

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

Conference Rooms S-173bcd  
Warrick Student Center  
5:30 p.m., November 24, 2025

Present: Lynette M. Dowler (virtual), Julie M. Edwards, Aaron N. Mason, Linda M. Roberts, Kristy Svatek-Whitson, Mary Kay Thayer

Not Present: Nicole R. Goodman

Also Present: Amanda Althouse, Jacki Amaya, Scott Behrens, Brian Bertram, Phillip Borawski, Parmeshwar Coomar, David Edwards, Nickie Hampsher, Rick Hubbert, Jason King, Denise Lindemann, Sarah Mason, Gerald McCarty, Joshua Myers, Helen Stripling, Frank Thomas, Beverly Tomek, Linda Torbet, Joe Verkennes, Carl Whitson, Quri Wygonik, John Wyrabkiewicz, Grace Yackee, Penny Dorcey

1. Chair Aaron Mason called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m. He noted that Trustee Lynette Dowler is attending virtually from Lady Lake, Florida.
2. There five delegations present.
3. Chair Mason pulled item B. 2. a. (1) Approval of the October 25, 2025 minutes, from the Consent Agenda.
- B. 2. 4. *It was moved by Thayer and supported by Edwards that the following items on the consent agenda be approved.*
  - B. 2. a. (2) Authorization for the President to Execute an Administrative Contract - Ortiz
  - B. 2. a. (3) Authorization for the President to Execute an Administrative Contract - Steel

The motion carried unanimously.
3. Old Business  
None
4. New Business
- B. 2. a. (1) 5. *It was moved by Chair Mason and supported by Trustee Svatek-Whitson that the Board approves the minutes of the October 27, 2025 regular meeting with the following corrections:*
  1. *Correct language in Chair Mason's public comments.*
  2. *Trustee Goodman was present at the October 25, 2025 meeting; Trustee Roberts was not.*

The motion carried unanimously.
6. It was approved by unanimous consent to move item C. 3. b. (1), 2024-2025 Audit Report, ahead in the agenda.
- C. 3. b. (1) 7. Traci Moon, Partner, Andrews Hooper Pavlik, PLC, (AHP) summarized the 2024-2025 audit report.

Ms. Moon thanked Denise Lindemann, Assistant Director of Financial Services, and Frank Thomas, Vice President of Finance and Administration, for their cooperation. Ms. Moon expressed her appreciation of the team's efforts in providing quick responses to questions and documents. She announced that the audit resulted in an unmodified opinion, indicating a clean audit.

Ms. Moon explained the delay in the single audit due to the OMB's late release of the compliance supplement. The single audit is due by March 31, and the team will work

with management to schedule it. She noted that non-audit services include assistance with financial statements and the schedule of expenditures for federal awards. The foundation is a component unit of the college, audited by a separate firm, and its financial statements are discreetly presented in the college's financial statements.

Ms. Moon discussed the upcoming changes in audit and accounting standards, including GAAP 103 and 104. SB 103 will eliminate the audit revenue section and move Pell grants to the operating revenue section. SB 104 will require disclosures on certain capital assets, including leases and subscription-based IT arrangements. The accounting changes will not affect the current process but will require adjustments in the financial statements.

Ms. Moon mentioned the required communications with the Board of Trustees, including audit timing and proposed audit adjustments. The audit timing was moved to accommodate more time for the trial balance finalization. Proposed audit adjustments were noted, particularly on capital assets and recording. The management letter reported a significant deficiency related to the formalized closing process, which was complicated by staffing changes.

In terms of Employee Retention Credit (ERC) and Accounts Receivable, Ms. Moon discussed the \$3 million ERC received in 2023 and its recording as revenue. The audit team was surprised by the credit and suggested discussing such matters in advance. The accounts receivable for grants are being reviewed, and the team is working on improving the process. The management letter comments on the need to formalize the closing process to avoid issues in the future.

Ms. Moon provided an overview of the financial statements and operating results, including a \$10.4 million increase in cash. The cash flow statement shows a \$5 million increase in operating cash and a \$2.1 million decrease in capital assets. The net decrease in liabilities is due to pension and other post-employment benefits adjustments. The unrestricted net position is \$16.5 million, with a working capital of \$27 million, but it does not cover the pension obligation of \$33 million.

Ms. Moon commented that the decrease in operating revenue is due to changes in scholarship allowances. The scholarship allowance increased by \$2 million, reducing tuition and student services expenses. The operating expense increased by \$4 million, with a \$1 million increase in salaries and benefits. The state operating appropriations and property tax levy increased slightly, while the Pell federal grant revenue increased by 30 percent.

