

MINUTES OF THE SIX-HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

The La-Z-Boy Center
Board of Trustees Room, Z-203
1555 N. Raisinville Rd, Monroe MI 48162
5:30 p.m., May 18, 2026

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

Not Present: Aaron N. Mason

Also Present: Amanda Althouse, Scott Behrens, Brian Bertram, Christy Chisholm, Parmeshwar Coomar, Paula Cooney, Kevin Cooper, Anne Crimmins, Ella Farmer, Ann Felder, Mark Felder, Chris Gossett, Nickie Hampsher, Kelly Heinzerling, Rick Hubbert, Jason King, Barry Kinsey, Jeff LaRoux, Denise Lindemann, Linda Marsh, Gerald McCarty, Joshua Myers, Mark Naber, Carrie Nartker, Michael Neaves, Omaira Ortiz, Keith Rossi, Helen Stripling, Frank Thomas, Beverly Tomek, Linda Torbet, Carl Whitson, Justin Wisniewski, Stephanie Wozniak, Quri Wygonik, John Wyrabkiewicz, Grace Yackee, Penny Dorcey and Kristin Hoffman (recording secretaries).

1. Vice Chair Dowler called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. She noted that Chair Aaron Mason was unable to attend due to travel issues.
2. There were no delegations present.

Consent Agenda

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

- B.2.a.(1) 3. Approval of minutes of the April 27, 2026, regular meeting.
- B.2.a.(2) 4. Authorization for the President to execute a One-Year Probationary Staff Contract – Hutchison
- B.2.a.(3) 5. Authorization for the President to execute a One-Year Probationary Staff Contract – Curry
- B.2.a.(4) 6. Authorization for the President to execute a Faculty Contract – Elderbrock
- B.2.a.(5) 7. Authorization for the President to execute a Faculty Contract – Welton
- B.2.a.(6) 8. Approval of Foundation Group Three Director Reappointment:

It was moved by the board that the following individuals be approved by the MCCC Board of Trustees for reappointment as Group Three Directors (Directors at Large) pursuant to Section 5.4 of the Bylaws of The Foundation at Monroe County Community College:

Three-Year Terms Expiring December 31, 2028

*Dr. Andrew T. Assenmacher
Mary Bellestri
Victor S. Bellestri
Marjorie McIntyre Evans
Dr. Scott B. Johnson
Molly Luempert Coy
Rosemarie Walker*

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

B.3.a.(1) Old Business
None

B.4.a.(1) 9. New Business

It was moved by Trustee Svatek-Whitson and supported by Trustee Roberts that the Board approve the revision of Policy 1.00, By-Laws of the Board of Trustees adopts the Pledge of Allegiance be added to the order of business.

Yes [5] Lynette Dowler, Julie Edwards, Linda Roberts, Kristy Svatek-Whitson, Mary Kay Thayer

No [1] Nicole Goodman

The motion carried.

B.4.a.(2) 10. *It was moved by Trustee Edwards and supported by Trustee Goodman that the Board approve Monroe Community Mental Health Authority (MCMHA) be selected as the 2025-2026 College Supporter of the Year.*

The motion carried unanimously.

B.4.a.(3) 11. *It was moved by Trustee Thayer and supported by Trustee Goodman that the Board approve Foundation Policy 3.09, Direct Student Hardship Grants.*

The motion carried unanimously.

B.4.a.(4) 12. *It was moved by Trustee Thayer and supported by Trustee Goodman that the Board approve that the Gerald Welch Health Education Building be renamed as the Gerald Welch Center for Health and Public Safety.*

The motion carried unanimously.

B.4.a.(5) 13. *It was moved by Trustee Goodman and supported by Trustee Roberts that the Board approve establishing a facility naming opportunity for the balcony located in the Meyer Theater in the La-Z-Boy Center at a minimum \$10,000 gift level, pursuant to MCCC Policy 1.69.*

The motion carried unanimously.

B.4.a.(6) 14. *It was moved by Trustee Edwards and supported by Trustee Svatek-Whitson that the Board remove the Administrative Organizational Chart from the Policy and Procedures (previously listed as Policy 2.01, Administrative Organizational Chart).*

The motion carried unanimously.

