MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 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, October 13, 2026, in Building E, Room E100.01.

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, Ms. Arroyo, Dr. Redmer, Mr. Parks, Mr. Allen, and Student Trustee Singh.

Trustees absent: Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Barbosa-Guzman.

ECC staff: Dr. Heinrich, President; Dr. Wagner, VP; 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: Student Trustee Singh seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 5: Rakow, Arroyo, Redmer, Parks, and Allen; nay, 0; and Student Trustee Singh; motion carried at 5:41 p.m.

3. Reconvene Open Session

The closed-session concluded at 6:11 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, Ms. Arroyo, Dr. Redmer, Mr. Parks, Mr. Allen, and Student Trustee Singh.

Trustees absent: Trustee Barbosa-Guzman and Trustee Rodriguez.

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 Arroyo.

D. Shared Values
The Shared Values were recited by the Trustees.

5. President's Report

- Dr. Heinrich acknowledged members of SSECCA in attendance.
- We have had a very busy month since we last met. In no particular order, we:
  - Held our annual high school counselor's breakfast.
  - Hosted the Jane Barbosa Legacy Brunch.
  - Held the Bienvenida Fest and a variety of other Latinx Heritage Month activities.
  - Held our first alumni Homecoming weekend with a variety of events.
  - Held our annual retiree luncheon.
  - Celebrated our custodians for the first time with a meal at all three shifts for national custodian day.
  - Held the annual Seigle Scholars Reception.
  - The Arts Center launched their season with the immersive Beatles tribute, BritBeat, and held their first midday matinee show.
  - ECC's nursing program has received accreditation renewal through Spring 2034 with no conditions from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.
  - The MTC grand opening with well over 600 attendees.
  - We hosted the Illinois Community College Board for their September board meeting and gave them a personal tour of the MTC.
  - Celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Center for Emergency Services.
  - We were part of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association's "Makers on the Move" bus tour, where we were able to sign the bus and highlight the MTC with the Illinois Manufacturers Association and the IL Manufacturing Excellence Center.
  - Last week, we borrowed a bus from school district U46 and drove the Illinois Community College presidents' council from the Q Center, where they held their annual retreat, to ECC and gave them a tour of the MTC.
- ECC was selected to receive Year 1 of the Title III / Strengthening Institutions grant for $202,000.
- We received $165,000 from the state to expand our Certified Addiction and Drug Counselor program and $100,000 to bolster our ability to address students' mental health needs through our Wellness Team.

- We recently submitted over $780,000 in noncompetitive applications to the state which will allow us to expand noncredit programming, develop a Dental Hygiene program, and add a maternal ultrasound component to our radiography program.
- Michael Chahino, Chief Information Officer, is a 2026 CIO of the Year Candidate identified by SIM Chicago / Executives' Club, which recognizes Chicago's outstanding technology leaders.
- Our Marketing and Communications team won 13 awards from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations 2026 District 3 Conference, which serves Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, and the Canadian province of Ontario. These Medallion awards recognize outstanding achievement in design and communications among community and technical colleges.
- We are launching our strategic planning process. We continue conducting listening sessions through the end of December (and one in January) throughout the community, with high school alliance partners, chambers, economic development partners, with ECC students, and more. Dr. Garber will update our college community in December at our budget forum. In February & March, we'll focus on analysis, writing and re-writing. In April and May, we'll have a gallery walk and collect feedback on the draft. The Final 2028-2032 Strategic Plan will be ready for Board approval on June 8, 2027. We'll approach the development of that plan through the lens of community college 3.0, thinking ahead to include post-college completion as a part of our intent and focus.

6. Audience Wishing to Address the Board

- Ms. Andrea Lang thanked the Board and the negotiations team for their work during the recent SSECCA negotiations and shared thoughts on work conditions at ECC.

