

COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Thursday, May 28, 2026 | 6:00 PM
Mitchell Hall, Crane Room | 250 Cleveland Avenue

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 Committee of the Whole was called to order by Vice Chair Ritzler at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- Rick Ritzler, Vice Chair
- John Ammendola, Immediate Past Chair (Virtual)
- Corrine M. Burger (Virtual)
- James Fowler
- Jean M. Halpin
- Traci L. Martinez, Esq.
- 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 VICE CHAIR RITZLER

Vice Chair Rick Ritzler said that the college has a lot to be proud of, from the success of students as reflected in the College Completion Plan, to progress reflected on the student success dashboard and to the record-setting graduation in May. He congratulated the faculty and staff for their continued work to advance Columbus State's mission and serve students.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON

President Harrison highlighted the team that recently negotiated a new collective bargaining agreement between the College and the Columbus State Education Association, which represents the College's faculty. He said the collaborative approach to student success is an example that has been nationally recognized.

President Harrison noted that Vice Chair Rick Ritzler was preparing to retire from g2o, a customer experience transformation company, where he served as chief talent officer and executive vice president. President Harrison congratulated Vice Chair Ritzler on his long and successful corporate career.

President Harrison welcomed student ex-officio Gillian Desormeaux and shared this will be Gillian Desormeaux's final meeting in this role, as she will be graduating from the College in December. President Harrison thanked Ms. Desormeaux for serving as the student ex-officio this academic year.

Ms. Desormeaux then introduced Joe Borgerson, a recent Columbus State graduate who just completed his Associate of Applied Science in Automotive Technology in May 2026. Mr. Borgerson said that he had initially started higher education on a different path and received a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University before deciding to pursue a career in professional motor sports. At Columbus State, Mr. Borgerson helped lead a team that recently earned first place in the National Battery Workforce Challenge. The team included students from both the College and The Ohio State University. Mr. Borgerson credited faculty member Ian Andrews for supporting his career journey: "I would not have gotten to do any of that without the support of Ian and the other faculty here." He is now employed at Ohio State's Center for Automotive Research as laboratory research operations coordinator.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Wise moved, **Member Halpin** seconded, that the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES:

Ritzler, Ammendola, Burger, Halpin, Martinez, and Wise

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Fowler

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Ritzler shared the consent agenda items, which were discussed at the May 22, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting.

- Tenure Appointments and First Promotion
- Curricular Items
- College Completion Plan
- Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027
- Revisions to Policy 7-06, Student Fees
- Revisions to Policy 3-08, Fringe Benefits
- Property Transfer – 141, 145 Cleveland Avenue

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

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

FISCAL YEAR 2027 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION

This action item was discussed at the May 22, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting but was presented for a vote separate from the consent agenda.

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

A vote was taken, which resulted in

AYES: Ritzler, Ammendola, Burger, Fowler, Halpin, Martinez, 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 Nine Months Ended March 31, 2026
- Personnel Information Items

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

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

President Harrison congratulated Chair Sandy Doyle-Ahern on several *Business First* recognitions, including being named to the Power 125 and as an Executive of the Year. President Harrison also acknowledged that Zach Woodruff, the College’s Chief Real Estate Development Officer, for being included in the Power 125. President Harrison also celebrated Nick Hardin, chief employee experience officer, for being named to *Business First*’s 40 Under 40.

President Harrison reflected on the May 2026 commencement, which was the largest graduating class in the College’s history with more than 1,400 graduates. “We rightly celebrate our students, but it does take a village to make that happen,” President Harrison said in recognition of the faculty, staff and family members who support students.

As reflected in Mr. Borgerson’s presentation, Columbus State and Ohio State recently took 1st place in the Battery Workforce Challenge, a national competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. In the competition, teams made up of university and community college students design, build, test and integrate an advanced EV battery pack into a Stellantis vehicle. President Harrison shared gratitude to all the faculty and students for this achievement.

Providing an update on a capital project, President Harrison shared that the “Pink House” – a long-shuttered boarding house owned that was acquired by the Columbus State Foundation years ago, has been demolished and the property transferred to make way for the Opportunity Pointe affordable housing project being built by Woda Cooper in partnership with Columbus State Community Partners. There will be 186 units of affordable housing on the site in a short period of time. Dr. Harrison thanked Vice President of Advancement Katy Trombitas and Mr. Woodruff for making this happen.

Earlier on May 28, the College hosted a media announcement celebrating the donation of laptop computers to benefit Columbus Promise students. President Harrison joined Mayor Ginther as well as Columbus Partnership, Smart Columbus, I Know I Can and corporate leaders to make the announcement.

President Harrison then called on Ms. Trombitas to share some Advancement updates. She said

that the Advancement team has generated strong results, including that fundraising has increased by over 92% over the last five years, the Foundation has exceeded its goal of attracting at least 40 new donors who contribute \$1,000 or more, and that \$2.5 million has been secured through estate gifts.

President Harrison then asked Executive Vice President Rebecca Butler to update the Board on student success progress. Dr. Butler shared plans to update the College's student success dashboard and then provided updates on two areas of focus: healthcare education and transfer students.

For healthcare, she said that the College is focused on ensuring that more students in healthcare pre-majors successfully complete their majors and fewer students stop out. Columbus State is working to double the number of students completing competitive programs to 550 students per year, and Dr. Butler reported that Columbus State is building leadership capacity by creating separate roles for a Dean of Nursing and Dean of Health and Human Services.

The College's transfer strategy includes working with university partners to implement a more cohesive student experience that increases credential completion at Columbus State and improves bachelor's degree attainment at university partners. Dr. Butler reported that the College is making strong progress on these priorities with Ohio State as the two institutions prepare for the first class of Buckeye Bridge transfer students. She said 465 students had already been identified and pre-qualified through the summer semester to be part of Buckeye Bridge, and that Columbus State and Ohio State are co-designing an end-to-end pathway for these students.

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: Ritzler, Ammendola, Burger, Fowler, Halpin, Martinez, and Wise

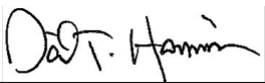
NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

The Board of Trustees reconvened into public session at 7:43 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.T. Harrison", is written over a horizontal line.

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

Office of the President/vp 05.28.26