59) is what was budgeted to be received base on these calculations, and the green number ($7,524,099.00) is what was actually received, which is better than anticipated. The next step is to take those numbers and build on 25/26. Then then take the purple numbers (totals) and break them down based on prior terms to determine the percentage of residency students in the fall and winter, and what are the percentages of out-of-state and out-of-county students. Beyond the actual numbers for this year, there are three more years of actual numbers. Next, they take those averages, break the numbers up, and then take the approved tuition rates and calculate those out to come up with the amount the College should be receiving. This year, we received more than was anticipated. In prior years we have received less. It depends on whether they took loans, have they paid, did they drop? There are multiple factors that go into, did we collect? Mr. Thomas tries try to come up with a factor based on the actuals to get close to what we should receive. This will give us the budget number that we are likely going to be looking at based on this calculation.

7. Mr. Creagh moved to the next slide (11), **Tuition and Fees**. He noted that the budget team has been watching the numbers monthly to see how they are doing, so this is actual data, strictly on the credit tuition, non-credit revenues, and the credit fees for looking at the proposed budget versus the actual as of May 31st. He called attention to the blue column on the slide, which shows where we are right now budget and it gives a history of the **Tuition and Fees** from 2022 until the present.

8. Mr. Creagh stated that it is good to see that trend in our actuals. In 2024, we were at $6.7 million, and in 2025 we are at 7.5 million. For scholarship allowances we have put in $400,000, but we have **Other** revenues and other state monies that might allow us not to

have to use that. So, to a degree that the operating fund does not have to use those scholarship allowances because they are coming in from state funding or some other kind of funding and that will be the less monies that that we that we are using to operate.

9. Mr. Creagh went on to **Property Taxes**, showing a slide (12) that gave information from 2021 through 2025. He noted that there are 19 jurisdictions. The chart shows what those jurisdictions have done over the years. The four highest places are Bedford Township, Frenchtown Charter Township, The City of Monroe, and Monroe Charter Township. Those are taxable jurisdictions that help support this College with their property tax revenues. When looking at that taxable core, we see that two of them the College: Fermi and the DTE coal plant. The slide shows Fermi in blue and DTE in orange from 2018 to 2025. The gray bar represents the total of the two. The slide 15, shows several different categories within Property Taxes to help us break that fund down further, **property tax revenue**, **industrial facilities**, **tax incremental finance authorities** (TIFA), **local tax adjustments**, and **interest and penalties**. The budget to actual gives a snapshot of where we are as of May 31, 2025, showing that the taxable values are increasing. The budget team gets that information from Form 4028 and it gives us the information to complete the Form 4029 each year so that the can take those taxable values. This is where our millage rates come from.

10. Mr. Creagh explained the next slide shows our two operating rates, and then the facilities rate, which is not in perpetuity, but has to be renewed. That enters into to what we do with our property taxes. When the funds come in two types, one for the operating fund and one for the millage fund. Mr. Thomas pointed out that, back on the previous slide in the green area, we can see that the taxable values have been increasing over the last couple of years and there have been talks of closing the DTE coal plant and Fermi going down. However, in the townships, the taxable values have increased over time to make up for that loss. Looking at the four major townships (shown two slides back, slide 14), even with the loss of Fermi and the coal plant, taxable values in these townships are still increasing and the new businesses building up on Telegraph Road and Dixie Highway in Frenchtown Township, is unbelievable. Chair Mason explained that if you take average home and look at their taxable value compared to the actual value, there is a 40 percent gap. What happens is basically, the people are being taxed because of proposal A, and they are being taxed at much lower rate than the actual value of their actual house. So, as people move over time, there is a natural progression upward that is higher than the rate of inflation, as long as people are moving and selling. That is some of the math behind these increases. It is not all industry and business. There is a lot of residential value that is not being taxed right now and that is where some of this comes from. Mr. Mason said that in the banking industry there used to be presentation in the community every year on type of information and housing developments, that is a big factor impacting a lot of municipalities. So, this is offsetting the Fermi decline. Even without them doing anything extraordinary, their natural progression downward was about 5 percent a year. Ms. Thayer commented that with the acceptance of nuclear and coal, and if that continues, it will to help the county. Mr. Thomas added that, as shown over the recent years the decline is down. To that point, we have experienced the Headlee rollback since well before 2014 (more than 11 years). Slide 16 shows the taxable amount that we are not collecting by not collecting the full millage rate per year. The problem with that is we are limited to the rate of inflation or 5 percent, whichever is less, as to how much the taxable value can increase, which then determines how much revenue we receive. So, as Chair Mason was saying, if a house is uncapped because it sells, and it doubles in value, we do not get that double value, we only receive 5 percent or the inflation rate, whichever is less. For example, the value can drop 200 percent, but we do not get 200 percent back when it goes back up, which takes a long time. President Quartey commented on the closure of the Port Sheldon coal plant on the west side of the state that was supposed to close, but then the Department of Energy stepped in and asked them not to close the plant. So, some are presuming that the same is going to happen with our coal plant, but we do not know that for sure, so we will see.

