

MINUTES OF THE SIX-HUNDRED AND FORTIETH 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 48161
5:30 p.m., September 28, 2026

Present: Aaron N. Mason, Lynette M. Dowler, Julie M. Edwards (arrived at 5:32), Nicole R. Goodman, Linda M. Roberts, Kristy Svatek-Whitson, Mary Kay Thayer

Also Present: Amanda Althouse, Scott Behrens, Brian Bertram, Lori Biggs, Matt Bird-Meyer, Phillip Borawski, Christy Chisholm, Parmeshwar Coomar, Paula Cooney, Ashley Cox, Anne Crimmins, Abrielle DiFranco, Mark Ely, Chris Gossett, Nickie Hampsher, Rick Hubbert, Dwaine Knestrick, Jeff La Roux, Denise Lindemann, Sarah Mason, Gerald McCarty, Joshua Myers, Carrie Nartker, Omaira Ortiz, Cora Payne, Douglas Payne, Tina Pillarelli, Keith Rossi, Michael St. Charles, Frank Thomas, Beverly Tomek, Linda Torbet, Joe Verkennes, Stephanie Wozniak, Quri Wygonik, John Wyrabkiewicz, and Kristin Hoffman (recording secretary).

1. Chair Mason called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
2. Chair Mason asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. There were two delegations present.
- B. 2. a. (1) 4. *It was moved by Trustee Dowler and supported by Trustee Edwards that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:*
 - B. 2. a. (1) Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 22, 2026.
 - B. 2. a. (2) Resolution for Adherence to Best Practices.
 - B. 2. a. (3) Authorization for the President to Execute a First-Year Probationary Administrative Contract – Ashley Cox
 - B. 2. a. (4) Authorization for the President to Execute a First-Year Probationary Professional Staff Contract – Ryan Weiss
 - B. 2. a. (5) Authorization for the President to Execute a First-Year Probationary Professional Staff Contract – Jason King
 - B. 2. a. (6) Authorization for the President to Execute a First-Year Probationary Faculty Contract – Joshua Halsey
 - B. 2. a. (7) *The Board moved that the following resolution proclaiming October, United Way Month be adopted:*

WHEREAS, the United Way of Monroe County is entering its 2026-2027 campaign and will set another milestone goal that will see campaign pledges of over one million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the United Way is the largest single voluntary organization in Monroe County through which volunteers can channel their concern for people in need, and

WHEREAS, the United Way, largely because of the continued generosity and caring of employees of Monroe County Community College, can continue to grow and support a wider range of health and human care needs that directly benefit residents of Monroe County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees, that the College employees be encouraged to participate in the 2026-2027 United Way Campaign of Monroe County

and receive the highest commendations and vote of thanks for their generous gifts to this vitally important cause, and

THAT IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees proclaims the month of October 2026 'United Way Month' throughout the College district to emphasize the value and positive contribution United Way of Monroe County offers to our community and its residents on this Monday, September 28, 2026."

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business
None

4. New Business
None

C. Information and Proposals

1. Delegations

- C.1. b. (1) 5. Dwaine Knestrick addressed the Board regarding his experience as a returning student, including concerns regarding textbook availability, eCampus, and the quality and navigation of online course materials. The Board indicated that his concerns would be connected with the appropriate College personnel for follow-up. Dr. Quartey will also follow up with Mr. Knestrick.
6. Keith Rossi addressed the Board as a candidate for the Board of Trustees and commented on the upcoming election and Board membership. Mr. Rossi indicated it is time for change, and he, Jeff La Roux, and Mark Ely are that change.

2. Non-staff Communications and Reports
None

3. President and Staff

- C. 3. a. (1) 7. President Quartey announced the following contract renewals, first-year probationary contracts, and resignations.

First-Year Probationary Administrator Contract

Ashley Cox, Dean of Business, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Engagement, effective August 16, 2026

First-Year Probationary Faculty Contract

Joshua Halsey, Instructor of Automotive Technology, effective August 24, 2026

First-Year Probationary Professional Staff Contract

Jason King, System and Integration Administrator, effective September 14, 2026
Ryan Weiss, ERP Systems Administrator, effective August 10, 2026

Resignation:

Amber Jalandoni, Custodial Maintenance, effective June 25, 2026
Jason Aaron, Adult Learner Advocate, effective August 28, 2026
Christina Kelly, Educational Advocate, effective September 30, 2026

Termination:

Garrett Lawson, Power Systems Operator, effective June 25, 2026

- C. 3. a. (2) 8. Scott Behrens, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success and Quri Wygonik, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Chief Data Officer, presented the Fall 2026 enrollment and KPI update. Fall enrollment was reported at approximately 2,764 students, an increase of 3.7 percent from the prior year. Billable credits were reported as up 4 percent and credit hours up 3.5 percent.

