

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2026**

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 27, 2026, in Building E, Room E106.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Rakow called the regular meeting to order at 5:40 p.m., indicated that a quorum was present, and asked the recorder to call roll.

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

Trustees absent: Ms. Arroyo.

ECC staff: Dr. Heinrich, President; Dr. Schopen, VP, Teaching, Learning and Student Development; Dr. Wagner, VP, Business & Finance; Dr. Garber, VP, Planning, Institutional Effectiveness & Technology; Mr. Vazquez, General Counsel; Ms. Guengerich, Chief Human Resources Officer; Mr. Branson, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer 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 Parks moved to recess to closed session.

Second: Trustee Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 6: Rakow, Rodriguez, Redmer, Parks, Allen and Barbosa-Guzman; nay, 0; Student Trustee Gidlund, aye; motion carried at 5:42 p.m.

3. Reconvene Open Session

The closed-session concluded at 6:28 p.m. The board reconvened in open session at 6:37 p.m. in E125, Seigle Auditorium.

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4. Preliminary Matters

A. Roll Call

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

Trustees absent: Ms. Arroyo.

ECC staff: Dr. Heinrich, President; Dr. Schopen, VP, Teaching, Learning and Student Development; Dr. Wagner, VP, Business & Finance, Dr. Garber, VP, Planning, Institutional Effectiveness & 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 Trustee Rodriguez.

D. Shared Values

The Shared Values were recited by the Trustees.

Trustee Rakow shared a statement regarding ongoing ECCFA negotiations.

5. In Memoriam

Dr. Heinrich shared remarks capturing the essence of Mr. John Duffy's 48 years of service to ECC. A moment of silence was held for Trustee Emeritus Duffy.

6. President's Report

- Dr. Heinrich acknowledged Anitra King, President of SSECCA and Dan Kernler, President of ECCFA, in attendance.
- Health Professions Updates/Accomplishments
 - The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology has awarded accreditation for a period of 8 years to our radiography program, which removes our previous probationary status. This is good news and a great accomplishment. This was the maximum number of years we could have been awarded and was achieved much faster than anticipated. Thanks to Dean Kruckenberg and her team, and Dr. Laurie Schachtner, our Medical Imaging Program Director, for their leadership.
 - Our 2025 licensing exam (MBLEx) first-time pass rate is 100% for massage therapy graduates. Thanks to Dean Kruckenberg, her team and Lurana Bain, Program Director of our Massage Therapy and Health & Wellness Programs.
- The Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) Institutional Actions Council (IAC) officially approved the visiting team's report and recommendations stemming from review and the November visit to ECC on January 13, 2026. The IAC is the approving body of the HLC that works alongside its Board of Directors. On that date, the HLC President issued a formal statement and provided a signed letter confirming ECC's full accredited status for a period of 10 years, or until academic year 2035-36. Now that our status is public and

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official, we are free to select two Quality Improvement Projects (QIP) to undertake during this new 10-year cycle. The first QIP is to be done during the first half of this cycle, or between now and 2030; and the second QIP is to be done during the second half, or between 2030 and 2035. The proposal for our first QIP is due between September 2026 and June 2027, and now we will undertake discussions of what those projects entail. They will follow from and support our strategic goals and metrics.

- Our total conferrals from the fall semester have been finalized, and I am pleased to share that conferrals increased from 1,017 last fall to 1,050 this past fall, a 3% increase in the number of conferrals awarded.
- Student, Bohdan Andrashko, has been selected as a 2026 DREAM Scholar by Achieving the Dream. The DREAM Scholars program is an exciting opportunity for only eight students from across the nation, designed to enhance key leadership, critical thinking, and networking skills. Nominated by their institution and chosen through a competitive national application process, DREAM Scholars engage in a learning experience that culminates in attending and presenting at the DREAM 2026 convening in Portland, Oregon, March 2-5, 2026. The DREAM Scholars will share their personal stories and participate in customized programming and networking sessions that align to their personal goals. Scholars will be featured in plenary sessions, have an exclusive conversation with keynote speakers, and participate in a panel presentation focused on how they view the reform efforts of community colleges. The DREAM student panel has become a highlight of the conference, and we are honored to have an Elgin Community College student featured.

