

MINUTES OF THE SIX HUNDRED THIRTIETH MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Whitman Center
7777 Lewis Avenue, Temperance, MI
Rooms 8 & 9
5:30 p.m., April 28, 2025

Present: Lynette M. Dowler, Julie M. Edwards, Nicole R. Goodman, Aaron N. Mason, Linda M. Roberts, Kristy Svatek-Whitson

Not Present: Mary Kay Thayer

Also Present: Amanda Althouse, Ryan Bayer, Jenna Bazzell, Scott Behrens, Phillip Borawski, William Bruck, Jack Burns Jr., Christy Chisholm, Parmeshwar Coomar, Kevin Cooper, Troy Cox, Curtis Creagh, Christopher Gossett, Melissa Grey, Kelly Heinzerling, Nickie Hampsher, Rick Hubbert, Robert Hurse, Barry Kinsey, Spencer Lyke, Sarah Mason, Shawn McBride, Gerald McCarty II, Joshua Myers, Tina Pillarelli, Kojo Quartey, Maggie Sandefur, Jay Schumacher, Mark Spenoso, Helen Stripling, Frank Thomas, Linda Torbet, Mick Valentino, Carl Whitson, John Wyrabkiewicz, Wendy Wysocki, Grace Yackee, Penny Dorsey (recording secretary)

1. Chair Mason called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. There were two delegations present.
3. *It was moved by Trustee Dowler and supported by Trustee Roberts that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved:*
 - B. 2. a. (1) Approval of minutes of the March 24, 2025, special and regular meetings
 - B. 2. a. (2) Authorization for the President to Execute a Faculty Contract – Ockerman
 - B. 2. a. (3) Authorization for the President to Execute a Faculty Contract -Riley
3. Old Business
None
4. New Business
 - B. 4. a. (1) 4. The recommendation for College Supporter of the Year was postponed until the May 19, 2025 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.
 - B. 4. a. (2) 5. *It was moved by Trustee Edwards and supported by Trustee Goodman that the Board approves the following resolution of commendation for Ms. Helen Stripling:*

WHEREAS, Helen Stripling earned her associate of applied science degree in respiratory therapy from Monroe County Community College in 2013, and

WHEREAS, she also holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in creative writing from Bowling Green State University and a master of science degree in teaching and learning from Colorado State University, and

WHEREAS, she has extensive experience working in the role of registered respiratory therapist and holds active RRT licenses in both Michigan and Ohio and

WHEREAS, she is certified as an Adult Critical Care Specialist and in

Advanced Cardiac Life Support, as well as an instructor in Basic Life Support, And

WHEREAS, she served as adjunct instructor of respiratory therapy at MCCC from 2013-2017 and as a full-time RT faculty member from 2017- 2022, and

WHEREAS, she was nominated for the MCCC Outstanding Faculty of the Year all five years of her full-time teaching service and was chosen as the RT Program Alumnus of the Year in 2018, and

WHEREAS, she has been a critical member of the RT instructional team that has been recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care for exceptional program outcomes year after year, and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, a team of MCCC respiratory therapy students won the Michigan Sputum Bowl – a highly competitive quiz bowl-style tournament among college RT programs – in 2022 and 2024, qualifying MCCC to participate at the national level, and

WHEREAS, she has evidenced outstanding leadership skills through progressive administrative position appointments since starting as a full-time respiratory therapy faculty, culminating in her current role as the dean of health sciences and director of respiratory therapy, and

WHEREAS, in her role as dean and director, she led the development of new programming, including associate of science degrees in Health Sciences with both applied and transfer tracks, an Emergency Medical Technician certificate, and a radiography technician program through the Educational Programs in Collaboration Consortium, and

WHEREAS, she has been a key contributor for planning the upcoming Welch Health and Education Building renovation and expansion and was instrumental in negotiating an exceptional purchase price for state-of-the-art ventilators, saving the college tens of thousands of dollars and securing the exact types of equipment RT students will see and be expected to use in the field, and

WHEREAS, she is diligent in her support of students, colleagues and the college as a whole and is a woman of great character and integrity who exemplifies the best of Monroe County Community College.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recognizes and congratulates Helen Stripling on her accomplishments and accolades, and

THAT IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees honor her with the 2025 Monroe County Community College Alumnus of the Year Award and expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation on this Monday, April 28, 2025.”

