

APPROVED MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Community College District of the County of Macomb was held Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 7:30 p.m., in Room K324, John Lewis Conference Center, South Campus, 14500 E. Twelve Mile Road, Warren, Michigan.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lorenzo at 8:36 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

Vincent Viviano, Trustee

Also present:

James Sawyer, President

Jeffrey Steele, 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, Viviano, Lorenzo

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Information Session Minutes, February 18, 2026

4.2 Closed Session Minutes, February 18, 2026

4.3 Regular Meeting Minutes, February 18, 2026

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Dean, to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026 information session, closed session and regular meeting, as read.

ALL IN FAVOR:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVED MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 18, 2026

4.4 Presidential Candidate Interviews

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Dean, to approve the minutes of the meetings listed below, as read.

- A. Dinner Session Minutes, March 3, 2026
- B. Special Meeting Minutes, March 3, 2026
- C. Dinner Session Minutes, March 4, 2026
- D. Special Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2026
- E. Dinner Session Minutes, March 5, 2026
- F. Special Meeting Minutes, March 5, 2026

ALL IN FAVOR:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORTS (verbal)

5.1 Board of Trustees Reports

Trustee Vitale will be attending the Peppa Pig performance at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

Chairperson Lorenzo stated the board voted to hire a search firm that specializes in higher education, and we asked that firm to conduct a national recruitment campaign. The search was based on the qualities, experience, leadership activities, and characteristics that we, as a board, were looking for. Mind you, we had many meetings and many discussions prior to that so we could clearly define exactly what we were looking for. What were those qualities? What did we want to see in a new president? We wanted a fresh start, but we also wanted someone who could carry on the good work of Doctor Sawyer and take it to the next level and into the future.

We also brought together an advisory team of 14 people, which included community members, business leaders, educational partners, and college employees. I commend all of these individuals for their service. It was a very long and consuming process, and we did not take it lightly. We really gave it everything.

After reviewing all of the applicant materials, the committee recommended three finalists. At that point, we conducted surveys and compiled data. I believe many of you had the opportunity to attend those forums. The process was very diligent, time consuming, and serious.

Each of the three finalists spent a full day on campus. They met with administrators, faculty, staff, and students. In the evening, they met with the Board of Trustees. After a great deal of time and deliberation, the board ultimately chose a president designate, Dr. Lori M. Gonko.

Patrick Evans-Mach asked for clarification regarding the vote of presidential designate and whether it needed to happen in an open meeting. General Counsel Steele confirmed the vote was happening in the next agenda item.

5.2. Selection of President Designate

MOTION by Vitale, supported by DiMaria, to select Dr. Lori M. Gonko, Ed.D., as the President Designate to take office on July 1, 2026, subject to the negotiation of a mutually acceptable contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS: Flynn

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

6.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT (verbal)

None.

7.0 FINANCIAL REPORTS

7.1 Financial Statement – February 28, 2026

MOTION by DiMaria, supported by Dean, to receive and file the financial statements for the eight months ended February 28, 2026.

ALL IN FAVOR:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

7.2 Investment Report – February 28, 2026

MOTION by DiMaria, supported by Vitale, to receive and file the investment report of securities held as of February 28, 2026.

ALL IN FAVOR:

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

NAYS: Cusumano

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (verbal)

Patrick Evans-Mach, Associate Dean, Information Technology and Culinary. Thank you for giving me a quick moment, having attended past board meetings and recognizing that even while disagreements occur throughout an organization, maybe even amongst the board, the board has consistently worked through them towards the best interest of the college. That commitment is deeply appreciated, so I thank you. Tonight, you have made one of the most consequential decisions for the college's future, selecting its next president. Speaking on behalf of the administrators, we trust the care, diligence and thoughtful consideration that you have brought to this decision. It is critical in your selection of the leader, and the experience and relationships needed to build this college's existing successes, continuing its excellence and national reputation, and guiding it through the challenges ahead. Know with your decision, we will be collaborative and working with the new president and it's in order to strengthen the college's future. Thank you for your time.

