Kansas City Kansas Community College

Mission Statement: Inspire individuals & enrich our community one student at a time.

Vision Statement: Be a national leader in academic excellence & partner of choice in the communities we serve.

KANSAS CITY KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.

CONSENT AGENDA – Item A
Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairwoman Linda Hoskins Sutton called the Kansas City Kansas Community College (KCKCC) Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. at KCKCC-Main Campus Upper Jewell Lounge and in the KCKCC Zoom meeting platform on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Caiharr.

2. **KCKCC Mission Statement:** Chair Hoskins Sutton read the College's mission statement.

3. **Roll Call:** Trustees present were Chairwoman Linda Hoskins Sutton, Vice Chairman Geoffrey Kump, Mr. Donald Ash, Mr. Joseph Caiharr, Ms. Jammie A. Johnson, Mr. Alex Sanchez, and Dr. Brenda Scruggs Andrieu.

4. **Approval of Agenda:** After announcing Items 5 and 6, Chair Hoskins Sutton called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Vice Chair Kump made the motion. Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

5. **Student/Alumni Successes:** Chair Hoskins Sutton announced there were no Student/Alumni Successes scheduled.

6. **Audience to Patrons and Petitioners:** Chair Hoskins Sutton invited patrons or petitioners to address the Board for a 3-minute limit. There were no patrons or petitioners online or in person.

7. **Recognitions/Presentations:**
   - **Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Update.** Presented by Mr. Jerry Pope, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Tiffany Bohm, Dean of Health Professions and Public Safety.
     - Mr. Pope reviewed HLC Criterion 1: Mission, noting that its three components—mission alignment, commitment to the public good, and preparation for participation in an increasingly diverse and interconnected society—closely align

with the College's existing mission, values, and strategic plan. He characterized the College's current position as strong.

- Employees and faculty demonstrated a clear understanding of the mission, "Inspire individuals and enrich our community, one student at a time," with recurring themes including individualized student support, workforce and career preparation, community engagement, and multicultural and civic engagement. Examples included advising and enrollment support, workforce and transfer pathways, healthcare and public safety programs, community partnerships, cultural programming, service learning, multilingual education, voter education, and student leadership opportunities.
- Dr. Bohm reported that substantial evidence has been identified for each component of Criterion 1. She emphasized that examples came from across the College, demonstrating that mission integration is widespread rather than isolated to individual departments. The College's four strategic plan pillars—Student Success, Quality Programs and Services, Employee Engagement, and Community Engagement—also provide a strong framework for demonstrating how the mission guides institutional planning, resource allocation, and decision-making.
- Opportunities for improvement identified through the feedback include strengthening cross-department communication, ensuring information is consistent and student-friendly, continuing to address retention and student support needs, and documenting the alignment of resources with mission priorities. As the College prepares for the February 2027 HLC review, efforts will focus on collecting and organizing evidence demonstrating connections among the mission, strategic plan, community engagement, and student outcomes. Dr. Brady Beckman, Director of Student Success and Retention, and Dr. Faith Harrell, Coordinator of Integrated Reading and Writing, will lead evidence collection for Criterion 1.

- **Academic Program Review Annual Report.** Presented by Mr. Jerry Pope, Vice President of Academic Affairs.
  - Mr. Pope provided an update on the College's Academic Program Review process, which follows a four-year cycle consisting of a comprehensive self-study, action plan, mid-cycle review, and final report. For 2025–26, 34 of 35 scheduled program review deliverables were completed, representing a 97% completion rate. The remaining deliverable was associated with the Paralegal program, which lacked a coordinator and a full-time instructor. Mr. Pope noted that the College recently hired a new Paralegal Coordinator and that preliminary results from a Lightcast program demand gap analysis identified Paralegal as an opportunity for growth.
  - Mr. Pope emphasized that the primary value of program review is continuous improvement rather than compliance. Nursing, Construction Technology, and Medical Assistant were highlighted as examples of programs using data and review findings to identify changes in student support, curriculum, instructional resources, simulation, workforce alignment, accreditation, staffing, equipment, and facilities. Nursing, for example, implemented changes based on identified student needs and subsequently reported 2026 NCLEX pass rates above 91% for both registered

nursing and practical nursing.

- The Board was advised that program review also helps connect academic planning with resource planning, ensuring that program growth is sustainable and aligned with institutional and community needs. The review process itself is also being evaluated, with the committee developing a formal mentor handbook to provide more consistent guidance to programs. Mentors have been assigned for all four program review cohorts for the upcoming academic year.
- Mr. Pope summarized the intended outcome of program review as four questions: What do the data show? What did the College learn? What was changed? And how will the College determine whether the changes were effective? He noted that the process has been embedded institutionally for approximately six years following the 2020 HLC visit and is now intended to inform decisions about academic programs, resources, and student success.

Chair Hoskins Sutton expressed appreciation for the progress made through the program review process, noting that she remembered when the process began and was encouraged by the improvement in the results over the past six years. She encouraged the College to continue the work and expressed appreciation to those involved.

In response to a question from Trustee Johnson, Mr. Pope explained that assessment extends beyond program-level review to section-level, course-level, department-level, and general education assessment, including consistency of learning outcomes across course sections and modalities. He noted that a comprehensive assessment report is presented annually in October.

Vice Chair Kump asked whether program reviews consider external factors such as State funding and workforce needs, including the potential need to adjust programs based on State funding priorities. Mr. Pope confirmed that budget implications and community and employer needs are considered, while acknowledging that assessing those factors is an area for continued improvement.

Interim President Dr. Jackie Vietti added that a developing legislative initiative may establish performance-based funding tied to workforce development and high-demand areas, with potential metrics including certificate completion and student retention. She noted that the initiative remains under development and would require legislative funding, but could further connect institutional performance, workforce needs, and State funding.

- **2025-2026 KCKCC Annual Report.** Presented by Ms. Kris Green, Vice President of Marketing and Institutional Image.
  - Ms. Green presented the 2025–2026 KCKCC Annual Report, which was provided to Trustees in print and electronically. She highlighted accomplishments in student success, community engagement, and institutional innovation.
  - Student success highlights included national recognition in debate and forensics, with a student earning four national championships in a single semester, 12 "DownBeat" magazine student awards, strong student-athlete performance with

158 student-athletes achieving a 3.29 average GPA, and the successful Commencement ceremony. The Kansas Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (KS FAME) partnership was highlighted as an innovative workforce opportunity that allows students to earn certificates or associate degrees in high-demand fields while working, potentially graduating without student debt, and to expand FAME as an apprenticeship program and further strengthen career and workforce offerings.