Ms. Moon explained that, unfortunately, when looking for comparisons to other community colleges Michigan, their current information was not yet available, so she used their financial performance from the previous year. The college's tuition and fees are higher due to a higher scholarship allowance. The ERC significantly affects the comparison of other revenue sections. The operating funds are consistent with the prior year and other community colleges in Michigan.

In terms of future plans and closing processes, Mr. Thomas mentioned starting the preliminary single audit in March and the construction in progress schedule earlier in the year. The team is working on updating the checklist of audit activities and responsibilities. The goal is to have a formalized process in place by the next audit to shore up the process for the coming year.

- B. 4. a. (1) 8. *It was moved by Chair Mason and supported by Trustee Edwards that the Board authorizes the Board chair to engage legal counsel to provide the Board with an opinion and consultation regarding a compliance review of several items related to the proper separation of millage PAC activities from use of college resources.*

Chair Mason commented that the Board had previously brought in Joe Verkennes, Director of Marketing and Communications, to talk about the millage campaign, including:

- How to keep a clear separation between the informational campaign on behalf of the college and any other campaign activities.

In this meeting, Mason connected that prior discussion to:

- Concerns about use of the college's address/resources in the millage effort.

Mr. Mason's view is that what he had seen so far looked like potential "technical" violation without clear evidence of substantial misuse of actual tangible use of public property, however, the Board needs to make sure this is the case. Mr. Mason recommended that the board authorize legal counsel to review filings, compliance, and possible consequences, then report back or appear at the next meeting about how to keep a clear separation between the informational campaign on behalf of the college and any other campaign activities.

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 4. a. (2) 9. *It was moved by Trustee Thayer and supported by Trustee Svatek-Whitson that the Board approves the 2025-2026 Regular Meeting Schedule of the Board of Trustees as revised.*

The motion carried unanimously.

### C. Information and Proposals

#### 1. Delegations

- C. 1. b. (1) 10. Jackie Amaya, Student Government Liaison, addressed the Board stating that College is a "very real" presence in the community and in people's daily lives. He also commented that the College impacts "real pockets" of people every day. Jacki noted that the College has a strong desire to lift up the community and to support it.

- C. 1. b. (2) 11. Senator Joe Bellino addressed the Board regarding the recent millage campaign. He alleged that the College president used Monroe County Community College's address, phone number, email address, and website for a political organization associated with the campaign, which he asserted is a violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, section 169.257. He stated that approximately \$5,000 was raised and spent through this organization while utilizing taxpayer-supported resources, characterizing this as the use of public funds for a political campaign. Sen. Bellino further indicated that the organization's state filings did not properly match the required organizational and address information. He expressed disappointment in the president's actions and stated that this situation reflects poor leadership at the community college.

- C. 1. b. (3) 12. Dave Edwards, citizen, addressed the Board regarding concerns about college leadership, legal compliance, and oversight. He highlighted three main issues: Bathroom signage / civil rights issue; millage campaign and use of college resources; free expression in regard to the establishment of a Turning Point USA student chapter

- C. 1. b. (4) 13. Michael Orr, clarified that he is speaking as a citizen of Monroe County and not on behalf of any organization. He recalled his previous comments from the October meeting regarding the President's use of the College website in the millage campaign, and that the president is the only employee directly hired by the Board. Mr. Orr challenged how the board and chair responded to criticism, questioned priorities and use of the President's time, and underscored concerns about political and legal handling of the millage campaign.

14. Chair Mason wrapped up the discussion about the millage-related legal concerns, noting that the board will be engaging legal counsel to review the issues that were raised, and will report back after counsel has done their work.

#### 1. Non-staff Communications and Reports

None

### 3. President and Staff

- C. 3. a. (1) 15. President Quartey announced the following staff appointments, administrative contracts, retirement, and resignation:

#### Staff Appointment:

Austin Bray, Student Success Support Specialist, effective November 10, 2025 (replacing Mark Young)  
 Kyle Boron, Grounds Maintenance Trainee, effective November 24, 2025 (replacing Robert Bomia)

Administrator Contract/Promotion:

Omaira Ortiz, Director of Enrollment Management, effective November 10, 2025 (replacing Katie Navock)

Administrator Contract:

Erin Steel, Director of Development and Major Gifts, effective November 17, 2025 through November 16, 2026 (new position)

Retirement:

Anthony Napier, Automotive Lab Tech, effective January 25, 2026

Resignation:

Nick DeArmond, Power Systems Trainee, effective November 4, 2025

- C. 3. a. (2) 16. Frank Thomas, Vice President of Financial Services and Administration/Treasurer, gave the board an update on the General Fund Revenues and Expenses, and Other Changes for the period ending October 31, 2025.

