

COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES **BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Franklin Hall | Pete Grimes Boardroom
January 17, 2025 | 8:00 AM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbus State Community College Committee of the Whole meeting was held on Friday, January 17, 2025, at Franklin Hall in the Pete Grimes Boardroom. The meeting was called to order by Chair Ammendola at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- John Ammendola
- Sandy Doyle-Ahern
- James Fowler (Virtual)
- Corrine M. Burger (Virtual)
- Traci L. Martinez, Esq.
- Jerome Revish
- Rick Ritzler
- 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.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON

President Harrison observed a moment of remembrance for Don DePerro, the former CEO of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and longtime *Business First* publisher. President Harrison welcomed Matt Stiffler, the college's new Deputy Chief Financial Officer. As the first meeting of 2025, the Board now has a new executive committee. President Harrison congratulated and thanked John Ammendola for serving as Chair and Sandy Doyle-Ahern for serving as Vice Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Martinez moved, Member Doyle-Ahern seconded, that the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Committee of the Whole and Planning Retreat, held on Friday, November 15, 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

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

President Harrison introduced the discussion, led by Aletha Shipley, Senior Vice President of Business Services and Chief Financial Officer. The proposed action item requests that the Board of Trustees accept the Report of the Independent Auditors for fiscal year 2024 as presented by Plattenburg & Associates.

Ms. Shipley noted that this will be the final audit produced by Plattenburg & Associates after 10 years serving the college. She said the College was working with the Auditor of State to identify the next firm for future audits. Chuck Boehm of Plattenburg & Associates said that Columbus State received an unmodified opinion for the FY2024 audit, which is the highest rating possible. There were no findings. Mr. Boehm complimented the Columbus State team for its fiscal stewardship, helpfulness during the audit process and great working relationship over the years.

Jan Ellis, Associate Vice President and Controller, also thanked the entire finance team and presented details of the College's fiscal year 2024 financials. She highlighted:

- The auditors' unmodified opinion
- That fiscal 2024 was the first year for all financials in Workday
- GASB comparisons
- Management Discussion and Analysis

The Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET INFORMATION

Ms. Shipley presented the proposed action item, which requests that the Board of Trustees approve the Alternative Tax Budget Information for calendar year 2026.

This action item is required annually by the Franklin County Budget Commission to perform its duties with regard to tax rates. The College's information relates to the Columbus State Community College, Ohio Facilities Construction and Improvement Bonds, Series 2020 and Series 2024, including principal outstanding at the beginning of the next calendar year and the principal and interest payments due on the bonds during the next calendar year.

The Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

REVISED FISCAL YEAR 2025 OPERATING BUDGET

President Harrison and Ms. Shipley introduced the proposed action item, which asks the Board to approve the revised General Fund and Auxiliary Fund budgets for fiscal year 2025. The resolution also would authorize the President to allocate additional general and/or auxiliary fund operating and instructional expenses commensurate with enrollments and related revenues in excess of the amounts included in the revised FY25 budget, provided the budget remains balanced.

The revised budget is presented in alignment with Policy 9-01, which calls for the Board of Trustees to review the operating budget at least once each fiscal year by Jan. 31 to consider its amendment. The original FY25 Operating Budget was approved by the Board in May 2024.

President Harrison shared that the revised budget reflects significant work by the College to increase revenues through enrollment strategies while controlling expenses. As noted in the resolution, "The revised operational budget shows that the College will end FY25 near breakeven — a year earlier than the plan to achieve a balanced budget for FY26." President Harrison said the Columbus State team has done an incredible job of stewardship while ensuring that expenditures were tied to the College's highest priorities related to student success.

Karen Riley, director of resource planning and analysis, provided an overview of the revised budget, including changes to revenues, expenditures and the auxiliary budget. No changes were required for the plant fund.

The Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

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

CURRENT UPDATES

President Harrison said that Student Success will be a recurring item for the Committee of the Whole meetings going forward and that the College would adjust future agendas as needed to make the best use of the Board's time.

He asked Rebecca Butler, Executive Vice President, to present the Student Success update. Dr. Butler shared the College's updated student success dashboard, updated data and upcoming student success goals. She noted that key enrollment and student success metrics from Day 1 of the Spring Semester 2025 show promising outcomes for average credits enrolled per student, the mix of in-person and online Gateway courses and multiple enrollment metrics. Dr. Butler shared progress reports for catalysts related to course success and proactive program advising.

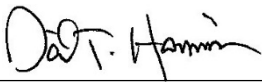
President Harrison said updates were not needed from the Columbus State Foundation and Columbus State Community Partners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.



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

Office of the President/bej 01.17.25