- For community engagement, Ms. Green highlighted partnerships connecting education, healthcare, employers, schools, and cultural programs, including the continued development of the Downtown Center through partnerships with KCKCC, CommunityAmerica, and Swope Health. More than 90 employers participated in the College's career fair. Additional community initiatives included activities in Leavenworth County, the Education Hall of Fame, and the Blue Devil 5K. She emphasized the College's commitment to bringing the community to campus and bringing the campus to the community.
- Institutional highlights included the 101st Candle Lighting Ceremony, innovative workforce partnerships with Panasonic, a national grant supporting workforce expansion, Commencement at Sporting Park, recognition of a nationally recognized academic honor society, and a record-breaking Jazz Summit that brought students from throughout the region to KCKCC.
- Ms. Green emphasized the Annual Report's message of hope, achievement, and community and noted that the publication is shared with the broader community through mailings and is available for Trustees and College representatives to distribute.

Chair Hoskins Sutton thanked Ms. Green for completing the Annual Report despite the significant changes occurring at the College during the year and for producing a quality publication.

Vice Chair Kump expressed appreciation for the report, describing it as "absolutely beautiful" and noting that reviewing the accomplishments highlighted how many significant achievements had occurred during the relatively short time he had served on the Board.

- **Institutional Effectiveness Annual Update.** Presented by Ms. Kris White, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness.
  - Ms. White provided the Institutional Effectiveness Annual Update, outlining the office's team structure, responsibilities, accomplishments from the past year, and priorities for the upcoming academic year.
  - Ms. White explained that Institutional Effectiveness serves as a strategic partner and trusted source of accurate, consistent institutional data, supporting data governance, accreditation and compliance, institutional research and analysis, strategic planning, and program review and assessment. The office works across the institution to provide reliable data for decision-making and assist faculty and staff in interpreting and using data to evaluate performance and support resource needs. Due to recent leadership changes, Ms. White currently reports to the Vice President

of Finance and Operations but typically would report directly to the President.

- Ms. White reported that the College completed its two-year "The 4 Disciplines of Execution" (4DX) initiative in May 2026. The initiative strengthened faculty and staff skills in goal setting, planning, and progress tracking and provided many teams with their first structured experience with disciplined execution.
- In April 2026, the College established the Strategic Planning Operational Group, a shared governance team focused on strengthening institutional strategic planning. The group will monitor initiative progress, ensure College and divisional plans remain aligned with the overarching strategic plan, and promote transparency and campus-wide understanding of the plan. One of its immediate priorities is assisting with the development of the 2027 academic year bridge plan.
- Looking ahead, Ms. White identified continued management and monitoring of the strategic plan, strengthening the College's data culture, and implementation of the data warehouse as key priorities for Institutional Effectiveness.

Chair Hoskins Sutton thanked Ms. White and expressed appreciation for the clear, straightforward explanation of Institutional Effectiveness and its role at the College. Trustee Ash expressed appreciation for the information presented.

8. **Communications:**
   - **Board Self-Evaluation Update.** Presented by Ms. Linda Hoskins Sutton, Board Chairwoman.
     - Chair Hoskins Sutton provided a follow-up regarding the Board's annual self-evaluation, which is typically completed as part of the Board Retreat. She noted that because the Board Retreat had already occurred, the evaluation was being distributed separately and that greater transparency regarding the process would be beneficial. Trustees received both hard copies and electronic access to the evaluation.
     - Chair Hoskins Sutton explained that the completed evaluations will be summarized by Ms. Kris White, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness, with the results and Trustee input presented to the Board for discussion regarding areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.
     - College Attorney Greg Goheen advised that the self-evaluation could be discussed during either a regular or special meeting. He noted that a special meeting may be preferable because the discussion is generally more conversational and involves greater interaction among Trustees. He further clarified that the self-evaluation generally would not qualify for discussion in executive session, unless a separate matter meeting the statutory requirements for executive session was being addressed.
     - Chair Hoskins Sutton shared that the Board would review and discuss the self-evaluation results at the Special Meeting on September 15, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
     - Chair Hoskins Sutton emphasized her goal of establishing greater consistency, organization, and effective Board practices so that future Boards and Board Chairs have established processes to follow rather than having to reinvent procedures from one Board to the next.

- **Presidential Search Process Update.** Presented by Dr. Jackie Vietti, Interim President.
  - Dr. Vietti provided an update on the Presidential Search Process. She reported that six search firms submitted proposals by the deadline: the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), Pauly Group, Inc., DSG Koya, R.H. Perry & Associates, and WBCP, Inc. She explained that the next step is for a Board subcommittee to evaluate the proposals using a written rubric and recommend finalists for consideration by the full Board.
  - Dr. Vietti outlined the evaluation process, which will include providing each subcommittee member with a hard copy of the proposals and an individual rating rubric. Members will complete their evaluations independently and then meet as a group to compare ratings and identify the firms that will advance to the full Board. The process is intended to avoid groupthink and provide a structured evaluation of the proposals. The subcommittee review period is August 26 through September 4, with the goal of having the search firm selected by October 1.
  - Chair Hoskins Sutton explained that she had previously notified Trustees of the opportunity to serve on the subcommittee. She emphasized the importance of broad Trustee engagement and clarified that she would not serve on the subcommittee if three Trustees volunteered, as she intends to participate on the committee responsible for the presidential search itself. She noted that no more than three Trustees could serve on the subcommittee without constituting a quorum.
  - Vice Chair Kump expressed willingness to serve on the subcommittee if the meeting could be scheduled within his availability. Trustee Johnson indicated that she did not have the capacity to serve, and Trustee Scruggs Andrieu was not interested in serving regarding the firm search. Trustee Sanchez and Trustee Ash expressed interest in serving. The Board clarified that the subcommittee's role is to evaluate the six search firm proposals and recommend finalists; the full Board will interview and approve the search firm.
  - The Board discussed the role of cost in evaluating the proposals. Chair Hoskins Sutton emphasized that cost should be considered but should not be the sole determining factor, as the least expensive proposal may not best meet the College's needs. Trustees discussed whether costs should be included in the individual ratings or considered separately at the end of the evaluation. It was clarified that cost will be a factor in the selection process. The possibility of negotiating search firm fees may also be explored.
  - Dr. Vietti noted that meeting the October 1 selection goal will require a special Board meeting following the September regular meeting to consider and approve the recommended search firm.