11. Moving on to **State Appropriations** (slide 18), Mr. Creagh explained that, as our President already mentioned, we have the governor's budget, the House budget is still up in the air, and we have the Senate’s budget. This slide, shows the difference between last year and this year 4 percent. When you are looking at the base, the Indian tuition waiver plus the performance funding, is a smaller piece of the budget, and there are various reports that the College is required to submit, such as the Adherence to Best Practices report. This is one of the things that helps the College keep that performance funding, which ensures that the College is doing the things it is supposed to do. Dr. Quartey explained that the state has a formula that they use, and in a discussion with some of his cabinet this morning about how since 2022, MCCC’s completion rate is going up by 9 percent. For PELL students it has gone up by 11 percent in the last three years. That has been a market improvement. That

helps with performance funding also, because your numbers are looking good. Dr. Wygonik commented that those were the 150 percent that would be a three-year completion, which would be the graduation rate. Completion in her office is inclusive of transfer, which is calculated separately. Dr. Wygonik has provided this information to the President. If the Board would like to see the report, her office is happy to share it with them.

12. Mr. Creagh moved onto **Other Revenues** (slide 20), which is comprised of cost recovery, interest, fines, fees, and charges (credit card fees, etc.). The College has a couple of farms that it leases that were renewed this year. Also included are dues, events, and miscellaneous revenue. Miscellaneous revenues are at $2.9 million, which is a huge jump. That is due to the Employee Retention Credit. Later on, we will pull that information so the Board can see what things would look like if that credit was not an outlier; however, for right now, when looking the actuals as of May 31, 2025, it shows proposed budget for 2026, and where the budget is now (blue shading). Those those amounts have been increasing.

13. Mr. Creagh went on to speak about the **General Revenues Fund Summary** (slide 20). Looking at all four categories, the current budget is at $31.2 million versus what we are proposing. As stated earlier, here are still a couple of things that we need to tighten up, **State Appropriations** (slide 18) being one of them. In terms of revenues, we are looking at almost $33 million. A history is included on the slide for comparison. Mr. Creagh reported that in the **General Fund** (slide 20), personnel costs (salaries,) and non-personnel costs (services, supplies, rent, utilities, insurance, other contingencies, and capital outlay) are included in these expenses. On slide 23, **Salaries and Expenses**, there two lines one red and one gold. The top line (red) represents salaries over the years. At the end of the line the green numbers represent this year. This number also includes some new positions and associated benefits for next year. It also shows some tightening up of the salaries. Mr. Thomas mentioned that he has had a chance to go through and create total comp sheets for each employee at the college that are based on actual salaries paid and actual benefits. He said that the and the budget team feels comfortable that they can reduce the budget here. Mr. Creagh clarified that there is no decreases in actual salaries, just in the budget amount.

    Mr. Thomas demonstrated another way of looking at salaries for this year by using a chart called, 2024-2025 Budgeted Salary Positions (slide 24). This visualizes the following breakdown: Administration 18 percent; Faculty 49 percent; Support Staff 19 percent; and Facilities 7 percent. He noted that the largest benefit cost to the College is the Office of Retirement Services (ORS). Slide 25, MPSERS Plans and Rates, illustrates the eight plans in which employees can choose to enroll; however, there are only two available now, depending on when the employee is hired. To the far right of slide 25, is the MPSERS UAAL Stabilization Rate. This is the unfunded liability investments, which is part of the cost of the retirement rate. The chart elucidates how over the years how much each plan has cost the College and how the rates have gone up. Now, they are starting to come down. Mr. Creagh remarked that he will discuss MPSERS again when he talks about funds.

14. Mr. Thomas moved to the **Fringe Benefits** (slide 26), noting that MPSERS is accounted for in Fund 02, not in the General Fund, so it is not on this slide. He explained that the pie chart shows all the different types of benefits that the College pays for the employees. State retirement is the biggest piece, followed by ORP for retirement. The grey represents the FICA tax, and the gold is medical. The little baby slice is everything else. Mr. Thomas presented a bar chart (slide 27) next, that demonstrates fringe benefit amounts from a different angle, showing the cost of each of those benefits over the years. Moving on to Fringe Benefits by Numbers (slide 28), Board can see the numerical dollar amounts.

