

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 9, 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, June 9, 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, Ms. Arroyo, Dr. Redmer, Mr. Parks, Mr. Allen, Ms. Barbosa-Guzman and Student Trustee Singh.

Trustees absent: None.

ECC staff: Dr. Heinrich, President; Dr. Schopen, VP, Teaching, Learning and Student Development; 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 Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 7: Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Redmer, Parks, Allen and Barbosa-Guzman; nay, 0; and Student Trustee Singh; motion carried at 5:42 p.m.

3. Reconvene Open Session

The closed-session concluded at 6:31 p.m. The board reconvened in open session at 6:41 p.m. in E125, Seigle Auditorium.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
JUNE 9, 2026

4. Preliminary Matters

A. Roll Call

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

Trustees absent: None.

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 Parks.

D. Board Purpose

The Board Purpose was recited by the Student Trustee Singh.

5. President's Report

- Dr. Heinrich acknowledged Anitra King, President of SSECCA, in attendance.
- Dr. Heinrich invited Mr. Mike Strassner from the Elgin Sports Hall of Fame and ECC Coach Bill Angelo to share some news about the scholarship awards that benefit ECC's student athletes. Adeline Kinsella and Davee Flowers been awarded an \$1,800 scholarship to be received after completion of their first semester at their respective four-year universities.
- Commencement numbers:
 - Basic Firefighter Ceremony – 50 graduates
 - High School Equivalency Ceremony – 42 graduates walked the stage, but 75 total graduates completed the program.
 - University Transfer – 384 graduates participated
 - Career/Technical – 303 graduates participated
- There are currently 1,025 degrees and certificates conferred for 2026SP with approximately 40 applications still under review. This does not include auto completers, which we will have completed by the end of this week.
- Academic Scholars Update: In fall, we had 1,284 students on the Honors list and 1,267 this spring. In fall, we had 947 students on the dean's list, and 936 this spring. In fall, we have 1,263 students on the president's list, and 1,323 this spring.
- Enrollment Update: The total registration period is about 1 week longer in 2026 than it was in 2025, which makes that comparison less of an "apples-to-apples" comparison until we get closer to the actual start of the fall 2026 term. This shows a sizable 15% overall head count increase over Fall 2025. The overall headcount is still up over fall 2025, but only by about 8%.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
JUNE 9, 2026

- Athletic Updates:
 - In baseball, there were 5 players named all-conference. Nathan Gerritsen earned the All-Midwest District/Region 4 Rawlings Gold Glove Team as an outfielder.
- The semester high GPA for all student athletes combined for spring was 3.01, and it was 2.92 for the full academic year. We had 69 Academic All-Conference Honorees. 24 of our freshmen had over a 3.0 GPA, and 48 sophomores. In spring for All Region, we had 75 students who had a 3.0+ GPA and 24 or more credit hours completed.
- The college continues to be in a holding pattern with almost every grant submitted this calendar year, with nearly \$8.4 million in applications outstanding.
- ECC will host the Illinois Community College Board's fall work session and their board meeting in September.
- June 18, the Ecker Center for Behavioral Health's annual member client art show will take place in Building C's Renner hallway from 5pm-7pm.
- We received an acceptance this past Thursday from Pascale Charlot to serve as our opening day convocation speaker for fall.

6. Audience Wishing to Address the Board

- Ms. Anitra King thanked the administration and specifically the negotiation team in coming together on the new SSECCA contract.

7. Board Reports

A. Committee of the Whole

Trustee Rodriguez provided an overview of the Committee of the Whole meeting held Monday, June 8, 2026. The presentations were: Global Engagement and Intensive English Program: The Strategic Impact of International Education at ECC by Dr. Nehlsen and Mr. Pickens; and Learning Opportunity: Status Updates from MTC Steering Committee. No questions were raised regarding Board Actions and items on the June 9, 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:

- Elgin Community College was represented at the ICCTA Annual Convention and Board of Representatives meeting held June 5–6, 2026. Friday events were attended by Board Chair Jennifer Rakow, Student Trustee Lynn Singh, and Trustee Allen. Trustee Emeritus Ollayos also attended. Trustee Allen represented ECC at the Saturday Board of Representatives Annual Meeting.
- The Friday seminar featured three presenters: Michele Smith, Ed.D., Vice President of Workforce and Career Innovation at Advocate Health; Laticia Dezell Holbert, Senior Manager of Workforce Development at ComEd; and Robin Ficke, Senior Vice President of Research at the Illinois Economic Development Corporation (Illinois EDC).

