

MINUTES OF THE SIX-HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVENTH 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 27, 2026

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

Also Present: Amanda Althouse, Patrick Barley, Jenna Bazzell, Scott Behrens, Brian Bertram, Ned Birkey, Phillip Borawski, Parmeshwar Coomar, Paula Cooney, Kevin Cooper, Anne Crimmins, Mark Ely, Rebecca Fournier, Nicole Garner, Chris Gossett, Melissa Grey, Nickie Hampsher, Kelly Heinzerling, Kristin Hoffman, Rick Hubbert, Jason King, Barry Kinsey, Denise Lindemann, Joan Mumaw, Shawn McBride, Gerald McCarty, Ken Mohny, Joshua Myers, Michael Neaves, Avalyn Ortiz, Melanis Ortiz, Omaira Ortiz, Tina Pillarelli, Brian Rayl, Tracy Rahl, Maggie Robinson, Keith Rossi, Helen Stripling, Frank Thomas, Beverly Tomek, Linda Torbet, Joe Verkennes, Carl Whitson, Quri Wygonik, Grace Yackee and Janel Boss (recording secretary).

1. Chair Mason called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Mason.
3. There were no delegations present.

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Trustee Thayer and supported by Trustee Roberts that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved:

- B.2.a.(1) 4. Approval of minutes of the March 23, 2026, regular meeting.
- B.2.a.(2) 5. Authorization for the President to Execute a Faculty Contract – Ockerman
- The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Old Business

- B.3.a.(1) 6. None

New Business

- B.4.a.(1) 7. *It was moved by Trustee Dowler and supported by Trustee Edwards that the board approve the following resolution of commendation for Tracy Rayl:*

WHEREAS, Tracy Rayl will retire from her position as assistant professor of biology at Monroe County Community College, effective May 14, 2026, and

WHEREAS, she has been a valued and highly esteemed professor in the Science/Mathematics Division for more than 27 years who has developed and taught a wide variety of biology courses, and

WHEREAS, she has been observed by both students and supervisors to exemplify quality instruction in the design of well-structured, rigorous courses in multiple delivery formats and has developed special topics courses centered upon student interests in the field of biology, and

WHEREAS, she has created a positive work environment in numerous classes that allowed students to develop academically as well as personally, serving them well both at MCCC and beyond, and

WHEREAS, she has been nominated numerous times for the prestigious Outstanding Faculty of the Year award and was the recipient of the award in 2007, and

WHEREAS, she was the recipient of the MCCC Enriching Lives Award in 2012 and served as the Honorary Grand Marshal for MCCC’s 2026 graduation ceremony, and

WHEREAS, she co-created the Math and Science Society student club in 1999 and was the co-advisor for many years, leading students in community projects and local and national field trips, and

WHEREAS, she is a recognized and respected leader among MCCC faculty and staff, having served in leadership roles for the Monroe County Community College Faculty Association, including serving as chief negotiator and co-chief negotiator and as grievance chair for 15 years, and

WHEREAS, she has participated on dozens of college standing and ad hoc committees, task forces and study groups throughout her career, and

WHEREAS, she has been a valued faculty member who is always willing to go above and beyond the routine responsibilities and expectations, and

WHEREAS, she has created a positive learning environment in numerous classes that have allowed students to develop academically as well as personally, serving them well both at MCCC and beyond.

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

BE IT DECIDED that by the president’s recommendation, she shall hereby be granted faculty emeritus status, and

BE IT RECORDED that the Board of Trustees wishes for her continued success, good health, and happiness on this day, April 27, 2026.

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

It was moved by Trustee Goodman and supported by Trustee Roberts that the board approve the following resolution of commendation for Ms. Kellyann Navarre:

- B.4.a.(2) 8. *WHEREAS, Kellyann Navarre earned her associate of science degree from Monroe County Community College with a focus in psychology in 2017 and went on to complete additional coursework in 2018 toward a bachelor’s degree program, and*

WHEREAS, while studying at MCCC, she participated in the college’s Study Abroad Program trips to Italy and Greece, earned a Global Studies degree designation, served as Writing Center Committee Chair from 2016-2017, guest lectured from 2014-2017 for College Success Skills and English courses, served as a writing fellow from 2014-2017, was an active member of the Psychology Interest Group, and won the Social Sciences Student of Year, Writing Fellow of the Year and President’s Academic Achievement awards for 2016-17, and