- B. 4. a. (3) 6. *It was moved by Trustee Dowler and supported by Trustee Edwards that the board approve the following resolution of commendation for Professor Wendy Wysocki:*

WHEREAS, Wendy Wysocki will retire from her position as Professor of Business and Economics at Monroe County Community College, effective May 8, 2025, and

WHEREAS, Wendy Wysocki has been a valued and highly esteemed professor in the Business Division for over 30 years who has taught a wide variety of economics and business courses, and

WHEREAS, Wendy Wysocki has created a positive work environment and in numerous classes that allowed students to develop academically as well as

personally, serving them well both at MCCC and beyond, and

WHEREAS, Wendy Wysocki was nominated several times for the prestigious Outstanding Faculty of the Year award and was recipient of the award in 2002 and served as the Honorary Grand Marshal for MCCC's 2023 graduation ceremony, and

WHEREAS, Wendy Wysocki coordinated the College's Global Studies Degree Designation and the MCCC Study Abroad program since 2018, leading curricular efforts to expose students to cultures and communities around the world, and

WHEREAS, Wendy Wysocki is a recognized and respected leader among MCCC faculty and staff, having served leadership roles in the Monroe County Community College Faculty Association (MCCCFA) including co-chief negotiator, Faculty Council Chair, Governance Evaluation Committee Chair, and dozens of college standing and ad hoc committees, task forces, and study groups.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees recognizes Wendy Wysocki for her dedicated service and contributions to her students and the community, and

THEREFORE, BE IT DECIDED that by the President's recommendation, Wendy Wysocki shall hereby be granted faculty emeritus status, and

THAT IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees wishes for Wendy Wysocki's continued success, good health, and happiness on this day, April 28, 2025."

7. *It was agreed by unanimous consent that item C. 3. b. (2), Governance Evaluation Committee be moved forward in the agenda.*

- C. 3. b. (2) 8. Wendy Wysocki, Professor of Business and Economics, and Global Studies, gave the Board an update of the activities of the Governance Evaluation Committee (GEC) over the past academic year.

Professor Wysocki stated that it has been her pleasure to serve as the chair of the GEC. She commented that she had previously been a member of the GEC and has been the chair for several years now.

Professor Wysocki reported that for this academic year, 2024-2025, the committee has done a few things. CLARUS Corporation recently made a follow up reassessment of the governance model. Throughout the past year, the GEC discussed the possibility of bringing them back and what they would do for us. The committee also discussed and developed some new guidelines for proxy voting in the Councils. Some of MCCC's standing committees have proxy voting, but the Councils do not. Also considered was the role of Student Government within the council model and the possibility of adding a separate student advocacy group to the model that would function as an equal Council to the current administrator, faculty, and staff councils. Additionally, the GEC implemented the use of Microsoft Teams as a means of communicating and posting shared governance proposals. So far it has worked pretty well and allows easy access for everyone to see what those proposals and their supporting documentation prior to the council meetings. Professor Wysocki noted that the GEC clarified and outlined procedures for guests attending the council meetings. Finally, as is done continually, the GEC updated and made revisions to Shared Governance Handbook. Professor Wysocki announced that this past week, The committee held elections for a new chair of the GEC.

Professor Wysocki that future recommendations include continuing to develop and implement the strategies to address the top issues that have been pulled

from the 2023 Climate Survey.

Professor Wysocki also noted that the committee has been discussing trying to incorporate those ideas into the strategic planning process and consider implementing these recommendations. This work is still in progress.

Professor Wysocki state that the GEC continuously monitors the results of the strategies it does decide to implement, and then, continually improve the model. She is hopeful that the committee will continue to pursue all these changes as they are very important components of operations at the college.

- B. 4. a. (4) 8. *It was moved by Trustee Svatek -Whitson and supported by Trustee Edwards that the Board approve the deactivation of Policy 1.64, Affirmative Action.*

Linda Torbet, Executive Director of Human Resources, explained that affirmative action is a term that was used many decades ago and it was geared toward admission to college and employment practices. In June of 2023, the Supreme Court ruled against affirmative action in college admissions, effectively ending race-based admissions programs in higher education. MCCC covers all of the discrimination topics in Policy 1.65, Illegal Discrimination and Harassment, and the administration feels that there is no need to have this policy on the books anymore. It was a policy statement and when you look at it you can tell that it is very old, so we are rolling it into anti-discrimination.

The motion carried five to one, with a nay from Trustee Goodman,

- B. 4. a. (5) 9. *It was moved by Trustee Edwards and supported by Trustee Dowler that the Board approve Policy 1.65, Illegal Discrimination and Harassment, as revised.*

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Mason asked about the timeline in the accompanying procedure for the policy, specifically “what if a person is not comfortable responding within the timeframe of 90 days because of positions of power and grades. Ms. Torbet said that if a student shows good cause for feeling vulnerable to retaliation, the timeframe can be extended to the end of the semester or a little beyond, but due process requires promptness.

