

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2025**

The Board of Trustees of Community College District 509, Counties of Kane, Cook, DuPage, McHenry and DeKalb, State of Illinois, convened a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, in Building E, Room E100.01.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Redmer called the regular meeting to order at 5:43 p.m., indicated that a quorum was present, and asked the recorder to call roll.

Trustees present: Dr. Redmer, Ms. Rakow, Mr. Nowak, Dr. Ollayos, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Arroyo, Mr. Parks and Student Trustee Ms. Heiser.

Trustees absent: None.

ECC staff: Dr. Heinrich, Interim President; Dr. Schopen, Interim VP, Teaching, Learning and Student Development; Ms. Scholl, Assistant VP, Business & Finance; Dr. Garber, VP Planning, Institutional Effectiveness and Technology; Mr. Vazquez, General Counsel; and Ms. Kerruish, Recorder.

2. Recess to Closed Session

The Chair asked for a motion to recess immediately to closed session under the following exceptions to the *Illinois Open Meetings Act*:

- A. To discuss minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act
- B. To consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the college....
- C. To discuss litigation, when an action...has been filed...or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent....
- D. To consider collective negotiation matters...for one of more classes of employees... all pursuant to Chapter 5 of the *Illinois Compiled Statutes* Sections 120/2 (c) (21, 1, 11 and 2 respectively).

Motion: Trustee Rakow moved to recess to closed session.

Second: Trustee Ollayos seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 7: Redmer, Rakow, Nowak, Ollayos, Parks, Arroyo and Rodriguez; nay, 0; Student Trustee Heiser, aye; motion carried at 5:44 p.m.

3. Reconvene Open Session

The closed-session concluded at 6:05 p.m. The board reconvened in open session at 6:30 p.m. in E125, Seigle Auditorium.

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4. Preliminary Matters

A. Roll Call

Trustees present: Dr. Redmer, Ms. Rakow, Mr. Nowak, Dr. Ollayos, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Arroyo, Mr. Parks and Student Trustee Ms. Heiser.

Trustees absent: None.

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

B. Consideration of and Possible Actions on Any Requests for a Board Member's Electronic Participation in Meeting.

No considerations necessary at this meeting.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Kerruish.

D. Shared Values

The Shared Values were recited by the Trustees.

5. Interim President's Report

- Dr. Heinrich acknowledged Anitra King, SSECCA, and Luis Martinez, ECCFA in the audience.
- Enrollment Update at the 10th Day
 - Enrollment is 11,206, 15% higher than last spring and 47% higher than spring 2021 (COVID)
 - A little over half of our students are female, 53%. During COVID, the percentage of male students declined to 41%, but is now up to 47%.
 - Our ethnicity breakdown is similar to last spring, 52% Hispanic, 32% white, 7% Asian, 4% Black or African American.
 - The percentage of students under 17 increased from 5% to 7% of our students served, reflective of the growth in dual credit. Our largest enrollment is for students ages 17-20, which is 43% of our student population.
 - 59% of students are enrolled in university transfer programs, CTE is 22%, and adult education is 18%.
 - Overall, we've experienced a lot of growth in students and credit hours since the pandemic. The largest growth is with Hispanic, ESL, and dual credit students. There is large growth in transfer programs of study, with CTE level, but not decreasing. Finally, it was interesting to note that the proportion of students stating they intend to transfer on the application grew tremendously, while those saying they are preparing for a future job decreased quite a bit.
 - When we look at the average credit hours per student, the areas with the largest growth in enrollment, high school students, ESL, transfer majors, also have shown

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decreases in the average hours they enroll in over time. Credit hours aren't growing at the same pace as actual student enrollment.

- HSI Strategic Planning Process and HSI Forums are scheduled for February 12 at ECC at 5:30 PM, February 20 at Gail Borden Library at 6:00 PM, and February 27 at Centro in Carpentersville at 5:00 PM.
- Congratulations to our Dean of Health Professions, Denise Kruckenberg, who was appointed to the CASA Kane County Board of Directors on January 22, 2025. This organization advocates for the voice of children in foster care. We have not previously served on the board.
- An overview of national issues related to immigration and possible freezing of grants was provided. Staff continues to monitor the federal directives and will keep the Board, staff and students updated.

6. Audience Wishing to Address the Board

Ms. Anitra King, President of SSECCA, introduced the Quilts of Valor group to the Board and presented Trustee Rodriguez and Trustee Parks with beautiful quilts honoring their service in the United States Military.

7. Board Reports

A. Committee of the Whole

Trustee Arroyo provided an overview of the Committee of the Whole meeting held Monday, January 27, 2025. Presentations included: A video representation of the Manufacturing and Technology Center by the architects, DLA and an overview of Health Professions by Dean Kruckenberg. A construction update was provided. Board Actions and items on the January 28, 2025 agenda were discussed, no questions were raised. Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting will be available on the website once they are approved.