Frank Thomas reported that revenues are at about 33 percent of the annual budget. Slightly over 52 percent of winter tuition has been collected. At this point in the year, expenses are about \$2.5 million higher than revenues. He explained this is expected because property tax revenues (a major funding source) are largely collected in the winter, and those tax payments will start coming in January.

- C. 3. b. (1) 17. The 2024-25 Audit Report was presented earlier in the meeting.

- C. 3. a. (2) 18. Joe Verkennes, Director of Marketing and Communications, presented the 2024–2025 Annual Report.

Mr. Verkennes stated that the report fulfills a board policy requirement that an annual report be submitted to the Trustees by the November meeting. This year's report coincides with the 60th anniversary of Monroe County Community College. The report was produced by the Communications Department. He recognized Doug Richter, Graphic Designer, and Janelle Boss, Assistant to Executive Director of the Foundation, who contributed to writing, design, data and organization.

Mr. Verkennes explained that the report tells the story of how MCCC has impacted the community over the past year, including:

- New or expanded facilities (e.g., for health care and public safety training).
- Programs like automatic admission for area high school graduates.
- Efforts in places such as Bedford/the Whitman Center and other community-based sites.
- Initiatives focused on adult, first-generation, academically under-prepared, and economically disadvantaged students.

Mr. Verkennes connected today's work back to the vision of the founding president, Dr. Ronald Campbell, noting that the college still operates on those core principles.

In relation to distribution, Mr. Verkennes noted that the Trustees had already received and reviewed the report. He indicated the report will go out more broadly (e.g., to donors and community partners) after the board presentation and invited questions from the Trustees.

- C. 3. b. (3) 20. President Quartey summarized his reports to the Trustees, which he sends to the Board every other week.

Dr. Quartey sent to board his report this past Friday. He gave a brief millage history and touched on the 2026 millage outcome. He noted that before 2016 the college had gone 36 years without passing a millage. He stated that the 2026 millage did not pass. In terms of the PAC update, Dr. Quartey has talked to an attorney.

President Quartey and Cabinet members held a town hall to update staff on the Strategic Plan. He referred the Trustees to the strategic plan update

he provided them, which included a list of individuals involved moving it forward. Dr. Quartey addressed the Turning Point USA student group, and Dr. Berhens' overturning of the Student Government's decision, explaining that there is an ongoing process (appeal) and that he did not want to compromise that process by saying too much publicly yet.

Dr. Quartey gave an overview of the College financial position and outlook stating the College is in a strong overall financial condition, with a healthy fund balance and reserves that have increased over time (including millage related funds). He indicated that while the operating fund is starting to show some declines, the institution remains stable and is planning how to best move forward on major projects over the next 6–7 months, using the financial data they have.

Frank Thomas, Vice President of Finance and Administration gave a detailed financial overview. Through October 31, revenues were at about 33 percent of budget; with just over 52 percent of tuition (with winter still to come) already collected. At that point, expenses exceeded revenues by about \$2.5 million, which is normal because winter property tax collections (a major revenue source) do start until January.

In terms of expenses, Mr. Thomas explained that the College has tried to limit how fast expenses grow, but has still seen higher utilities (electric and gas), higher health insurance (premiums and copays), and general inflation. He noted that the HVAC project has produced real savings; without it, utility costs would be significantly higher. The guarantee period is over, but the College still enjoys market-based savings. Mr. Thomas reported that the College has paid down HVAC-related debt from about \$22 million to \$7 million. He emphasized that the intent is to continue paying down debt to strengthen the college's financial position.

Mr. Thomas gave an overview of state appropriations and tuition, asserting that state funding is unpredictable from year to year. For the current year, the college received almost \$7.9–\$8 million in state appropriations, including some earmarked funds and tuition waivers. He clarified that charts showing tuition revenue do not include technology fees and some specialized program revenues (e.g., MJTP, and certain grants).

Moving on to grants and the Federal Single Audit, Mr. Thomas noted that the College receives significant grant funding and is bringing in notable federal dollars. He explained that the single audit (focused only on federal funds, not state grants) is conducted under Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200) and they are not seeing problems in that area.

