COLUMBUS STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 6:00 PM
Mitchell Hall, Crane Room | 250 Cleveland Avenue

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

Sandy Doyle-Ahern, Chair
Rick Ritzler, Vice-Chair
Corrine M. Burger
Vinita J. Clements
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 meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- Sandy Doyle-Ahern
- Rick Ritzler (Virtual)
- Corrine M. Burger
- Vinita J. Clements
- Jean M. Halpin
- Traci L. Martinez (Virtual)
- Jerome Revish
- Lorina W. Wise

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 NEW TRUSTEE

Chair Sandy Doyle-Ahern formally welcomed Vinita Clements, executive vice president and chief human resources officer for Nationwide, to the Columbus State board. General Counsel Charles W. Noble III led Ms. Halpin in the recitation of the oath of office.

OPENING REMARKS FROM CHAIR DOYLE-AHERN

Chair Doyle-Ahern discussed how the College has overcome several challenges, including implementing Workday Student, construction on campus, new state regulations, meeting the region's demand for workforce development, and financial aid challenges. She said that everyone at Columbus State is focused on doing what is right for the people of Central Ohio. She said the Board of Trustees supports the staff, faculty, and President Harrison.

Chair Doyle-Ahern also shared the Board's annual evaluation of President Harrison for the 2025-26 academic year. She said the Board has strong confidence in his leadership. "The Board believes Dr. Harrison's leadership continues to position the college well to expand opportunities for students, support faculty and staff, and meet the critical workforce needs of Central Ohio," she said. Chair Doyle-Ahern said President Harrison has led meaningful progress and success on a number of significant initiatives, including the updated branding for the Delaware Campus, the Buckeye Bridge partnership with The Ohio State University, the development of OhioHealth Hall and other campus upgrades, the leadership transition of the College's chief financial officer, and continued workforce partnerships with employers.

Chair Doyle-Ahern recognized progress in advancing student success while encouraging "a continued and urgent focus on this critical priority." She called for sustained attention on achievable, measurable year-over-year improvements in student success across all academic areas.

She concluded her remarks by noting that "the accomplishments of the College are the results of a dedicated and collaborative team. On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Harrison as well as to the faculty and staff … for your hard work, significant achievements and ongoing commitment to Columbus State Community College and the success of our students."

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON

President Harrison expressed his gratitude to Chair Doyle-Ahern for her remarks, support, and the culture at the College.

President Harrison then introduced new student ex-officio Carl Basila. A Business major with a Biology minor, Mr. Basila is pursuing an Associate of Arts and expects to graduate in Spring 2027. After graduation, Mr. Basila plans to continue studying medicine. He currently works as a patient support assistant in the Emergency Department at OhioHealth Doctors Hospital. Mr. Basila spoke about his journey to the College, including immigrating from the Democratic Republic of Congo,

and the support he received from faculty and staff. He paid special tribute to Phi Theta Kappa coordinator Kristin Queen for making a positive impact at his time at the College. He said, "I am the living testament of what Columbus State can build. Columbus State builds you academically as well as human being, and the human part is what set Columbus State apart."

President Harrison also recognized the new faculty ex-officio, Dr. Antoinette Perkins, to this role. Dr. Perkins introduced herself during the Sept. 18, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting.

President Harrison congratulated the newly tenured faculty in the audience. The Board approved tenure for 25 faculty members at the May 2026 meeting but that the College would take this moment to celebrate them in person. They are:

- Isaiah Abimbola, Information Systems Technology
- Nicolette Bell, Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Patricia Bennett, Nursing
- Kelly Broxterman, Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Ryan Cahall, Biological and Physical Sciences
- Ryan Chan, Mathematics
- Martha Crone, Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Crystal Danley, English
- Gwynne Dilbeck, Humanities
- Donna Dixon, Languages and Communication
- Paula Gallagher, Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts
- Madelyn Green, Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Katherine Hammond, Humanities
- David Hessler, Transportation Maintenance Technology
- LaSalle Jackson, Business and Paralegal Programs
- Fatmata Jalloh, Biological and Physical Sciences
- Jaime Kautz, Mathematics
- Anna Nazarova, Allied Health Professions
- Kristen Oganowski, Humanities
- Naftali Opembe, Biological and Physical Sciences
- Naina Rangavajla, Biological and Physical Sciences
- Sara Reeves, Biological and Physical Sciences
- Robert Ryder, English
- Julie Thoms, Languages and Communication
- Jingyi Zhu, English