7. Board Reports

A. Trustee Parks provided an overview of the Finance committee meeting held Monday, October 12, 2026. Items presented and discussed were: Internal Audit Update; Review of the FY 2027 Budget to Actual; Capital Projects Priority and Funding List; FY28 Lab fees, Course fees, and Instructional fees; Service fees for FY 2028; Preliminary FY 2026 Results; Fund Balance Analysis; and Property Tax Levy. Minutes of the Finance Committee 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, October 12, 2026. The presentation was: FY 2026 – Performance Report by Dr. Garber. No questions were raised regarding Board Actions and items on the October 13, 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 attended ICCTA's Board of Representatives Meeting in Springfield, on September 18-19, 2026.

D. Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

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

E. Legislative

Trustee Redmer shared the following:

- In September, our Community Engagement & Legislative Affairs (CELA) team traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Advocates for Action Conference to learn more about federal policy development affecting community colleges and strengthen our advocacy efforts. While there, the team met with legislative staff from the offices of U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi to advocate for continued funding of Pell Grants, TRIO, Adult Education, Federal Work-Study, and workforce development programs. The team also delivered personalized advocacy materials to all members of our congressional delegation to show how these federal investments support ECC students and programs. Following these visits, similar information was shared with our state legislators to keep them informed of federal funding developments.
- Also in September, ECC submitted formal comments to the U.S. Department of Education on two proposed federal regulatory changes. The first addressed changes to accreditation regulations emphasizing the importance of unique missions of community colleges, maintaining academic independence, and avoiding unnecessary administrative burdens. The second addressed proposed changes to federal grant regulations, known as EDGAR, which could affect how colleges receive and administer federal funding.
- September 24, we welcomed several state and local elected officials to the grand opening of our new Manufacturing and Technology Center. Among those attending were Senator Cristina Castro, State Representatives Anna Moeller, Jeff Keicher, and Dan Ugaste; Kane County Board Chair Corinne Pierog; Hanover Park Mayor Rodney Craig; Village of Streamwood President Billie Roth, along with several city council members, village trustees, and county board members. Staff representing State Representatives Suzanne Ness and Maura Hirshauer also joined us.

F. ECC Foundation

Trustee Allen highlighted the following items from the written report:

- MTC-related fundraising efforts have generated $1,255,000 in secured gifts and in-kind contributions.
- As of September 30, 2026, 163 students have been awarded scholarships totaling $207,362.16, with an average award amount of $1,280.29.
- A reception for our Seigle Scholars was held on October 7 in the Jobe Lounge. Staff, faculty, students, and their families joined us for a celebration of the 2026/27 Seigle Scholar Cohort as the third cohort of Seigle Scholar full-ride scholarship recipients was introduced.
- ECC hosted its first Homecoming Celebration in September. The five events, held over six days welcomed current students, faculty and staff, ECC retirees, donors and friends of the college.
- The Foundation December Board Meeting and Holiday Reception have been rescheduled to December 9. Additional details and formal invitation to follow.

G. Student Report

Student Trustee Singh highlighted the following events:

- Homecoming week events – HOCO Hype and Welcome Home Spartan Picnic.
- You Matter: Take a Moment, an event for Suicide Awareness Month.
- Celebrating Latinx Heritage events.
- Ms. Singh invited the Trustees to attend the Democracy Fest and Candidate Forums.
- CCE trip to Raices public policy conference where Latinx leaders spoke.
- Student Government/Phi Theta Kappa trip to ICCSAA LIT conference.

8. College Reports

Board Action No. 043-A-27, Acceptance of Written College Reports

A. Personnel (September)
B. Treasurer (August)
C. Student (September)

College Reports Under Separate Cover

D. Institutional Advancement and ECC Foundation (September)
E. Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs (September)
F. FY 26 Performance Report

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,5; Rakow, Arroyo, Redmer, Parks, and Allen; nay, 0; Student Trustee Singh, aye; motion carried.