15. Mr. Creagh stepped up to discuss the **Expenses by Category Summary** (slide 29), to give the Board a sense of how the College spends by category. He explained that during the month he and his team are looking at a functional category as the college has a responsibility to spend in certain categories. The Board is used to seeing it in a functional state, but this is an optical report. This worksheet shows What the College is actually spending and what are we putting into the budget. There is also a pie chart in the slide to illustrate this sheet in another form. Before moving forward, Mr. Thomas noted the salary benefit line, stating that it is at a very good percentage, but it is going down a bit from 84 percent to 79 percent. This is one of the reasons why when Mr. Creagh as talking, we reduced salaries over the years, benefits did not go down and health insurance did not decrease, it continues to increase. Chair Mason clarified, that when talking about reduced salaries, Mr. Creagh is talking about positions and new hires, not about people taking a pay cut, he is talking about new hires. Trustee Edwards explained that when a 30-year

employee retires, then the College hires a two-year tenure in, this creates a cost savings. Mr. Thomas said that as people resign and retire, we have not replaced those, but have kept the budget for the position, and over the years we determine whether we really need that position, and if we do not need it then we may transition it to something different. Dr. Quartey commented that as Trustee Edwards said, you could have someone who has been here for 100 years and then they retire. That person was at $150,000 salary, but you hire someone who only has three-year’s experience and they come in at a different rate.

16. Mr. Creagh showed the **General Fund** (01) budget (slide 30), or operating budget, and the largest of our budgets. It accounts for the day-to -day operations of the College. It is still in flux. You are used to seeing it in this format because it tells you about instruction, how much technology we are using, public service and so forth. The sheet shows the budget that we are proposing, as well as the difference between that and the current budget (blue column) May 31, 2025. Mr. Creagh mentioned that he just did a quick snap on this date as we had not finished our soft closing yet for May; however, we did a stop closing to get those numbers as of May 31, 2025. What happens each month as we are preparing for the Board meeting, we wait until about 15th of the month and then do a soft closing.on that particular period, so that we can get the figures for the Statement of General Fund Revenues, Expenses, and Other Changes. Mr. Thomas added that, as Mr. Creagh mentioned, for the May 31st column (blue shading), this is where we took out the ERC credit. So, you can see the revenue here is not as high as it was earlier, which is back to normal. Where we would be if we did not have those funds, because it ws such an outlier? We applied for the ERC for three quarters and we have only received two. There is another $1.5 million that we applied for; however, we are thinking this may not come through because it was related to COVID and then President Trump came into office and said no more COVID grants, done, and then he shut the door. So that may not happen but it is still there. Then in the expenses we took out the fee that we paid to the company that helped the College with the ERC credits.
17.
18. Mr. Creagh moved on to slide 31, the **Designated Fund – Technology** (20). He announced that the budget team is trying to move this fund to a point where it will support itself on the fees that we have in it, but until we do that, if we have overages we are able to do what we need to do, either by transferring from the operating fund, or if the fund balance is available, we can use some of that balance. But if the fees do not cover what our needs are for the students at that point for technology, equipment, and software, then we have to adjust that. Trustee Thayer added that this is because we need to stand at a certain percent in order to not have the governor come after us. Mr. Creagh noted that although we did increase the technology fee, we stayed within the parameters. Mr. Thomas noted that at the bottom of the chart on the right, the fees are listed over the years.

19. Moving to slide 32, **Auxiliary Activities Fund**, (31, 33, 35).This gives a sense those particular funds acting in concert to get down to the combined auxiliary. Our that campus store is very important to us, but when at loss or profit of that fund, we also have personnel costs for three employees. So, we are not making a profit on it. Chair Mason asked that at the end of the presentation if Mr. Creagh could report on anything unusual or strange within the budget, or if there is anything being done differently, any big shifts, that affect the numbers. If there is nothing, then that is fine too. The numbers seem similar to prior years. For in prior years, we may have eliminated the culinary program and that was part of the budget, so it shifts things. Mr. Creagh, continued saying that we do have to be aware that do have personnel in that campus store and to that degree it affects profit and margins, but we want to remember how important that store is to campus because it is the keeper of our school spirit. This is the only place we some of apparel and keepsakes.

20. The Mr. Creagh transitioned to slide 33, the **Unexpended Plant Fund** (71). HVAC $16,000,000 plus, years ago and now we were just below $7.7 million, so that number is steadily decreasing.