Overall, while expenses and external costs are rising, the college is managing finances prudently, benefiting from past capital investments, and maintaining compliance with federal funding requirements.

Ms. Quri Wygonik, Director of Institutional Research, Planning and Accreditation, presented detailed student success and enrollment pipeline data. She reviewed transfer, completion, and retention rates over approximately ten years, noting that the metrics are derived from standardized state reporting, which allows for valid comparisons across institutions. Dr. Wygonik reported that transfer rates have remained relatively stable, while completion rates at three-year and four-year intervals for first-time, full-time cohorts have increased, including an approximate 13 percent increase in three-year completion. She further stated that retention rates have also improved, in alignment with the higher completion rates.

Dr. Wygonik then discussed the high school pipeline and college readiness, using data from MI School Data / CEPI to show college-readiness indicators for Monroe County high school graduates and MCCC's market share of those students. She noted a 76 percent increase in the share of college-ready graduates choosing MCCC, emphasizing that most of these gains are concentrated in the College's local partner high schools.

Regarding enrollment and headcount trends, Dr. Wygonik presented ten-year trend lines indicating an approximate 33 percent decline in overall headcount. She attributed this decline primarily to demographic factors (including fewer local high school graduates) and to shifts in how and when students enroll, such as increased participation in dual enrollment and other pathways.

Dr. Wygonik noted that the information presented is drawn from state dashboards, which provide consistent definitions and methodologies across institutions. She indicated that, in the future, she and her team could provide comparative data with other colleges and additional demographic context, including county population and high school graduation trends.

President Kojo Quartey briefly added that recent state legislation allows students to use Michigan money to enroll in out of state schools, noting that many dual enrolled students along the Ohio state line were lost after the implementation of Public Act 157 (cross border dual enrollment). He stated that both he and Trustee Thayer strongly opposed the new legislation. Monroe County Community College is the only college in the state that is affected.

Dr. Quartey also mentioned that “Michigan Reconnect” and tuition-free community college, along with related workforce programs, are contributing to increases in adult enrollments, which corresponds with Dr. Wygonik’s data on changing student profiles.

state legislation that makes community college more affordable or tuition-free for many students. Noting that, as a result of this legislation and related programs, the College has seen a significant increase in directly enrolled students. Indicating that these changes affect how students make their own educational and budget decisions.

Dr. Wygonik continued discussing enrollment and pipeline data, focusing on how many local high-school students progress into dual enrollment, direct enrollment, or transfer. She noted the 10-year trends in those pipelines and how they relate to overall enrollment decline. The data show a roughly 3 percent decline in certain student pipelines over the period. Evidence suggests that direct partnerships (dual enrollment, early college, etc.) help keep more local students connected to MCCC.

Barry Kinsey, Director of Workforce Development, reported on recent workforce development and non-credit program initiatives supported by external grant funding, highlighting the following items: aviation training simulator and non-credit courses; Detroit-Area Mobility / EV Training Initiatives; and transition of non-credit offerings to credit-bearing courses;

Mr. Kinsey stated that, through collaboration with a partner managing HV/EV grant funds, the College was able to redirect funding to purchase an aviation training device (flight simulator). He explained that the simulator allows students to practice well beyond a standard 40-hour instructional block, significantly enhancing skill development. He reported that two students from Wayne County recently completed approximately 42 hours in a non-credit evening course (meeting twice per week from February to April), which prepared them for the FAA written examination. Simulator time and one-on-one instructor time are applied toward required training hours.

Mr. Kinsey reported that the College is collaborating with partners at a Detroit mobility/transportation site (including a train station–related initiative) to offer workforce training aligned with electric vehicles and mobility. He indicated that two non-credit courses are planned for the upcoming winter term, including an introductory safety or “trust” course, supported by a regional grant focused on mobility and EV workforce development. The course is expected to run from approximately February 14 through March 14 on Saturdays, with a reduced cost to participants due to grant support.

Mr. Kinsey noted that the College is working with internal staff to administer the related certification examinations on the MCCC campus so that students will not be required to travel to Detroit to test.

Mr. Kinsey informed the Board that Workforce Development is working with the Curriculum Committee to convert selected non-credit offerings into credit-bearing courses. He stated that these courses will supplement existing program options and provide students with additional pathways to credentials. He further reported that additional pilot sections (e.g., Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday) are planned, along with expansion in related technical and construction-related training.

Mr. Kinsey concluded by emphasizing that grant funding has been instrumental in enabling the College to launch and expand these high-impact, practice-intensive workforce programs and to begin integrating them into for-credit pathways.