WHEREAS, she went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in clinical psychology, and

WHEREAS, from 2014-2025, she earned nearly 40 scholarships, fellowships, honors and awards from an array of organizations, and

WHEREAS, she graduated from her associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees programs with a 4.0 grade point average in each, and

WHEREAS, her writings on psychology and mental health have been published in six peer-reviewed publications, including the Oxford Handbook of Borderline Personality Disorder, Teaching of Psychology,

Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups, Personality and Mental Health, Journal of Nursing and Perspectives on Psychological Science, and

WHEREAS, she joined MCCC as an adjunct professor of psychology in 2025, has worked as an inpatient health professional for ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital for more than a year, and has been a research lab member of Understanding and Preventing Loss After Trauma at the Yale School of Medicine Laboratory since 2024 and a Research Advisory Committee member at the University of Toronto for the Study and Treatment of Emotion Dysregulation and Personality Pathology Laboratory since 2022, and

WHEREAS, she won the 2025 Education and Advocacy Impact Award at the Emotions Matter 10th Anniversary Gala for significant and consistent leadership in borderline personality disorder and the 2025 People’s Choice Research Poster Award at the 20th Annual Yale-National Education Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder Conference, and

WHEREAS, she utilized every opportunity available to her while a student at MCCC and excelled in each, building an educational foundation that has been instrumental to her impressive success, and

WHEREAS, she is diligent in her support of the community, her students, colleagues and the college as a whole and is a person 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 Kellyanne Navarre on her accomplishments and accolades, and

THAT IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees honors her with the 2026 Monroe County Community College Alumnus of the Year Award and expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation on this Monday, April 27, 2026.

The motion carried unanimously.

- B.4.a.(3) 9. *It was moved by Trustee Dowler and supported by Trustee Edwards that the Board authorizes the President to execute a professional staff contract for:*

*Kristin Hoffman, Executive Assistant to the President & Secretary to the Board of Trustees
One-Year Probationary Professional Staff Contract
Effective May 6, 2026, through May 5, 2027.*

The motion carried unanimously.

- 10. Dr. Quartey introduced Kristi Hoffman. She stated that she worked at the University of Toledo for 12 years in academia. She worked in the College of Nursing, the Physician Assistant Program and most currently the College of Medicine and Office of Student Affairs. She has experience working with a diverse student population and a lot of faculty. Kristi graduated from the University of Toledo and is looking forward to getting to work with all in attendance, the students, the Board of Trustees and the President.
- 11. Dr. Quartey gave credit to Angela Elliott and Rachel Eagle who have been acting and assisting the President in Penny’s absence. He also thanked the recording secretary.
- 12. Chair Mason thanked the search committee, Angela, Rachel and Janel.

- B.4.a.(4) 13. *It was moved by Trustee Thayer and supported by Trustee Edwards that the Board approve the revision of Policy 1.60, Mission Documents.*

Yes [6] Lynette Dowler, Julie Edwards, Aaron Mason, Linda Roberts, Kristy Svatek-Whitson, Mary Kay Thayer

No [1] Nicole Goodman

The motion carried.

- B.4.a.(5) 14. *It was moved by Trustee Roberts and supported by Trustee Svatek-Whitson that the Board approved Policy 4.02, Transfer and Occupational Programs.*

The motion carried unanimously.

- B.4.a.(6) 15. *It was moved by Trustee Mason and supported by Trustee Thayer that the Board approve the adoption of the following Proclamation – National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) as read at the meeting:*

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is April 26-May 2, 2026, and this nationwide celebration annually raises awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeships provide in meeting critical industry workforce demands, and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs develop the highly skilled workforce that employers need and create pathways for Americans to catapult into in-demand, high-paying careers, and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs are industry-driven, high-quality career pathways that enable employers to develop and train their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience with a mentor, receive progressive wage increases, classroom instruction and a portable, nationally recognized credential, and

WHEREAS, Monroe County Community College recognizes the pivotal role educators, school counselors and educational institutions serve in not only bringing awareness of Registered Apprenticeship opportunities to students and parents, but also serving as training providers, program sponsors and intermediaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RECORDED that on this day, April 27, 2026, the Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees calls upon stakeholders and partners to recognize the value of Registered Apprenticeships and to promote awareness and expansion during National Apprenticeship Week.