B. Illinois Community College Trustee Association (ICCTA)

Trustee Ollayos shared that the ICCTA meeting during ACCT NLS with U.S. Senators Durbin and Duckworth will be on February 11, 2025 from 3-4:30 PM EST. Trustee Ollayos will also be attending the Trustee Advisory Committee Meeting.

C. Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

Trustee Ollayos deferred this report to Vice Chair Rakow.

D. Legislative

Trustee Rakow shared the following:

- A letter detailing Ms. Heiser's negative experiences with the state-required Open Meetings Act online training has been sent to D509 legislators. To date, ten elected officials have responded and expressed concern. Representative McCombie forwarded Jess's video to the Illinois Attorney General's Office; they provided details about recent upgrades. ECC's Web Accessibility Designer and Ms. Amenta will meet with Ms. Heiser in the near future to see if the problems have been resolved.
- Preparations for the National Legislative Summit continue. Trustees Rakow, Rodriguez, Parks, Ollayos and Student Trustee Heiser will be in attendance along with Dr. Heinrich and Dr. Wagner. An updated schedule has been provided to reflect

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the confirmed the meeting at Excelencia in Education with President Sarita Brown and CEO Deborah Santiago.

- The 2025 Consolidated Election will take place on April 1. A summary of municipal races in our district has been distributed.

E. ECC Foundation

Trustee Parks reported the following:

- The Bright Futures campaign concluded in December with \$3.3M+ raised for student scholarships.
- As of December 31, 2024, \$300,033 in scholarships have been awarded to 223 students. Awarding will continue through this Spring semester until funds are depleted.
- The Alumni Network Steering Committee (comprised of 5 ECC alums) will meet for the first time on January 22 and will set priorities for the coming year.
- Purses With Purpose celebrated two students graduating in the December ceremony and hosted its annual Holiday Party on December 11.
- The annual Donor Appreciation Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 8 at 9 am in the Building E Dining Room. All student scholars have been invited and several have already agreed to tell their story.
- We have received the JP Morgan Chase grant again for \$40K. We also are the recipient of the Motorola Solutions grant for \$60K.
- Members of the foundation board are preparing to attend the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges annual conference in Washington, DC.

8. College Reports

Board Action No. 124-A-25, Acceptance of Written College Reports

- A. Personnel (December)
- B. Treasurer (November)

College Reports Under Separate Cover

- C. Institutional Advancement and ECC Foundation (December)
- D. Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs (December)
- E. Insurance Summary (annual)
- F. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (quarterly)

Chair Redmer confirmed receipt, either attached or under separate cover, of the aforementioned written reports.

Motion: Trustee Ollayos moved to accept the college reports.
Second: Trustee Rakow seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 7; Redmer, Rakow, Nowak, Ollayos, Rodriguez, Arroyo and Parks; nay, 0; Student Trustee Heiser, aye; motion carried

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9. Consent Agenda

Chair Redmer read the following consent agenda items:

- A. Board Action No. 125-A-25, Minutes of Special Board Meetings, December 2 and 3, 2024**
- B. Board Action No. 126-A-25, Minutes of Closed Session of Special Board Meetings, December 2 and 3, 2024**
- C. Board Action No. 127-A-25, Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, December 10, 2024**
- D. Board Action No. 128-A-25, Minutes of Closed Session of Board Meeting, December 10, 2024**
- E. Board Action No. 129-A-25, Minutes of Special Board Meeting, December 19, 2024**
- F. Board Action No. 130-A-25, Minutes of Closed Session of Special Board Meeting, December 19, 2024**
- G. Board Action No. 131-A-25, Destruction of Audiotapes of Closed Session Board Meeting, April 11, 2023**
- H. Board Action No. 132-F-25, Ratification of Report of Expenses**
- I. Board Action No. 133-F-25, Ratification of Board of Trustee Travel Expenses**
- J. Board Action No. 134-A-25, Modified Academic Calendar for 2026-2027**
- K. Board Action No. 135-A-25, Application for Permanent Curriculum Approval: Basic Vocational Specialist Certificate in Bilingual Endorsement and ESL Endorsement**
- L. Board Action No. 136-B-25, Approval of State Deferred Maintenance Capital Project – Building F Renovation, Upgrade Elevator, and Generator**
- M. Purchases**
 - 1. Board Action No. 137-T-25, Additional Cloud Implementation Fees** authorizes the administration to enter into a contract for additional implementation services with Off Prem Technology (Fishers, IN), in an amount not to exceed \$46,250.
 - 2. Board Action No. 138-T-25, Computers and Related Peripherals Purchase** authorizes the administration to purchase Apple computers and related peripherals direct from the manufacturer, Apple, Inc. (Austin, TX), in an amount not to exceed \$35,527.90.
 - 4. Board Action No. 140-T-25, Formstack Software License Renewal** authorizes the administration to contract with Formstack, LLC (Fishers, IN) for Formstack software renewal, in the amount of \$36,354.42 for one year.
 - 5. Board Action No. 141-A-25, Interpreter Services** authorizes the administration to contract for the period of one (1) year for interpreter services from 5 Star Interpreting Chicago, (Chicago, IL), in the amount not to exceed \$45,000 annually.
 - 6. Board Action No. 142-I-25, Theatrical Sound Equipment Purchase** authorizes the administration to purchase Shure wireless mics and accessories from Sound Productions, LLC (Irving, TX), the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$33,144.
 - 7. Board Action No. 143-A-25, Transcript Services Renewal** authorizes the administration to increase the annual amount with Parchment (Scottsdale, AZ) for transcript credential services. The initial fees were not to exceed \$25,000 annually, but the need for transcripts has increased, and so, the new not to exceed amount is \$32,500 annually for the remaining term. The fees have not increased, just the usage.