7. Audience Wishing to Address the Board

Ms. Anitra King offered comments on the MOA (Board Action No. 135-A-26) presented on the agenda this evening. The following individuals shared comments regarding ECCFA negotiations: Sean Jaster, Luis Martinez, Lauren Sullivan, Patrick Gordon, Jessica Carpenter, Marc Beth, Kim Tarver and Dan Kernler.

8. Board Reports

A. Committee of the Whole

Trustee Barbosa-Guzman provided an overview of the Committee of the Whole meeting held Monday, January 26, 2026. The presentations were: Empowering Excellence: An Overview of the MSE Division's Commitment to Student Success by Dr. Bennani; Course Materials Cost Reduction Strategies by Dr. Roeger; and Marketing & Communications Update by Ms. Zeman & Mr. Piner. No questions were raised regarding Board Actions and items on the January 27, 2026 agenda. 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 Allen shared the following:

- The upcoming ICCTA meetings on March 20-21 will be held at Moraine Valley College with Trustee Allen and Student Trustee Gidlund attending.
- Lobby Day will be on May 6 in Springfield.

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C. Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

Trustee Allen shared that the 2026 ACCT Leadership Congress will be in Chicago October 21-24. Local meet and greets have begun with our local representatives, in lieu of Trustees attending NLS in February.

D. Legislative

Trustee Rodriguez shared the following:

- Legislative activity was limited during December and early January due to the holiday season. ECC's legislative staff continued monitoring state and federal legislation and provided regular updates to college leadership to ensure awareness and preparedness as the spring legislative session began.
- ECC met the January 1, 2026 requirement under the State House Bill 1312 to post information on its website outlining:
 - Steps to follow if immigration enforcement activity is present on campus
 - Resources available to students and employees
- The Metro West Council of Government held its annual Legislative Breakfast here at ECC earlier this month. President Dr. Heinrich welcomed the elected officials and community leaders. Community Engagement & Legislative Affairs (CELA) staff participated in the legislative roundtable discussions focused on local priorities impacting our municipalities.
- The Elgin Area Chamber hosted Mayor Kaptain's State of the City Address at ECC, where Trustees Rakow, Parks, Allen & Barbosa-Guzman were in attendance.
- The Illinois Council of Community College Presidents Legislative Committee began its virtual meetings as the Springfield session kicked off.

E. ECC Foundation

Trustee Allen highlighted the following items from the written report:

- Lincoln Electric donated an In-Kind gift valued at \$70,000 to Building S. Advanced Lifts has committed a major gift of \$10,000 to support Welding in Building S. We will be mailing the new MTC marketing piece to local manufacturing firms in Spring '26 and illustrate the naming opportunities and associated giving levels for each space in Building S. We hope that this will create even more donations for the building and programs housed there.
- \$231,864 in scholarship awards have been awarded to 145 students as of December 30. Applications are closed for the 2025-2026 school year, but evaluation and awarding will continue throughout the semester. A new application for the 2026-2027 school year is now open.
- Applications for the 2026-2027 Seigle Scholar Program closed January 15. The selection for the third-year cohort of this full ride scholarship opportunity will begin in February.
- The Alumni Association is partnering with Student Life to host a Homecoming Weekend, September 18 – 20, 2026 featuring the theme *Once a Spartan Always a Spartan*.
- The first quarterly issue of the Alumni Association newsletter was sent on January 13 to over 25,000 alumni and included a survey to gather feedback of this important segment of the ECC Community.

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- Kris Ducett was appointed as Senior Director of Development, effective January 20, 2026. Logan Widtfeldt will serve as the new Advancement Operations Manager.
- The search for the next Chief Institutional Director of Advancement and Foundation is underway.