9.0 PERSONNEL REPORTS

9.1 New Hires

9.1A. Marc Smith, Director of the Academic Success Center, MCAAP

MOTION by Dean, supported by Cusumano that the Board of Trustees approve the personnel action for Marc Smith, Director of the Academic Success Center, MCAAP.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

9.1B. Theresa Piepszak, IT Delivery Lead, MCAAP

MOTION by Dean, supported by Flynn, that the Board of Trustees approve the personnel action for Theresa Piepszak, IT Delivery Lead, MCAAP.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

9.2. Resolutions of Appreciation for Retirees

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Vitale, that the Board of Trustees authorize the creation and presentation of resolutions of appreciation to employees who have retired from their employment in 2025. The resolutions of appreciation will be presented at Institutional Development Day on May 12, 2026, at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. The Board of Trustees are invited to attend.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.0 REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION – INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 Update on YuJa Panorama Accessibility Software – contract addition

MOTION by Dean, supported by Cusumano, to receive and file the information report.

ALL IN FAVOR:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.2 Sabbatical Leave Report for 2025/2026

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Flynn, to receive and file the Sabbatical Leave Report for 2025/2026.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Flynn praised the report and said she felt like she was part of the journey.

ALL IN FAVOR:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.0 REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION – ACTION ITEMS

11.1 Donations – February 28, 2026

MOTION by DiMaria, supported by Flynn, to accept the donations as presented and acknowledged by the College, with thanks.

ALL IN FAVOR:

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

NAYS: Cusumano

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.2 Change Orders (none)

11.3 Authorization for Purchases

11.3A Avkin Wearable Patient Simulators — Perkins Grant Fund

MOTION by DiMaria, supported by Cusumano, that the Board of Trustees authorize the purchase of two Avkin wearable patient simulator packages in the total amount of \$91,920 with Avkin Inc.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.3B. MSA Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Equipment - Perkins Grant Fund

MOTION by Dean, supported by Cusumano, that the Board of Trustees authorize the purchase of twenty (20) MSA self-contained breathing apparatus cylinders, facemasks, and accessories from the MacQueen Emergency Group in the total amount of \$202,700.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.3C. APT Industrial Learning System Workstations

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by DiMaria, that the Board of Trustees authorize the purchase of six (6) APT Industrial Learning System Workstations including installation and training, in the amount of \$70,233.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Flynn stated that the purchases tonight were all sole source vendors located outside of Michigan.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.3D. Renewal of Ellucian Student and Business System Software Subscription Agreements

MOTION by DiMaria, supported by Cusumano, that the Board of Trustees authorize Administration to renew its software subscription contracts with Ellucian, Inc. for fiscal years 2027 through 2037 in an amount not to exceed \$12,492,250.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.4 2026 Annual Renovation Program

MOTION by Dean, supported by DiMaria, that the Board of Trustees approve the 2026 Annual Renovation Program and authorize the administration to solicit proposals, quotes and bids and award contracts, subject to the approval of General Counsel, to the lowest qualified bidders that will provide acceptable quality, service and performance meeting College specifications.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.5 Architectural and Engineering Services for Construction of Emergency Vehicle Operation and Tactical Driving Course at Center Campus

MOTION by DiMaria, supported by Flynn, that the Board of Trustees authorize the Administration to enter into an agreement with Integrated Design Solutions, subject to the review and approval by General Counsel, for Architectural and Engineering Services for Construction of Emergency Vehicle Operation and Tactical Driving Course at Center Campus with fees not to exceed \$682,500.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

12.0 POLICY ACTIONS

12.1 Awarding of Associate Degrees & Academic Certificates - Second Reading

MOTION by Cusumano, supported by Flynn, that the Board of Trustees adopt the second reading of the attached Awarding of Associate Degrees and Academic Certificates policy.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB BOARD OF TRUSTEES

  
Secretary