Ms. Torbet stated that faculty have shown themselves to be very good advocates for students. When students talk to faculty the faculty will bring those complaints forward on behalf of the students, and then Scott Behrens, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Success, looks into those complaints. Ms. Torbet added that she and Mr. Behrens are working on a plan to really educate students on their rights. They are creating educational materials for students as well. She will bring those materials to the Board closer to the Fall.

- B. 4. a. (6) 10. Policy 1.72, Anti-Bullying Policy was reviewed by the Board. There were no changes to the policy.

- B. 4. a. (7) 11. *It was moved by Chair Mason and supported by Trustee Roberts that the Board adopt Policy 1.77, American Disabilities Act (ADA), as presented.*

Ms. Torbet explained that the College had several procedures covering ADA; however, there was no policy.

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (8) 12. *It was moved by Trustee Edwards and supported by Trustee Dowler that the Board adopt Policy 1.81, Pregnancy and Nursing Protections, as presented.*

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (9) 13. *It was moved by Trustee Roberts and supported by Trustee Svatek-Whitson that the Board approve Policy 4.02, Transfer and Occupational Programs, as revised.*

Grace Yackee, Vice President of Instruction noted that this is a routine matter for new programs. Dr. Yackee reported that MCCC brought in 10 new programs between last year to this year. This is aggressive but no less important. One is 126 Warehouse Management, which was mentioned in Ms. Stripling's Helen's nomination for Alumnus of the Year earlier this evening. Another is the Radiography Program, in collaboration with EPiC. The College provides general education, and EPiC provides the occupational piece right here in the area for the students, or in some cases in other areas if those students have not registered in the program.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Information and Proposals

1. Delegation

- C.1. a. (1) 14. Representative William Bruck gave an update on the latest activities in Lansing and the State. He thanked Chair Mason and Board, the administrators and especially "Miss Penny". Rep. Bruck said that he would be remiss not to give condolences for the passing of Bill McCloskey, which was a big loss for the college. Dr. McCloskey was quite an individual and a great actor. He will surely be missed at the College and in the community.

Rep. Bruck mentioned that MCCC recently hosted the Law Enforcement Youth Academy that curtails with the public and safety trust fund to help communities that was recently passed up in the House. Monroe County will actually get about \$800,000 which will go directly to the Sheriff's Department to assist in obtaining more robust staff. The Department is currently down at least 12 staff and a deputy. This funding will go to various communities throughout the state with every county getting a portion, as well as municipalities that have their own law enforcement. Lenawee County is expected to receive about \$350,000. Rep. Bruck met with Supervisor Manor today to discuss the Loop Trail, which also runs through the College property. It is good to see the progress with Monroe Charter Township and their willingness to contribute money to the project going forward. The entire county will benefit from the Loop Trail.

Rep. Bruck announced that budget talks have started in Lansing, particularly in terms of appropriations, which the House passed about a month ago. This was a baseline budget that was an essential service budget to ensure that schools emergency personnel were funded if there was a theoretical shutdown at the state government.

Rep. Bruck chairs the Homeland Security Committee. He recently met with the University of Detroit Mercy Independent College up in Wayne County regarding cybersecurity and the influences and joint ventures with specific countries of concern. Also of note for his committee is drone legislation. They are hosting a drone safety symposium on May 7th. They have stakeholders from around the country who will be in Lansing to present on the legislation the committee has brought forth. There are many questions regarding what is currently allowed and what should or should not be allowed. Many drone flyers are not abiding by FAA standards. The committee is looking at enacting restricted drone zones and establishing critical infrastructure. This work is ongoing.

Rep. Bruck also sits on the Transportation Committee, which affects students going to college. The House did pass some major road funding legislation, and is now in the Senate for review and action. The committee is to ensure that there is at least \$3.1 billion dedicated to road funding across the State.

Rep. Bruck stated that MCCC's progress on the Gerald Welch Health Building looks good. He invited the Trustees to reach out to him if they have any questions.

- C.1. a. (1) 15. Robert Hurse, former MCCC student and owner of Standard Detroit addressed the Board to follow up on the letters he sent to President Quartey and the Board regarding the issue he faced as student at MCCC. He asked the Board to help investigate the issues.