G. Student Report

Student Trustee Gidlund highlighted the following events from the written report:

- Stress Free Zone events were held on December 3.
- New Student Convocation was held on January 9 with 129 total attendees.
- Welcome Week Events were reviewed.

9. College Reports

Board Action No. 128-A-26, Acceptance of Written College Reports

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

College Reports Under Separate Cover

- D. Institutional Advancement and ECC Foundation (December)
- E. Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs (December)
- F. Marketing & Communications Division Report (annual)
- G. Insurance Summary (annual)
- H. Institutional Success & Engagement Report

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

Motion: Student Trustee Gidlund moved to accept the college reports.
Second: Trustee Parks seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 6; Rakow, Rodriguez, Redmer, Parks, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; nay, 0; Student Trustee Gidlund, aye; motion carried.

10. Consent Agenda

Chair Rakow presented the following consent agenda items:

- A. Board Action No. 129-A-26, Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, December 9, 2025**
- B. Board Action No. 130-A-26, Minutes of Closed Session of Board Meeting, December 9, 2025**
- C. Board Action No. 131-A-26, Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of January 14, 2026**
- D. Board Action No. 132-A-26, Destruction of Audiotape of Closed Session Board Meeting, May 14, 2024**
- E. Board Action No. 133-F-26, Ratification of Report of Expenses**
- F. Board Action No. 134-F-26, Ratification of Trustee Travel Expenses**
- G. Board Action No. 135-A-26, Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Summer Schedule 2026 for Friday Juneteenth and Saturday Independence Holidays**

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Between the Board of Trustees of Community College District 509 and the Support Staff of Elgin Community College Association (SSECCA)

H. Board Action No. 136-A-26, Single Audit Report Fiscal Year 2025

I. Purchases

1. **Board Action No. 137-A-26, Broker for Property & Casualty and Health & Welfare Insurance**, authorizes the administration to contract for Property & Casualty and Health & Welfare insurance brokerage services from Gallagher (Rolling Meadows, IL). The contract will be for three (3) years, with the option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year terms. Related brokerage fees will be determined per insurance carrier contract during the annual renewal process.
2. **Board Action No. 138-C-26, Building T Fence Purchase and Installation**, authorizes the administration to contract for the purchase and installation of fencing for Building T from Fence Connection, Inc. (Elgin, IL), the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$126,500.
3. **Board Action No. 139-B-26, Building T Furniture Purchase**, authorizes the administration to purchase furniture for Building T from Krueger International, Inc. (Green Bay, WI), in the amount of \$41,361.10 and from Forward Space, LLC (Wood Dale, IL) in the amount of \$43,743.25, for a total amount not to exceed \$85,104.35.
4. **Board Action No. 140-T-26, Ratification of the Firewall Network Security Services Renewal**, ratifies and authorizes the administration to renew the existing Firewall Services from CDW (Vernon Hills, IL), in an amount not to exceed \$95,721, for a period of one year.

J. Personnel

1. **Board Action No. 141-P-26, New Hire, Associate Professor II of Sculpture & Digital Fabrication (3D Art), Ms. Meredith Starr**, approves the appointment of Ms. Meredith Starr as a tenure-track Assistant Professor II of Sculpture & Digital Fabrication (3D Art) at a salary of \$91,495.00 (Lane IX, Step 7) on the Elgin Community College Faculty Association (ECCFA) 2025 salary schedule, effective fall semester, 2026.

Motion: Trustee Redmer moved to accept the consent agenda as presented.

Second: Student Trustee Gidlund seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 6; Rakow, Rodriguez, Redmer, Parks, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; nay, 0; Student Trustee Gidlund, aye; motion carried.

11. Old Business

There was no old business brought forward.

12. New Business

There was no new business brought forward.

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13. Adjournment

Motion: Trustee Parks moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Trustee Barbosa-Guzman seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: Aye, 6; Rakow, Rodriguez, Redmer, Parks, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; nay; 0; Student Trustee Gidlund, aye: meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Patricia Arroyo, Board Secretary

Diane Kerruish, Board Recorder