9. Consent Agenda

Chair Rakow presented the following consent agenda items:

A. Board Action No. 044-A-27, Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 15, 2026
B. Board Action No. 045-A-27, Minutes of Closed Session of the Regular Board Meeting of September 15, 2026
C. Board Action No. 046-A-27, Destruction of Audiotapes of Closed Session Board Meeting January 28, 2025
D. Board Action No. 047-F-27, Ratification of Report of Expenses
E. Board Action No. 048-A-27, Release of Select Closed-Session Minutes of Board Meetings of November 2025 – August 2026
F. Board Action No. 049-F-27, Transfer from Education Fund to Operations and Maintenance Fund

G. Purchases

1. **Board Action No. 050-T-27, Cloud Backup Storage Purchase,** authorizes the administration to purchase additional storage for the Wasabi cloud backup storage services from CDW-G (Vernon Hills, IL) in the amount of $14,930.16.
2. **Board Action No. 051-S-27, Fire Science Radio Purchase,** authorizes the administration to purchase radios for the Fire Science program from Motorola Solutions, Inc. (Hoffman Estates, IL), in an amount not to exceed $26,820.96.
3. **Board Action No. 052-S-27, Hematology Analyzer Purchase,** authorizes the administration to purchase a tissue processor from Henry Schein Medical (Melville, NY), in an amount not to exceed $30,136.36.
4. **Board Action No. 053-B-27, Radio Communication System Upgrade,** authorizes the administration to purchase equipment to upgrade the College's radio communication from Bearcom (Garland, TX), in an amount not to exceed $75,200.
5. **Board Action No. 054-B-27, Storage Equipment Purchase,** authorizes the administration to purchase storage equipment for building S from Uline, Inc. (Kenosha, WI), in the amount of $85,366.
6. **Board Action No. 055-T-27, Renewal of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Software,** authorizes the administration to renew the College's customer relationship management software from Carahsoft (Reston, VA), in an amount not to exceed $55,509.60, for a period of one (1) year.
7. **Board Action No. 056-T-27, Renewal of Form-Building Software,** authorizes the administration to renew the contract for Jotform Enterprise software from Jotform, Inc. (San Francisco, CA), in the amount of $29,582.70, for a period of one (1) year.
8. **Board Action No. 057-T-27, Renewal of Marketing Cloud Software,** authorizes the administration to renew Marketing Cloud software for marketing automation, email, and text messaging from Carahsoft (Reston, VA), in an amount not to exceed $77,118.51, for a period of one (1) year.
9. **Board Action No. 058-S-27, Ratification for Maintenance and Repairs to Burn Tower at the Center for Emergency Services, Burlington Campus,** ratifies and authorizes the administration to contract for the maintenance and repairs of the burn tower with SMC Construction Services (Elgin, IL), in an amount not to exceed $175,000.00.

H. Granting of Tenure

1. **Board Action No. 059-A-27, Granting of Tenure, Instructor Basic Nurse Assistant, Dr. Rhey Ayende,** effective January, 2027.
2. **Board Action No. 060-A-27, Granting of Tenure, Instructor of IMT/CIM, Mr. Anthony Bellavia,** effective January, 2027.
3. **Board Action No. 061-A-27, Granting of Tenure, Instructor of Biology, Dr. Amanda Gerke,** effective, January, 2027.
4. **Board Action No. 062-A-27, Granting of Tenure, Instructor of Sociology, Mr. Bilal Hussain,** effective, January, 2027.
5. **Board Action No. 063-A-27, Granting of Tenure, Instructor of Phlebotomy, Ms. Pinakini Thakkar,** effective January, 2027.

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

Second: Trustee Parks seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Aye, 5; Rakow, Arroyo, Redmer, Parks, 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 asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and asked for a voice vote.

Motion: Trustee Arroyo moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Trustee Parks seconded the motion.

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

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Patricia Arroyo, Board Secretary Diane Kerruish, Board Recorder