

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, April 15, 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 6:02 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  
Kevin Chandler, Vice President, College Advancement & Community Relations  
Carrie Jeffers, Vice President, Student Services  
Leslie Kellogg, Provost, Vice President of Academic and Workforce Education  
William Leavens, Chief of College Police  
Nicole McKee, Director, Government and Institutional Relations  
Michelle Nelson, Dean, Student Success Services  
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

Chairperson Lorenzo asked if an estimate of the labor costs for the Ellucian SAS implementation could be made available. President Sawyer stated the request for proposal (RFP) process has not begun.

## 6.0 ISSUES AND UPDATES

### 6.1 President's Report

#### Closed Session

We do need to have a closed session with the BOT pursuant to MCL 15.268 C - collective bargaining, and H - to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state of federal statute.

#### Enrollment Update

As of April 13, 2026, enrollment for the Spring/Summer 2026 term is down 7.7% in credit hours and 11.2% in student count compared with Spring/Summer 2025.

#### Personnel

- Jessica Gibson, Instructor of Applied Technology – Advanced Manufacturing –Advanced Processes, MCCFO
- Anna Rushing, Full Time Faculty – Psychology, MCCFO

#### Administrative – Information Items

- Perkins Grant Fund - Amatrol Climate Control Learning Systems

#### Purchases

- 11.3A - Olympus Biological Microscopes
- 11.3B - Three (3) Issues of the Macomb Connect Magazine – Fall 2026, Winter 2027 and Spring/Summer 2027
- 11.3 C - Allen Bradley Industrial Automation Trainers

#### State Budget

The Senate proposal is currently at a 0.8% increase for general appropriations with no Infrastructure, Technology, Equipment, and Maintenance (ITEM) funding, while the governor's proposal included no increase for appropriations but did include ITEM funding. At this point, we still do not have any figures from the House, so the outlook remains uncertain. It is also looking unlikely that a final budget will be in place by the July 1 deadline, which has been missed in prior years without penalty.

#### Community College Day in Lansing

President Sawyer will be attending Community College Day in Lansing on April 16, 2026, with Nicole McKee and student Dillon Hardeman. We currently have meetings scheduled with seven legislators, though that may change. Our main focus will be on general appropriations, continued support for Michigan Reconnect and the Community College Guarantee, and capital outlay funding.

Workforce Pell – continues to be a work in progress

Work is ongoing to develop Workforce Pell protocols and programs. Significant work remains at both the college and state levels to ensure Macomb students are able to access and use Workforce Pell by Fall 2027.

Haas Grant Award

Macomb Community College was awarded a \$1 million grant from the Gene Haas Foundation to enhance advanced manufacturing training. As part of the gift, M-TEC's CNC lab will be named the Gene Haas CNC Lab at M-TEC for the next 15 years. The lab provides students with a hands-on training environment that reflects today's manufacturing floor and supports the development of industry-ready skills. The funding will also support student-focused improvements, including a dedicated lounge space, upgraded job placement systems, and expanded resources such as laptops, toolboxes, emergency financial assistance, and bus passes.

MI Reconnect Success Rate

The college's MI Reconnect success rate (credential or transfer to 4-year) was 41.3%, exceeding our target of 37.7% to meet legislative requirements.

Credit for Prior Learning Connecting with Apprenticeship

Valantina Kattoula will be joining Vikki Gordon for a virtual session during Apprenticeship Week at the end of April to talk with students about Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) opportunities and how they can use CPL alongside their apprenticeship to reach their goals more quickly. In addition, updates to the CPL certification and license form are underway to improve long-term data tracking, identify trends, and support more informed decisions related to industry credentials.

K-12 Relations

K-12 relations continue to show strong momentum. A Dual Enrollment Parent Night held on March 25 drew over 200 attendees. The Early College of Macomb Fall 2026 cohort is expected to exceed 220 students, replacing a cohort of 180, with 163 earning degrees, resulting in a projected net gain of 40 students. In addition, the college signed a CTE partnership with MISD that will offer welding, mechatronics, and climate control (HVAC) programs to high school students.

New Website for Lorenzo Cultural Center and Macomb Center for the Performing Arts

A new website has been launched featuring enhanced video and graphics, greater customization options, and more intuitive navigation to help users find events and purchase tickets more easily. The site integrates more effectively with the ticketing platform and social media, includes an improved search function to reduce traffic to third-party or fraudulent sites, and incorporates functionality aligned with the college's website. Additional improvements include enhanced ADA compliance, the ability to track site activity through Google Analytics, and more efficient, reliable backend maintenance and support.

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Connect Publication Mailed

The most recent edition of Connect was mailed to households across Macomb County, with approximately 465,000 copies distributed three times per year.

Hosting Face Addiction Now (FAN) 5K

Macomb will host the FAN 5K Run/Walk on June 27 at Center Campus for the second year, with approximately 2,000 participants expected. Last year's event was very successful, and FAN was pleased to return.

Free Event to Test Drive EVs - DTE Ride & Drive at Macomb

The event will be hosted at South Campus in Lots 7 and 8, giving attendees the opportunity to test drive electric vehicles from a range of manufacturers, including Chevy, Ford, Tesla, and others.

