

APPROVED MINUTES OF INFORMATION SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB

An open information session of the Board of Trustees of the Community College District of the County of Macomb was held Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in Room 125 of the University Center, Professional Development Center, Center Campus, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, Michigan.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lorenzo at 6:05 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present:

Katherine Lorenzo, Chairperson
Shelley Vitale, Vice Chairperson
Kristi Dean, Secretary
Roseanne DiMaria, Treasurer
Frank Cusumano, Trustee
Joan Flynn, Trustee

Absent:

Vincent Viviano, Trustee

Also present:

James Sawyer, President
Aimee Adamski, Director, Enrollment Services
Libby Argiri, Executive Vice President, Business
Kevin Chandler, Vice President, College Advancement & Community Relations
Leslie Kellogg, Provost, Vice President of the Learning Unit
Nicole McKee, Director, Government and Institutional Relations
William Leavens, Chief of College Police
Jeffrey Steele, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel
Patsy Tannahill, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by DiMaria, supported by Flynn, to approve the agenda as presented.

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: DiMaria, Flynn, Cusumano, Dean, Vitale, Lorenzo

NAYS:

ABSENT: Viviano

MOTION CARRIED.

4.0 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

5.0 REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS AND MATERIALS

None.

6.0 ISSUES AND UPDATES

6.1 President's Report

Closed Session

We do need to have closed session with the BOT pursuant to MCL 15.268 C - collective bargaining.

Enrollment Update

As of Monday, Winter, 2026 credit hours are up 4.7% compared to last year, headcount is up 1.6 %.

Personnel

- Lisa Hanna, Instructor of Biology, MCCFO
- Nicholas Marowsky, Instructor of Biology, MCCFO
- Shelley Werthman, Counselor - 225 Day, MCCFO
- Danielle Hunter, Welding Instructor - Special Projects, NASF
- David Jackson, Welding Instructor - Special Projects, NASF
- Glen Murphy, CNC Instructor - Special Projects, NASF
- Christopher Pyszora, CNC Instructor - Special Projects, NASF
- Paige Barnes, Director of Information Security, NBU

Information Items

- Applicant Tracking and Employee Learning Management System Software

Purchases

- Perkins Grant Fund - Training Ammunition Combat Portable Structure
- Perkins Grant Fund – Amatrol Motor Control Learning Systems
- Perkins Grant Fund - FANUC iRVision GigE Cameras

Policy Actions

- Awarding of Associate Degrees & Academic Certificates - First Reading

State Budget

The current state budget includes a 10% administrative cost cap on state appropriations. Libby Argiri, executive vice president, Administration, and Kathi Poindexter, associate vice president, Finance, shared Macomb's compliance model, adopted in November, at a Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) meeting of community college business officers. The approach was well received, and Argiri was invited to present it at an upcoming MCCA president's meeting. The Governor's proposed FY 2026–27 executive budget includes continued support for Reconnect and the Achievement Scholarship but reflects flat appropriations overall. It also includes Infrastructure, Technology, Equipment, Maintenance, and Safety (ITEMS) funding (about \$1.5 million for Macomb), which the College would prefer as operational funding, continued tuition restraint (5% or \$255, whichever is greater), and \$5 million for M3, though its purpose is uncertain. As this is early in the budget process and the Governor's final year in office, the timeline and final outcome remain unclear.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Vitale requested a comparison between prior budgets and the current and proposed budget. President Sawyer noted that providing a meaningful comparison at this stage may be premature, as the budget is still evolving and figures may change before finalization. He suggested that a full comparison be provided once the budget is finalized to ensure accuracy.

Flood in South Campus E Building

A ruptured outdoor hose spigot caused by freezing temperatures caused flooding within the building. The College worked closely with its insurance provider, Michigan Community College Risk Management Authority (MCCRMA), to initiate remediation and restoration efforts, with crews on site by 10 a.m. Monday. All impacted classes, offices, and the print shop have been temporarily relocated to minimize disruption. The College continues to coordinate with MCCRMA on the insurance claim, and restoration quotes are being obtained. A repair timeline will be established once a contractor is selected in partnership with the insurer.

Workforce Pell

The federal Workforce Pell initiative aims to expand Pell Grant eligibility to include short-term, noncredit workforce programs that lead to in demand careers. While there is broad support for expanding short term workforce aid, federal discussions continue around safeguards to ensure program quality and protect the long term sustainability of Pell funding. The College has a group actively monitoring developments and preparing a strategy for Macomb's participation. Based on current discussions, the program is not expected to be available until 2027.

Meetings with the President

A breakfast was held on January 28, 2026, and a virtual chat on February 4, 2026.

Student Life and Leadership Finals Frenzy

336 students participated in the Fall 2025 Finals Frenzy hosted by Student Life and Leadership. This event provides meals, study supplies, and stress-relief activities such as gingerbread house decorating.

D3C3 Update

Credit for Prior Learning, which has transitioned to Enrollment Services and now reports directly to Aimee Adamski, registrar. A recent marketing campaign targeting nontraditional students showed strong results between October 27 and November 30, 2025. Social media efforts generated 98 leads through Facebook and Instagram, while YouTube supported awareness through strong video completion rates. Overall, the campaign delivered nearly 700,000 impressions and drove more than 1,500 clicks to the program page, reflecting strong engagement and visibility.

K-12 relations

Dual Enrollment, which reached a record high of 1,421 students. Total K-12 participation across Dual Enrollment, Early College Macomb, and Early College programs has surpassed 2,000 students, representing approximately 13% of the College's student population.