The motion carried unanimously.

- C.3.a.(1) 16. Dr. Quartey announced the following staff appointments, first-year probationary professional staff contract and continuing faculty contract.

Staff Appointments:

Kyle Kosche, Power Systems Trainee, effective March 30, 2026 (replacing Nick DeArmond)

Mya Snow, Communications Specialist, effective April 7, 2026 (replacing Michelle Gaynier)

One-Year Probationary Professional Staff Contract:

Kristin Hoffman, Executive Assistant to the President & Secretary to the Board of Trustees, effective May 6, 2026 (replacing Penny Dorcey)

Continuing Faculty Contract:

Amy Ockerman, Disability Services Coordinator, effective July 1, 2026

- C.3.a.(2) 17. Frank Thomas, Vice President of Finance and Administration, gave the Board an upon on the Statement of General Fund Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending April 30, 2026.

Mr. Thomas stated, in summary, that we are hitting our benchmarks. We should be at 75 percent of our budget but are actually at 65 percent spent. We received about 95 percent of our revenues so far. Bottom line, we are almost \$10.5 million ahead but still have a few months to go for actual expenses to come in before closing the year. There will still be salaries impacting the expenses but anticipate a piece of personal property taxes to come in that we receive in May. A couple of month ago, we received the ERC payment. Usually when you get an unanticipated payment it is followed by an unanticipated repair.

C.3.b.(1) 18. Dr. Quartey sent the board his President’s Report last Friday talking about Penny Dorsey’s replacement, Kristi Hoffman, and facilities projects and priorities. The master plan is ongoing and are close to completing. There have been a lot of campus activities including Honors Night, Upward Bound Graduation (coming up), Middle College graduation and Commencement (coming up). There was the EV car show on Saturday morning on campus and then the Earth Day event in the Welch Health Education Building on Saturday. Kellie Laginess’ group, Inside Out Dance Ensemble, performed on Saturday and Sunday. For D3C3, we are working on the grant due on May 13. Dr. Behrens and Dr. Yackee are leading those efforts. We are preparing going for another \$2.7 million dollars for that grant. Recent grants include \$50,000 from MCCA. We received \$100,000 from Mitch Auto for mobility and EV and also received a \$70,000 grant that Professor Marty Dubois and helped secure from U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur.

C.3.b.(2) 19. Dr. Quartey shared his tentative goals and measurable objectives for the FY 2026-2027, comparative financial resources, and charts. There is new dual enrollment legislation that hasn’t passed yet, but this is what MCCC has been advocating for many years and things are moving in the right direction.

Dr. Quartey shared documents regarding the Bedford Township trustees look to remedy potential campaign finance violations. They violated finance laws.

As part of the President’s report, Mr. Thomas gave an update about finances and facilities. A document that was prepared by Mr. Brian Bertram was shared with the board. There are items in the document that show what repairs and maintenance will need be addressed in the near future or throughout the next fiscal year. The first page shows “Mechanical Equipment and Study”. Part of the five-year capital outlay plan is required by the state and it highly encourages you to hire a company to do a study for us. We have contracted a company to come in and take a look at the mechanical and electrical equipment on campus. The work should be done in the fall. In the meantime, internally, Mr. Bertram and directors are working together going through a more detailed list of items that need to be replaced based on useful life. Listed are the project costs, cost source and priority. This will be a living document of what comes up showing almost \$2.2 million. One of the challenges, going forward, is looking at millage funds that we have left and how do we use those with this plan. Currently, they have not dedicated funds on the general fund side. Part of the plan will help us to be able to start to budget for M & R. It also helps with maintenance and technology. Trustee Dowler asked about the \$250,000 expense for a single use restroom in the La-Z-Boy Center, asking if this was required by the State. Mr. Bertram stated that this is the only building that does not have a single use restroom. He is waiting for pricing and then will see if it is a priority this next fiscal year. He said the deferred maintenance plan is a living document and he will keep adding items to the document, but to realize that when you look at it 20 years from now, there may be some of the same items on the list. There will always be a higher priority that’s going to trump other projects.

Dr. Quartey reviewed some items on the list. The elevators will have to be done.

Dr. Quartey asked the Board that if they have comments or questions about his goals and measurable objectives; his preference is to send the information before the one-on-one meeting to discuss this with him before the public meeting.