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Halpin moved, Member Wise seconded, that the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting, held on Thursday, July 23, 2026, be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES:	Doyle-Ahern, Ritzler, Burger, Halpin, Martinez, Jerome, Wise
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	Clements

AWARDING OF EMERITUS STATUS

Dr. Martin Maliwesky, SVP and Chief Academic Officer, recognized the faculty and staff who are recommended for emeritus status. These individuals are recommended based on outstanding service to the College for at least 15 years. At the Sept. 18, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting, the Board reviewed a pending action item to approve emeritus status and placed it on the agenda for approval tonight. The recommended individuals are:

- Professor Melanie Adams, Early Childhood Development Education
- Professor Reuel Barksdale, Business and Paralegal Programs
- Professor Deborah Bertsch, English
- Assistant Director Carmelita Boyer, Administration
- Dean Carmen Daniels, Business and Engineering Technologies
- Program Coordinator Kelly Fannin, Health and Human Services
- Former Senior Vice President Terri Gehr, Business and Administrative Services
- Professor Traci Haynes, Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Chair Doug House, Design, Construction and Trades
- Associate Vice President Laurie Johns, Office of Academic Affairs
- Assistant Professor Marshall "Jack" McCoy, Justice and Safety
- Dean Gloria Rogiers, Information Systems Technology
- Annual Contracted Faculty, Kathleen Williams, Business and Paralegal Programs

Member Burger moved, Member Wise seconded, that the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting, held on Thursday, July 23, 2026, be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES:	Doyle-Ahern, Ritzler, Burger, Clements, Halpin, Martinez, Revish, Wise
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Doyle-Ahern shared the consent agenda items, which were discussed at the Sept. 18, 2026,

Committee of the Whole meeting:

- Curricular Items, including approval of an American Civics Course, and
- Local Administration of State Capital Projects

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

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES:	Doyle-Ahern, Ritzler, Burger, Clements, Halpin, Martinez, Revish, Wise
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

INFOMRATION-ONLY ITEMS

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

- Capital Project Report
- Financial Statements as of and for the One Month Ended July 31, 2026
- Personnel Information Items

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Harrison welcomed Trustee Clements to the Board and congratulated Chair Doyle-Ahern, Trustee Corrine Burger, Trustee Traci Martinez, and former Trustee John Ammendola for their recent professional accomplishments

President Harrison presented shared the recent third-party evaluation of the Columbus Program by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, which found that enrollment from Columbus City Schools to Columbus State doubled, credential completion nearly doubled, student success is accelerating with each cohort, and that Promise drove an overall increase in college-going. He also discussed recent responses to the Upjohn report, including criticism from an Ohio State professor/researcher at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute who argued that Columbus Promise diverted students to Columbus State who otherwise might have attended a different school, namely a "much better four-year university." President Harrison shared that the Upjohn Institute team strongly rejects this interpretation of their report as a mischaracterization of its research. President Harrison said that from the College's perspective, the Columbus Promise is an unqualified success that has enabled more Columbus City Schools graduates to earn degrees and certificates, which in is helping them launch good-paying careers that will sustain themselves and their families.

President Harrison said that he had spoken at several recent public events, including an interview with WOSU's "All Sides with Amy Juravich", a workforce panel at the Columbus Metropolitan Columbus, Olentangy Schools' BridgED event, and Governor DeWine's Heart of Opportunity Tour at Anduril. President Harrison also highlighted the Brown Hall dedication on Sept. 18.

President Harrison shared updates on capital projects, including the College's decision to not re-open the Center for Early Learning childcare, which has been closed since the previous operator ended its relationship with the College in May 2026. He said that reopening the center would require a financial subsidy from the College and that most of the children served were not connected to Columbus State students or employees. The Columbus State YMCA, which will include drop-in childcare students for students, is scheduled to open in Autumn 2028.