Following discussion, Chair Hoskins Sutton called for a motion to **appoint Vice Chair Kump, Trustee Sanchez, and Trustee Ash to the Presidential Search Firm Selection Subcommittee**. Trustee Caiharr made the motion. Trustee Scruggs Andrieu seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

9. **Board Committee Reports:** Chair Hoskins Sutton invited the Board Committees to report.

   - On behalf of the **Board Finance and Operations Committee** (BFOC), Trustee Ash, Chair of the BFOC, reported that the Committee met the previous week with Trustees Kump and Caiharr in attendance. The Committee approved the minutes of its previous meeting and reviewed and approved Consent Agenda Items B and C for consideration by the full Board. The Committee also reviewed the June financial summary and related financial reports and voted to forward the reports to the Board.

     Trustee Ash reported that the Committee held extensive discussion regarding the FY 2027 budget and mill levy scenarios. The Committee reviewed revenue neutral, 1.0-mill, 1.25-mill, 1.5-mill, 2.0-mill, and 3.0-mill reduction scenarios. The Committee voted to advance the revenue neutral, 1.0-mill, and 1.25-mill scenarios for Board consideration and reached consensus that a reduction greater than 1.25 mills could be detrimental to the College. The Committee also approved the statutorily required Notice of Public Hearing on Mill Levy Rate for FY 2027 and Notice of Public Hearing on FY 2027 Budget.

     Additional Committee updates included:
     - An informational follow-up regarding the Gallagher Compensation Study.
     - An update on the downtown center, including its opening and initial activity. Trustee Ash reported a positive community response to the facility and noted that classes had begun, with CommunityAmerica and Swope Health also operating there.
     - An update regarding Willa Gill, consistent with information previously provided.
     - Recognition of the newly completed soccer field turf as a significant College investment.
     - An update on remaining flood mitigation work, which was awaiting approval of required Unified Government work permits. Trustee Ash reported that the contractor and College personnel were prepared to proceed once the permits were received.

     Vice Chair Kump highlighted the commitment expressed by Dr. Schulte, Dr. Vietti, and the administration to identify opportunities to increase revenues outside of property taxes. He noted that the administration had identified potential strategies and expressed support for continued efforts to diversify College revenues.

     Trustee Caiharr raised the possibility of bringing snow removal services in-house, noting the current annual cost of approximately $147,000. He requested that the College evaluate the cost of acquiring the necessary equipment and compare in-house operations with contracted services.

Chair Hoskins Sutton noted that snow removal had historically been handled in-house and supported evaluating the costs and options. She emphasized that the new soccer field is a significant College investment and encouraged community members who use the track and

facilities to help protect and maintain the turf. Chair Hoskins Sutton suggested that, in the next academic year, the Board consider holding a meeting at the downtown center to demonstrate its commitment to the facility and the community.

Trustee Sanchez suggested exploring whether certain maintenance and construction activities could be incorporated into applicable academic programs as applied learning or work-based learning opportunities, including painting and basic maintenance. Trustees and administration discussed the need to evaluate feasibility, liability, academic requirements, and applicable limitations. Chair Hoskins Sutton emphasized that students' educational priorities must remain paramount and that students should not be placed in situations where their activities could be construed as performing the work of College employees. Trustee Scruggs Andrieu supported further exploration, noting that students may participate in work-study programs as College employees. Dr. Vietti recommended that the College first determine the feasibility of such opportunities and involve appropriate faculty and subject-matter experts to ensure any applied learning supports, rather than compromises, students' educational experiences. Chair Hoskins Sutton reiterated that the Board was not rejecting the concept but wanted the feasibility and limitations fully explored before any decisions are made.

Chair Hoskins Sutton called for a motion to approve the Board Finance and Operations Committee report. Trustee Sanchez made the motion. Trustee Scruggs Andrieu seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

- On behalf of the **Board Policy Committee** (BPC), Chair Hoskins Sutton, Chair of the BPC, reported that the Committee does not meet during the summer months due to the absence of the Senates. The Committee's first meeting of the fall is scheduled for September 10. She thanked Ms. Lorraine Mixon-Page for continuing to work on policy matters during the summer for presentation to the Committee. Chair Hoskins Sutton did not believe that there were any outstanding policy items requiring action during the summer recess.

Chair Hoskins Sutton called for a motion to approve the Board Policy Committee report. Trustee Ash made the motion. Trustee Scruggs Andrieu seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

- On behalf of the **Board Community Engagement Committee** (BCEC), Trustee Sanchez, Chair of the BCEC, reported that the Committee had a productive meeting and remained in the exploratory phase of developing opportunities to expand the College's community engagement efforts. He reported that the Committee was exploring the addition of community members who are not Trustees to provide perspectives and connections from outside the College and the Foundation. Three prospective community participants were identified:
  - Brian Boyd, a member of the KCKCC Foundation Committee who is active in the community and interested in expanding his involvement with the Foundation.
  - Roger Suggs, with Fringe Benefits of Education (FBOE), who is actively engaged with youth and young adults and has extensive community connections.

- Nicholas Segura, of Segura Marketing, who is involved with multiple boards and has connections within the community and corporate sector.

Trustee Sanchez stated that the Committee would finalize how these community perspectives could be incorporated and would continue exploring opportunities to expand the College's presence and engagement through media, radio, print, and other community outreach efforts. He emphasized that the Committee's role would be to complement existing College and departmental efforts, with the support of Ms. Kris Green, Vice President of Marketing and Institutional Image, without duplicating or overlapping existing responsibilities.

Chair Hoskins Sutton provided a document outlining the updated Board committee assignments, including the addition of Trustee Johnson to the Board Community Engagement Committee and the KCKCC Foundation Board as a non-voting member. Trustee Johnson was also designated as an alternate for the Board Finance and Operations Committee. Trustee Sanchez will continue as an alternate for the Board Policy Committee. Trustees were asked to provide Trustee Johnson with meeting dates and times so she could participate in the committees to which she was assigned.

Vice Chair Kump motioned to approve the Board Community Engagement Committee report. Trustee Caiharr seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

- As the Board's Delegate of the **Kansas Association of Community Colleges** (KACC) and the **Association of Community College Trustees** (ACCT), Trustee Ash provided an update on recent association activities.

- For **KACC**, Trustee Ash reported that the quarterly meeting was held August 2-3 at Barton Community College in Great Bend, with Dr. Vietti and Trustee Ash representing KCKCC. Representatives from all 19 Kansas community colleges were in attendance. The meeting included a legislative panel with three State legislators, followed by a virtual presentation and question-and-answer session with U.S. Senator Roger Marshall. An update was also provided regarding the Kansas Board of Regents' annual retreat and anticipated changes in Board of Regents leadership.

