

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 12, 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, May 12, 2026, in Building E, Room E106.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Rakow called the regular meeting to order at 5:38 p.m., indicated that a quorum was present, and asked the recorder to call roll.

Trustees present: Ms. Rakow, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Arroyo, Mr. Allen, Ms. Barbosa-Guzman and Student Trustee Singh.

Trustees absent: Dr. Redmer and Mr. Parks.

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 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 Arroyo moved to recess to closed session.

Second: Trustee Allen seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 5: Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Allen and Barbosa-Guzman; nay, 0; and Student Trustee Singh; motion carried at 5:38 p.m.

3. Reconvene Open Session

The closed-session concluded at 6:16 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: Ms. Rakow, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Arroyo, Mr. Allen, Ms. Barbosa-Guzman and Student Trustee Singh.

Trustees absent: Dr. Redmer and Mr. Parks.

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.

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 Allen.

D. Board Purpose

In lieu of the Board Purpose as was stated on the agenda, the Shared Values were recited by the Trustees.

5. President's Report

- Dr. Heinrich acknowledged Anitra King, President of SSECCA and Dr. Clare Ollayos, Trustee Emeritus, in attendance.
- ECC received notice yesterday that our Medical Laboratory Technician Program has been awarded Continuing Accreditation for the next five years, through April 30, 2026, by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.
- Our baseball team finished second in the conference with a 9-5 record. Softball experienced their most wins in a season since 2021 and had their first playoff appearance since 2019, with two of our players receiving honorable mention All Conference Honors (Zoey Kaler and Kenya Ventura). Men's tennis placed 7th out of 11 teams at the Region 4 Championship, and Men's Golf finished 7th at the Midwest District Championship, with Ethan Ward tied for 18th out of 68 golfers.
- ECC has been invited to collaborate with the National Student Clearinghouse on an upcoming webinar. Tanya Ternes will be presenting a college-specific use case highlighting how we've leveraged PDP data through our data summits and integration with internal sources in a session entitled "Early Momentum Matters: Using PDP Data for Summits to Improve Persistence and Completion."
- ECC hosted our Achieving the Dream coaches in April for their 2-day visit. They were very complimentary and particularly praised our preparation for their visit. They also praised the refinement of our goal priorities, and, as always, made several specific recommendations to help us grow stronger over the course of the next year.
- Dr. Heinrich thanked Ms. Karla Jimenez and Ms. Victoria Ballesteros for their organized preparation and for building relationships with so many legislators and aides over this past year. It really paved the way for a successful Lobby Day visit.

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- 6. Board Action No. 236-A-26, Resolution of Appreciation, Mark Carriveau, College Photographer and Multimedia Coordinator**, approves the Resolution of Appreciation for Mark Carriveau, College Photographer and Media Coordinator who will retire on May 29, 2026.

Motion: Trustee Rodriguez moved to accept the college reports.
Second: Trustee Barbosa-Guzman seconded the motion.

Ms. Arroyo read the resolution, and Mr. Carriveau spoke briefly about his time here at ECC.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 5; Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; nay, 0; Student Trustee Singh, aye; motion carried.

7. Audience Wishing to Address the Board

- Mr. Sean Jaster offered comments on lessons to learn from the Aspen Awards.

8. Board Reports

A. Finance Committee

Trustee Barbosa-Guzman provided an overview of the Finance Committee meeting held Monday, May 11, 2026. Items presented and discussed included: Internal Audit Update, Capital Projects Priority & Funding List, FY2027 Draft Budget, College Insurance Program Funding Plan, Report on Tax-Exempt Bond Record-Keeping Policy and Fiscal Year 2027 Finance Committee Items. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting will be available on the website once they are approved.

B. Committee of the Whole

Trustee Barbosa-Guzman provided an overview of the Committee of the Whole meeting held Monday, May 11, 2026. The presentation was: Communications & Behavioral Sciences “Education in Action” by Mr. Robertson and Ms. Bass. No questions were raised regarding Board Actions and items on the May 12, 2026 agenda. 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 Allen shared the following:

- ICCTA Lobby Day was Wednesday, May 6, 2026, in Springfield. The ECC delegation included President Dr. Peggy Heinrich, Student Trustee Lynn Singh, Chief Community and Government Relations Officer Karla Jimenez, and CELA Specialist Victoria Ballesteros-Gonzalez. The day began with an ICCTA Legislative Briefing at the Pasfield House, followed by legislative visits throughout the afternoon and an evening Illinois Community College Caucus Legislative Reception at the Illinois State Museum.
- Trustee Allen attended the ICCTA Board of Representatives meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2026. Key items addressed included: Nominating Committee report and recommended slate of officers for 2026-2027. The recommended slate is: Vice President, Robert (Bob) Hammon, Kishwaukee College; Secretary, Amanda Howland, College of Lake County (incumbent); and Treasurer, Laura Wedekemper,

