

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 15, 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, September 15, 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; 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 Parks moved to recess to closed session.

***Second:*** Trustee Arroyo 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 5:41 p.m.

**3. Reconvene Open Session**

The closed-session concluded at 5:49 p.m. The board reconvened in open session at 6:30 p.m. in E125, Seigle Auditorium.

**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.

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*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 Barbosa-Guzman.

**D. Board Purpose**

The Board Purpose was recited by Trustee Redmer.

**5. President's Report**

- Dr. Heinrich acknowledged members of SSECCA in attendance.
- The 10th day enrollment count shows a total of 10,144 students. This represents a decrease of approximately 3% from last fall. Dual credit enrollment has been steadily increasing over the years, however it had a 3% decline this semester as anticipated. Our largest area of decrease continues to be in our adult education program, where adult basic/secondary education declined by 14% and ESL declined by 20% from last fall. Black student enrollment has been steadily increasing and has actually increased by 12% this fall. While enrollment is down in terms of student head count, the number of credit hours remains very close to the same time last year, less than a 1% decrease. We have a Strategic Enrollment Management Committee hard at work to identify opportunities to streamline and improve our enrollment processes, one of our institutional goals this year.
- This inaugural semester of the new Manufacturing and Technology Center (MTC) resulted in a 14% increase in headcount enrollment compared to Fall 2025, while student course seat enrollments increased by 146 across HVAC/ECS, IMT, IST, and Welding programs.
- We were awarded the TRIO Talent Search grant (one of the federal grants we were a bit anxious about), which is guaranteed for \$270,000 in FY27, with the possibility of renewal for four additional years. We were also awarded \$50,000 from the Illinois Board of Higher Education for intern salaries, \$165,000 from the Illinois Certification Board to expand our Certified Addiction & Drug Counselor program, and \$100,000 from the Illinois Green Economy Network to develop a carbon action dashboard for the MTC. We still have \$4.4 million outstanding from the federal government for CCAMPIS (childcare) and Title III (career-centered advising). Over the next six weeks, we'll be submitting up to \$1.5 million across six state grants, including enhancements for our nursing and other health professions programs, noncredit and corporate training, and EV program expansion.
- ECC's Fire Science & Safety Program received a positive mention in a recent Daily Herald article about how 9/11 inspired the next generation of firefighters, and mentioned

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“... Elgin Community College, where enrollment in fire science and safety courses stands at 432 this year, up from 193 in 2022. There are wait lists every semester.”

- August 20 was National Latina Day. We were proud to have three members of the ECC community recognized at the inaugural National Latina Day Kane County Luncheon. Trustee Patricia Arroyo was recognized as the first Latina elected to the Elgin Community College Board of Trustees. Karla Jimenez was recognized for her leadership in community engagement and communications, including serving as the first Latina Family and Community Engagement Coordinator and Director of Communications and Community Relations for School District U-46, and now as our very own Chief Community & Government Relations Officer. And, Cynthia Hernandez, founder of BFH (Ballet Folklorico), one of our In-Residence-Ensembles, was celebrated as ECC Artist in Residence, and the first Latina to serve as its artistic director.
- Upcoming Events:
  - BritBeat on September 25 and Sugar Skull in October.
  - Homecoming alumni engagement events this weekend.
  - The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Center for Emergency Services will be on October 10.
  - The Building T, truck driving building grand opening will be on November 5.
  - The Manufacturing and Technology Center, Building S, grand opening will be on September 24.

## **6. Audience Wishing to Address the Board**

- Dr. Clare Ollayos, Trustee Emeritus, presented the Board with a framed copy of “ACCT Guide to Trustee Roles and Responsibilities”.
- Mr. Chuck Timm thanked the Board for their support of Dr. Susan Timm over the years.
- Mr. Sean Jaster thanked the Board and the negotiations team for their work during the recent SSECCA negotiations and shared thoughts on remote work policy at ECC.

## **7. Board Reports**

### **A. Committee of the Whole**

Trustee Barbosa-Guzman provided an overview of the Committee of the Whole meeting held Monday, September 14, 2026. The presentation was: ECC Foundation by Ms. Sally Berkhia. No questions were raised regarding Board Actions and items on the September 15, 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 ICCTA Board of Representatives Meeting, Crowne Plaza, Springfield, Illinois is scheduled for September 18-19, 2026.

### **C. Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)**

Trustee Arroyo will provide a report after the conclusion of ACCT’s Leadership Congress in October.

### **D. Legislative**

Trustee Rodriguez shared the following:

- During August, the Community Engagement & Legislative Affairs (CELA) team attended the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Chamber of Commerce Legislative Update

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Luncheon, where Senators Dave Syverson and Don DeWitte and Representatives Martin McLaughlin, Suzanne Ness, and Jeff Keicher provided updates on legislative issues affecting our region.

- August 13, ECC hosted the annual First Responders Roundtable at our Center for Emergency Services in Burlington. More than 50 police, fire, EMS, emergency-response, and public-safety leaders attended the event, which was hosted by Representatives Jeff Keicher and Dan Ugaste and Senators Don DeWitte and Dave Syverson. Trustees Rakow and Allen, President Heinrich, and Chief Ron Two Bulls welcomed attendees.
- Dr. Heinrich participated in an August discussion regarding higher education tuition rate policy in Illinois with representatives from the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and the Governor's Office.
- At the federal level, ECC is reviewing two proposed regulatory changes and preparing formal comments. One involves EDGAR, the rules that govern federal education grants. The proposal could change how federal grants are administered, evaluated, and potentially discontinued. The second involves higher education accreditation and proposed changes to the federal requirements that help determine how colleges and accrediting agencies operate.
- September 15, members of our CELA team are in Washington, D.C., attending the Advocates in Action Conference, where community college leaders hear directly from Congressional staff and federal officials about higher education policy, funding, and pending legislation.

