

COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Thursday, January 22, 2026 | 6:00 PM
Mitchell Hall | 2nd Floor | Crane Room

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

General Counsel Charles Noble III administered the oath of office to the 2026 Board officers, as selected as the November 20, 2025, Board meeting.

- 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 (not present) and Amy Hall.

OPENING REMARKS FROM CHAIR DOYLE-AHERN

Chair Sandy Doyle-Ahern shared gratitude to Immediate Past President John Ammendola for his past leadership as well as gratitude to the entire Board. She said that serving as chair, alongside the other members of the Board is a “truly a privilege.”

“Everyone on this Board cares deeply about this College about its staff, about its faculty, about its students, and about its future success.”

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON

President Harrison welcomed student ex-officio Gillian Desormeaux, who introduced the student speaker, Ava Zellers.

After graduating from Strongsville High School, Zellers was drawn to Columbus State because of its “strong emphasis on technical coursework and hands-on learning,” she said. “I wanted an education that would prepare me not just academically, but practically, and Columbus State has done exactly that.” She is pursuing a degree in engineering technology and has already earned a certificate in semiconductor manufacturing. She is involved in the Modern Manufacturing Work Study program, working at Amgen. After completing her studies at Columbus State, Ava Zellers intends to continue working at Amgen while pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology at Miami University. “Columbus State has made a lasting impact on my life, and I’m incredibly grateful.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Fowler moved, Member Wise seconded, that the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Doyle-Ahern shared the consent agenda items, which were discussed at the January 16, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting.

- Series 2026 Bond Resolution
- Intent to Reimburse
- Revised Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
- Alternative Tax Budget Information
- Revised Project Overview: Automotive Technology New Build
- Construction Manager at Risk Contract - GMP Amendment3: OhioHealth Hall

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

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES: Doyle-Ahern, Ritzler, Ammendola, Burger, Fowler, Halpin, Martinez, Revish 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 as of and for the Five Months Ended November 30, 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.

- **Trustee accomplishments:** President Harrison congratulated Trustee Jim Fowler, on his new role executive vice president and chief technology & product officer at Lumen. President Harrison also congratulated to Trustee John Ammendola for being named a finalist for Columbus CEO’s CEO of the Year awards.
- **New college leaders:** President Harrison recognized the College’s new deans, Larry McWherter (Information Systems Technology), Amanda Gradisek (Arts and Humanities), Tammy Montgomery (interim dean of Health Sciences), and Mark Mahoney (Business, Engineering & Technology). He also recognized Scot McLemore for his new role as vice president of the Office of Talent Strategy, and Matthew Stiffler on formally assuming his new role as vice president of business services and chief financial officer.

President Harrison then asked Allen Kraus, vice president of enrollment services, marketing and communication, to share preliminary enrollment results for Spring Semester. Kraus noted that numbers would continue to fluctuate until the College’s official census day, but that headcount was up 6.4% compared with Spring 2025 and that total credits were up 5.7%. These numbers built on a longer trajectory of growth, he said, noting that from Autumn Semester 2022 to Autumn Semester 2025, enrollment was up 20.6%.

While overall results for Spring 2026 were strong, Kraus shared the College continues to work on solutions to address changes to the admissions to enrollment process. He noted that enrollment growth for the semester was driven by continuing students, while new student enrollment for spring was flat despite an increase in applications. He reported that College is developing a better system to assist new students who are ready to register.

Executive Vice President Rebecca Butler shared information about a possible Life Sciences Center of Excellence in northeast Franklin County in which the College would be the training provider. She noted that the idea could build on the success of the Accelerated Training Center’s work with employers. The College was continuing to discuss the possibility with partners who would own and operate the center. Butler noted that the concept was still tentative but wanted to provide the Board with the context should it come to fruition.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Member Ritzler moved, Member Martinez seconded, that the Board of Trustees adjourn to executive session in accordance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code to consider the purchase of property for public purposes or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code, and to consider the employment or dismissal of a public employee or official.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

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

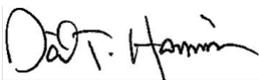
NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is reconvened from executive session at 7:50 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.



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

Office of the President/vp 01.22.26