2. Non-staff Communications and Reports

3. President and Staff

- C. 3. a. (1) 16. President Quartey announced the following staff appointments, professional staff contract, retirement, and resignations"

Staff Appointments:

Ryan Bayer, Computer Support Specialist, effective March 17, 2025 (replacing Samuel Gonzales)

Professional Staff Contract:

Jessica Gwosch, Adult Learner Coordinator (grant-funded position)

Third-Year Faculty Contract:

Amy Ockerman, Disability Services Coordinator, effective August 19, 2025 through May 7, 2026

Second-Year Faculty Contract:

Kelly Riley, Professional Counselor, effective January 2, 2025 through January 1, 2026

Retirement:

Wendy Wysocki, Professor of Business and Economics, effective May 8, 2025

Resignation:

Christina Henry, Experiential Learning Coordinator, effective April 4, 2025

Thadeus Bowerman, Educational Advocate, Admissions, effective April 9, 2025

Emily Willcock, Human Resources Assistant, effective May 9, 2025

- C. 3. a. (2) 17. Curtis Creagh, Vice President of Finance and Administration gave the Board an update on the Statement of General Fund Revenues, Expenses, and Other Changes for the Period Ending March 31, 2025.

The budget is \$31.2 million and we have received 28.5 percent of the revenues. Looking at state appropriations, year-over-year, revenues are at 71 percent compared to 56 percent the previous year. Of course, the budget is slightly larger this year than it was last year. Tuition and fees are at \$7.7 million, in terms of what we have budgeted compared to what we have recorded at this point. When comparing 2025 to 2024, the budget is still on track.

Property Taxes are back on track this month and we have received 94 percent of the taxes and have about \$800,000 left to receive. In Other Revenues, the largest portion is from investment income.

Mr. Creagh stated that in terms of Expenses year-over year, we are at 60 percent compared to 61 percent about 75 percent of the year is gone. So, we are still under budget as well. We are in good shape for this year.

- C. 3. a. (3) 18. The Board reviewed the following procedures to ensure they aligned with their Policies:

1.65(a) Illegal Discrimination; 1.72(a) Anti-Bullying; 1.77(a) Procedure on How to File an ADA Complaint; 1.77(b) ADA Complaint Form; 1.77(c) Request for Reasonable Accommodations and Response; Procedure 1.81(a) Pregnancy and Nursing Protections Procedures

- C. 3. b. (1) 19. President Quartey summarized his report which he sends to the Board every other week.

Dr. Quartey updated the Board on Community College Day at the Capitol. Joshua Myers, Executive Director of the Foundation at MCCC, and he attended with three students, Alaina Mullins, President of Student Government; Ellie Sharpe, and Mitchel Robbins. We encouraged them to tell their stories and they did a splendid job. The group met with staff from Rep. Jimmy Wilson and Jamie Thompson's offices. They also saw and met with Representative Will Bruck even though he was double -booked. Dr. Quartey stated that he always has time for them. They also met with Reggie Miller, who was instrumental along with Representative Bruck and others, in securing almost \$11 million Gerald Welch Health Education Building project. Senator Joe Bellino, also took time to interact extensively with the MCCC team. President Quartey said that

The Campus Master Planning Team met with the Stantec Team to begin the actual planning process. He thanks Trustee Lynette Dowler, for her work with this group. the last time MCCC had a new master plan was over 20 years ago.

The following events have occurred on campus recently:

- Phi Theta Kappa Induction
- Honors Night
- Registration Palooza
- Earth Day and EV Car show

He thanked those who participated in or who were involved with putting together these events. Trustee Goodman was at the Phi Theta Kappa Induction. Trustee Thayer was at the Registration Palooza, and Amanda Althouse, Director of Student Success, and her team hosted the event. Parmeshwar Coomar and his team hosted Earth Day and the EV Car Show. If not for MCCC, much of this would not

Dr. Quartey said that he has been in conversations regarding the Presidential executive orders almost twice a week with the presidents from around the state and around the nation. That is still in flux and we continue to abide by whatever executive orders there are.

- C. 3. b. (2) 20. This item was addressed earlier in the agenda.

- C. 3. b. (5) 21. Joshua Myers, Executive Director of the Foundation and Director of Government and Alumni Affairs, gave the Board an update on the latest activities of The Foundation. He began with a progress report of the Whitman Center planning. He noted the activity in the halls of the Whitman Center this afternoon prior to the Board meeting. Dr. Myers gave credit to Rebecca Fournier, Whitman Center Coordinator, who did a great job pulling this event, an open house, together for the tonight. It was great way to engage the community.