Trustee Lynette Dowler thanked the staff for the comprehensive summary of the College statistics presented to the Board. She stated that the summary, prepared by Mr. Thomas and Mr. Kinsey provides a holistic view of the College that includes the budget, student success measures, and grants, and that she greatly appreciates having such a succinct, integrated document.

Trustee Dowler emphasized that the Board's focus is student success and noted that the student success data in the summary is very encouraging, she expressed appreciation of the work of the faculty and staff in supporting students and highlighted the significant role of grant funding enabling the success. She observed that much of the progress shown in the summary is directly tied to the College's efforts to secure grants, describing this grant activity as a "game changer" for the institution, both in terms of the college success and affordability for students. She specifically acknowledged staff and faculty whose positions are supported by grant dollars and who track, support and assist student to be successful.

Chair Mason encouraged Board members to submit any follow-up questions arising from the summary to Dr. Quartey. He will summarize those questions to be shared at the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Questions and Information Requests:

What is the high school graduation rate over time?

A comparison of enrollment numbers with other area institutions

When did the enrollment decline begin?

When did the enrollment begin to increase?

Data on growth or decline in other area schools

Comparison of enrollment and unemployment rates

Trustee Lynette Dowler stated that, in addition to the summary of college statistics presented, she would be interested in seeing information on Monroe County population trends over the same time period as the enrollment data, as well as the high school graduation rate during that period. She asked whether it would be possible to analyze any correlation between those external factors and MCCC's enrollment trends.

Trustee Dowler indicated that, if it would not require an excessive amount of additional work, she would like this contextual information to be provided, preferably as part of the regular summary materials, so trustees can better understand the broader environment influencing enrollment. She suggested that such data could be routed through President Kojo Quartey for inclusion in future reports.

Trustee Julie Edwards stated that during the pandemic there was a unique "denominator" year that significantly affected enrollment, not only at MCCC but likely at other institutions as well. She requested that the College provide comparative enrollment data from similar institutions so the Board can see how MCCC's enrollment trends over the past twelve years align with or differ from peers. She indicated she would like to understand whether other colleges have experienced comparable enrollment declines or recoveries in specific areas, beyond seeing MCCC's standalone trend lines.

Trustee Lynette Dowler reiterated her interest in seeing contextual data alongside MCCC's trends, including Monroe County population changes and high-school graduation trends over the same period, and any correlation that might exist

between those factors and the College's enrollment. She suggested that incorporating such external data into the summary materials would help trustees better interpret the enrollment figures.

President Kojo Quartey responded that broader economic conditions and demographic shifts play a significant role in enrollment patterns. He noted that when the economy is strong and unemployment is low, community college enrollments often decline, and when the economy weakens, enrollments tend to increase. He also referenced state policy changes, including tuition-free community college initiatives that have influenced adult enrollments, and agreed that it would be useful to present MCCC's data in the context of regional and statewide trends.

Chair Aaron Mason acknowledged the trustees' requests and agreed that providing comparative and demographic context would enhance the Board's understanding of enrollment and student-success data. He indicated that administration would work to incorporate this type of information into future reports so that trustees can more clearly see how MCCC's experience compares with that of similar institutions and with underlying population trends.

Joe Verkennes, Director of Marketing and Communications, met with Grace Yackee, Vice President of Instruction, last week as part of an ongoing cycle of meetings occurring every few months. Josh Myers, Executive Director of The Foundation and Director of Government and Alumni Affairs, has also been holding numerous meetings related to program development and revitalization. These ongoing discussions underline a coordinated effort to bring several programs "back to life."

Mr. Verkennes informed the Board that the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program placed at the referenced location Whitman Center has been successful. According to the annual report, enrollment in this program has tripled. Plans are in place to continue growing the program into next year. Beverly Tomek, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, expanded offerings significantly at the center, running 11 classes, including nine classes supporting the two-year EMT program. These expanded offerings appear to be part of broader efforts to strengthen program pipelines.

A task force was formed that includes individuals from various departments. The task force's purpose is to distribute classes across programs and coordinate instructional needs. Collaboration with Lifelong Learning has been ongoing. Lifelong Learning has developed a range of offerings including: Agriculture classes, Lawn care training, and Pesticide application courses. These were assembled by contributions from Ned Birkey, former County agriculture agent, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Educator Emeritus, and MCCC Adjunct Agriculture Instructor. There is a desire to implement a communications plan, especially one centered around women-focused program outreach. A key issue discussed: instructors need to commit to consistent course offerings. Some business classes currently enroll only 3–6 students, impacting viability. The team is emphasizing the need to increase enrollment and consistency across sections. Mr. Verkennes said the overarching theme of the meeting the revival of solid, previously successful programs. Efforts include expanding offerings, increasing instructor involvement, improving communication, and strengthening recruitment.

