

# COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## **MINUTES** **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Thursday, March 19, 2026 | 6:00 PM  
Delaware Campus | 5100 Cornerstone Dr.  
Moeller Hall Rooms 111-112

### **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 6:01 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present:

- Sandy Doyle-Ahern, Chair
- Rick Ritzler, Vice Chair
- John Ammendola, Immediate Past Chair (virtual)
- Corrine M. Burger (virtual)
- 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.

**OPENING REMARKS FROM CHAIR DOYLE-AHERN**

Chair Doyle-Ahern thanked Delaware Campus leaders for hosting the Board meeting and commented on the importance of the Delaware Campus to Columbus State’s mission.

**OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON**

President Harrison welcomed student ex-officio Gillian Desormeaux, who introduced the student speaker, Isabella Bird.

Isabella Bird is a Delaware resident who is also a Delaware Campus student. She will graduate in Spring 2026 with an Associate of Arts degree in Business and plans to transfer to Ohio Wesleyan University. She plans to pursue a career in communications, media, or event management, with the long-term goal of launching her own business while continuing her work in writing, music, and the arts.

President Harrison then invited Dale Gresson, Executive Director of the Delaware Campus & Regional Learning Centers, to offer comments. Mr. Gresson thanked the faculty and staff of the Delaware campus for their hard work, which has led to six straight semesters of enrollment growth. He went on to share that the College has been establishing a stronger, more intentional relationship with leaders of the business community, the City of Delaware and Delaware County.

President Harrison then asked Mr. Gresson, and Allen Kraus, VP of Enrollment Management & Marketing Communications, to share an update about the new Delaware brand. Mr. Gresson and Mr. Kraus said the branding for the Delaware Campus has been updated with a distinct color palate and other elements to offer a stronger identity within the community. The College is rolling out the new branding this year.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Member Martinez moved**, Member Ammendola seconded, that the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held on Thursday, January 22, 2026, be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Doyle-Ahern shared the consent agenda items, which were discussed at the March 13, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting.

- Report of Independent Auditors on the Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2025
- Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies (CY2027)
- Curricular Approval Process and Revisions to Policy 5-07, Approval of Degrees and Degree Programs
- Curricular Items

**Member Wise moved**, Member Burger seconded, that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

**NAMING OF SPACES ASSOCIATED WITH OHIOHEALTH HALL**

This action item was discussed at the March 13, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting but presented for a vote separate from the consent agenda. Member Burger moved, Member Martinez seconded, that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

**Member Burger moved**, Member Martinez seconded, that the item be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Wise

**RENAMING OF DELAWARE HALL TO BROWN HALL**

This action item was discussed at the March 13, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting but

presented for a vote separate from the consent agenda.

Chair Doyle-Ahern shared there was a compelling report presented at the March Committee of the Whole meeting about the need to rename Delaware Hall so that a building on the Columbus campus would no longer be confused with the Delaware campus.

She said the College plans to rename the building after a truly inspiring leader: Dr. Harold Brown, a World War II hero who left a lasting imprint on Columbus State as an instructor, department chair and vice president of Academic Affairs. The Board thought it appropriate to honor his legacy in a separate vote, she said, and trustees look forward to a formal celebration of Dr. Brown in the coming months when the new name becomes official.

**Member Halpin moved**, Member Wise seconded, that the item be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

**MASTER LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT: INNOVATION HUB**

This action item was discussed at the March 13, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting but presented for a vote separate from the consent agenda.

**Member Martinez moved**, Member Halpin seconded, that the item be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES: Ritzler, Ammendola, Burger, Halpin, Martinez, Revish and Wise

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Doyle-Ahern

**PROJECT OVERVIEW: COLUMBUS STATE YMCA**

This action item was discussed at the March 13, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting but presented for a vote separate from the consent agenda.

**Member Ritzler moved**, Member Martinez seconded, that the item be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES: Ritzler, Ammendola, Burger, Halpin, Martinez, and Revish

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Doyle-Ahern, Wise

### **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 appreciation and congratulations on a number of topics:

- He expressed gratitude to Trustees Doyle-Ahern and Traci Martinez for their participation on the city- and county-appointed Funding Review Advisory Committee.
- He congratulated Dr. Jen Gilbride-Brown on her promotion to Vice President for Student Success and Experience. He shared that Columbus State and Marion Technical College were recently honored with the Bellwether Award, a national recognition of the two colleges' successful partnership on grant-writing.

President Harrison then called on Executive Vice President Rebecca Butler to provide an update on the College's student success work. She addressed the Delaware Campus, Autumn 2025 results, State Share of Instruction results and focused work on healthcare education and transfer. She also described the strong relationship with the Columbus State Education Association to build on the College's student success work.

Dr. Butler said that the Delaware Campus has a growth goal of 10% annual growth rate, with an emphasis on being the Delaware region's pathway to a debt-free bachelor's degree and as the primary and preferred provider of dual-enrollment College Credit Plus coursework. In Autumn 2025, undergraduate enrollment stood at 1,242 students – the fourth straight year of autumn-to-autumn growth. The College is now also tracking students who take at least 50% of their classes at the Delaware campus. She said the College has expanded the number of associate degrees and certificates that can be completed entirely at the Delaware Campus. Dr. Butler noted that the campus has successfully enhanced partnerships with Delaware-area K-12 superintendents, as well as Delaware Area Career Center, to accelerate growth and foster curricular and resource collaboration.

For Autumn 2025 results, Dr. Butler reported that Columbus State served 30,647 undergraduate and College Credit Plus students in Autumn Semester 2025, the highest number in a decade. She also provided detail of progress in targeted gateway courses, among adult students.

For the College's performance in the State Share of Instruction success measures, Dr. Butler said that the College continues to make upward progress on internal measures, but so are other colleges. As a result, Columbus State did not make progress on the latest SSI data per FTE student, which reflects course success results from the 2023 through 2025 outcomes. Columbus State's peer colleges also declined or remained flat during this period.

Dr. Butler completed her report by sharing a preview of completion strategies that will be shared at the May Board meeting, focused primarily on healthcare programs and transfer pathways.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

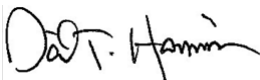
There was no public participation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.



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

Office of the President/vp 03.18.26