21. Mr. Thomas continued with slide 34, the **Maintenance and Replacement Fund** (80). This is the construction fund. We are hopeful that we are going to get through the process with HUD for the with the money that we receive for Whitman Center and also from HRSA for Gerald Welch Health Education Building (HEB) for the equipment project, both of those are very time-consuming projects, and there are many requirements after they have been approved. The biggest piece right now are environmental reviews. For next year, you will see the money ($10 million), that we received from the state of Michigan for the HEB renovations. You will also see $4.5 million for the simulation lab.

This is money we received through the nursing grant from HRSA and through HUD as well. So, those are our revenues.

Mr. Thomas reminded the Board that the College received and Items Grant through the State of Michigan for the HEB as well. That money ended up into fund balance. The only way to get the fund balance is, is to negative spend. Then in the Plant Fund we have $35 million, and this is for the HEB construction and for the simulation lab, and the Whitman Center. Right under that, transfers are listed and we are going to transfer money from the Millage Maintenance and Replacement Fund (81). The fund will not go down to zero so that will go down to zero, there will still be a healthy balance, but we are going to transfer some of the millage funds to finish up this project. This will leave a fund balance in the construction fund of $500,000. Frank, if we do not spend the $35 million next year. If the College does not spend that $35 million it rolls forward into next year's budget, and so, the transfer will not happen until 2026-2027 and the fund balance will end higher than it is today. Depending on what this timeline is going to be, once everything gets finished and out to bid, and the timelines are set for the actual digging, we will know where this is going to fall and what fiscal year.

Mr. Thomas moved on to slide 35, the **Millage Maintenance and Improvement Fund** (81), we see the transfer over to Fund 80, based on the current taxable values. This is the **Property Value Taxes** that we are anticipating to receive. We are still anticipating the $500,000 **Maintenance and Replacement** schedule for this year and then this would be the ending fund balance after the transfer that we would anticipate to have in this fund at the end of the year.

22. Mr. Creagh concluded his portion of the discussion adding the following note.
There is one member of our team who helped us create this budget and he says we can do all that we said, but we just cannot afford the dog.

23. Dr. Quartey thanked Mr. Creagh and Mr. Thomas for their presentation He mentioned that there is nothing significant that was missed. There are a couple of new positions, but that is pretty granular and tactile at this point. If the millage fails in November, the HEB construction will go on; however, some of the other projects on campus will be challenged. As far as the Whitman Center goes, we already have funding for that project. Joshua Myers stated that we have a deadline in August to submit for the millage to be on the November ballot.

Dr. Quartey gave a brief update about the millage strategy as it pertains to the budget. The Board has already received the information. An associate degree from Monroe County Community College increases earnings by $10,000 annually, compared to what a high school graduate earns and investment returns to our community for every dollar. We are benefiting our community. Twenty-five percent of our high school graduates
Oh, it is 25% off the high school students come here, and the economic impact is significant. The funds will be to offset the critical decreases and funding streams, and update various parts of our campus. The focus this time will be again, to assist with health education and public safety, along with student success spaces and public relations. Our value in this region, according to an economic study conducted by Lightcast, is $363.5 million a year. That is the value of this institution to this community. This includes Monroe County, northern Ohio and parts of Wayne County. The study is available online. It is a labor market information generating organization.

President Quartey stated that our intention is not to do a heavily override this time. We want to minimize community controversies, whatever they are, and hopefully we have minimized them. We had a good meeting this morning with the Republican Party here in this room this morning. Trustee Thayer and DR. Behrens were also in attendance. Dr. Quartey announced that there will be an active campaign, not a silent campaign this time and we have proven our return on investment (ROI) to our community. We are going to ask for a .85 mill property tax levy. This is a renewal for five years. The cost to homeowners is approximately $47.50 a year, or $3.96 a month. This is what we currently levy and we have proven to be an excellent financial resource steward for our community. The millage will raise approximately $6 million annually. The focus is safety, accessibility, and efficiency; specifically, safety and security upgrades in restrooms in case you were not aware, we just added a new single use restroom in the Career Technology Building. That cost us approximately $200,000 and change. We now have 10 single use restrooms on this campus now. This was mentioned in the meeting this morning, and we are going to add more including in this building, the La-Z-Boy Center. We plan to build clinical labs, a public safety wing, spaces in the Audrey Warrick Student Center to enhance the academic environment; upgrade the Whitman Center by adding some labs and add an entrepreneurial space; and ensure and maintain the quality of the physical plant through repairs and replacement of roofs, doors, windows, and other outdated facilities.

