

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 11, 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, March 11, 2025, in Building E, Room E100.01.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Redmer called the regular meeting to order at 5:41 p.m., indicated that a quorum was present, and asked the recorder to call roll.

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

Trustees absent: Mr. Rodriguez, Dr. Ollayos arrived at 6:01 p.m.

ECC staff: Dr. Heinrich, President; Dr. Schopen, VP, Teaching, Learning and Student Development; Ms. Scholl, Assistant VP, Business & Finance; 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 Nowak seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 5: Redmer, Rakow, Nowak, Parks, and Arroyo; nay, 0; Student Trustee Heiser, aye; motion carried at 5:42 p.m.

3. Reconvene Open Session

The closed-session concluded at 6:38 p.m. The board reconvened in open session at 6:44 p.m. in E125, Seigle Auditorium.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
MARCH 11, 2025

4. Preliminary Matters

A. Roll Call

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

Trustees absent: Mr. Rodriguez

ECC staff: Dr. Heinrich, Interim President; Dr. Schopen, Interim VP, Teaching, Learning and Student Development; Dr. Wagner, VP, Business and Finance; 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 Trustee Nowak.

D. Board Purpose

The Board Purpose was recited by Trustee Parks.

5. President's Report

- Dr. Heinrich acknowledged SSECCA leadership in attendance.
- Our Center for Civic Engagement was a finalist for the national Bellwether prize. The Bellwether College Consortium is a national recognition program highlighting innovative and impactful programs within community colleges. A team, including one of our student civic leaders, Daniel Gidlund, participated in the competition in San Antonio in February, which is comprised of a table competition, submission of a binder of materials, and a presentation. There were 10 finalists in our category, it was a competitive process and an honor to be selected to participate. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) identified ECC as one of 37 institutions currently meeting The Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement (CLDE) Coalition's criteria to be identified as a "full participation institution" (FPI). This identification will allow for direct engagement between ECC and the coalition and will include public recognition on their website as a trailblazing institution in the area of civic engagement. Universities such as Harvard and Stanford are listed and there are very few community colleges.
- Civic leaders go on to do great things: One student secured an internship at the Kane County State's Attorney's Office after emceeding a candidate forum; another began as a constituent services intern for State Senator Cristina Castro's district office and was later hired as an employee; and another, who was a refugee from Venezuela, recently earned an Immigrant Justice internship at Chicago's Resurrection Project.
- Student, Brenda Royer has been selected as a recipient of Phi Theta Kappa's 2025 Distinguished Chapter Officer Award! Award recipients will be formally recognized during PTK Catalyst 2025 in Kansas City, Missouri, in April.
- ECC's Mu Alpha Theta Math Club, led by faculty member Chris Cunningham, participated in the Rocket City Math League national competition. 17 students

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
MARCH 11, 2025

participated. Congratulations to our top scorers, Anala Thakkar, Zed Suarez, Rey Cruz, and Jennifer Chehade.

- Congratulations to massage therapy adjunct faculty, Ami Kalisek, who has been selected as the American Massage Therapy Association Illinois Educator of the Year for 2025.
- Farah Bennani, Dean of Math, Science and Engineering, won the Trendsetter Gold Award by the United States Distance Learning Association for her project “Rapid Response: Designing to Not Only Respond to Change but For Social Justice Change”
- In celebration of Women’s History Month, a Women’s Leadership Luncheon was held today with a panel of female leaders across various fields. Upcoming is Latinas Leading Change – A Celebration of Women in Government on March 17, co-sponsored by the CCE. Adjunct faculty in Communication Studies, Meg Bucaro will be spotlighted and will discuss insights from her book “Put Your Big Girl Pants On...and Other Power Moves to Increase Influence.”
- Experience ECC is coming on April 16 from 5:30-7:30, a great opportunity for anyone interested in ECC to come, take specialized tours and meet with faculty from a variety of programs.

6. Audience Wishing to Address the Board

Ms. Anitra King, President of SSECCA, offered appreciation for the additional time off granted for SSECCA’s 40th Anniversary Celebration.

7. Board Reports

A. Finance Committee

Trustee Nowak provided an overview of the Finance Committee meeting held Monday, March 10, 2025. Items presented and discussed included: Internal Audit Update, Auxiliary Business Plans, FY25 Financial Update, FY26 Budget Discussion, Capital Projects Priority and Funding List and FY25 Audit Fees. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting will be available on the website once they are approved.

B. Committee of the Whole

Trustee Arroyo provided an overview of the Committee of the Whole meeting held Monday, March 10, 2025. Presentations included: Update to the 2020 Master Plan by Perkins & Will and Professor Zacker’s sabbatical report. A construction update was provided. Board Actions and items on the March 11, 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.