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8. **Board Action No. 144-B-25, Window Coverings for Building B – First and Second Floors of Administration Wings** authorizes the administration to purchase window coverings for twenty-nine (29) offices from JC Licht (Addison, IL) in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.
9. **Board Action No. 145-C-25, Ratification of Architectural and Engineering Services Fees for the Creation of a New Space for the Access and Disability Services Area** ratifies and authorizes the administration to contract for general architectural and engineering services for the Student Access and Disability Services Office Renovation from FGMA Architects Ltd. (Oakbrook, IL), for an amount not to exceed \$112,900.
10. **Board Action No. 146-A-25, Ratification of Captioning Services** ratifies and authorizes the administration to contract for the period of one (1) year for captioning services from Ai-Media Technologies (Farmingdale, NY), in the amount not to exceed \$32,000 annually.
11. **Board Action No. 147-I-25, Ratification of Skid Steer Purchase** ratifies and authorizes the administration to contract with Alta Equipment Company (New Hudson, MI) to purchase a used skid steer for use in the Fire & Safety program at the Burlington campus in an amount not to exceed \$36,000.

N. Personnel

1. **Board Action No. 148-P-25, Appointment, Vice President of Teaching, Learning, and Student Development, Annamarie Schopen, EdD** authorizes the administration to appoint Dr. Annamarie Schopen as Vice President of Teaching, Learning and Student Development at a salary of \$209,921.00 (Hay Classification 22), effective on February 1, 2025.
2. **Board Action No. 149-P-25, Appointment, Associate Vice President of Teaching, Learning and Student Development, Kristina Garcia, PhD** authorizes the administration to appoint Dr. Kristina Garcia as Associate Vice President of Teaching, Learning and Student Development at a salary of \$165,000.00 (Hay position 20), effective February 1, 2025.
3. **Board Action No. 150-P-25, Appointment, Dean of Communications and Behavioral Sciences, Mr. Justin Robertson** authorizes the administration to appoint Mr. Justin Robertson as Dean of Communications and Behavioral Sciences (CABS) at a salary of \$123,101.00 (Hay position classification 19), effective February 1, 2025.
4. **Board Action No. 151-P-25, Appointment, Associate Dean of Communications and Behavioral Sciences, Ms. Sarah A. Bass** authorizes the administration to appoint Ms. Sarah A. Bass as Associate Dean of Communications and Behavioral Sciences (CABS) as a full-time administrator at a salary of \$100,000.00 (Hay position classification 18), effective February 1, 2025.
5. **Board Action No. 152-P-25, New Hire, Chief Community and Government Relations Officer, Ms. Karla Jimenez** approves the appointment of Ms. Karla Jimenez as Chief Community and Government Relations Officer at an annual salary of \$135,000 (over the midpoint, grade 18) on the Elgin Community College Administrative 2025 salary schedule, effective January 29, 2025.

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- 6. Board Action No. 153-A-25, Ratification of the Early Termination of the Interim Presidential Contract for Peggy Heinrich, EdD** ratifies the early termination of the employment contract of Peggy Heinrich to serve as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Elgin Community College effective on December 31, 2024.

Motion: Trustee Rodriguez moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Second: Trustee Arroyo seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 7; Redmer, Rakow, Nowak, Ollayos, Rodriguez, Arroyo and Parks; nay, 0; Student Trustee Heiser, aye; motion carried.

Other

- M.3 Board Action No. 139-C-25, Construction Management Fees – The Creation of a New Space for the Student Access and Disability Services Area** authorizes the administration to contract for Construction Management services for the creation of a new Student Access and Disability Services area with IHC Construction Companies, LLC (Elgin, IL), in an amount not to exceed \$214,465.

Motion: Trustee Ollayos moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Second: Trustee Nowak seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 6; Redmer, Nowak, Ollayos, Rodriguez, Arroyo and Parks; nay, 0; abstain, 1; Rakow; Student Trustee Heiser, aye; motion carried.

10. Old Business

There was no old business brought forward.

11. New Business

There was no new business brought forward.

12. Adjournment

Motion: Trustee Nowak moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Trustee Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: Aye, 7; Redmer, Rakow, Nowak, Ollayos, Rodriguez, Arroyo and Parks; nay, 0; Student Trustee Heiser, aye; meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Shane Nowak, Board Secretary

Diane Kerruish, Board Recorder