  The association engaged in extensive discussion regarding performance-based funding metrics and approved a proposed framework, subject to additional modeling and refinement. The proposed metrics include: credential production, high-value programs, completion, retention, and the Kansas Board of Regents Student Success Index.

  Trustee Ash also noted legislative priorities, including potential extension of the Kansas Promise Act tax credits, and acknowledged that the association adopted a Member Code of Conduct to establish shared expectations regarding integrity, transparency, collaboration, and unified representation of Kansas community colleges.

  The association approved Flint Hills Technical College for membership, following the

prior approval of Manhattan Area Technical College and Salina Area Technical College. Trustee Ash noted that the additional membership strengthens the association's statewide representation and legislative support.

The association also approved two amendments to its bylaws. A third proposed amendment received no second and did not proceed.

Trustee Ash reported that the next KACC meeting will be held in December in Colby. He noted that the association expects to receive the Lightcast Economic Impact Study in approximately October. Each participating college will receive an individual economic impact report, along with a collective report addressing the economic impact of Kansas community colleges on the State.

- For **ACCT**, Trustee Ash reported that preparations are underway for the ACCT Leadership Congress, scheduled for October in Chicago. The Congress will include association business, Board and committee elections and rotations, federal legislative agenda discussions, workshops, and presentations in preparation for the ACCT Legislative Summit in February.

  Chair Hoskins Sutton reported on an ACCT webinar addressing succession planning and CEO searches. She noted that the session emphasized the importance of developing succession plans throughout an organization and identified best practices for CEO searches. Chair Hoskins Sutton stated that she plans to attend sessions addressing CEO searches at the October Leadership Congress in preparation for the College's upcoming presidential search.

  Chair Hoskins Sutton provided an update on her service on the ACCT Student Impact and Success Committee, which is continuing to explore ways community colleges can support one another in serving diverse student populations.

  Chair Hoskins Sutton reported that Dr. Vietti, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Ash, and Chair Hoskins Sutton are currently planning to attend the ACCT Leadership Congress in October.

Chair called for a motion to approve the KACC and ACCT report. Trustee Scruggs Andrieu made the motion. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

10. **Consent Agenda:** Chair Hoskins Sutton noted an amendment to Consent Agenda Item D – Human Resources Personnel Items. The compensation amount listed for the Nursing Education adjunct faculty new hires was incorrect in the original Board packet. The corrected amounts were provided to the Trustees for consideration of the Consent Agenda. Chair Hoskins Sutton invited questions or comments regarding the Consent Agenda Items A, A1, B, C, and the amendment to Item D. Hearing none, Trustee Caiharr motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with the amendment to Item D. Trustee Ash seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

11. **Student Senate Report:** Chair Hoskins Sutton announced there was no report since students just returned to campus yesterday. A Student Senate report is expected at the September meeting.

12. **President's Report** – Dr. Jackie Vietti, Interim President
    - Dr. Vietti reported that the College successfully launched the new academic year, with faculty, staff, Student Services, and volunteers assisting students during the first two days of classes. She recognized the Blue Devil Greeters and other employees who helped welcome and direct students and noted that any initial operational issues were being addressed.
    - Dr. Vietti provided an update on performance-based funding, noting that the initiative remains in its early stages and will require legislative funding. She discussed Workforce Pell, a new opportunity that may provide Pell-eligible students pursuing qualifying short-term certificates with financial assistance. The College awaits guidance from the Kansas Board of Regents on the approval process for eligible programs and intends to pursue opportunities for qualifying certificate and apprenticeship students.
    - Dr. Vietti reported that the College's legislative priorities include full funding for tiered and non-tiered classes and funding for the performance-based funding initiative.
    - Dr. Vietti reported that she is gathering information and proposals for the Board's October retreat and will present a recommendation when additional information is received.
    - Dr. Vietti, Ms. Kris Green, Vice President of Marketing and Institutional Image, and Mr. Michael Crouch, Executive Director of KCKCC Foundation, attended a recent Wyandotte Economic Development Council meeting and connected with Regents Kathy Wolf-Moore and Pamela Curtis.
    - Dr. Vietti would introduce two remaining updates as part of her President's report: Mr. Jason Sievers, Kansas City Kansas Community Education, Health and Wellness Center Site Director, to provide an update on the downtown center tours, and Ms. Kris White, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness, to provide an update on the Fall 2025 College Employee Satisfaction Survey.

    - **Kansas City Kansas Community Education, Health and Wellness Center Update**
        - Mr. Jason Sievers, Kansas City Kansas Community Education, Health and Wellness Center Site Director, provided an update on community outreach and stakeholder engagement. He reported that the Center hosted tours for regional leaders, community partners, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders, and received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the facility and its potential community impact.
        - Recent tours and engagements included representatives from civic and community organizations, law enforcement and the legal community, local media, faith-based organizations, academic departments, and college operations. Stakeholders included the KCK Rotary Club, Project Eagle, the Wyandotte County Sheriff and Undersheriff, the Wyandotte County District Attorney, the KCK Historic Society, KSHB 41 News, area pastors, and college faculty and staff. A tour was also provided

to Mayor Christal Watson (Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County) during KCKCC's recruiting drive.

- Mr. Sievers identified three primary outcomes of the outreach efforts:
  - Strong community support and enthusiasm from civic, faith, and local government partners;
  - Operational and safety alignment with law enforcement, legal, and other safety partners; and
  - Internal alignment and engagement among faculty, staff, and academic departments.
- Mr. Sievers stated that targeted tours and outreach will continue to strengthen community partnerships, expand program opportunities, and support seamless operations at the Center.

Chair Hoskins Sutton recognized Mr. Sievers' leadership as Site Director. She stated that the facility has exceeded community expectations, citing positive feedback from individuals who have toured it, and emphasized that the Center belongs to the community, encouraging everyone to work together to ensure its success. Trustee Johnson expressed appreciation for the tour experience and the staff's efforts.

- **College Employee Satisfaction Survey (CESS) Update**
  - Dr. Vietti stated that one of her initial priorities as Interim President was to restore a culture of inclusivity in which employees feel a sense of belonging and that their voices are heard and respected. She introduced Ms. Kris White, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness, to provide the Board with an abbreviated review of the Fall 2025 College Employee Satisfaction Survey and the independent analysis conducted by Jamie O'Brien Consulting.
  - Ms. White reported that the survey received a 45.3% response rate, with 196 responses from 433 faculty, staff, and administrators. Overall employee satisfaction was low, 3.35 on a 5.0 scale, below the peer benchmark of 4.2. Additionally, 56% of respondents reported considering leaving the College. The workplace Employee Net Promoter Score (eNPS) was negative 17.3, while employee responses reflected strong satisfaction with the College's students and indicated that employees would recommend KCKCC to a student.
  - The analysis identified the following recommended areas for improvement:
    - Communication, inclusion, including employee involvement in planning and leadership transparency;
    - Compensation and pay equity;
    - Retention and employee engagement;
    - Career advancement and recognition; and
    - Organizational culture and teamwork.
- Ms. White reported year-to-date employee turnover of approximately 7.79%, with an annualized rate of approximately 13.3%, which is within the reported national College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR) median range of 13%-14%.

