

COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mitchell Hall, 250 Cleveland Ave. | Crane Room
Thursday, June 26, 2025 | 6:00 PM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

John Ammendola, Chair
Sandy Doyle-Ahern, Vice Chair
James Fowler, Immediate-Past Chair
Corrine M. Burger
Jean M. Halpin
Traci L. Martinez, Esq.
Jerome Revish
Rick Ritzler
Lorina W. Wise, Esq.

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Chair Ammendola at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- John Ammendola
- Sandy Doyle-Ahern
- James Fowler
- Corrine M. Burger
- Jean M. Halpin
- Traci Martinez, Esq.
- Jerome Revish
- Rick Ritzler

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

President Harrison advised that the record should show that notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with provisions of §121.22(F) of the Ohio Revised Code.

OPENING REMARKS FROM CHAIR AMMENDOLA

Chair Ammendola shared the Board's annual's performance review of President Harrison and said that he and his leadership team "continue to position this college at the forefront of developing this region's future workforce." Chair Ammendola said President Harrison's review reflected outstanding quality and performance, particularly in three critical areas of focus: achieving student success; enabling capacity to execute the mission with excellence; and advancing alliances with strategic partners. Chair Ammendola thanked President Harrison for an extraordinary year.

President Harrison thanked the Board of Trustees for their leadership and acknowledged the teamwork across the College to advance Columbus State's mission.

Mr. Ammendola also commented on the discussion of the College's Fiscal 2026 budget at the June Committee of the Whole meeting, noting that Columbus State has achieved a balanced budget. He called that "an outstanding feat" and stated that Columbus State is entering this year on a much stronger financial footing.

SWEARING IN OF NEW TRUSTEE

Chair Ammendola formally welcomed Jean Halpin, president of Grant Medical Center, to the Columbus State board. General Counsel Charles W. Noble III, Esq., led Ms. Halpin in the recitation of the oath of office.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON

President Harrison introduced the new staff ex-officio, Dustin Iacovone, to the Board table. Mr. Iacovone is a Learning Designer (Organizational Development & People Analytics) in Human Resources. Mr. Iacovone shared his background, which includes graduating from Columbus State in 2009 and working in several areas of the College.

President Harrison then welcomed student ex-officio, Fatima Atta Muhammad, who introduced the student speaker, Brianna (Bri) Williams. Ms. Williams is a political science student who is also obtaining an American Sign Language / Deaf Studies Certificate. She shared that she began at Columbus State in 2015, but stepped away from college for some time because of financial challenges and the desire to explore different career paths. She now works as an emerging talent coordinator at Aspyr, offering career guidance to others as she advances her own career.

President Harrison congratulated Ms. Muhammad, who was completing her last meeting as student ex-officio. She will be transferring to The Ohio State University in the fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in biochemistry, with plans to pursue a career in medicine. Ms. Muhammad reported that she is the first transfer student to be accepted to Ohio State's honors program. President Harrison presented her with a certificate to recognize her service.

Finally, President Harrison reflected that that state's biennial operating budget was nearly

complete, having been approved by the Ohio General Assembly and awaiting action by Gov. Mike DeWine. President Harrison reported that the approved version of the budget aligned with the College's assumptions for its operating budget, including with regard to State Share of Instruction funding, tuition flexibility and the wind-down of support for Eastern Gateway Community College.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Ammendola shared the consent agenda items, which were discussed at the June 20, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting:

- Tenure Appointments and First Promotion in Rank
- Naming of spaces associated with OhioHealth Hall
- The Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026
- Tuition Rate Adjustments for Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027
- Low Enrollment Course and Program and Duplicate Program Report
- Revisions to Policy 3-43, Discrimination/Harassment/and Related Retaliation

Trustees declined to hold any further discussion.

Member Halpin moved and Member Burger seconded, that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES: Ammendola, Doyle-Ahern, Fowler, Burger, Halpin, Martinez,
Revish and Ritzler

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ACTION ITEM

The Board also considered the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Appropriation Resolution, which was discussed at the June 20, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting but which requires a separate vote.

Member Martinez moved and Member Halpin seconded that the action item be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES: Ammendola, Doyle-Ahern, Fowler, Burger, Halpin, Martinez,
Revish and Ritzler

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

INFORMATION-ONLY ITEMS

The following items were presented to the Board for information only:

- Capital Project Report
- Financial Statements through May 2025
- Personnel Information Items

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Harrison shared updates on a variety of topics and called on other College leaders to share information:

- **Workforce Board:** President Harrison reported that Columbus State hosted Lt. Governor Jim Tressel several times in the past few months, including a meeting of the Governor's Executive Workforce Board in May.
- **Central Ohio Compact Summit:** The College, along with the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, brought together leaders from higher education, K-12 and employers to discuss collective action to address the region's workforce needs. Presenters included Lt. Gov. Tressel, Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor Mike Duffey and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Director Steve Dackin.
- **Amgen expansion:** Columbus State continues to be a front door for residents seeking jobs with Amgen as the company expands its Central Ohio presence. Columbus State has partnered with Amgen on an apprenticeship programs and bootcamps.
- **Opportunity Pointe project:** The first major Columbus State Community Partners project is moving forward after Woda Cooper Cos. was awarded federal tax credits for the Opportunity Pointe housing project. Opportunity Pointe will include 166 units of workforce housing and 20 supportive units reserved for Columbus State students.
- **Transfer partnership:** President Harrison said the College was in talks with a university partner about a major expansion that will support Columbus State transfer students who wish to pursue bachelor's degrees.

Senate Bill 1: President Harrison said that the College was working to implement Senate Bill 1 in a way that complies with the new state law while reflecting the College's continued focus on our students' needs. He called on Chief of Staff Rob Messinger to provide more detail about the implementation steps and timeline for items that require Board actions.

Mr. Messinger shared that SB1 addresses a broad array of issues, and the College is carefully reviewing guidance from the Ohio Department of Higher Education and Ohio Attorney General's Office. He noted that guidance is still evolving and in some cases is still pending about

details of certain aspects of the law.

Mr. Messinger described the major provisions of SB1 and said that the Board will be presented with action items at the September and November board meetings to address requirements including an Intellectual Diversity policy, an implementation plan for an American Civics course, and provisions related to faculty evaluations and work responsibilities. He noted that College leaders are working closely with the Columbus State Education Association on academic issues.

President Harrison said that College leaders are actively engaged with faculty and staff to discuss changes in the higher education landscape, including federal and state policy. He asked CSEA President Adam Keller to share his perspective. Mr. Keller acknowledged that this is a challenging time in higher education but said that Columbus State has “an amazing opportunity” to demonstrate how collaboration among College leaders, faculty and staff can deepen trust and focus work on a shared mission. He said CSEA leadership was grateful to have an administration that values the faculty and a Board that understands how important it is for the entire College to work together as a team.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Ammendola introduced a special resolution “Honoring Dr. David T. Harrison, president of Columbus State Community College, as the 2025 Recipient of the Columbus Foundation’s Spirit of Columbus Award. He read the resolution into the record, which says in part, that President Harrison “has been selected as the 2025 recipient of this prestigious award in recognition of his visionary leadership, steadfast commitment to student success, and transformative impact on higher education and workforce development in the Columbus region.”

Member Doyle-Ahern moved and **Member Martinez** seconded that the resolution be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES:	Ammendola, Doyle-Ahern, Fowler, Burger, Halpin, Martinez, Revish and Ritzler
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NAYS:	None
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ABSTENTIONS:	None
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The full resolution is attached.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

David T. Harrison, Ph.D. Secretary, Board of Trustees

Office of the President/vmp 06.26.25