C.3.b.(3) 20. Ken Mohny gave a brief update on the Governance Evaluation Committee activities for the 2025-2026 year. A few years ago, the college surveyed employees on the effect of the current shared governance system. What was found was that there were a number of areas for potential improvement. The current model of shared governance consists of three primary groups: Faculty Council, Support Staff Council and Administrative Council. What was found was that a lot of the information that was going into the model was being siloed, meaning we were talking about the information but were not sharing it among key groups or it took too long to share. In response to

that, the CLARUS Corporation was brought back to hold a series of meetings with the various stakeholder groups. CLARUS then provided its report with suggestions about potential for a new model shared governance. In that shared governance model, CLARUS recommended that we essentially go away from a model that involved these councils and have more participation from various employee groups. This would be more of a mixed setting so that there would be members of faculty of one group along with appropriate administrators or appropriate support staff. Starting in the fall of semester of 2025, there was discussion of the CLARUS report. There were several areas that needed clarification and in the Winter Semester, the GED began to flush out some potential ideas for a new model of shared governance. The GEC has some basic ideas for a potential new shared governance model with quite a bit of work remaining for the Fall and possibly Winter Semester of next year. The plan is to go back and talk to constituent groups. While many people agreed that the council model wasn't working, the GEC still needs to go back and talk to those councils and get their input on what has been done so far. One of things we want to do is make sure the next model of shared governance is the right model for us and have it done by next year. It's important to do it correctly and to make sure that everybody's voice is heard.

- B.3.b.(4) 21. Amanda Althouse, Administrator Council Chair, recapped that the council had eight meetings with a lot of them consisting of information items but some action items, approving of the Strategic Plan drafts, working together on the academic dishonesty policy, ADA compliance, addressing some emergency topics, working with our VPs on a lot of those things that are going on, operational and campus culture, and work from home expectations with IT. The council met monthly, only missing one meeting.
- C.3.b.(5) 22. Phil Borowski, Council Chair, stated that Staff Council dealt with a lot of the same topics and met nine times. Items the council addressed were mostly informational such as branding design elements, as well as updates on Self-Service and working from home policy. The biggest action item was the creation of the Data Governance Board.
- C.3.b.(6) 23. Josh Myers shared a power point presentation about the Whitman Center update as projects move forward and where things are going. Dr. Yackee focused on the current winter 2026 enrollment. Summer is very light because most of our offerings are online. She shared with a handout the credit courses that were offered and ran, as well as the utilization and then the non-credit courses, offerings and enrollment. Nine of 11 credit offerings that ran, mostly lower enrollment. There were 62 seats with 224 available, which is about 28 percent. She stated they found better success with non-credit Lifelong Learning classes, in which 227 seats out of 332 filled. This is about 68 percent. Twelve different sections of classes were offered and all 12 of those ran. She also said they are finding that the ag-related courses under the leadership of Ned Birkey are doing well. Depending on the renovations that will be in place, we are not sure how many classes will be offered in the fall. In the fall we are working on business and general education courses that support business programs. The college is also discussing partnerships and activities with the ISD Transition Center and Monroe County Business Alliance, agricultural activities, offering a paramedic program providing opportunities for advanced placement in terms of getting credit for an EMT license, an engagement with Bedford Library and high schools for early college and dual enrollment. Rebecca Fournier is the Whitman Center coordinator who engages with the community and participates in some of the events.

Omaira Ortiz talked about how the Office of Admissions partnered with Bedford High School Blitz Day. This event is organized by MCCC and BHS, and hosted by the high school. They register dual enrolled, Middle College students, etc. The goal is to complete all the steps for registration for MCCC to support the students and also support all the high school counselors. There were 142 unique students between both terms. The goal is 250 BHS students and the number is currently at 195. There has been good feedback from BHS.