C.3.a.(1) 15. Dr. Quartey announced the following staff appointments, first-year probationary professional staff contracts, first-year probationary faculty contracts, retirement, and resignation:

Staff Appointments:

Emily Hutchinson, Assistant Director Financial Services, effective April 30, 2026 (replacing Denise Lindeman)

James Curry, Student Retention Specialist, effective May 18, 2026 (replacing Michelle Gaynier)

First-Year Probationary Faculty Contract effective 8/24/26 – 5/13/27:

Emily Elderbrock, Assistant Professor of Biology (replacing Michael Fuertes)

Derrick Welton, Instructor of Emergency Medical Services (new position)

Retirement:

Christina Payne, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Student Services, effective June 30, 2026

Resignation:

Miranda Snyder, CTE Coordinator, effective May 14, 2026

Dr. Yackee added that Miranda did an excellent job but the grant ended and the position was dissolved into another one.

- C.3.a.(2) 16. 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, state appropriations are slightly below the year-to-date benchmark due to timing of July and August payments, which will be recorded in the next fiscal year. Overall, state revenues are projected to increase by approximately 2 percent next year; however, while a 2.5 percent increase is proposed for K-12, community college base funding is currently frozen, with only one-time funding increases anticipated—potentially resulting in reduced revenue over a two-year period.

Tuition and fee revenues are performing above expectations at 105 percent of projections, with a 4 percent increase approved for next year based on reliable enrollment projections. Property tax revenues are also expected to slightly exceed projections, with an estimated 3.8 percent increase, though a Headlee rollback will limit growth to the rate of inflation.

An Employee Retention Credit (ERC) payment has exceeded budget expectations and will be reallocated to the millage fund to support upcoming capital projects, including infrastructure repairs and maintenance.

Overall expenses remain within budget targets despite higher-than-expected costs in facilities maintenance (e.g., elevators, HVAC, geothermal systems). The institution does not anticipate overspending.

Looking ahead, salary increases of approximately 4.5 percent and benefit increases of about 1 percent are projected. Health insurance costs are currently under review. The budgeting process is being updated with new software tools to improve efficiency.

Additional planning is underway for deferred maintenance and the development of a long-term technology maintenance strategy to address ongoing infrastructure and equipment needs. On June 8, there will be a more definitive list for deferred maintenance.

- C.3.b.(1) 17. Dr. Yackee presented the Winter 2026 Enriching Lives Award on behalf of the committee. This award recognizes employees who exemplify the College's mission, vision, and values through their contributions and commitment. Nominations are submitted each semester through the Employee Engagement Committee to honor individuals who positively impact the campus community.

The Winter 2026 nominees included representatives from various departments across the College:

Makenna Baldwin, Registrar Assistant and Processor
 Mark Felder, College/Community Symphony Band Director
 Derek Jacobs, Power Systems Operator
 Lindi McClure, Assistant Professor of Practical Nursing
 Mike Neaves, Power Systems Supervisor
 Tyra Robertson, IT Services Liaison & Help Desk Representative
 Justin Wisniewski, Academic Skills Coordinator – Upward Bound
 Quri Wygonik, Director Institutional Research, Planning and Accreditation
 Cassie Yeary, General Maintenance Worker

Cassie Yeary, Custodial Maintenance, was announced as the recipient. She was recognized for her exceptional work ethic, reliability, and dedication to maintaining a clean, safe, and welcoming environment. Her proactive approach, positive attitude, and commitment to excellence were noted as having a meaningful impact on the campus community. Her work ethic is matched only by her reliability. Ms. Yeary shows up fully committed and fully invested in doing the job right.

The Board extended congratulations to all nominees and recognized the contributions of employees across the institution.

- C.3.b.(2) 18. Mark Naber, Professor of Mathematics/Faculty Council Chair, recapped that the council had nine meetings, eight regular and one special meeting.

The only real change is they've allowed for co-chairs now which went through GEC for approval. Dr. Naber had no further recommendations at this time.