- Dr. Vietti and Ms. White outlined the following immediate next steps:
  - Distribute the full survey analysis and related dashboards;
  - Distribute anonymized results from the Gallagher Compensation Study while protecting individual employee information;
  - Explore the creation of an Employee Advisory Committee to broaden employee participation and provide opportunities for employees whose voices may not currently be represented through existing governance structures; and
  - Develop data-driven processes and approaches to address identified areas of concern.

In response to questions regarding the proposed Employee Advisory Committee, Dr. Vietti and Ms. White clarified that the concept remains in the exploratory stage and would not replace or exclude the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, College Senate, or other existing shared governance bodies. The purpose would be to broaden participation and provide opportunities for employees whose perspectives might otherwise go unheard. Any proposed structure would be further developed and brought to the Board for discussion before implementation.

Dr. Vietti emphasized that improving College culture would require multiple strategies rather than a single solution and reiterated that all existing governance groups would be included in the process. Ms. White noted that the next employee engagement survey is anticipated in fall 2027, providing a defined timeframe for demonstrating measurable progress.

Trustee Johnson expressed support for the existing Senate structure and suggested that opportunities could potentially be developed within the Staff Senate or other existing governance bodies to ensure that additional employee voices are heard. Dr. Vietti acknowledged the suggestion and stated that the College would consider how existing Senates and other groups could help identify and engage employees whose voices may not currently be represented.

Chair Hoskins Sutton called for a motion to accept the report. Vice Chair Kump made the motion. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

13. **Vice President Academic Affairs Report** – Mr. Jerry Pope
    - Mr. Jerry Pope organized his report around the College's four strategic plan priorities: Student Success, Quality Programs and Services, Employee Engagement, and Community Engagement.
    - Student Success: Mr. Pope reported that the Math and Science Center offered an Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS) Math Jumpstart to strengthen students' math skills and confidence before entering the classroom. Adult Education began the semester with 371 students enrolled in General Educational Development (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. Workforce Innovation is developing a new registered apprenticeship in accounting in collaboration with faculty and is working with the Kansas State Department of Education to develop youth-registered apprenticeships, beginning with teacher education. The model could allow high school students to earn dual credit, make progress toward a bachelor's degree, and

receive paid work experience.

- Quality Programs and Services: KCKCC and the University of Kansas Medical Center renewed the Kansas Community College Nurse Partnership Program through 2036. To date, 106 KCKCC students have graduated with both an Associate in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing through the partnership. Mortuary Science is preparing to welcome its first fully virtual cohort this fall, expanding access to the program beyond the College's immediate service area. Assessment Day will return to an in-person format based on faculty and coordinator feedback, providing dedicated time to examine assessment evidence and align curriculum with student learning outcomes.
- Employee Engagement: Mr. Pope highlighted faculty accomplishments, including Associate Professor of Economics Dr. Andres Cantillo's international presentation of economics research in Portugal; Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Ishvak Ahmed's completion of specialized biomanufacturing training in monoclonal antibody production; Assistant Professor of Business Ms. Kris Ball's attainment of 12 certifications in personal finance and Distinguished Educator designation from NextGen Personal Finance; and Faculty Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Tom Grady's presentation at the Summer Institute for Distance Learning and Instructional Technology on intentionally integrating generative artificial intelligence into course design. Mr. Pope noted that faculty professional development and expertise directly strengthen the quality of education provided to students.
- Community Engagement: Mr. Pope reported that career and technical education faculty and staff continued preparing the downtown center for the fall semester by moving and setting up equipment and instructional resources. He emphasized that the facility represents KCKCC's commitment to bringing education, workforce training, and opportunity directly into the community. The College also continues partnerships with employers, school districts, state agencies, and organizations such as the Associated General Contractors of Kansas. The Kids on Campus program served nearly 400 young people in July.
- Mr. Pope stated that the institutional Strategic Plan is reflected in the College's daily work, including classrooms, partnerships, new programs, and community initiatives. He expressed appreciation for the faculty, staff, deans, directors, and academic leaders who continue to advance the College's strategic priorities.

Vice Chair Kump congratulated Mr. Pope and the College on renewing the Nurse Partnership Program through 2036, noting the partnership's significance and its career opportunities. Mr. Pope also recognized Ms. Debbie Fangman, Executive Director of Facility Services, and Mr. Adam Hadley, Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, for their work in updating the interstate signage announcing KCKCC as the 2026 National Debate Champions.

Chair Hoskins Sutton called for a motion to accept the report. Vice Chair Kump made the motion. Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

14. **Vice President Enrollment Management and Student Services Report** – Dr. Devin Stroman
    - Dr. Devin Stroman provided an update on Fall 2026 enrollment. Current enrollment

figures showed unduplicated headcount down 3.1% from Fall 2025 and up 1.0% from Fall 2024. Credit hours were down 4.0% compared with Fall 2025 and up 2.8% compared with Fall 2024.

- Dr. Stroman reported that all students participating in dual credit, concurrent, and dual enrollment programs were attending classes; however, approximately 170 students from one partner high school were still being processed into the College's system because applications were still being completed. He noted that the College was working with the school to complete the applications and enter the students into the system, which would improve the enrollment report as the semester progresses toward Census Day.
- Dr. Stroman reported that the College identified artificial intelligence-related enrollment fraud among applications and enrollments during the prior year. To address this issue, the College implemented Voyatek, a third-party software solution intended to reduce fraudulent activity. Enrollment reports will continue to be monitored weekly through Census Day.
- Dr. Stroman stated that the Enrollment Management Committee and President's Cabinet will develop an enrollment goal for Spring 2027 to incorporate into the College's Strategic Enrollment Management Plan. He noted that the College has not previously established a formal enrollment goal and emphasized the importance of intentional, data-driven enrollment strategies.
- Dr. Stroman introduced Dr. Debra Carter, the new Director of Admissions and Recruitment, who joins KCKCC from the University of Kansas and brings extensive admissions and recruitment experience. He stated that her leadership capacity will support more intentional recruitment strategies and improve the student enrollment experience.
- The Student Success Center experienced a 26% increase in student traffic during July, with 1,062 students receiving in-person advising and 299 participating virtually. Through July, the center recorded 7,951 student interactions. The Blue Devils' Cupboard provided food and personal hygiene resources to 106 individuals representing 44 households in July. Student housing reached 100% capacity for Fall 2026, with all students previously on the waitlist either securing housing or removing themselves from the waitlist. Career Services is preparing to launch the UConnect Virtual Career Center, providing students, alumni, faculty, and employees with 24-hour access to career development resources.
- Dr. Stroman stated that the immediate focus remains enrollment and fall recruitment, with the College developing strategies to strengthen recruitment and create conditions that support student persistence, completion, and achievement of educational and career goals.

