

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2026**

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, January 26, 2026, in E125, Seigle Auditorium.

1. Call to Order by Presiding Officer

Chair Rakow called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., indicated that a quorum was present, and asked the recorder to call roll.

Trustees present: Ms. Rakow, Dr. Redmer, Mr. Parks, Mr. Allen, Ms. Barbosa-Guzman and Student Trustee Mr. Gidlund.

Trustees absent: Ms. Arroyo and Mr. Rodriguez.

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

A moment of silence was observed to honor the passing of Ms. Kathy Stover and Trustee Emeritus Duffy.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Parks.

3. Introductions

Introductions were made.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Committee of the Whole, December 8, 2026

Chair Rakow requested approval of the minutes of December 8, 2026.

Motion: Trustee Parks moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Trustee Allen seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 4; Rakow, Redmer, Parks, and Allen; nay, 0; abstain, 1; Barbosa-Guzman; and Student Trustee Gidlund, aye. Motion carried.

5. Presentation

A. Empowering Excellence: An Overview of the MSE Division's Commitment to Student Success – Dr. Bennani

Dr. Bennani provided an overview of the division, highlighting faculty and student accomplishments. She recognized innovation and collaboration.

B. Course Materials Cost Reduction Strategies – Dr. Roeger

Dr. Roeger provided an overview of the work being done to reduce textbook costs for students.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2025

C. Marketing and Communications Update – Ms. Zeman & Mr. Piner

Ms. Zeman and Mr. Piner shared several updates regarding work being done in the Marketing and Communications department.

6. Construction Update

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

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

The building is completely enclosed. Drywall is up and railings are installed on the second floor. Important overdue utility equipment will be onsite on Friday which include air-handling units and power transformers. We are still on time for completion and for equipment installation over the summer.

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

The building frame is being completed. All winter goals for the lot paving were accomplished. The revised completion timeline is early summer 2026.

• **Disability Services Space Remodel**

Disability Services has officially moved into their new space. An open house is scheduled for February 3, 11am-1pm.

• **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. Installation is scheduled during Spring Break 2026.

7. Review Board Actions on the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

A. Purchases

1. Broker for Property & Casualty and Health & Welfare Insurance
2. Building T Fence Purchase and Installation
3. Building T Furniture Purchase
4. Ratification of the Firewall Network Security Services Renewal

B. Other Agenda Items

There were no questions regarding any of the January 27, 2026 agenda items.

8. Spotlight

Ms. Andrea Watson, Director of Communications, Digital Comm & Social Media, was spotlighted.

9. Audience Wishing to Address the Board

There were no audience members wishing to address the Board.

The Board recessed at 4:05 p.m. and reconvened at 4:11 p.m.

10. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2025

11. New Business

A. Items of Professional Growth

1. ICCTA Meeting – March 19-21, 2026

Trustee Allen and Student Trustee Gidlund will be attending.

2. Learning Opportunity – iPad Distribution

Mr. Dumanig distributed the iPads to the Trustees along with instructions for use.

3. Review Board Goals

Goals will be reviewed individually. Trustees Redmer and Rodriguez reviewed the Board's policies and those will be included for discussion on the March Committee of the Whole agenda.

4. Board Retreat – June 22-23, 2026

Date is confirmed. Trustee Redmer is the liaison.

5. Community Engagement Events

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

B. President's Remarks

Dr. Heinrich shared the following:

Enrollment is down 8% over last spring with 10,371 students enrolled at 10th day over 11,256 last Spring. The largest declines were seen in adult education. Down 27% (down by 72 students) in Adult Basic/Secondary Education (smaller program area) and down by 41% in ESL (a larger program with a decline of 736 students). Our dual credit population declined by 11%, which we anticipated, as we sunset automotive dual credit and anticipated this impact, 271 fewer students. The largest decline in terms of ethnicity was our Hispanic/Latinx student population overall, down 13%. The second largest decline was among Black or African American students, down by 9%. Asian student population increased by 6%, and white student population decreased by 3%. CTE was up by 7%, University transfer down by 5%. Programs with largest percentage of growth included Medical Imaging, Phlebotomy, Histotechnology, Respiratory Care, Modern Languages, and Emergency Services.

C. Chair's Remarks

Chair Rakow shared mentoring reminders and indicated that Trustee Redmer will be meeting with Trustee Barbosa-Guzman, Trustee Arroyo with Trustee Allen and Trustee Parks with Student Trustee Gidlund.

D. Announcements

There were no announcements.

E. Issues for Next Month's Agenda

No issues were brought forward for the next agenda.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2025

12. Adjournment

Motion: Trustee Redmer moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Trustee Parks seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: Aye, 5; Rakow, Redmer, Parks, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; Nay, 0; Student Trustee Gidlund, aye. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Patricia Arroyo, Board Secretary

Diane Kerruish, Board Recorder