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- Kaskaskia College (incumbent). Elections will take place at the Annual Convention on June 5, 2026, in Lombard.
- Governor's Executive Order 2026-03 – State Attainment Working Group: On March 13, 2026, Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order 2026-03, establishing a State Attainment Working Group to coordinate efforts toward ensuring 70 percent of Illinois adults hold a postsecondary credential by 2031. The Working Group will be co-chaired by DCEO, ICCB, IBHE, and IDES.
 - The ICCTA Annual Convention is scheduled for June 5-6, 2026, at The Westin Chicago Lombard. The ICCB Board Meeting is September 25, 2026 at Elgin Community College

D. Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

Trustee Arroyo did not provide an update.

E. Legislative

Trustee Rodriguez shared the following:

- A letter co-signed by Trustee Legislative Liaison Rodriguez and President Heinrich was sent to U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin, urging them to protect and strengthen the Pell Grants, Workforce Pell, Adult Basic Education funding, and Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants. The letter explained how the federal funding cuts would directly impact student access and workforce development here in our region, specifically at ECC.
- ECC hosted two meet and greet visits in late April; Senator Cristina Castro and Senator Don DeWitte. Trustees Rakow, Rodriguez, Allen and Redmer were on hand to greet the senators. During the visits, ECC leadership provided an overview of the college, shared updates on the Manufacturing and Technology Center project and a tour of the site. Senator Castro engaged in discussion on student transfer pathways and common course numbering, while Senator DeWitte shared a bit about the Building Up Illinois Developments (BUILD) Act.
- Last week, ECC's delegation traveled to Springfield to participate in the Illinois Community Colleges Trustees Association (ICCTA) Lobby Day. The delegation included President Heinrich, Trustee Allen, Student Trustee Singh, and our Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs (CELA) team. The delegation met with five state legislators to share ECC's priorities for the spring session, including support for the Community College Baccalaureate (CCB) bill, Pipeline for Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce (PATH) Grant funding, and concerns around federal and state funding uncertainty. The delegation also shared ECC's concerns with proposed adult workforce diploma legislation, as it may duplicate efforts and create competition with the existing adult education funding system in Illinois. The bill is currently stalled in the Rules Committee. For legislators that the delegation was unable to meet with in person, materials were dropped off at their offices to make sure ECC's message was still received.
- ECC responded to a proposed amendment to the Illinois Community College Board's (ICCB) rules on Dual Credit. This was a quick-turnaround opportunity for public commentary, and Dr. Heinrich submitted formal comments on behalf of the college. The commentary highlighted ECC's experience with dual credit partnerships,

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- particularly how accreditation standards and faculty credentialing interact with the proposed rules.
- Our Internal Legislative Advisory Committee (ILAC) held its second meeting this month. This group brings together faculty and staff from across the college to help monitor legislation and inform our advocacy priorities. The second meeting helped us confirm the agenda and talking points ahead of the visit to Springfield. ILAC continues to be a valuable resource for connecting our campus community to the legislative work happening on their behalf.

F. ECC Foundation

Trustee Allen highlighted the following items from the written report:

- Fundraising efforts continue to be focused on building a high-value corporate and major gift pipeline aligned with the Manufacturing and Technology Center (MTC) and workforce development priorities.
- As of April 30, 2026, the Foundation has awarded scholarships to 318 students totaling \$401,104.76. This reflects continued growth from the \$392,136.79 awarded to 303 students reported last month.
- The ECC Homecoming Planning Committee continues to finalize plans for Homecoming Weekend, September 18-20, 2026.

G. Student Report

Student Trustee Singh highlighted the following:

- Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month events.
- Go Green or Go Home events (April 20-23).
- PTK Banquet held April 16.

9. College Reports

Board Action No. 237-A-26, Acceptance of Written College Reports

- A. Personnel (April)
- B. Treasurer (March)
- C. Student (April)

College Reports Under Separate Cover

- D. Institutional Advancement and ECC Foundation (April)
- E. Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs (April)
- F. Grant Monitoring Report (period ending 3/31/26)

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

Motion: Trustee Allen moved to accept the college reports.

Second: Trustee Barbosa-Guzman seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 5; Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; nay, 0; Student Trustee Singh, aye; motion carried.

