

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES  
DECEMBER 8, 2025**

The Board of Trustees of Community College District 509, Counties of Kane, Cook, DuPage, McHenry and DeKalb, State of Illinois, held a meeting of the Committee of the Whole on Monday, December 8, 2025, in E125, Seigle Auditorium.

**1. Call to Order by Presiding Officer**

Chair Rakow called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., indicated that a quorum was present, and asked the recorder to call roll.

*Trustees present:* Ms. Rakow, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Arroyo, Dr. Redmer, Mr. Parks, Mr. Allen, and Student Trustee Mr. Gidlund.

*Trustees absent:* Ms. Barbosa-Guzman.

*ECC Staff present:* Dr. Heinrich, President; Dr. Schopen, VP, Teaching, Learning and Student Developments; Dr. Wagner, VP, Business & Finance; Dr. Phil Garber, VP, Planning, Institutional Effectiveness & Technology; Mr. Vazquez, General Counsel; and Ms. Kerruish, Recorder; ECC staff and visitors.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Allen.

**3. Introductions**

Introductions were made.

**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Committee of the Whole, November 10, 2025**

Chair Rakow requested approval of the minutes of November 10, 2025.

*Motion:* Trustee Rodriguez moved to approve the minutes as presented.

*Second:* Trustee Allen seconded the motion.

*Roll-Call Vote:* Aye, 6; Rakow, Rodriguez, Redmer, Arroyo, Parks, and Allen; nay, 0; and Student Trustee Gidlund, aye. Motion carried.

**5. Presentation**

**A. Auditor's Presentation – Sikich, LLP**

The FY25 Audit Reports were presented. The College's overall financial health is good, and we remain well-positioned. There were no unmodified opinions and no management comments for this audit. There were no findings on the single audit and no journal entry adjustments. ECC's Annual Financial Report goes above and beyond what is required and is the best way to be fully transparent regarding the financial picture. There were no questions raised.

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**B. Building S (MTC) Programming Update – Dr. Schopen and Dr. Taylor**

Dr. Schopen and Dr. Taylor provided an update and overview of the programs that will be housed in Building S. Included are: Welding and Fabrication; Automation; Robotics and Maintenance Technology; Advanced Manufacturing; Heating, Vent, A/C and Refrigeration/Energy Management. New programs are: Pipe Welding; Quality Control Technician; Geothermal Heating and EV Technology/ High Voltage Batteries

**C. ECC's HSI Strategic Plan: Process Overview and What's Ahead – Dr. Garcia and Ms. Santana**

Dr. Garcia and Ms. Santana shared a brief overview of the HSI Strategic Plan and how it was compiled. They also provided an outline for implementation of the plan.

**6. Construction Update**

Dr. Wagner provided an overview of the current construction projects on campus.

- **Building S (Manufacturing and Technology Center) Building Project**

The south facing glass wall is being installed as weather allows. Interior walls are about 80% complete throughout the building, and stairwells are being installed in multiple areas.

- **Building T - New Truck Driving Classroom Building Project**

The foundation forms have been prepped for pouring within the next week as weather allows. The pre-engineered building is scheduled to arrive on campus in the next 2-3 weeks. All winter goals for the lot paving were accomplished.

- **Disability Services Space Remodel**

Disability Services has furniture in the offices and reception area. O&M and IT are working with Director Probst to schedule moves- likely beginning the week of December 15.

- **Building F Renovation (CDB Project)**

We are still waiting to hear from the State on next steps. This is a Capital Development Board (CDB) project, and the pace of the project is determined by the CDB's schedule.

- **Exterior Digital Signage**

This project is meant to replace the digital screens in the monument signs around campus and upgrade the technology to broadcast messages. IT and O&M held a meeting with the contractor to determine the project schedule. Installation is scheduled during Spring Break 2026.

**7. Review Board Actions on the December 9, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Agenda**

**A. Purchases**

1. Moving and Storage Services – Building O to Building S
2. Sale of Used Computer Equipment
3. Time and Attendance Software Renewal

**B. Other Agenda Items**

There were no questions regarding any of the December 9, 2025 agenda items.

**8. Spotlight**

Ms. Victoria Ballesteros-Gonzalez, Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs Specialist, was spotlighted.

**9. Audience Wishing to Address the Board**

There were no audience members wishing to address the Board.

*The Board recessed at 4:37 p.m. and reconvened at 4:42 p.m.*

**10. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**11. New Business**

**A. Items of Professional Growth**

**1. Review Board Goals**

The Board's Goals were reviewed with a reminder to review individual/personal activities. Chair Rakow added that Trustees Redmer and Rodriguez would be reviewing the policies and procedures. For Goal 3; Action B, the Board will work with Ms. Jimenez to schedule local legislative visits. The Board Retreat will be June 22 and 23 with Dr. Cindy Miles facilitating and Trustee Redmer as the Board liaison. Board mentoring pairs will be Trustee Arroyo and Trustee Allen, Trustee Redmer will be mentoring Trustee Barbosa-Guzman and Trustee Parks will be working with Student Trustee Gidlund.

**2. Community Engagement Events**

Upcoming community engagement events were reviewed and have been provided via email.

**B. President's Remarks**

Dr. Heinrich shared the following:

- We have been approved to offer two new teaching endorsements in bilingual and ESL. Both endorsements include a combination of existing and new courses. According to the EDN program, they plan to offer select courses this Spring (EDN203, EDN 201 and EDN 240 depending on staffing) and all courses to be offered starting 2027.
- The January Committee of the Whole will include presentations from the Math, Science and Engineering department, Marketing and Communications and the Course Materials Cost Reduction Taskforce.

**C. Chair's Remarks**

Ms. Rakow had no additional comments.

**D. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**E. Issues for Next Month's Agenda**

No issues were brought forward for the next agenda.

**12. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Trustee Arroyo moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** Trustee Allen seconded the motion.

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***Voice Vote:*** Aye, 6; Rakow, Rodriguez, Redmer, Arroyo, Parks, and Allen; Nay, 0; Student Trustee Gidlund, aye. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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Patricia Arroyo, Board Secretary

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Diane Kerruish, Board Recorder