C. Illinois Community College Trustee Association (ICCTA)

Trustee Ollayos shared that the next ICCTA meetings are this week and details have been provided. Officers are needed for next year and reviewers are needed for the first group of award nominations.

D. Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

A law update provided by ACCT was shared with all Trustees.

E. Legislative

Trustee Rakow shared the following:

- Trustees Ollayos, Rodriguez, Parks, Rakow, Student Trustee Heiser, Dr. Heinrich and Dr. Wagner participated in five meetings with U.S. Members of Congress and

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
MARCH 11, 2025

- representatives from Excelencia in Education to advocate for higher education and ECC's legislative priorities during ACCT's 2025 National Legislative Summit in Washington DC at the beginning of February.
- Trustees had the opportunity to meet directly with US Representatives Krishnamoorthi, Foster, and Ramirez, where they provided updates and advocated for funding of training equipment for the College's Manufacturing and Technology Center. They also sought guidance on navigating the uncertainties surrounding the several executive orders that directly affect ECC. During these meetings, Student Trustee Heiser advocated for SB4379, which would allow students with a documented disability to have a reduced course load and still maintain financial aid. Additionally, in an ICCTA joint session with Senators Durbin and Duckworth, Student Trustee Heiser took the opportunity to advocate for students with disabilities transitioning from high school to Higher Ed to ensure they have the necessary support to succeed.
 - President Heinrich and Chief Community & Government Relations Officer Karla Jimenez attend weekly virtual meetings of the IL Community College Council of Presidents (ICCCP), which are held to discuss legislative matters and collaborate on strategies for proposed legislation.
 - Coming out of recent discussions and in an effort to help advocate for the Community College Baccalaureate legislation announced during the Governor's State of the State Address, letters signed by President Heinrich and Trustee Rakow were mailed to all 23 Illinois Senators and Representatives. If approved, this would allow community colleges in Illinois to offer baccalaureate degrees in fields where there is a demonstrated workforce demand.
 - Dr. Heinrich and Dr. Schopen are part of the ICCCP Common Course Numbering subcommittee.
 - The Consolidated Election is Tuesday, April 1, 2025, with early voting from Friday, March 7, 2025, to Monday, March 31, 2025.

F. ECC Foundation

Trustee Parks reported the following:

- To conclude the Bright Futures campaign success, artwork created by an ECC student has been delivered to each campaign donor.
- As of January 31, \$319,225 in scholarships have been awarded to 233 students.
- The annual Donor Appreciation Breakfast was held Saturday, March 8. Donors and scholars shared their personal experiences with attendees.
- The Alumni Network Steering Committee (comprised of 5 ECC alums) met for their inaugural meeting on January 22. The purpose of the Alumni Network will be to serve as support for all ECC alumni providing social activities, networking opportunities and more as requested by alumni.
- The ECC Foundation Golf Classic will be held on Monday, June 16 at the Elgin Country Club.
- Motorola Solutions has awarded the Foundation \$65,000 in grants, supporting education, particularly by offering scholarships for underrepresented student

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
MARCH 11, 2025

- populations, including female students, in the fields of STEM, emergency management, and legal careers.
- The Foundation is pleased to welcome three new board members; Alan Kirk, Dean Haacker and Parisa Morris.

G. Student Report

Student Trustee Heiser shared information about the Spring 2025 Welcome Week events. She also shared that there are three students running for the 2025-2026 Student Trustee position.

8. College Reports

Board Action No. 154-A-25, Acceptance of Written College Reports

- A. Personnel (January, February)
- B. Treasurer (December, January)
- C. Student (September-January)

College Reports Under Separate Cover

- D. Institutional Advancement and ECC Foundation (February)
- E. Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs (February)
- F. Grant Monitoring Report (period ending December 31, 2024)

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

Motion: Trustee Nowak moved to accept the college reports.
Second: Trustee Arroyo seconded the motion.

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

9. Consent Agenda

Chair Redmer read the following consent agenda items:

- A. Board Action No. 155-A-25, Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, January 28, 2025**
- B. Board Action No. 156-A-25, Minutes of Closed Session of Board Meeting, January 28, 2025**
- C. Board Action No. 157-A-25, Destruction of Audiotapes of Closed Session Board Meeting, May 9, 2023**
- D. Board Action No. 158-F-25, Ratification of Report of Expenses**
- E. Board Action No. 159-A-25, Trustees In-State Attendance at ICCTA Meeting**
- F. Board Action No. 160-A-25, Consulting Services Board Retreat June 2025**
- G. Purchases**

- 1. Board Action No. 161-B-25, Acoustical Drapery Purchase** authorizes the administration for the purchase and installation of acoustical drapes for H122 from North-West Drapery Service, Inc. (Chicago, IL) in an amount not to exceed \$29,225.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
MARCH 11, 2025