Trustee Johnson commended Dr. Stroman and his team for their efforts to assist dual enrollment students in completing applications and enrolling. She asked whether the College had enrollment projections beyond Spring 2027, particularly a five-year projection, and emphasized the importance of projections for program viability and sustainability, particularly at the downtown center. Dr. Stroman confirmed that enrollment projections will be developed as part of the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, including projections for the next five years and specific consideration of programming at the downtown center.

Dr. Stroman also reported that survey results from the downtown center open house will be reviewed to identify successful existing programs and potential additional programs that could support enrollment growth. Mr. Pope clarified that the minimum enrollment for technical classes is eight students, although the College strives to exceed that minimum.

Trustee Sanchez noted the success of the downtown center open house, which attracted approximately 250 participants. Dr. Stroman agreed that the event was successful.

Interim President Dr. Jackie Vietti expressed support for establishing enrollment goals but stated that she would initially be more comfortable with a three-year projection while the College establishes its enrollment planning processes and hires a Dean of Enrollment Management. She indicated that a five-year projection could be developed once the new enrollment leadership is in place and the College has greater experience with the planning process.

Trustee Johnson stated that she was encouraged by the College's decision to begin establishing formal enrollment goals and noted that the absence of an enrollment goal had previously been a concern.

Chair Hoskins Sutton called for a motion to accept the report. Trustee Johnson made the motion. Trustee Scruggs Andrieu seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

15. **Vice President Finance and Operations Report** – Dr. Patrick Schulte
    - Dr. Schulte provided an overview of activities within Finance and Operations, highlighting three primary priorities: stabilizing and optimizing the new Ellucian Colleague Software as a Service (SaaS) environment; preparing college operations for the Fall 2026 semester; and continuing to strengthen the systems, processes, facilities, and services that support students and employees.
    - Dr. Schulte recognized the work of Mr. Jason Sievers, Kansas City Kansas Community Education, Health and Wellness Center Site Director, and noted his effective leadership in preparing and opening the downtown facility. He recognized the work of consultant Jamie O'Brien and Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness Kris White in connection with employee engagement efforts and college listening sessions.
    - Finance and Business Operations: Dr. Schulte reported that Finance has focused on post-go-live stabilization following the transition to Ellucian Colleague SaaS, completion of fiscal year-end activities, audit preparation, and fall readiness. Business and Auxiliary Services is reviewing existing workflows and identifying process improvements to provide accurate and timely reporting to the Finance Committee. The College is also evaluating future options for the Little Leaders childcare space following the closure of its current provider. Food Services served more than 400 meals per week during the summer to participants in Kids on Campus and Upward Bound, and is preparing expanded dining options for fall. The Bookstore reported a strong annual inventory result, and the Wellness and Fitness Center remained stable during the summer and anticipated returning to full staffing by the end of August.
    - Human Resources (HR): Human Resources continues to support recruitment,

professional development, employee relations, and organizational effectiveness. The College currently has 88 open positions being actively recruited. A new Talent Development Manager has been hired to strengthen employee growth and professional development. Dr. Schulte highlighted the fourth annual GLOW (Growth and Learning Opportunity Workshop), which featured eight employee-led professional development sessions on topics such as student success, accessibility, technology, wellness, professional purpose, and conflict resolution. HR is also preparing to launch a new learning management system with more than 1,000 training courses, compliance management capabilities, and customized training options. Employee training on the new platform is scheduled to begin in September.

- Information Technology Services (ITS): Dr. Schulte reported the successful migration of Ellucian Colleague to the SaaS environment on June 22, following extensive testing and coordination with Ellucian, vendors, and campus departments. The ITS team continues to address post-implementation issues, support user adoption, and stabilize and optimize the system. Core technology services remained available approximately 98% to 99% of the time despite temporary disruptions. Additional priorities include advancing the TeamDynamix ticketing system, TimeClock Plus, cybersecurity initiatives, classroom technology, and technology systems supporting the downtown center.
- Facilities Services: Facilities Services continued infrastructure improvements, capital projects, maintenance, and campus modernization during the summer. Projects included new roofing systems on four buildings, fire and life safety compliance activities, replacement of aging heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment, preventative maintenance, and renovations in Centennial Hall, the Nursing Building, Health Professions Offices, and the Science Building. Centennial Hall improvements also addressed air quality and student living conditions. At the downtown center, Facilities Services completed furniture installation and equipment relocation in preparation for the fall semester. The facility also hosted a Swope Health hiring event attended by approximately 85 people.
- College Police: College Police continued efforts to support campus safety and community engagement. Officers participated in National Night Out in Kansas and continued professional development and advanced training in emergency communication, Clery compliance, threat assessment, emergency notifications, and campus safety.
- Dr. Schulte expressed appreciation for the Finance and Operations leadership team and stated that the Division remains focused on improving processes, strengthening infrastructure, supporting employees, and providing reliable services to students and the College community.

Chair Hoskins Sutton commended Dr. Schulte's leadership and credited him with keeping the downtown center project on schedule during a period of significant institutional transition. She noted that the October event at the downtown center will be a building dedication rather than a ribbon-cutting, and that Dr. Schulte will lead it. Chair Hoskins Sutton expressed appreciation for his leadership while serving as Acting President and for ensuring that the downtown center opened as planned.

Trustee Ash emphasized the importance of the employee listening sessions, stating that employees primarily sought opportunities to have their questions and concerns acknowledged and receive responses or information regarding follow-up. Dr. Schulte stated that information from the listening sessions, together with the College Employee Satisfaction Survey, will continue to inform efforts to improve campus culture and employee engagement. He noted that progress will be evaluated through the next employee engagement survey in Fall 2027.