Josh Myers, Executive Director of The Foundation and Director of Government and Alumni Affairs, gave further updates on the Whitman Center, community engagement, and facilities planning. He described multiple strategies to revitalize the Whitman Center, such as bringing students and prospective students to the center and encouraging them to take a class there; hosting information sessions for the broader community and separate invite-only sessions with community leaders to gather their vision for the site; holding individual meetings with organizations interested in space or partnerships at Whitman; and he emphasized that the goal is to reposition the Whitman Center as a true community hub, not just a transfer/overflow site. Dr. Myers explained that feedback from these meetings and sessions will inform a vision document for the Whitman Center and noted that after the first of the year, the College will conduct additional visioning sessions with the architects engaged for the broader

campus master plan, and that this will help determine what should be built, improved, or repurposed at the center over the next 10–30 years.

Dr. Myers reported ongoing community-giving and service activities (in partnership with Human Resources and Student Success), such as sponsoring families and supporting students with basic needs. He highlighted the distribution of 100 frozen turkeys to students/families through the campus market, supported by donors and discounted pricing from Heck’s Market and mentioned upcoming foundation communications to invite broader participation in these efforts and the need to grow fundraising to support campus priorities.

Mr. Myers announced that the Foundation will recognize two “Supporters of the Year”, Nancy Branch and Jim McIntyre, both of whom serve on the Foundation Board. He stated that in 2024 there was no Foundation event and, as a result, no Supporter of the Year recognition was made. He invited trustees and guests to attend the upcoming Foundation Board meeting, at which these supporters will be formally recognized, and indicated he would provide a reminder of the date and time.

Dr. Myers updated the Board on work with the construction manager at risk, who is finalizing a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for a major project. He indicated that Senior Leadership and the Board will need to review and refine project scope and costs if there are differences in assumptions. Dr. Myers noted that the College has also interviewed architects and is moving toward a more complete capital and master-planning framework for upcoming projects. Overall, he emphasized coordinated efforts to re-energize the Whitman Center, deepen community partnerships, expand philanthropic support, and align these initiatives with the College’s long-term facility and master plan.

- C. 3. b. (4) 21. Joshua Myers announced that the next item of the month for Heck’s Market is peanut butter.

3. Board Member and Committee Reports

- C. 4. b. (1) 25. Trustee Mary Kay Thayer provided an update on statewide

community college and legislative matters. She reported that one of the most significant recent developments is the expansion of tuition-free community college opportunities in Michigan, along with new registered apprenticeship pathways that allow apprentices to become eligible to earn community college degrees.

Trustee Thayer noted that community colleges are key partners in the state’s workforce development plan and that there is increasing emphasis on recognizing non-credit learning toward credit-bearing credentials. She cited the growing use of badges and stackable credentials, and explained that colleges are examining how to count non-credit coursework for credit in order to keep students connected to the institution and progressing educationally.

She concluded by stating that these policy and program changes are creating additional opportunities for students and their families to enhance their skills and knowledge through community college education.

- C. 4. b. (3) 27. Chair Mason moved the appointment of the Board Officer Nomination Committee to the November 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. He explained that normally, the board appoints an officer nomination committee on a two-year cycle, with officer elections in January. He does not want to appoint the committee yet as there are three trustees whose six-year terms end next year (including Mason and Trustee Dowler). Because of the November election and not knowing who will be on the Board in January, Chair Mason suggested delaying the appointment of the nomination committee until after next November’s election, closer to the January organizational meeting. This gives the committee a short window (a few weeks) to meet and prepare recommendations so the January meeting runs smoothly and officially. His goals are to ensure transparency with voters and trustees; preserve institutional knowledge and support for any new trustees, and to make sure whoever is chairing in January (possibly Trustee Goodman) has enough groundwork to

conduct officer elections effectively. Chair Mason invited Trustees to share what they need to feel prepared for that transition.

C. 4. b. (5) 28. Chair Mason noted the upcoming events.

C. 4. b. (6) 29. *It was moved by Trustee Edwards and supported by Trustee Roberts that the meeting be adjourned.*

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron N. Mason  
Chair

Nicole R. Goodman  
Secretary

pd/

These minutes were approved at the February 23, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.