

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, June 17, 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 6:04 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
Lori Gonko, President Designate
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
Kathleen Poindexter, Associate Vice President, Business
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

Gary Flemming, professor, shared his experience on the study aboard trip to Japan.

5.0 REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS AND MATERIALS

Trustee Flynn inquired about the rationale for extending certain contracts rather than issuing new requests for proposals (RFPs). President Sawyer explained that the contract programming services agreement is being extended due to the firm's familiarity with the College's systems and its role in supporting preparation for future system migrations. He noted that the Ellucian Recruit software agreement is a proprietary service and effectively a sole-source arrangement. President Sawyer further explained that the food services contract is being extended for six months to allow the incoming president time to participate in a comprehensive review of food services before a new RFP is issued later in the year. Trustee Flynn thanked President Sawyer for the clarification.

Trustee Dean inquired about the supplemental contract programming services agreement. President Sawyer explained that programmers with expertise in the College's Ellucian Colleague system are difficult to find, the agreement is for one year, and approximately 2,000 hours of service are anticipated within the Board-approved contract amount.

Trustee Vitale asked whether the contract extensions are intended to support the College's transition from legacy Ellucian systems to a cloud-based platform. Kevin Labonty, director, Business Information Systems, confirmed that the contracted services will support current systems during the multi-year transition, which is expected to be completed by late 2029.

Trustee Vitale requested a comprehensive chart to help the Board track the College's Ellucian cloud migration project, including progress to date, current status, and future milestones. Administration agreed to provide periodic updates.

6.0 ISSUES AND UPDATES

6.1 President's Report

President Sawyer informed the Board of the passing of former Trustee Christine Bonkowski and acknowledged her service and contributions to Macomb Community College.

Closed Session

We do need to have a closed session with the BOT pursuant to MCL 15.268

C - collective bargaining

H - to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute

Enrollment Update

As of Monday, Spring/Summer, 2026 credit hours are down 5.9% compared to last year, headcount is down 6.7 %.

Fall & Winter enrollments are trending positively.

Personnel

Agenda Item 9.1

- Three Full time Faculty
- One Administrator

Agenda Item 9.2 – Designation of Emeritus Status

Board of Trustee Proposals

5.2 - Renewal of Membership in Trustee Organizations

5.3 Appointments – 2026/2027 Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) Board of Directors

5.4. President's Expense Allowance - Board of Trustee Members Only*

Administrative – Action Items

11.4 – MTEC HVAC Chiller Replacement

11.5 - South Campus Building A Major Renovation and Project Budget

Purchases

11.3.A. HR Process Documentation Services

11.3.B. - Supplemental Contract Programming Services

11.3.C. - Ellucian Recruit Software License Renewal

11.3.D. - Food Service Contract Extension

11.3.E - Elevator Preventative Maintenance, Testing and Service Contract

State Budget

No update.

Workforce Pell

Work continues on the development of Workforce Pell protocols and programs. Significant planning and implementation efforts remain at both the College and state levels to position Macomb students to utilize Workforce Pell funding beginning in Fall 2027. The College is targeting Dental Assisting as its pilot program and has secured funding through the Macomb Community College Foundation to support the next cohort which will have 20 students.

Rehmann Auditing Services Renewal

The current agreement with Rehmann for auditing services will conclude following this fiscal year's audit. The College has been pleased with Rehmann's performance and anticipates recommending a three-year contract extension for Board consideration in October. The current three-year agreement totals approximately \$270,000 and includes audit services for the College and Foundation, the Single Audit, and preparation of the Foundation's Form 990.

Macomb 5th Choice Destination of MI Colleges

According to an MLive study, Macomb is the fifth most-selected postsecondary destination and the highest-ranked community college in Michigan for the Class of 2025.

1. Michigan State University – 5,614 enrolled, 5.5% of grads
2. University of Michigan – 3,597, 3.5%
3. Grand Valley State University – 3,336, 3.3%
4. Wayne State University – 2,534, 2.5%
5. Macomb Community College – 2,135, 2.1%
6. Oakland University – 1,932, 1.9%
7. Grand Rapids Community College – 1,811, 1.8%
8. Oakland Community College – 1,692, 1.6%
9. Western Michigan University – 1,534, 1.5%

10. Central Michigan University – 1,507, 1.5%

Credentialing Project

The College is beginning to see the impact of its credentialing project, with credential awards increasing from 2,840 in 2023-24 to 3,049 in 2024-25, and 4,089 in 2025-26. The increase in awarded credentials will provide a more complete picture of Macomb's impact on student success and help strengthen the College's position for state performance funding.

K-12 Relations

- Career Academies started June 15, with Camp Scrubs and the CSI at the PSI camp.
- Fall dual enrollment currently stands at 993 students, remaining on pace with the record-setting Winter 2026 enrollment of 1,425 students.
- The college is exploring a new Early College partnership with an out-of-district school district within the ISD service area in the Computer-Aided Design (CAD) program area. While the program is expected to serve a limited number of students, participants may earn up to 16 college credits, providing an important head start on their college education.
- The college expects 75 dual enrollment students from Clintondale High School representing 25% of the districts senior class.