Alliance for Excellence in Online Education (A4EOE)

The CTL team assumed leadership of the Alliance for Excellence in Online Education and hosted a successful symposium at the University Center. The A4EOE has been providing online professional development for over 20 years.

Adjunct Faculty Recognition Dinner

We hosted our 45th Annual Adjunct Faculty Appreciation Dinner, welcoming over 150 adjunct faculty members and administrators for an evening of recognition and celebration. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the 2026 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award to Laura Lambert, adjunct instructor of Business Law and Paralegal Studies, who was nominated by student Fahima Begum for her engaging teaching style and dedication to student success. Thank you to Trustee Vitale for attending.

ITC Power Upgrade for Henry Ford Hospital Macomb

As part of the process for ITC's request to the Michigan Public Service Commission to install a powerline along 19 Mile Road ITC is required to submit both a preferred and an alternative route. The alternative route identified would run underground along Dalcoma in the road right of way and would not impact college property. However, there are still questions about where the line would go underground near the south end by the hospital, which could potentially affect University Drive. ITC held public forums in March to gather input, and the College submitted a letter opposing any action that would impact college property. At this time, the timeline for a decision from the MPSC is unknown.

Former Wayne State Building on Hall Road

While there had been prior interest from some County Commissioners in transferring the building to the College, that is no longer being pursued, and the County may consider selling the property. A covenant from the early 1970s may provide the College with the option to repurchase the property if it is no longer used for a governmental or compatible educational purpose, though it was not recorded on the deed and could result in a legal dispute.

County Executive Hackel has proposed partnering with the College and other stakeholders to develop a Macomb County Economic and Workforce Development Collaborative in the space. The concept would

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bring together county operations and workforce partners, with potential College uses including the MORE program and the APEX Accelerator. While the College could pursue legal action if the property is sold or repurposed in a way that does not align with its mission, there is no immediate need for additional space.

The board agreed that continued discussions with the County are recommended to further explore the collaborative opportunity.

May BOT Meeting

Due to Institutional Development Day and Community Action Day, Board of Trustees packets may be distributed on Thursday at noon rather than the usual Wednesday timeline.

- Presentation: Gerri Pianko will present the budget for FY27
- Personnel items
  - Our goal is to have a tentative agreement with MCCFO
  - NBU and NASF salary schedules
  - NBU Contracts
- Purchases:
  - Document Imaging managed services renewal
  - Lumens registration system renewal
  - HVAC service
  - Fuel contract
  - IT Engagement Kiosks – Fueling IT grant
  - Proctoring Software
- Administrative Items:
  - College-wide Fire Alarm upgrades
  - Property Tax Resolution

Discussion:

Trustee Dean asked whether Credit for Prior Learning applies to all degree programs or only specific ones. President Sawyer clarified that CPL is applied to select programs, where students may already have relevant training or experience. For example, registered apprentices may receive credit through agreements with unions, allowing them to apply prior learning toward their degree and complete only the additional coursework needed for a certificate or associates degree.

Trustee Vitale shared positive feedback on the Macomb Connect magazine, noting its consistent format and strong community appeal. She suggested placing greater emphasis on using photos of real students, employees, and campus spaces rather than stock or AI generated images, highlighting the value of showcasing authentic college experiences. President Sawyer noted the feedback would be taken under advisement.

## 6.2 [Presentation](#)

### **Building a Holistic Student Support System**

#### *Advancing Macomb's Strategic Direction*

Dr. Carrie Jeffers, vice president, Student Services and Dr. Michelle Nelson, dean, Student Success Services

#### Discussion:

Trustee Vitale asked when students are locked into a degree program and how communication is managed if changes occur. Michelle Nelson explained that students are supported by a coordinated advising team upon entry and throughout their first year, with the goal of establishing a program of study by the end of the first year experience.

Trustee Vitale asked about how quickly students are able to connect with a person during the onboarding process. Michelle Nelson explained that students have access to staff early on, as all students are required to attend an in person Starting at Macomb session during the admissions process. She noted that students are introduced to the new model at that time and can connect with a counseling or advising team member at any point by reaching out to the department directly.

Trustee Dean asked whether the College shares its D3C3 grant work with other community colleges. Carrie Jeffers confirmed that Macomb participates in regular collaboration, including monthly cluster meetings and biannual statewide convenings, where colleges share updates, outcomes, and best practices.

Chairperson Lorenzo asked whether students push back on the advising model and how those who feel they do not need support are handled. Carrie Jeffers explained that while some students are more self-guided, the model ensures all students are assigned to a support team that is available as needed. Jeffers also explained that students are assigned to teams based on an algorithm using admission type and area of interest, which places them into a category and connects them to the appropriate team.

7.0 CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Dean, supported by DiMaria, to go in to closed session in order to discuss collective bargaining and material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state of federal statute pursuant to MCL 15.268 (c) and MCL 15.268(h).

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: Viviano

MOTION CARRIED.


8.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB BOARD OF TRUSTEES

  
Secretary