Drs. Behrens and Wygonik discussed the accuracy and timing of comparison data in the KPI dashboard, MCCC inputs the actual data but most schools do not. Our KPI

dashboard is phenomenal with transparent data. This is a valuable tool that is used daily. The team worked hard to connect with potential students, which resulted in an increase in enrollment for fall semester. The KPI dashboard including an issue in which the Fall 2026 algorithm affected the Fall 2025 comparison. Dr. Behrens apologized for the correction in enrollment data but this is not a reflection of the department.

Dr. Behrens also discussed deregistration and the process for identifying students who should be removed from enrollment counts. Dr. Wygonik reported that additional review is underway with Finance, Student Success, Instruction, and technology/data personnel, with a more detailed analysis anticipated before the Winter deregistration process. The Board requested information concerning student debt and the potential impact of the College's enrollment efforts on students transferring from other institutions. Dr. Wygonik indicated she would have data available for the November meeting.

- C. 3. a. (3) 9. Frank Thomas, Vice President of Financial Services and Administration, gave the Board received the Statement of General Fund Revenues and Expenses for the periods ending July 31, 2026 and August 31, 2026, including the estimated June 30, 2026 year-end position and comparative information. The College was reported at approximately 16.67 percent of the fiscal-year budget period, with revenues slightly above and expenses below budget at that point in the year. Tuition revenue was reported as favorable compared with the prior year. State appropriations and property tax revenues were noted as occurring later in the fiscal year.
- C. 3. a. (4) 10. Beverly Tomek, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, presented the Summer 2026 Enriching lives Performance Award. Monroe County Community College acknowledges the importance of its employees and welcomes the opportunity to recognize their extraordinary achievements. Each semester, the Employee Engagement Committee accepts nominations for the Enriching Lives Performance Award to recognize one of the college's employees based on commitment and examples of how the employee incorporates MCCC's Mission, Vision and Values into daily work activities. The Employee Engagement Committee is devoted to honoring the employee whose actions create a positive change on campus. Nominations are accepted during the mid-point of the semester and the individual selected is recognized at the board meeting closest to the end of the semester.

We received nominations for four individuals for the Summer 2026 semester Enriching Lives Performance Award, including:

Lori Biggs, Nursing Clinical Coordinator
 Kyle Boron, Grounds Maintenance Trainee
 Cori Raymond, Custodial Maintenance
 Sarah Rorke, Facilities Reservations Coordinator

The Summer 2026 Enriching Lives Award was presented to Sarah Rorke, Facilities Reservations Coordinator. The Board congratulated Ms. Rorke and the nominees. Below are the nominators' words about Sarah:

"Sarah consistently goes beyond basic coordination. She strives to make every interaction positive and every event successful. Her dedication, reliability, and genuine care for the campus community make her an outstanding representative of MCCC's values. For her exceptional service, her unwavering commitment to excellence, and her meaningful contributions to the daily life of our college, Sarah Rorke is truly deserving of the Enriching Lives Performance Award."

- C. 3. b. (1) 11. Joshua Myers, Executive Director of The Foundation and Director of Government and Alumni Affairs, The Foundation reported on the September 11th alumni golf outing, noting increased participation compared with recent years. Dr. Myers also reported on the CODA event honoring Mark Felder and fundraising efforts associated with his legacy, including plans for an endowment supporting the College band if the fundraising goal is reached. Kudos to the volunteers and the Band as they made this event phenomenal. The Board also received an update on the Momentum Adult Success Program and the Foundation-supported community block party in the Orchard East neighborhood. This is one of the most academically underprepared areas in our county and we feel we can make a difference, especially for adult learners.

In addition, Dr. Myers reported that the campus master plan is nearing completion, with a draft anticipated for Board review. An update was also provided on the Welch project, including completion of legislative requirements, movement into the technical

phase, anticipated spring construction, and a revised approach to completing renovation and construction work concurrently.