**E. ECC Foundation**

Trustee Allen highlighted the following items from the written report:

- Fundraising efforts have generated \$1,172,500 in secured gifts and an additional \$105,000 in submitted proposals and active funding requests. Together, these efforts represent \$1,277,500 in new fundraising activity supporting scholarships, workforce education, and the Manufacturing & Technology Center.
- Back-to-School appeal will launch this Fall, focusing on the new Manufacturing and Technology Center in Building S. The appeal will highlight to donors and our community how they can support long-term investment into the MTC, enhancing educational experiences and opportunities.
- As of August 31, 128 students have been awarded scholarships totaling \$174,239.66
- The ECC Foundation added two new members of the Foundation Board of Directors. Michael Storey, and Mike Hazelhurst.

**F. Student Report**

Student Trustee Singh highlighted the following events:

- Welcome Weeks events with Clubchella having over 600 participants.
- America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.
- Ms. Singh also shared that she was accepted onto the IL Board of Student Advisory Council.

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**8. College Reports**

**Board Action No. 023-A-27, Acceptance of Written College Reports**

- A. Personnel (August)
- B. Treasurer (July)
- C. Student (August)

***College Reports Under Separate Cover***

- D. Institutional Advancement and ECC Foundation (August)
- E. Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs (August)
- F. Annual Security Report (Calendar Year 2025)
- G. FY 26 Hanover Park Education and Work Center Report
- H. FY 26 Program Review Report

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

***Motion:*** Trustee Parks moved to accept the college reports.

***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.

**9. Consent Agenda**

Chair Rakow removed the following item:

**G. Board Action No. 030-A-27, Naming of Classroom – S142 Building S – Manufacturing and Technology Center, The Frank E. Broz Manufacturing Classroom**

Chair Rakow presented the following consent agenda items:

- A. Board Action No. 024-A-27, Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 11, 2026**
- B. Board Action No. 025-A-27, Minutes of Closed Session of the Regular Board Meeting of August 11, 2026**
- C. Board Action No. 026-A-27, Destruction of Audiotapes of Closed Session Board Meetings December 2 and 3, December 10 and December 19, 2024**
- D. Board Action No. 027-F-27, Ratification of Report of Expenses**
- E. Board Action No. 028-F-27, Ratification of Trustee Travel Expenses**
- F. Board Action No. 029-A-27, Naming of CNC Machining Lab Building S – Manufacturing and Technology Center Gene Haas CNC Machining Laboratory**
- H. Board Action No. 031-A-27, Faculty Supplemental Assignment Faculty Participation in Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors Expansion Grant**
- I. Board Action No. 032-A-27, Dual Credit Program Memorandum of Understanding Between District 300 and Elgin Community College District No. 509**

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**J. Board Action No. 033-A-27, Termination of the Agreement Between Elgin Community College and Hamilton Wings**

**K. Purchases**

1. **Board Action No. 034-S-27, Automatic Tissue Processor Purchase**, authorizes the administration to purchase a tissue processor from Statlab Medical Products (McKinney, TX), in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.
2. **Board Action No. 035-B-27, Boiler Purchase**, authorizes the administration to purchase a boiler for Building K from Barr Mechanical Sales, Inc. (Lake Forest, IL), in an amount not to exceed \$42,000.
3. **Board Action No. 036-M-27, Fall Impact Magazine**, authorizes the administration to purchase print services for the Fall Impact Magazine from Schiele Group (Elk Grove Village, IL), the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$35,196.
4. **Board Action No. 037-C-27, Locks and System Components Purchase – Phase II**, authorizes the administration to purchase and install locks and components for the new Manufacturing and Technology Center, Building S, Phase II, from Expert Lock & Safe, Inc. (Elgin, IL), in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.
5. **Board Action No. 038-T-27, Renewal of Network Software**, authorizes the administration to renew the Sophos Endpoint Security and Monitor Services software from CDW (Vernon Hills, IL), in an amount not to exceed \$209,402, for a period of (1) year.
6. **Board Action No. 039-T-27, Renewal of Service Management Licenses**, authorizes the administration to renew the Jira software and services with ISOS Technology (Tempe, AZ), in the amount of \$65,705, for a period of one (1) year.
7. **Board Action No. 040-T-27, Ratification of Notebooks Purchase**, ratifies and authorizes the administration to purchase notebooks and a cart for the Adult Basic Education Center (ABEC) from Axelliant, LLC (Torrance, CA), in the amount of \$24,438.52.
8. **Board Action No. 041-B-27, Ratification of Remediation Services – Building M**, ratifies and authorizes the administration to contract for remediation services of Building M with ServPro of Elgin NW Kane County (Elgin, IL) in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.
9. **Board Action No. 042-T-27, Ratification of Time and Attendance Software Services**, ratifies and authorizes the administration to contract for eTime software services from WorkForce Software (Livonia, MI), for a period of two (2) years, in an amount not to exceed \$96,000 annually, \$192,000 total.

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

**Second:** Trustee Redmer 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.

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Chair Rakow presented the following agenda item for approval:

**G. Board Action No. 030-A-27, Naming of Classroom – S142 Building S –  
Manufacturing and Technology Center, The Frank E. Broz Manufacturing  
Classroom**

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

***Second:*** Trustee Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Chair Rakow shared additional background on Mr. Frank Broz.

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

Chair Rakow indicated the meeting was adjourned and asked for a voice vote.

***Voice Vote:*** Aye, 7; Rakow, Rodriguez, Arroyo, Redmer, Parks, Barbosa-Guzman and Allen; nay, 0; Student Trustee Singh, aye; meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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Patricia Arroyo, Board Secretary

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Diane Kerruish, Board Recorder