In other capital news, President Harrison highlighted ALDI's plan to build a new grocery store in partnership with Columbus State Community Partners, and the groundbreaking of the Opportunity Pointe affordable housing complex and a Columbus Business First story that describes the range of developments associated with the College.

President Harrison then asked Allen Kraus, Vice President of Enrollment Services, Marketing & Communications, to share details about Autumn 2026 enrollment. Mr. Kraus reported that student headcount (-0.3%) and total credits (-0.2%) essentially remained flat compared with the previous year. While these results are below the enrollment target in the Fiscal 2027 budget, he noted that an extraordinary effort throughout the College overcame what had been a 30% deficit in headcount enrollment in late May. Mr. Kraus said the implementation of Workday Student system had created both one-time challenges for this semester's enrollment as well as areas that will be continued areas of focus. Dr. Harrison commented that enrollment numbers will continue to change past the official Census Day count because of the increased number courses offered on shortened terms.

President Harrison then asked Executive Vice President Rebecca Butler to provide updates on student success efforts and their connection to State Share of Instruction (SSI) funding. Dr. Butler reported that the College had evaluated all courses to determine whether they are categorized appropriately for SSI purposes and found 75 courses that should receive a higher subsidy. The College is actively engaging with the Ohio Department of Higher Education to correct the classification of these courses. Dr. Butler said that the College will analyze SSI categories regularly going forward.

Turning to work on student success in math, Dr. Butler reported that the College has set goals to:

- Increase number of students who successfully complete college-level math within their first 30 credit hours;
- Increase successful course completions in gateway math courses
- Enroll students in Math courses aligned to their degree or transfer pathway to enhance their success

President Harrison then called on Vice President and CFO Matthew Stiffler. He reported that the

college has completed corrective actions stemming from the Fiscal Year 2025 audit, including ensuring student status changes will be reported accurately who withdrew during the year and addressing an internal control issue over financial reporting.

Mr. Stiffler shared news about updated ratings from S&P Global Ratings and Moody's Ratings. Mr. Stiffler said that S&P has upgraded the College to AA+ from AA, reflecting analysts' view that Columbus State is well-positioned in the market and exhibits a strong depth of partnerships. Mr. Stiffler reported that Moody's maintained an overall rating of Aa3, a general receipts rating of Aa3 and a general obligations rating of Aa1. Both S&P and Moody's included a "stable" outlook.

Mr. Stiffler next discussed how the College performed in Chancellor Mike Duffey's recent Trustee Challenge, which he said reflected Columbus State's strong position overall. The College placed in the 1st quintile for the income and margin measures; the 2nd quintile for the wealth measure; the 4th quintile for operations/days cash on hand – largely because the college uses liquid investments instead of maintaining significant amounts of cash, and the third quintile in plant costs. Mr. Stiffler said he will spend time investigating the plant costs measure to determine if it reveals any opportunities for the College.

President Harrison then called on Vice President of Advancement Katy Trombitas to share some Advancement updates. She said that more than 1,000 guests had attended Taste the Future in August, the largest attendance in the event's history. Ms. Trombitas also announced that the College had received its 19th grant from the National Science Foundation and that Columbus State was recently awarded a $4 million Title III grant in partnership with Marion Technical College.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Doyle-Ahern proposed that a Nominating Committee be established to recommend Board officers for 2027, as well as other responsibilities as needed. She proposed that the committee include Trustee Burger, President Harrison and herself.

Member Wise moved, Member Halpin seconded, that the nominating committee be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES:	Doyle-Ahern, Ritzler, Burger, Clements, Halpin, Martinez, Revish, Wise
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

Chair Doyle-Ahern asked President Harrison to convene the Nominating Committee and bring back recommendations for consideration at the November Board meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

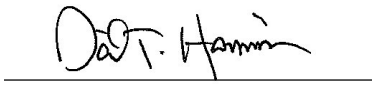
There was no public participation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



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

Office of the President/jh 9.24.2026