- C.3.b.(3) 19. Joshua Myers, Executive Director of The Foundation and Director of Government and Alumni Affairs, updated the Board regarding recent Foundation initiatives. A mural dedication was held for the Heck's Market in Founders Hall. The mural, created by the Art Club in collaboration with faculty, highlights donor family history and enhancing the space. Since relocating to Founders Hall, Heck's Market utilization has increased by approximately 600 percent, reflecting expanded student access and support through the Student Success team.

The Foundation also supported a recent Momentum Graduation celebration honoring Adult Success Program graduates. Selected student stories will be featured in upcoming donor outreach efforts. Progress is underway on preparations for the Welch Center for Health and Public Safety capital campaign, with initial donor engagement in progress. Additionally, the College's band program was recognized for its recent performance, which continues to strengthen community engagement.

Upcoming events include the Foundation's primary fundraiser, "Strikes, Spares, and Scholarships," supporting emergency student aid.

Dr. Myers provided an update on capital outlay, noting that the Senate has included the College's project in a construction authorization within an appropriations bill. Final approval remains dependent on the state budget and conference committee process.

Lastly, Dr. Myers informed the Board of the passing of former Controller and Foundation Accountant Dan Schwab, recognizing his longstanding service, dedication, and meaningful contributions to the College. Dan gave his heart and soul to MCCC and will be irreplaceable. He will be sorely missed not only here but also in the community.

- C.3.b.(4) 20. Dr. Quartey sent the Board his President's Report last Friday which provided brief updates on recent activities and institutional matters. Commencement was reported as successful, with appreciation extended to Board members and all who participated. The "Pack the Pantry" initiative was also highlighted, with thanks to Trustee Julie Edwards and all contributors for supporting student needs.

An update was provided on the D3C3 grant application submitted to the Ralph Wilson Foundation, with acknowledgment of the team involved in its development.

The Board was reminded that no direction has been given to close the Whitman Center, and a future study session is anticipated to discuss its direction, supported in part by a \$2.45 million grant. This ensued discussion that two newer Board members would like to review historical data regarding the Whitman Center. Vice-Chair Dowler proposed a two or three Board member meeting with Dr. Quartey, Dr. Myers, Dr. Yackee, and Trustee Thayer to go over historical data (key attributes, timeline, and key points) with the newer Board members, to bring them up to speed on the history of the center.

The institution's financial position has improved due to Employee Retention Credit (ERC) funds. Updates on ongoing legal matters were shared, including one dismissed case and clarification regarding a pending matter involving a respiratory therapy student.

The President also noted progress on annual goals and self-evaluation, including the addition of a personal goal. The self-evaluations are due from the Board members by May 31, 2026. Lastly, it was reported that summer classes have officially begun.

Trustee Edwards shared her reflections on the commencement experience, noting the opportunity to engage directly with graduates prior to the ceremony. The interaction highlighted students' excitement and sense of

accomplishment, reinforcing the impact of the institution’s work. Appreciation was expressed to faculty, staff, and all involved in supporting student success and organizing the event, emphasizing commencement as a meaningful reminder of the College’s mission and purpose.

Dr. Quartey also shared that the Middle College Commencement was last week. 14 percent of our graduates are from our middle college. There were 11 Momentum students who graduated also.

21. Dr. Quartey, Dr. Yackee, and Dr. Myers (and potentially Trustee Thayer) will meet with two designated Trustees (Roberts and Whitson) prior to the June 23, 2026, regular meeting, to provide the historical context and plans for the Whitman Center. A quorum will be avoided (max three board members). Presentation materials will be shared with all board members at the June meeting.
22. Future agenda items include the following:
 1. Revision of Policy 1.00, Board Bylaws, to revise Sec. 2.2.1-5, Attendance at Meetings.
 2. Discussion of President’s Goals and Self-Evaluation – (Closed Session)

- C.4.b.(1) 23. Vice Chair Dowler announced the upcoming events.

The “Strikes, Spares & Scholarships” event is a great way to get together and have fun.

It was moved by Trustee Svatek-Whitson and supported by Trustee Edwards that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette M. Dowler
Vice Chair

Nicole R. Goodman
Secretary

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These minutes were approved at the June 22, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.