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, September 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in Room K315/317 of the 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 6:00 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

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

Absent:
Vincent Viviano, Trustee
Frank Cusumano, Trustee

Also present:
Lori Gonko, President
Aimee Adamski, Director of Enrollment Services
Kevin Chandler, Vice President, College Advancement and Community Relations
Leslie Kellogg, Provost, Vice President of Academic and Workforce Education
Kevin Labonty, Director, Business Information Service
William Leavens, Chief of College Police
Nicole McKee, Executive Director, Government and Institutional Relations
Kathleen Poindexter, Interim Vice President for Business
Jeffrey Steele, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel
Patsy Tannahill, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees
Michael Zimmerman, Chief Information Officer

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ALL IN FAVOR:
AYES: DiMaria, Flynn, Dean, Vitale, Lorenzo
NAYS:
ABSENT: Cusumano, Viviano
MOTION CARRIED.

4.0 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

5.0 REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS AND MATERIALS

Trustee Flynn expressed her appreciation for the Local Strategic Value Report and stated that she was impressed by the many accomplishments highlighted in the report and the valuable work being done throughout the college.

Trustee Vitale asked about the origins and timeline of the Mobility and Sustainability Center project. Nicole McKee, executive director, Government and Institutional Relations, explained that the project was need-based and selected through the College's facilities planning process, and that the lengthy state capital outlay approval process contributed to the timeline.

Trustee Vitale shared that she has been speaking with many young people in their 20s and 30s, including Macomb students and graduates, and reflected on the College's long-standing focus on partnerships with employers and creating opportunities for students to enter the workforce. She noted that some of the individuals she has spoken with have expressed concerns about limited opportunities for raises, advancement, and long-term career growth. Trustee Vitale stated that, while getting students into jobs remains important, she believes it may also be helpful to better understand how graduates are doing over time, including their satisfaction with their jobs and career progression.

President Gonko noted that the College currently conducts graduate follow-up surveys and reviews employment and earnings outcomes. McKee added that Institutional Research surveys graduates regarding employment, whether they are working in their field of study, and their job satisfaction. She also shared that improved access to state wage data may provide additional insight into graduate outcomes in the future.

Trustee Vitale emphasized that workforce conditions and challenges continue to change and encouraged continued attention to graduates' experiences as they move through their careers and support their families.

6.1 ISSUES AND UPDATES

6.1 President's Report

President Gonko shared introductory remarks, noting that the Fall 2026 semester is in full swing and that she has been actively engaging with the college community through department visits and employee listening sessions. She highlighted her participation in several recent college and community events, including the Lorenzo Cultural Center exhibit, 9/11: When the World Stopped Turning; the Employee Appreciation Baseball Game; the Athletics and Expo Center Reopening; the M3 Graduation; the Transforming Tomorrow's Campaign Celebration; the Advancing Macomb Summit; and the Out of the Darkness Walk with the C3 team.

Enrollment Update

Enrollment for the Fall semester is up 1%, serving 16,320 students enrolled in 152,124 credit hours.

Personnel

Agenda Item 9.2 - Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act (PA 152)

Information Items
Agenda Item 10.1 - ADN-to-BSN Completion Grant Amendment

Purchases
11.3.A. – Supplemental Contract Programming Resources

Administrative – Action Items
11.4 – Mobility and Sustainability Center Project – Approval of Project Budget and Project Management Agreement
11.5 – Local Strategic Value Resolution
11.6 – President Sawyer Retirement Compensation Resolution

South Campus M-Building
A prospective lease opportunity is no longer available after the building owner accepted an offer to purchase the property. The College, with assistance from Plante Moran, continues to explore alternative temporary space options.

Copyright of Macomb Monarchs logo
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office have granted the College's application to trademark the new Macomb Monarchs logo.

Board Bylaws Updates
Following discussion at the August Board meeting, inconsistencies had been identified between current Board practices and the language contained in the Board bylaws. General Counsel Steele will conduct a review of the bylaws and present any recommended revisions to the Board for consideration in October.

Macomb Career Technical Consortium (MCTC)
Macomb Career Technical Consortium (MCTC) is a county-wide Career and Technical Education dual-enrollment partnership with the Macomb Intermediate School District that provides high school students with access to college-level technical instruction. Originally launched in 2024 as a 20-student welding pilot serving a single school district, the program has expanded into a sustainable multi-district model formalized through a memorandum of understanding. The consortium currently serves 65 students from 13 participating school districts and offers instruction in Welding, Climate Control/HVAC, and Mechatronics.

Esports Tournament
Esports Tournament welcomed 74 students and community members to the College on August 20 for the fourth annual Esports Tournament. Attendees explored esports opportunities, learned about the Programming for Electronic Games pathway, and enjoyed playing retro games.

Medical Assisting Program
Medical Assisting Program was recognized by the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB) for achieving 40 years of continuous accreditation. This milestone reflects the program's long-standing commitment to quality education and preparing skilled healthcare professionals to serve the community and region.

Student Recognition
Zachary Grohman, a student in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program, was recognized as a 2026 Michigan Physical Therapy Association (MPTA) Award Recipient.

Credit for Prior Learning
Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) now includes a new portfolio request form that provides students with a clearer process for requesting assessment of prior learning. CPL awards academic credit for knowledge and skills gained through work experience, industry credentials, military training, and other learning outside the classroom, helping reduce time and cost to degree completion. A presentation on CPL will be made to the Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board.

K-12 Relations
K-12 Relations set a new all-time dual enrollment record with 1,427 students and a record total of 2,062 K-12 students served. K-12 students of all types now comprise 13% of the College's student population.

First-Year Experience
First-Year Experience successfully launched new online modules designed to help new students transition smoothly into college life. The modules help ensure students are aware of and able to utilize available resources, enhancing their overall college experience and academic success. To date, 222 students have started the online program, with 87 completing all modules.

Department of Defense Audit
Department of Defense Audit focused on the College's ability to serve military-connected students through student-centered policies, effective processes, and a culture of compliance. The audit identified only one corrective action, the addition of financial aid timelines and key dates to the College's public-facing website. The requirement was promptly addressed, and the corrective action has been accepted by the Department of Defense.

Upcoming Events
September 19 – Family Employee Fun Day
December 11 - Commencement
February 8-9 – HLC

Upcoming Items for October
Presentation
- Rehmann will present the audited financial statements for the College Foundation and the Single Audit for federal grants.

Purchasing Authorizations
- Ellucian SaaS Implementation Resources
- Cohesity backup software
- Rehmann Auditing Services contract renewal

Retirements
Gerri Pianko – December 2, 2026
Jeanne Nicol – December 18, 2026
Michael Zimmerman – January 15, 2027
Leslie Kellogg – March 1, 2027

6.2 Presentation

IT Contractor Strategy and Ellucian SaaS Platform Implementation Services
Michael Zimmerman, Chief Information Officer
Kevin Labonty, Director, Business Information Service

7.0 CLOSED SESSION

None.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Secretary