

COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025 | 6:00 PM
Mitchell Hall | Crane Room, 250 Cleveland Ave.

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 held on Thursday, November 20, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Chair Ammendola at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- John Ammendola
- Sandy Doyle-Ahern
- James Fowler (Virtual)
- Corrine M. Burger
- Jean M. Halpin
- Traci Martinez (Virtual)
- Jerome Revish
- Rick Ritzler
- Lorina W. Wise, Esq

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

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

OPENING REMARKS FROM CHAIR AMMENDOLA

Chair Ammendola congratulated to Senior Vice President and CFO Aletha Shipley, who will be completing her service in that role and as treasurer of the Board of Trustees at the end of the year. Noting that the November meeting is his last as chair of the Board, he reflected on the accomplishments of Columbus State in 2025. He noted that the College achieved a balanced budget after completing its post-pandemic recovery plan; accelerated its capital plan (including the groundbreaking of OhioHealth Hall, opening of services at Phillips Hall/Franklin University and launching the renovation of Franklin Hall); and announced partnerships such as the Buckeye Bridge initiative with The Ohio State University and plans for a Columbus State YMCA. Chair Ammendola congratulated Columbus State faculty and staff for their work amid a rapidly evolving environment for higher education.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON

President Harrison shared his gratitude to Chair Ammendola for his contribution and service with Columbus State. He also thanked Trustees Jim Fowler, Jerome Revise and Lorina Wise, who were recently reappointed to the Board.

SWEARING IN OF REAPPOINTED TRUSTEES

General Counsel Charles Noble III administered the oath of office to Trustees Fowler, Revish and Wise.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Member Burger moved, Member Halpin seconded, that the meeting minutes from the September Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES:	Ammendola, Doyle-Ahern, Burger, Halpin, Martinez, Revish, Ritzler and Wise
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	Fowler

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Ammendola shared the consent agenda items, which were discussed at the September 2025 Board meeting.

- Establish Student Recreation Fee
- Naming of Spaces Associated with OhioHealth Hall
- New Policy 5-20, Faculty Workload and Evaluation
- Revised Policy 3-30, Separation from Employment
- Revised Plan to Establish an American Civics Education Course
- Revised Policy 13-12, Space Use
- FY25 Efficiency Report
- Property Acquisition – 183 Jefferson Avenue

Trustees declined to hold any further discussion.

Member Wise moved, Member Ritzler 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, Ritzler and Wise

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

INFORMATION-ONLY ITEMS

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

- Policy 5-19, Promotion and Tenure. Chair Ammendola noted that the Board reviewed Policy 5-19 at the November Committee of the Whole meeting.
- Capital Project Report
- Financial Statements as of and for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2025
- Personnel Information Items

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Harrison shared his gratitude to Ms. Shipley for her successful contributions to Columbus State, citing her steadfast leadership and financial stewardship at the College. He also thanked Controller Jan Ellis, who is also stepping down from that role at the end of 2026, for her achievements.

He shared a variety of updates:

- He congratulated Trustee Corrine Burger for being inducted by Junior Achievement into the Central Ohio Business Hall of Fame on November 12, 2025.
- President Harrison then recognized Chair Ammendola, who is president and CEO of Grange Insurance, for leading the company to being honored on National Philanthropy Day by the Central Ohio Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals as Outstanding large corporation for philanthropy.
- President Harrison shared that U.S. Sen. Jon Husted recently visited Columbus State's downtown campus to discuss Workforce Pell and tour nursing and automotive technology labs. President Harrison said that Sen. Husted remains committed to supporting workforce development in Ohio and has encouraged the College to participate in the rule-making process for Workforce Pell.
- He shared that Opportunity Pointe, the workforce housing project being developed by Woda Cooper Companies in partnership with Columbus State Community Partners, has been approved by the Downtown Commission.
- The College was recently highlighted by The Columbus Dispatch, which has been doing a series of interviews with college interviews.
- He said that the College is carefully tracking changes at the U.S. Department of Education, which has proposed shifting some duties to other agencies.

President Harrison invited Executive Vice President Rebecca Butler and Senior Vice President for Student Success Desiree Polk-Bland to provide an update on enrollment and student success outcomes.

Dr. Butler shared that enrollment has continued to recover from the pandemic, and the College exceeded 40,000 distinct students during the 2024-25 academic year, the highest number since 2019-20. She noted that the momentum has continued into Autumn 2025, with more than 30,000 students in this semester alone. Enrollment growth has been broadly felt across adult students, traditional-aged students, and high school students who participate in College Credit Plus, as well as at the Delaware Campus.

Drs. Butler and Polk-Bland provided a detailed report about student success catalysts, including gateway course success, proactive program advising and compressed academic terms. The College has redesigned a number of gateway courses, and success rates have climbed. Dr. Butler shared disaggregated data showing different levels of progress among various demographic groups, providing focal points for continued improvement.

Dr. Polk-Bland shared detailed data about proactive program advising, which has improved retention rates. For example, the autumn-to-autumn retention rate for all students climbed from 46.6% in 2024 to 49.1% in 2025. She reported that the College has joined the Scaling Shortened

Academic Terms Initiative, a national effort with Achieving the Dream and Ascendium.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Burger shared the report from the nominating committee appointed in September 2025. The committee, which included Trustee Fowler and President Harrison, recommended the following officers for the Board of Trustees:

- Chair: Sandy Doyle-Ahern
- Vice Chair: Rick Ritzler
- Immediate Past Chair: John Ammendola
- Secretary: President Harrison
- Treasurer: Matthew Stiffler
- Deputy Treasurers: President Harrison, Jaime Hoffman and Amy Hall.

The committee also recommended that:

- Trustees Burger and Martinez represent the trustees on the Columbus State Community Partners board; and
- Trustee Jean Halpin as delegate to the Ohio Association of Community Colleges.

Trustees declined to hold any further discussion.

Member Berger moved, Member Ritzler seconded, that the Election of Officers be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Member Doyle-Ahern moved, Member Burger seconded, that the Board of Trustees adjourn to executive session at 7:11 pm in accordance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code to consider matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statues and to confer with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that

are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

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

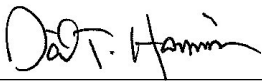
NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

The regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole is reconvened from executive session at 7:40 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.



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

Office of the President/vp 11.20.25