Dr. Quartey spoke about specific endangered future projects if the millage does not pass. They include sidewalks we cannot fix; the geothermal HVAC system for all our buildings on campus, which may become a challenge as we move forward; relacing network electronics; and the security camera system. Endangered projects include the expansion to the Gerald Welch Health Education Building; the Whitman Center; and the La-Z-Boy Center such as the single use restroom; the Life Sciences Building such as renovating office suites, corridors and stairs, installing a building-wide fire sprinkler system, and renovating the greenhouse (the current enclosure system is no longer supported by industry vendors).

President Quartey showed the Lightcast information he referred to earlier, which is from 2021-2022. It highlights student impact, alumni impact, operations spending, construction tool impact, $363.5 million added income to the region or the equivalent of 4227 new jobs supported. Dr. Behrens explained that he, Dr. Wygonik, and Dr. Myers all worked with community members and found agreement that they really wanted to combat the narrative that is out there with a lot of people that a college education is not worth it. So, they commissioned an independent study to really look at the value of a college degree and the ROI of money spent on a college degree. This document is the culmination of that work. Dr. Behrens will get a link to the study for the Board. We did do this work in 2022.

President Quartey briefly touched on what the campaign would look like. Speaking engagements have already started, but this needs to be done by more than just the President. We want to get endorsement from every possible organization and parties. We need a list of likely voters. Penny is setting up calls now, as well as appointments for me with and all the county municipal supervisors. I'll meet with them one-on-one and then we will also go to the Township meetings or municipality meetings. We need to form a PAC. This will be the only source of campaign funds. Dr. Wygonik commented on the Lightcast study. The data Back to the recency of the Lake cast study. The data seem dated, but it is actually quite current given the parameters of the analysis. The community information. So, if we were to do this now, you probably would just see the very next calendar year represented. Dr. Behrens added that, the ROI is actually based on students paying tuition and the majority of our students actually do not pay tuition, which means the ROI is through the roof on those individuals. President Quartey continued on the campaign plan. We need to voter registration leveraging partnerships, and make phone calls. Mr. Verkennes is working on a communication plan. There is much more, but that is for another meeting. President Quartey mention that he had an alumnus, Glenn Wickenheiser, come to me and offer to chair the alumni group. He is meeting with Mr. Wickenheiser for breakfast this Wednesday.

Former senator, Randy Richardville, who was in the meeting this morning, has offered to chair our campaign. Dr. Quartey would like to have co-chairs, one from each side.

Dr. Quartey showed a very specific timeline. There is a lot happening in June. We have identified the leaders, on the alumni side we have Mr. Wickenheiser, and Mr. Richardville for the campaign. Approval will happen at the June meeting. Cahir Mason asked the Board to be prepared, study the slides, and ask President Quartey if you have any questions. Dr. Quartey emphasized that we need every Board member to help.

Chair Mason will introduce this this budget concept in the meetings. I thought I understood clearly, that if a Board member could not be present, that they should definitely contact Dr. Quartey and ask questions ahead of time. We will do our best to comprehend the information and then go back and support discussion if there is any in the meeting in June. If you do not feel like your questions were being handled properly, please Chair Mason know. As chair, we can make sure that I bring some information to the agenda, but it will lean more toward administrative topics.

Mr. Creagh reminded the Board that the State budget is not yet set and may happen after the June meeting. Chair Mason stated that we have to set a budget by June 30th regardless, and we will do that at the June meeting. Dr. Myers said that the Board could always come back for a budget adjustment if your revenues were wildly different.

Chair Mason addressed the Board about his comment on the open invitation to ask questions. What he should not get is a barrage of very detailed recommendations getting into elimination of positions. Trustees should not communicate things of that nature to him outside of the meeting. We are in an open meeting body and it puts him in an awkward position. He shared the communication with each of the Trustees in an open meeting. The communication talks about all that sort of stuff and I just cannot just receive the information. The Board is not going to discuss it. He already has assurance from President Quartey that he has taken them as suggestions, but he has to share them in an open meeting because it just does not match up match up to what we have been trained to do by Dr. Pamila Fisher and by MCCA. He had no further comments and shared the communication so that he is not in violation of the Open Meetings Act.

24. *It was moved by Trustee Thayer and seconded by Trustee Svatek-Whitson that the meeting be adjourned.*

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Aaron N. Mason
Board Chair

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Nicole R. Goodman
Board Secretary

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These minutes were approved at the June 23, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.