- C. 3. b. (2) 12. Joshua Myers, Executive Director of The Foundation and Director of Government and Alumni Affairs, and Amanda Althouse, Director of Student Success, presented an update on the Husky Comeback Program. The program provides eligible returning students with a pathway to re-enroll despite prior institutional debt. Eligible students may have the temporary hold removed and, upon completing a degree, credential, certificate, or transfer, may receive forgiveness of up to \$2,500 of institutional debt.

The program requires students to be Monroe County residents, have stopped attending for at least six semesters, enroll in at least six contact hours, demonstrate the ability to pay for the current semester, and participate in Student Success Center support. Since implementation, 17 students have participated; two have graduated, one has stopped out while remaining in contact with the College, and 14 are currently attending. Additional demographic and student-support information was shared with the Board. This has been a really exciting program, to give students who were lost in the system, another shot. The Trustees noted this was the exact intent of what they had hoped the program would be when they approved this years ago. Ms. Althouse thanked the team which includes the Business Office, IR Office, The Foundation, Student Success Team, and the Cashiers who all help make this program amazing.

- C. 3. b. (3) 13. President Quartey provided an update on college activities, including fall enrollment, the alumni golf outing, recent marketing awards, and a national mental-health recognition received by the College. Dr. Quartey recognized Joseph Verkennes, Director of Marketing and Communications, and his department on winning several marketing awards at a recent regional conference. Mr. Verkennes will find out which level awards they will receive at the conference in October. Dr. Quartey also recognized staff members involved in the College's mental-health partnership and related work. Gerald McCarthy, Dean of Student Services, Amanda Althouse, Director of Student Success, and their team won the 2026 Insight into Academia Excellence in Mental Health and Well-Being Award. We were the only community college in the State of Michigan to win this prestigious award. Congratulations on this outstanding award!

President Quartey also addressed student concerns raised during public comment and indicated that the College would follow up on the concerns regarding course materials and online learning.

- C. 3. b. (4) 14. Chair Mason reported the public summary of the Board's June 22, 2026 evaluation of the President for the 2025-2026 academic and fiscal year. The consensus reported was that President Quartey exceeded expectations in numerous areas and met expectations in the remaining areas, with overall performance described as substantially similar to the prior year with modest overall improvement.

Chair Mason discussed the President's compensation history over the past 13 years, the absence of automatic annual cost-of-living adjustments in the current contract, and inflationary considerations. Most years, President Quartey did not receive an inflationary cost of living raise nor any increase in compensation. Trustee Thayer indicated that the lack of a pay increase or raise was not for lack of excellent evaluations but for other reasons such as covid, union contracts, etc. Discussion ensued among board members that the Board should be held accountable for annual reviews and appropriate cost of living raises. Future potential presidents could view the past history of hit or miss raises which could reflect negatively on the Board and College as a whole. Trustee Dowler moved to consider a six percent increase to the President's base salary; the motion died for lack of a second.

Trustee Goodman then moved to approve a five percent increase to the President's base salary. Trustee Dowler seconded the motion.

It was moved by Trustee Goodman and supported by Trustee Dowler that the Board authorizes the President to receive a five percent inflationary cost of living increase to his salary:

Yes [5] Lynette Dowler, Julie Edwards, Nicole Goodman, Aaron Mason, and Mary Kay Thayer

No [2] Linda Roberts, Kristy Svatek-Whitson

The motion carried.

- C. 4. b. (1) 15. Several Trustees attended the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) 2026 Summer Conference in Mackinac Island and joined different learning sessions which included student success, successful millages, and one focused on K-12 learning, getting back to the basics with math and reading.

In the breakout groups, the President and the Trustees shared about our Husky program and our food pantry. Representing our college and interacting with other colleagues is vital for learning and engagement between institutions.

Dr. Quartey present Chair Mason with a pin for his 10 years of service, which were handed out during the MCCA Summer Conference.

- C. 4. b. (2) 16. Trustee Thayer and Dr. Quartey attended the MCCA Fall Board of Directors Meeting last week. The main topic of discussion was the MCCA's strategic plan.

- C. 4. b. (3) 17. Chair Mason noted the upcoming events.

- C. 4. b. (5) 18. *It was moved by Trustee Roberts and supported by Trustee Edwards that the meeting be adjourned.*

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron N. Mason
Chair

Nicole R. Goodman
Secretary

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These minutes were approved at the October 26, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.