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10. Consent Agenda

Chair Rakow presented the following consent agenda items:

- A. Board Action No. 238-A-26, Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 21, 2026**
- B. Board Action No. 239-A-26, Minutes of Closed Session of the Regular Board Meeting of April 21, 2026**
- C. Board Action No. 240-A-26, Destruction of Audiotapes of Closed Session Board Meeting September 10, 2024**
- D. Board Action No. 241-F-26, Ratification of Report of Expenses**
- E. Board Action No. 242-F-26, Ratification of Trustee Travel Expenses**
- F. Board Action No. 243-A-26, Trustees' In-State Attendance at 2026 ACCT Leadership Congress – Chicago, IL**
- G. Board Action No. 244-A-26, Consulting Services Board Retreat June 2026**
- H. Board Action No. 245-A-26, Amendment to Board Policies: Governance Process (GP 7.1)**
- I. Board Action No. 246-A-26, Amendment to Board Policies: Governance Process (GP 7.2c)**
- J. Purchases**
 - 1. Board Action No. 247-B-26, Annual Trane HVAC Equipment Maintenance (Buildings E & K),** authorizes the administration to contract with Trane U.S., Inc. (Willowbrook, IL) for three (3) years of annual factory maintenance services for the Trane HVAC equipment located at buildings E and K, in the amount of \$65,985.
 - 2. Board Action No. 248-M-26, Arts Center 2026-2027 Season Brochure,** authorizes the administration to purchase the Arts Center 2026-2027 Season Brochure from Team Concept Printing & Thermography, Inc. (Carol Stream, IL), the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$20,400.
 - 3. Board Action No. 249-X-26, Continuing Ed/Career Training Schedule Booklets,** authorizes the administration to purchase the booklet for fall 2026, spring 2027, and summer 2027 Continuing Ed/Career Training schedule from P&P Press, Inc. (Peoria, IL), the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$53,651.
 - 4. Board Action No. 250-S-26, Culinary Arts Study Abroad,** authorizes the administration to contract for study abroad programming with Loop Abroad – CELA Belize (Bethesda, MD) in an amount not to exceed \$51,000.
 - 5. Board Action No. 251-S-26, Equipment Purchase – Boiler Lab,** authorizes the administration to purchase equipment for the boiler lab for institutional use from Temperature Equipment Corporation (TEC) (Tinley Park, IL), in the amount of \$70,806.
 - 6. Board Action No. 252-S-26, Equipment Purchase – Energy Management,** authorizes the administration to purchase energy management instructional equipment from Advanced Technologies Consultants (Plymouth, MI), in an amount not to exceed \$248,000.
 - 7. Board Action No. 253-S-26, Equipment Purchase – HVAC,** authorizes the administration to purchase instructional heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment from G.W. Berkheimer (Elgin, IL), in an amount not to exceed \$87,000.

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8. **Board Action No. 254-M-26, Pace Bus Advertising Services**, authorizes the administration to contract for Pace Bus advertising services from Intersection (New York, NY) in an amount not to exceed \$28,296.
9. **Board Action No. 255-T-26, Renewal of Computer Backup Software**, authorizes the administration to renew existing computer backup licenses for Veeam software from CDW (Vernon Hills, IL), in an amount not to exceed \$65,426.49 for a period of one (1) year.
10. **Board Action No. 256-T-26, Renewal of Network WiFi Software**, authorizes the administration to renew the Aruba licenses, maintenance, and support from CDW (Vernon Hills, IL), in an amount not to exceed \$28,205.91 for a period of one (1) year.
11. **Board Action No. 257-T-26, Ratification of Instructional & Office Notebook Purchase**, ratifies and authorizes the administration to purchase notebook computers with warranties for instructional and office use from the lowest responsible bidder, Government Goods (Brooklyn, NY), in the amount of \$282,668.75.

K. Personnel

1. **Board Action No. 258-A-26, Resolution of Appreciation, Thomas Hensel, Senior Director of Performing Arts**, approves the Resolution of Appreciation for Thomas Hensel, Senior Director of Performing Arts, who retired on April 22, 2026.
2. **Board Action No. 259-P-26, New Hire, Chief Advancement Officer & Executive Director of Foundation, Ms. Sally B. Berkhia**, authorizes the administration to appoint Sally Berkhia as Chief Advancement Officer & Executive Director of Foundation at an annual salary of \$140,000 (Hay position classification 19), effective May 18, 2026.

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

Second: Trustee Arroyo seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 5; Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; nay, 0; Student Trustee Singh, 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 Arroyo moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Trustee Allen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: Aye, 5; Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; nay; 0; Student Trustee Singh, aye; meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Patricia Arroyo, Board Secretary

Diane Kerruish, Board Recorder