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On January 27, 2026, Clintondale students began taking courses in Health and Public Services as part of a dedicated cohort. The College is continuing to collaborate with Health and Public Services to expand additional Dual Enrollment opportunities for Clintondale students.

Business, IT and Culinary

Fueling IT Grant:

Through the Fueling IT Grant initiative, the College hosted 65 Fraser High School students for a hands on career exploration experience featuring demonstrations in Computer Programming and Cybersecurity. The event provided early exposure to in demand technology fields.

DECA Practice Event:

The College hosted a DECA practice event at the University Center, welcoming approximately 125 students from Macomb County high schools. The event allowed students to prepare for upcoming competitions while engaging with the campus environment.

Gingerbread Competition:

A Gingerbread Competition was held for Macomb County high school students, with more than 10 participants competing in categories such as best use of candy and a mystery ingredient. The event provided a fun and creative opportunity to connect with prospective students.

Health and Public Service

A new initiative is expanding pre apprenticeship opportunities for dual enrolled students. Beginning January 27, a cohort of 25 students began commuting to South Campus to complete a sequence including WHES 2072 Emergency Response, HHSC 2911 Professional Skills for Healthcare Readiness, and CRER 1510 Workplace Strategies. The students will complete the sequence by the end of the spring 2025 term and earn a total of seven college credits.

Dental Program

Through K-12 Partnerships, the College provided a pre apprenticeship experience for Macomb students through the Dental Clinic. Nineteen students received free cleanings, exams, fluoride treatments, and X rays while gaining exposure to careers in dental and health care fields.

The College's dental hygiene clinic will host a free preventive dental services event, Give Kids a Smile Day, from 8 a.m. to noon on February 21. Children ages 3 to 18 are invited to receive exams, cleanings, X rays, and sealants. The College first hosted the event in 2025, providing 61 free dental services to 10 children. The program is supported by a \$4,000 grant from the Michigan Dental Association's 2026 Public Relations Grant Program.

Collaboration on Workplace Skills Program

On January 21, Workforce and Continuing Education's Business and Industry Training team hosted a Workplace Skills Convening to develop an Essential Workplace Professionalism Skills Workshop. The effort was a collaboration with Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! and St. Clair County Community College. The workshop will be offered to both industry partners and job seekers.

Association of Community College Trustees National Legislative Summit

President Sawyer along with Trustee Dean, Trustee Flynn, and Nicole McKee, director, Government and Institutional Relations, attended this year's ACCT National Legislative Summit. The sessions featured strong speakers, and the group had the opportunity to meet with Senators Gary Peters and Elissa Slotkin. Unfortunately, neither of the College's U.S. House representatives were available to meet during the visit to Washington.

Lorenzo Cultural Center Exhibit Preview

In recognition of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Lorenzo Cultural Center is presenting a public exhibit exploring the broader revolutionary era (1750–1790) and how the ideals and events of the time shaped life in America. A VIP event will be held Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. in the Lorenzo Cultural Center Community Hall, followed by a public open house and reception at 3:00 p.m. This year's programming will feature an actor known for portraying President Thomas Jefferson on the History Channel, who will present and interact with attendees at both events. The public event will also include a presentation by the 1st Michigan Fife and Drums, a Macomb County–based Revolutionary War reenactment group.

Trademarks of Macomb open book logo, Monarch lion logo pending

The United States Patent and Trademark Office has accepted the College's application to trademark the traditional Macomb Community College logo featuring the open book. The College has also applied for federal trademark protection for the Monarch logo. Federal trademark protection provides exclusive ownership and rights to use and license the marks. The College has previously maintained state level protection for the traditional Macomb logo.

March BOT Meeting

- i. Renovation and IT updates presentation
- ii. Ellucian Licensing renewal – 10 year contract with SaaS migration
- iv. Avkin Wearable Patient Simulators – Perkins Grant Funded
- v. 2026 Annual Renovation Program

Discussion:

Trustee Vitale asked about the timing of the transition to the Ellucian SaaS system. President Sawyer confirmed the move is necessary as the vendor no longer supports the on-premise system. It was noted that a peer institution has faced challenges such as dual systems, added costs, and staff training demands, and that Macomb is taking a more measured approach based on those lessons.

Trustee Cusumano asked for clarification on the 10 percent administrative cap. Argiri explained that the cap applies to state appropriations and is included in the state boilerplate language, limiting how much state aid can be used for institutional administration. She noted that the College developed a spending order policy prioritizing state appropriations for instructional costs to ensure compliance. Administration indicated that the College will demonstrate that state aid is fully allocated to instruction which does not cover all instructional expenses, supporting compliance with the requirement.

Trustee Cusumano asked whether there is a deductible related to insurance coverage for the flooding damage. Argiri stated there is no deductible for property claims.

6.2 Presentation

President Sawyer and Libby Argiri, executive vice president, Administration presented the tuition and fees recommendation for academic year 2026-2027.

DISCUSSION:

Trustee Vitale expressed appreciation that tuition rates are not increasing, and other trustees shared similar sentiments.

Trustee Vitale emphasized the importance of advertising the College and encouraged sharing positive updates, including the decision to keep tuition rates unchanged. President Sawyer echoed the importance of promoting the College's successes.

7.0 CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Dean, supported by DiMaria, to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to discuss collective bargaining.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Dean, DiMaria, Cusumano, Flynn, Vitale, Lorenzo

NAYS:

ABSENT: Viviano

MOTION CARRIED.


8.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dean, supported by DiMaria, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Secretary