

COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mitchell Hall | Crane Room (2nd Floor)

January 23, 2025 | 6:00 PM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

John Ammendola, Chair
Sandy Doyle-Ahern, Vice Chair
James Fowler, Immediate-Past Chair
Corrine M. Burger
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 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- John Ammendola
- Corrine Burger
- Sandy Doyle-Ahern
- James Fowler
- Traci L. Martinez, Esq.
- 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 §121.22(F) of the Ohio Revised Code.

SWEARING-IN OF OFFICERS

Charles Noble, General Counsel, administered the Oath of Office to the Board officers for 2025, as approved by the Board of Trustees at the November 17, 2024, meeting. The officers are:

- John Ammendola, Chair
- Sandy Doyle-Ahern, Vice Chair
- President Harrison, Secretary
- Aletha Shipley, Treasurer
- President Harrison and Jan Ellis, Deputy Treasurers
- James Fowler, Immediate Past-Chair

OPENING REMARKS FROM CHAIR AMMENDOLA

Reflecting on his first meeting as chair, Mr. Ammendola thanked Trustee Fowler for his previous and ongoing leadership on the Board. Chair Ammendola shared his experience at commencement in December, which he called an “incredible experience” that provided a tangible reminder that Columbus State is the front door for higher education in the region. He thanked the College’s faculty and staff for their work supporting students.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON

President Harrison thanked Chair Ammendola and Trustee Jim Fowler for their outstanding leadership on the Board. President Harrison also expressed gratitude to the Columbus State team who managed the College’s response to recent weather.

President Harrison welcomed student ex-officio Ms. Fatima Muhammad, who introduced the student speaker, Heisenberg Francis. Mr. Francis described his path to Columbus State after a childhood in Tanzania. He moved to Columbus in 2022, where he learned that Columbus State provides an accessible, affordable path to careers. Mr. Francis has taken on a number of student leadership roles on top of his education, all of which has prepared him for the next step in his career journey. He intends to pursue a bachelor’s degree after graduation and then a Ph.D. in computational chemistry, with a goal of building a career in research and development of medications.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Burger moved, Member Wise seconded, that the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Thursday, November 21, 2024, be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Ammendola shared the consent agenda items, which were discussed at the January 17, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting:

- Report of Independent Auditors on the Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2024
- Alternative Tax Budget Information
- Revised Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget

Trustees declined to hold any further discussion.

Member Fowler moved, Member Martinez seconded, that the consent agenda be approved, as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

INFORMATION-ONLY ITEMS

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

- Capital project report
- Financial statements through November 2024
- Personnel information items

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

- **Commencement:** Columbus State celebrated more than 1,200 graduates from summer and autumn semesters at its Commencement ceremony in December, which featured remarks by former Columbus Metropolitan Library CEO Patrick Losinski.

- **YWCA recognizes Trustee Doyle-Ahern and the College:** Sandy Doyle-Ahern was named to the YWCA’s 2025 Women of Achievement for her deep passion for addressing civic issues. In a separate action, the YWCA honored the College as its Partner of the Year in recognition of Columbus State’s work’s providing digital literacy skills to YWCA clients.
- **Former Trustee Anthony Joseph promoted:** In January, White Castle promoted Anthony Joseph as president. Mr. Joseph, a former Columbus State trustee, most recently was the company’s chief administrative officer and general counsel.
- **Columbus State welcomes new deputy CFO:** President Harrison introduced Matthew Stiffler as the college’s deputy chief financial officer. Mr. Stiffler, who previously was the city of Dublin’s CFO, joined the College in January. Mr. Stiffler said he was pleased to join the College and said he was struck by the team’s passion for Columbus State’s mission.
- **Defense contractor to build Ohio factory:** Defense startup Anduril has announced plans to invest \$1 billion to build a 4,000-worker advanced manufacturing facility in central Ohio. President Harrison noted that Anduril joins a growing number of manufacturers in Central Ohio, and the College continues to play a role in preparing the workforce for these jobs.
- **Public Policy Update:** President Harrison described a number of leadership changes among Ohio’s elected representatives, including Senate President Rob McColley, House Speaker Matt Huffman, and the selection of Lt. Governor Jon Husted as Ohio’s next senator, following the election of J.D. Vance as vice president. The College will continue to work with elected officials at the federal, state and local levels to support the region’s education and workforce needs. President Harrison shared key priorities for Ohio’s community colleges as the Ohio General Assembly begins work on the next state budget.

Allen Kraus, vice president of Enrollment Management & Marketing Communications, presented preliminary enrollment data that demonstrates progress on the College’s enrollment strategies. For Spring Semester 2025, the College was trending toward 6.1% increases, both in total headcount and credits. Growth was driven by a number of factors, including strong enrollment among undergraduates, adult students and at the College’s Delaware campus and Dublin regional learning center.

Kieran Sherry, executive director of Facilities Planning, Design & Construction, provided an update on capital projects, including moves related to the upcoming Franklin Hall renovation and the OhioHealth Center for Health Sciences. To convert Franklin Hall to a dedicated classroom building, moves are taking place throughout the campus to accommodate current occupants of the building. Mr. Sherry noted that more than 50 College associates moved during the winter wbreak, and more moves are scheduled during spring break and at the end of the semester. He noted that the enabling project to create an administrative office suite in the Center for Workforce Development was approved by the Board in September 2024 and that the College would seek off-cycle approval for the General Contractor for this work.

Mr. Sherry reported that the schematic design process has been completed for the OhioHealth Center for Health Sciences, and the College is now moving into the design development phase for

the building. As part of the approval process, the College will present updated materials to the Downtown Commission in February. The project budget and schedule are on track.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

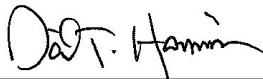
No public participation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.



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

Office of the President/bcj 01.23.25