Vice Chair Kump requested additional employee listening sessions and expressed hope that future sessions could be held during a period when conditions are positive. Trustee Sanchez supported the request, stating that the sessions provided value not only to employees but also to Trustees by allowing them to hear concerns and perspectives directly and providing employees an opportunity to feel heard and validated.

Trustee Ash motioned to accept the report. Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

16. **Vice President Marketing and Institutional Image Report** – Ms. Kris Green
    - Ms. Green provided an update on Marketing and Institutional Image activities aligned with the College's strategic plan priorities of Quality Programs and Services, Student Success, and Community Engagement.
    - Quality Programs and Services: Ms. Green highlighted the College's library of more than 20 two- to three-minute program videos designed to promote academic programs and communicate their value to prospective students. She reported that Marketing uses clips from these videos to create digital and social media advertisements that support Perkins grant messaging and expand outreach to students who may not otherwise consider a technical education pathway. Approximately four program videos are developed each semester. Marketing is relaunching the website's content management system, providing employees with training and a greater ability to update their individual webpage content while maintaining the College's search engine optimization improvements.
    - Student Success: Ms. Green recognized the collaboration among Enrollment Management, Academic Affairs, Marketing, and other departments in conducting the downtown center recruitment open house. More than 300 people attended, participated in tours, and learned about opportunities to enroll at the new downtown location. She noted that the event generated significant community interest and served as an important recruitment opportunity. Marketing also supported online orientation and the Back-to-School Fair, which included community radio and student participation.
    - Community Engagement: Ms. Green reported that Marketing contacts high schools within the College's top 20 recruitment areas annually to identify marketing and outreach opportunities. The College has established partnerships and advertising opportunities with area school districts and high schools, including Bishop Ward, USD 500, Piper, Tonganoxie, Shawnee Mission, and others. These efforts include advertising at school events and activities to increase awareness of dual credit and post-secondary opportunities at KCKCC. Ms. Green recognized the Marketing team for proactively developing opportunities with

schools that did not previously have established partnerships.

- Ms. Green announced that the dedication of the downtown center is scheduled for October 2 at 2:00 p.m. Planning will begin the following week with Finance and Operations staff and community partners to develop the event.
- Ms. Green recognized the successful media coverage of the downtown center, including an interview with Interim President Dr. Jackie Vietti by KSHB-41 Kansas City News and a tour led by Mr. Jason Sievers, Kansas City Kansas Community Education, Health and Wellness Center Site Director. She stated that the resulting story showcased the facility and its students positively.

Trustee Johnson commended the Marketing team's social media presence and noted significant improvements in the College's marketing and institutional representation in recent years. Ms. Green credited the Marketing team and college-wide collaboration for the progress. Trustee Sanchez complimented the practical nursing video, noting that its content, timing, and length were effective.

Chair Hoskins Sutton called for a motion to accept the report. Trustee Sanchez made the motion. Vice Chair Kump seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

17. **Unfinished Business:** Chair Hoskins Sutton announced there was no Unfinished Business.

18. **New Business:**
    - Approval of the Proposed **Board of Trustees' Guiding Principles**. Presented by Dr. Jackie Vietti, Interim President.
        - Dr. Vietti presented the proposed Guiding Principles, noting that they were developed by the Board during its retreat on August 1, and remained in draft form pending approval.
        - The Board of Trustees' Guiding Principles:
            - Be fully informed, thoughtfully deliberate, and evaluate all decisions.
            - Create opportunities for all voices to be heard and valued.
            - Be transparent by going above and beyond to ensure that the community is publicly informed of all Board decisions and accompanying rationales.
            - Practice the 5 C's: Collaboration, Communication, Coordination, Consistency, and Commitment.
            - Instill trust with the administration, faculty, and staff by adhering to Board policies.
            - Support Board decisions through consensus after respecting differing opinions.
            - Conduct our business legally, ethically, and morally.
            - Treat others with respect and expect the same in return.

Chair Hoskins Sutton invited questions or suggested revisions. Vice Chair Kump expressed appreciation for the principles and their framing. Chair Hoskins Sutton stated that the principles represented the Board's collective voices and thanked Dr. Vietti for facilitating the retreat and guiding the Board in developing the document. Chair Hoskins Sutton also recommended incorporating the Guiding Principles into the Trustee Handbook.

Vice Chair Kump motioned to approve the Board of Trustees' Guiding Principles as presented and as discussed at the Board Retreat on August 1. Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

- Presentation of the **Draft Budget and Mill Levy Rate Scenarios for FY 2027**. Presented by Dr. Patrick Schulte, Vice President of Finance and Operations.
  - Dr. Schulte presented the Draft Budget and Mill Levy Rate Scenarios for FY 2027 and requested Board direction regarding the mill levy. The proposed FY 2027 budget is approximately $98.4 million and reflects enrollment projections, state revenue uncertainty, a projected $1.6 million reduction in state aid, increased operating and personnel costs, federal funding uncertainty, and potential enrollment growth associated with the downtown campus.
  - Dr. Schulte presented the following mill levy scenarios:
    - Revenue neutral: 22.732 mills, a reduction of 0.9 mills from the FY 2026 rate, resulting in approximately $628,000 in budget reductions needed to balance the budget.
    - 1.0-mill reduction: 22.642 mills, resulting in approximately $853,159 in total budget reductions when increased expenditures are considered.
    - 1.25-mill reduction: 22.392 mills, resulting in approximately $1.4 million to $1.5 million in total budget reductions.
    - 1.5-mill reduction: 22.142 mills, resulting in approximately $2.0 million to $2.1 million in total budget reductions.
  - Dr. Schulte explained that revenue neutral would maintain approximately the same property tax revenue as the prior year but would still require expenditure reductions because of increased salary, benefits, materials, contracted services, supplies, and other operating costs. He noted that 54% of the College's expenses are attributable to salaries and benefits, and that other significant expense areas include facilities, deferred maintenance, information technology, and operating costs associated with the downtown campus. He explained that the administration would evaluate expense reductions, efficiencies, and the potential use of reserves to balance the budget after the Board established the mill levy.

Trustees discussed the impact of assessed valuation increases, the College's reliance on county property tax revenue, available reserves, uncertainty in state and federal funding, enrollment growth, tuition and fees, and the need to balance taxpayer relief with the need to maintain the College's financial stability and ability to serve students. Trustees also discussed the importance of developing a longer-term strategy to reduce reliance on property tax revenue while avoiding significant year-to-year fluctuations in the mill levy.

Dr. Schulte reported unrestricted cash of approximately $26.6 million and restricted cash of approximately $51.4 million. He noted that the College's cash balance was approximately $11.6 million at the end of FY 2026 and that reserves had been used for various purposes, including the downtown campus.