Dr. Myers called the Board's attention to two large boards on the side of the room that encapsulates some of the work taking place at the center. He noted that the one on the right, shows capital projects. There are two major investments going into the Whitman Center first, that are both the result of a congressionally directed spending request (\$2.45 million) from Congressman Walberg. The first investment is a complete conversion of the HVAC into a geothermal system. The second is what we are calling structural rehabilitation. As many know, the center of this building is sinking, and so we are trying to stop it from sinking. Those monies from the directed spending request are going

to fund the change in the HVAC system and the structural rehabilitation, which is very exciting investment in this facility.

Dr. Meyers commented that there is more work to be done and more improvements can be made here at the facility. He mentioned that President Quartey wanted to know Kojo wanted to know where are we heading with this project and that he wanted community buy in. Dr. Myers explained that over the last year, we have met with community groups, civic groups, business leadership, and civic leadership. They have also held town halls and created Blue Ribbon group created made up of community leaders. Their work culminated in the board on the left-hand side, which is the revitalization strategy for the Whitman Center. He explained that there are several components to this undertaking. Most people know that the Whitman Center of the future is not going to be what the center was when it was created. The educational landscape has transformed enormously since that time. The directive that Dr. Quartey gave group was to figure out what the community wanted, and the community came back with a lot of really great ideas, the most surprising of which to him was that every single group that he talked to said, 'You know, all these things are great, but the thing we really want to see is cars in the parking lot. We want to see it used we do not want to see it wasted. This is an asset to us, and even if we do not directly benefit from it, we want to see it put to use.'

Dr. Myers commented that there are several different elements, one of which is the community center concept. There are not many community center areas or shared spaces in South County, and the civic and the township governments in particular are very interested in being able to utilize the facility to do community center activities with different groups around Bedford Township. Dr. Myers emphasized that they certainly still have dual enrollment targeted and are seeing that come to fruition with the EMT program. There is also opportunity for workforce training and connection with the business community through the what the group is calling the center for business development and entrepreneurship, which was the impetus behind the project's argument in the congressionally directed spending request that was funded through HUD. So, there is still activity at the center. Dr. Myers mentioned that much of the feedback he received from people who attended the open house was positive. They were pleased to be reintroduced to the Whitman Center and some had not been there in years. Dr. Myers believes the community will have more opportunities to engage at the center after the renovation projects are completed. He emphasized that the Whitman Center has not been closed. MCCC has had ongoing partnerships with the ISD and with the Monroe County Business Alliance. While those partnerships are still in place they need to be nurtured and grown and make Whitman a more thriving center of community activity.

Dr. Myers mentioned that, with regard to the Foundation, enormous progress is taking place with the Momentum Adult Success Program and the with the hiring of Jessica Gwosch, Adult Learner Coordinator. Also hired were Randy Bennet, Adult Learner Advocate, and Nancy Lucero, Adult Learner Academic Success Coach, rounding out the staff for that program. Dr. Myers met with representatives from MCOP, which is a key partner in this grant. This is an adult learning success program. The College is trying to provide wrap around services for every adult learner as well as a lot of different benefits and programs. The grant was \$760,000. This is a great investment in our adult community by trying to get them attain some sort of credential, whether it be a certificate or a degree. The grant spans two years, and as we know that many of them may not complete within two years, but the argument to our funders was let us identify the benchmarks for these students and engage us against that. They should be making progress for their academic credential, even if they do not reach it. If these students have a vision for success in the future, then we believe we can get them to that point. So, this is not about the rush to get them to a degree in two years, it is about getting them to have an academic plan, to have wrap around supports, and to be progressing toward that goal. Some tentative dates are:

- June 19th - Partnering with the MCOP on their Juneteenth Celebration
- June 21st – Community wide Celebration and Kick-off Program

Many of these activities are going to take place in the Orchard East neighborhood in the City of Monroe, one of our most economically disadvantaged communities in Monroe; however, this is a community wide program.

Dr. Myers acknowledged Amanda Althouse, director of Student Success, and her team who were the recipients of The Foundation's Excellence in Innovation Award. Ms. Althouse leads MCCC's Student Success Center. Dr. Myers mentioned two more important upcoming events, the College/Community Band's EPOCS (May 5, 2025), and Strikes, Spares and Scholarship Fundraiser (May 9, 2025).

4. Board Member and Committee Reports

C. 4. b. (2) 22. Chair Mason announced he upcoming events.

It was moved by Trustee Edwards and supported by Trustee Goodman that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Aaron N. Mason
Board Chair

Nicole R. Goodman
Secretary

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These minutes were approved at the May 19, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.