Presenters noted that manufacturing sector employment, after declining for approximately a decade, has seen a recent upturn of approximately 1.8%, underscoring the urgency of aligning educational pathways with shifting workforce demands.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
JUNE 9, 2026

- At the ICCTA's Annual Awards Banquet, ECC was honored to have six nominees recognized at the banquet. Trustee Allen shared key actions and highlights from the Board of Representatives Annual Meeting on June 6.
- Upcoming ICCTA Events:
 - August 7–8, 2026 – ICCTA Executive Committee Retreat, Freeport, Illinois
 - September 18–19, 2026 – ICCTA Board of Representatives Meeting, Crowne Plaza, Springfield, Illinois
 - October 21–24, 2026 – ACCT Leadership Congress, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

C. Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

Trustee Arroyo did not provide any additional ACCT updates, except to remind Trustees to check emails for professional development opportunities.

D. Legislative

Trustee Rodriguez shared the following:

- The Illinois Spring 2026 Legislative Session has officially concluded. Staff is reviewing the legislation that passed this session to identify what will apply to higher education and to ECC specifically.
- A letter was sent to our District 509 state legislators urging reinstatement of the \$15 million in PATH Grant funding in the FY27 state budget. As a community college system, this was a priority request. Unfortunately, that funding was not included in the final state budget. We will continue to elevate PATH funding as an advocacy priority.
- The Community College Baccalaureate (CCB) legislation passed the Executive Committee but was ultimately connected to separate legislation that did not advance this session. As a result, the CCB will need to be a priority for next year's session once again.
- A letter co-signed by Trustee Rodriguez and President Heinrich was sent to state representatives outlining ECC's concerns with HB5503, the Adult Workforce High School Diploma Program. Our position centered on the bill's duplication of services already provided through Illinois' existing publicly funded adult education system. HB5503 did advance out of the House Higher Education Committee earlier in the session, but was ultimately left pending in the House Rules Committee, where it did not advance further.
- June 10, Representative Anna Moeller will be on campus, and later this month Representative Dan Ugaste will visit campus.

E. ECC Foundation

Trustee Allen highlighted the following items from the written report:

- The Foundation Board of Directors convened for its regular Board Dinner and Meeting June 4. The primary action item was formal approval of the FY2027 Foundation budget.
- The Foundation Board formally approved two new members. John Mohr, Chief Information Officer at the MacArthur Foundation, and Michael Walker, Associate Director of Customer Service at AT&T Business.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
JUNE 9, 2026

- Two prospective board members were welcomed as guests, both are ECC alumni. Michael Storey and Mike Hazelhurst.
- The Foundation's operating cash on hand remains elevated at approximately 31 months, a deliberate and conservative posture in light of market conditions and a pending scholarship billing of roughly \$300,000 from the college that is not yet reflected in current statements. The FY27 budget was reviewed and approved by the Finance and Investment Committee at its May 19, 2026, meeting prior to coming to the full board for formal action.
- The 2025–2026 academic year concluded with 323 students having been awarded scholarships totaling \$404,159.08. Allocations for the 2026–2027 academic year will be finalized in June, enabling the Financial Aid office to begin awarding for the fall semester. The annual Purses With Purpose Interview Day is scheduled for June 29 to select recipients of approximately 12 scholarships for new and returning candidates. All FY26 Complete to Compete participants successfully completed their programs.
- Sally Berkhia has joined ECC as the new Chief Advancement Officer.

F. Student Report

Student Trustee Singh highlighted the following:

Stories of Palestine/Israel (April 30) with 88 attendees. Ms. Singh thanked those involved in leading these conversations.

8. College Reports

Board Action No. 260-A-26, Acceptance of Written College Reports

- A. Personnel (May)
- B. Treasurer (April)

College Reports Under Separate Cover

- D. Institutional Advancement and ECC Foundation (May)
- E. Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs (May)

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

Motion: Trustee Parks moved to accept the college reports.

Second: Trustee Arroyo seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 7; Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Redmer, Parks, Allen and Barbosa-Guzman; nay, 0; Student Trustee Singh, aye; motion carried.

9. Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Chair Rakow opened the public hearing at 7:11 p.m. She asked three times if there was anyone present who wished to address the board of trustees regarding the budget. There was no one present wishing to address the board and the public hearing was closed at 7:12 p.m.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
JUNE 9, 2026

10. Board Action No. 261-F-26, Resolution to Adopt Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Motion: Trustee Redmer moved to accept the resolution as presented.

Second: Trustee Barbosa-Guzman seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 7; Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Redmer, Parks, Allen and Barbosa-Guzman; nay, 0; Student Trustee Singh, aye; motion carried.