Dr. Myers shared the MCCC-Bedford Whitman Center Revitalization Strategy in which there was a blue-ribbon panel of community leaders who were asked what they think the Whitman Center should be. What is the

vision? The repeated response was they just wanted to see the building being used. MCCC leaders took their ideas and broke them down into four categories to guide the planning efforts to narrow the focus at the Whitman Center: workforce training, targeted dual enrollment, the Center for Business Development and entrepreneurship. This led us to being successful in a \$2.5 million earmark that Congressman Walberg was able to secure. There is talk about HVAC renovation for the Whitman Center that will be funded through the earmark. The biggest, most important thing is the community center aspect. It puts the community forward and the Whitman Center forward. We continue to have conversations, and no one suggested we shut down the center. We are now hearing if this is successful, maybe the building isn't big enough. He shared an early design of the master plan. Architects have been on campus and have been asked how we can modernize the building. We own 15 acres purchased over time. We have technology upgrades that need to happen in this building. We will continue to offer both credit and non-credit classes. We lack in areas to do testing for students with disabilities. They are proposing putting in trails and education summer camps. The Bedford Community Players are interested in doing small events at the Whitman Center. We lack a security office and storage so we are talking about carving a small section for those two rooms. When you see the final master plan, you will see the innovation lab where businesses can come in and do short-term training. It could be used to innovate a new program or academic offering with the intention it doesn't live there it only stays for a short time.

It was suggested by the board members that a workshop for discussion about the Whitman Center may be needed.

Joseph Verkennes talked about getting together and meeting with the residents. A lot of the classes that were offered in the 1990s and 2000s were classes that are now offered online. The community wants to see it busy and used as classrooms. We are offering 11 credit classes and a lot of non-credit classes. To promote these classes, he reevaluated his budget and found some funds to allocate to a communications plan. Once he realized there was a lot of activity including some agricultural programs, the objectives were to create an understanding and awareness of all the new offerings and let people know the things that were going on and generate some substantial enrollment. He started to run ads in November and go through June with key messages and tactics. He revised the website and provided information on all the services offered. The location has been rebranded to MCCC-Bedford, but the building is still called Whitman Center. There was a lot of advertising in the Bedford Press. A newsletter was created which got a lot of great reception, and he is currently working on sending out another one soon. MCCC is currently trying to build relationships with Adult Education in Bedford. Mr. Verkennes is recommending incorporating Monroe County Community College – Bedford into the Whitman Center monument sign. We are currently covering up the Spring Arbor name. The Whitman Center would still be on the sign.

24. *It was moved by Trustee Thayer and supported by Trustee Goodman to formally name the location that houses the Whitman, Center Monroe County Community College – Bedford location.*

The motion carried unanimously.

- C.3.b.(7) 25. Dr. Myers updated the board about The Foundation board of directors meeting. The board had several designations of unrestricted funds to fund some programs for the upcoming year. The board designated \$10,000 for emergency scholarships; the board created a new policy that will come before the Board of Trustees, which has to approve The Foundation policies. The new policy is to create direct-to-student hardship grant. When trying to help a student with an emergency, the new policy would allow The Foundation to directly write a check to a student. This was recommended by the auditor and would be much more straightforward than going through the college's process. The board approved \$20,000 for the Strategic Innovation Fund and a \$2,500 discretionary grant for the winner of the Excellence and Innovation Award. Amanda Althouse received the award this year. The board authorized \$12,500 to match a grant for the Momentum Program. The auditor reported The Foundation audit to the

board at the April board meeting. Dr. Myers reported out on the upcoming budget of endowments, which now exceeds \$100,000 this year and funds an enormous amount of good on our campus. Finally, that are four events coming up. This Friday in conjunction with the Art Club is the unveiling of the Heck's Market mural at 10:30 a.m. in Founders Hall. On Monday evening, the MCCC Band is doing the world premier of the second in a series of five compositions created for EPOCHS of the Great Lakes. On Friday, we will be announcing the Pack-the-Pantry Challenge winner. It has been a very spirited competition. Strikes, Spares and Scholarship held on Friday, May 29 at Monroe Sports Center.

- C.4.b.(1) 26. Chair Mason prepared a print out of board bylaws and how that would change. There would be no change to the bylaws but it is a redline change about adding the Pledge of Allegiance to the board agenda. The vote would not be today but this would be open for discussion as an agenda item at the next meeting.
- C.4.b.(2)] 27. Chair Mason announced the upcoming events.
28. Trustee Thayer shared that Dr. Myers and several students attended the Community College Day event in Lansing and visited with many legislators. She stated how wonderful the students were that were in attendance.
- C.1.a.(1) 29. *It was moved by Trustee Roberts and supported by Trustee Edwards that the meeting be adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron N. Mason
Chair

Nicole R. Goodman
Secretary

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These minutes were approved at the May 18, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.