Former Wayne State Building on Hall Road

No update.

DOD Audit

The College was notified by the U.S. Department of Defense that it will undergo its first audit related to the Department of Defense Memorandum of Understanding, which has been in place since 2015. He noted that while the audit introduces a new process for the College, staff are well prepared and are working collaboratively to gather and submit the required information. He also shared that a recent Veterans Affairs (VA) audit was successfully completed, with all reviewed items meeting requirements. President Sawyer commended Kara Fields, director, Veteran and Military Services, and her team for their excellent work in managing the audits and their efforts during an especially busy period.

Grand Opening of Fire Apparatus Building at East Campus

The College celebrated the grand opening of the new Fire Apparatus Building at East Campus on June 15. The \$3.5 million project was made possible in large part through a \$2 million state legislative appropriation, with appreciation expressed to Representative Denise Mentzer for her support. County Executive Mark Hackel, Representative Mentzer, PSI Director Mike Lopez, and President Sawyer provided remarks at the event, which was attended by numerous fire service professionals from across the county.

Department of Education

The College was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in a recent publication and cited twice for fraud prevention best practices, reflecting the continued diligence of staff in addressing financial aid fraud.

AWE Leadership Team Retreat

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Academic and Workforce Education and Student Services leaders participated in a retreat at Newlab in Detroit, focused on the intersection of education, industry, and innovation. The agenda included discussions on youth engagement and talent development with students, educators, and Boys and Girls

Club leadership, as well as conversations with leaders in mobility and emerging technologies about future opportunities for Macomb. The retreat concluded with tours of Michigan Central Station and Newlab, providing additional insight into innovation and workforce development initiatives.

Annual Student Services Unit Meeting

Student Services held its annual meeting, providing an opportunity to reflect on the significant transformation that has taken place across the unit in recent years and to recognize the work that has gone into implementing those changes. Participants also took part in the Macomb Student Game of Life, an interactive exercise designed to help employees better understand the challenges and barriers students may face. The activity was well received and generated discussion about expanding its use to provide additional opportunities for employee engagement and awareness.

Fueling IT Grant

Workforce and Continuing Education–Business and Information Technology conducted a six-session AI Prompt Engineering course over three weeks, training 14 participants on effective AI prompting techniques. One participant applied skills gained from the course to create a logo for a small business and then worked with the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Makerspace to produce branded t-shirts.

The College also hosted two Middle School Makerspace and Entrepreneurship Tours on May 14 and 28 for students from Eastside Middle School and Shelby Junior High. A total of 72 students participated, gaining hands-on exposure to the Makerspace, entrepreneurship resources, innovation, technology, and business development opportunities.

Hosting FAN 5K Run

On June 27, the College is hosting the FAN 5K Run at Center Campus for the second time. The event serves as an important fundraiser in support of Families Against Narcotics (FAN), a valued community partner. FAN also supports the College by supplying and restocking Narcan machines on campus at no cost.

President Sawyer thanked the Board for its support over the last nine years and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the College.

6.2 Presentation

College Advancement & Community Relations: Connecting Campus and Community
Kevin Chandler, vice president, College Advancement & Community Relations

Discussion:

Trustee Flynn asked whether the College had considered using food trucks on campus. Chandler responded that food trucks have been utilized for certain events and remain an option for enhancing campus dining.

Trustee Flynn also asked about the cafeterias on campus. Chandler explained that the space currently operates as a 24/7 self-service market offering cold food, beverages, and snacks through a kiosk system, but does not provide hot food service.

Chairperson Lorenzo asked whether the proposed food service changes would impact the Culinary Arts program or Glass Terrace operations. Kevin Chandler explained that Glass Terrace serves a different audience and would not be affected. He also shared that Continental has offered scholarship opportunities for students and is interested in hiring Macomb work-study students to assist with events and food service operations. In addition, Continental has expressed interest in developing internship opportunities with the College's Culinary Arts program, similar to partnerships it has established with other institutions.

Trustee Cusumano asked whether the College's current marketing and advertising budget was \$880,000. Kevin Chandler clarified that the budget is \$800,000.

Trustee Cusumano asked about industry standards for marketing expenditures and the data used to support those benchmarks. Kevin Chandler explained that marketing budgets for mid-sized universities typically range from 2% to 5% of operating budgets, while community colleges generally spend 1% to 2%. He noted that for-profit and some nonprofit institutions often spend more due to their greater reliance on student recruitment. Chandler added that Macomb's current marketing and advertising budget represents approximately 0.5% of the College's operating budget.

7.0 CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Dean, supported by DiMaria, to go into 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 Cusumano, supported by Flynn, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB BOARD OF TRUSTEES


Secretary