11. Consent Agenda

Chair Rakow removed the following items at the request of Trustees Parks & Redmer:

A. Board Action No. 262-A-26, Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 12, 2026

B. Board Action No. 263-A-26, Minutes of Closed Session of the Regular Board Meeting of May 12, 2026

Chair Rakow presented the following consent agenda items:

C. Board Action No. 264-A-26, Destruction of Audiotapes of Closed Session Board Meeting October 8, 2024

D. Board Action No. 265-F-26, Ratification of Report of Expenses

E. Board Action No. 266-A-26, Modified Academic Calendar for 2026-2027

F. Board Action No. 267-A-26, Compensation Rate for Non-Unit Adjunct Faculty

G. Board Action No. 268-A-26, Fiscal Year 2027 Salary Adjustment and Insurance Contribution Rate for Administrative Employees

H. Purchases

1. **Board Action No. 269-B-26, Annual Fire Alarm System Testing**, authorizes the administration to contract with Affiliated Customer Service, Inc. (Downers Grove, IL), for annual fire alarm systems testing at the main and Burlington campuses in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.

2. **Board Action No. 270-B-26, Building Interior Signage – Phase I**, authorizes the administration to contract for phase I for the fabrication and installation of interior signage for Building S, with Signarama (Elgin, IL), in an amount not to exceed \$42,000.

3. **Board Action No. 271-B-26, Data Warehouse Maintenance Consultant**, authorizes the administration to contract with ASR Analytics (Columbia, MD) for additional technical support and maintenance of the Institutional Research office's data warehouse. This agreement will be for a period of twelve (12) months, July, 2026 to July, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$52,800.

4. **Board Action No. 272-B-26, Snow Removal Services**, authorizes the administration to approve the not to exceed amount by \$30,000 annually to \$60,000 for the remainder of the term for snow removal services by Greve Construction, Inc. (Huntley, IL).

5. **Board Action No. 273-T-26, TerminalFour Software Renewal**, authorizes the administration to contract with TerminalFour, Inc. (Boston, MA) for the content management system used by the Marketing and Communications department, in an amount not to exceed \$61,000 for a period of one year.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
JUNE 9, 2026

6. **Board Action No. 274-T-26, Ratification of Notebook Purchase**, authorizes the administration to purchase notebooks and accessories from Tech Advanced Computers, Inc. (Pensacola, FL), in the amount not to exceed \$43,000.
7. **Board Action No. 275-S-26, Ratification of Robotic Welding Purchase**, authorizes the administration to purchase a robotic welding system for the welding program from Lincoln Electric Co. (Pittsburgh, PA), in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

I. Personnel

1. **Board Action No. 276-A-26, Resolution of Appreciation, Kimberly Rother, Professor II of Culinary Arts & Hospitality**, approves the Resolution of Appreciation for Professor II of Culinary Arts & Hospitality, Kimberly Rother, who will retire June 30, 2026.
2. **Board Action No. 277-P-26, Assistant Professor II of Psychology, Dr. Rafael (Ursa) Garcia**, approves the appointment of Dr. Rafael (Ursa) Garcia as a tenure-track Assistant Professor II of Psychology at a salary of \$99,568 (Lane X, Step 6) on the Elgin Community College Faculty Association (ECCFA) 2026 salary schedule, effective fall semester, 2026.
3. **Board Action No. 278-P-26, New Hire, Assistant Professor I of Welding, Mr. James G. Meletsis**, approves the appointment of Mr. James G. Meletsis as a tenure-track Assistant Professor I of Welding at a salary of \$94,523.00 (Lane I, Step 14) on the Elgin Community College Faculty Association (ECCFA) 2026 salary schedule, effective fall semester, 2026.
4. **Board Action No. 279-P-26, Extended Leave of Absence**, approves a leave of absence for personal reasons, as requested by employee #1545808. Leave to commence on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, with an anticipated return to work date of Monday, August 31, 2026.

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

Second: Trustee Arroyo seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 7; Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Redmer, Parks, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; nay, 0; Student Trustee Singh, aye; motion carried.

Chair Rakow presented the following agenda items for approval:

- A. **Board Action No. 262-A-26, Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 12, 2026**
- B. **Board Action No. 263-A-26, Minutes of Closed Session of the Regular Board Meeting of May 12, 2026**

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

Second: Trustee Barbosa-Guzman seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 5; Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; nay, 0; abstain, 2; Redmer and Parks; Student Trustee Singh, aye; motion carried.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
JUNE 9, 2026

12. Old Business

There was no old business brought forward.

13. New Business

There was no new business brought forward.

14. Adjournment

Motion: Trustee Barbosa-Guzman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Trustee Arroyo seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: Aye, 7; Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Redmer, Parks, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; nay; 0; Student Trustee Singh, aye; meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Patricia Arroyo, Board Secretary

Diane Kerruish, Board Recorder