2. **Board Action No. 162-I-25, Brake Lathes Purchase** authorizes the administration to purchase two (2) brake lathes from Snap-on Industrial (Crystal Lake, IL) utilizing educational pricing under the Sourcewell contract, in the amount of \$28,255.42.
3. **Board Action No. 163-B-25, Carpet Replacement – Building G, Room 218** authorizes the administration to contract with ABM Commercial Flooring (Bloomington, IL), the lowest responsible bidder to purchase and install the carpet, in an amount not to exceed \$28,920.
5. **Board Action No. 165-I-25, Pianos Purchase** authorizes the administration to purchase five (5) Steinway pianos from Steinway & Sons (Chicago, IL) the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$78,310.
6. **Board Action No. 166-T-25, Video Servers Purchase** authorizes the administration to purchase seven (7) video servers and related accessories from Melillo Consulting (Somerset, NJ), in an amount not to exceed \$167,835.82.
7. **Board Action No. 167-T-25, Ratification of Contract Management Software Renewal** ratifies and authorizes the administration to renew the contract with DocuSign, Inc. (San Francisco, CA) for contract management software, in an amount not to exceed \$154,459.90, over three (3) years.
8. **Board Action No. 168-T-25, Ratification of E-Mail Protection Server Software Renewal** ratifies and authorizes the administration to renew the contract with Proofpoint (Sunnyvale, CA) for email protection services for three (3) years, in an amount not to exceed \$112,314.50 over the term.
9. **Board Action No. 169-S-25, Ratification of Spring Sports Bus Transportation** ratifies and authorizes the administration to contract for bus transportation services from Chicago Classic Coach (Chicago, IL), in an amount not to exceed \$45,000, this amount will allow for post-season trips.

H. Personnel

1. **Board Action No. 170-A-25, Granting of Tenure, Instructor of Certified Recovery Support Specialist Program, Mr. Andrew Beck** authorizes the administration to grant tenure effective August, 2025
2. **Board Action No. 171-A-25, Granting of Tenure, Assistant Professor I of Psychology, Dr. Maureen Gray**, authorizes the administration to grant tenure effective August, 2025.
3. **Board Action No. 172-A-25, Granting of Tenure, Associate Professor I of Design, Mr. Peter Infelise**, authorizes the administration to grant tenure effective August, 2025.
4. **Board Action No. 173-A-25, Granting of Tenure, Associate Professor I of Business, Dr. Mae Hicks Jones**, authorizes the administration to grant tenure effective August, 2025.
5. **Board Action No. 174-A-25, Granting of Tenure, Assistant Professor I of Ophthalmic Technician Program, Ms. Lori Marco**, authorizes the administration to grant tenure effective August, 2025.
6. **Board Action No. 175-A-25, Granting of Tenure, Instructor of HVAC, Mr. David Scott**, authorizes the administration to grant tenure effective August, 2025.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
MARCH 11, 2025

- 7. Board Action No. 176-A-25, Appointment, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, Dr. Tonisha Via**, authorizes the administration to appoint Dr. Tonisha Via as Interim Chief Human Resources Officer at a salary of \$136,047.00 (Hay Classification 20), effective March 12, 2025. Further, if Dr. Via is not appointed to the position of Chief Human Resources Officer, Dr. Via will return to her position as Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer at her annual salary amount of \$114,989.00 (Hay Classification 19) prior to her appointment as Interim Chief Human Resources Officer.

Motion: Trustee Rakow moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Second: Trustee Nowak seconded the motion.

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

Other

- G.4 Board Action No. 164-C-25, Construction Fees for the Creation of a New Space for the Student Access and Disability Services Area** authorizes the administration to grant IHC Construction Companies, LLC (Elgin, IL), the authority to contract, on behalf of Elgin Community College, for the construction trade packages listed below for the new Student Access and Disability Services Area. The total amount is not to exceed \$501,590.

Motion: Trustee Ollayos moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Second: Trustee Nowak seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 5; Redmer, Nowak, Ollayos, Arroyo and Parks; nay, 0; abstain, 1; Rakow; Student Trustee Heiser, aye; motion carried.

10. Old Business

Trustee Ollayos mentioned that the Civic Engagement Brochure looks great and that the auxiliary enterprise presentation was very well done.

11. New Business

There was no new business brought forward.

12. Adjournment

Motion: Trustee Nowak moved to adjourn the meeting.
Second: Trustee Ollayos seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: Aye, 6; Redmer, Rakow, Nowak, Ollayos, Arroyo and Parks; nay, 0; Student Trustee Heiser, aye; meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.