Trustees discussed potential reductions ranging from 1.0 to 1.5 mills, with some Trustees expressing concern about reducing the mill levy too substantially given the uncertainty surrounding the downtown campus, future state funding, and the need to maintain adequate reserves. Other Trustees advocated for a greater reduction to require the College to identify efficiencies and reduce expenditures.

Motion to Set Mill Levy at 21.750 Mills: Trustee Caiharr motioned to set the mill levy at 21.750 mills, representing a reduction of 1.892 mills from the FY 2026 rate. **The motion did not proceed for lack of a second.**

Motion to Reduce Mill Levy by 1.0 Mill: Trustee Scruggs Andrieu motioned to set a 1.0-mill reduction, establishing the mill levy at 22.642 mills. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted:

- **Ayes:** Johnson, Scruggs Andrieu
- **Nays:** Ash, Caiharr, Hoskins Sutton, Kump, Sanchez
- **With a vote of 2-5, The Motion Failed.**

Motion to Reduce Mill Levy by 1.25 Mills: Trustee Ash motioned to set the mill levy at a 1.25-mill reduction, establishing the FY 2027 mill levy at 22.392 mills. Vice Chair Kump seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted:

- **Ayes:** Ash, Kump, Sanchez, Scruggs Andrieu
- **Nays:** Caiharr, Hoskins Sutton, Johnson,
- **With a vote of 4-3, The Motion Carried.**

Discussion Highlights:

Trustee Ash

- Reported that the Finance Committee's consensus was no more than 1.25 mills, noting that the committee had considered the need to balance taxpayer relief with the College's financial position and future needs.
- Emphasized the importance of maintaining a prudent financial position, particularly given projected revenue risks, including the potential for approximately $3 million in revenue risk and possible reductions in State funding.
- Supported a 1.25-mill reduction as a balance between providing relief to taxpayers and avoiding a significant mill levy increase in future years, stating that the Board should make gradual, intentional reductions rather than create a need to increase the mill levy later.
- Stressed the need to identify intentional, multi-year expense reductions and efficiencies, while also increasing enrollment and pursuing additional revenue sources. He noted the importance of working with KACC, ACCT, and State and federal policymakers regarding potential funding changes.
- Motioned to establish the FY 2027 mill levy at a 1.25-mill reduction, or 22.392 mills. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Kump and subsequently approved by a 4-3 roll call vote.

Trustee Caiharr

- Questioned the use of the term "budget reduction" under the revenue neutral scenario, noting that the College would receive essentially the same property tax revenue and that the reduction represented the amount of expenses that would need to be reduced to balance the budget.
- Expressed the view that taxpayers deserve relief and advocated for a substantially larger mill levy reduction rather than relying on reserves to address the difference between revenues and expenses.
- Emphasized that the College needs to make tough decisions on spending and efficiencies, questioning whether the College should use its available reserves rather than require taxpayers to continue providing the same level of property tax revenue.
- Proposed establishing the FY 2027 mill levy at 21.750 mills, representing a 1.892-mill reduction from the FY 2026 rate of 23.642 mills. The motion received no second and died for lack of a second; therefore, no vote was taken.
- Subsequently voted No on the 1.0-mill reduction motion and No on the 1.25-mill reduction motion.

Chair Hoskins Sutton

- Expressed a preference for the revenue neutral approach, noting that she believed the community was expecting the Board to remain revenue neutral and that, given the current economic conditions, State funding uncertainty, uncertainty surrounding the downtown center, and the upcoming transition to a new President, the College needed to maintain that cushion.
- Emphasized that reserves should not be depleted, stating that the Board needed to be mindful of reserve requirements and maintain the financial flexibility to respond to future challenges.
- Stated that the College needs to be intentional about enrollment growth, including reaching underserved markets, and should consider modest tuition increases while remaining one of the lowest-cost options.
- Emphasized that the Board needs to balance the burden on the taxpayers with what we need to do for our students and employees, while maintaining a sustainable budget for future years.
- Supported intentional reductions over time, rather than making a larger reduction that could require the College to increase the mill levy in future years.
- Expressed concern about making significant reductions before the College has a full year of operating data from the downtown center, given the uncertainty surrounding its operating costs and the College's future financial position.
- Emphasized the importance of growing enrollment and other revenues, including modest tuition and fee increases, to reduce the College's reliance on property taxes over time.
- Voted No on both the 1.0-mill and 1.25-mill reduction motions, maintaining her preference for the revenue neutral rate.

Trustee Johnson

- Expressed concern about the uncertainty surrounding the downtown center, including its operating costs, as well as potential changes in State funding.

- Indicated that she was comfortable with the revenue neutral option or no more than a 1.0-mill reduction, given the financial uncertainties facing the College and the need to be cautious about future expenses.
- Seconded the motion proposed by Trustee Scruggs Andrieu to establish the FY 2027 mill levy at a 1.0-mill reduction, or 22.642 mills. She declined to withdraw her second so that her position would remain on record, and the motion proceeded to a roll call vote.
- Voted Yes on the 1.0-mill reduction motion, which failed 2-5, and No on the 1.25-mill reduction motion.

Vice Chair Kump

- Provided additional context regarding the Finance Committee's extensive discussion, noting that the committee had considered a range of mill levy reductions, including reductions of up to 1.5 mills, while weighing taxpayer relief against the College's long-term financial stability.
- Stated that 1.25 mills was a reasonable compromise, providing a meaningful reduction while creating a manageable challenge within the approximately $98 million budget.
- Emphasized the importance of reducing the College's reliance on property tax revenue over time, including through enrollment growth, increasing other revenues, and managing expenses.
- Supported a gradual and intentional approach that would provide taxpayer relief without creating a situation in which the College would need to make a significant mill levy increase in a future year.
- Seconded Trustee Ash's motion to establish the FY 2027 mill levy at a 1.25-mill reduction, or 22.392 mills.
- Voted Yes, contributing to the 4-3 approval of the 1.25-mill reduction.

Trustee Sanchez

- Participated in the discussion regarding the College's financial position, reserves, and available revenue sources.
- Asked about the status of matured certificates of deposit. Dr. Schulte reported that two CDs had matured in July and that the Finance Committee would review the matter.
- Supported the 1.25-mill reduction, stating his position through his vote.
- Voted Yes on the 1.25-mill reduction motion, which was approved 4-3.

Trustee Scruggs Andrieu

- Supported providing taxpayer relief through a mill levy reduction while recognizing the need to maintain the College's financial stability and ability to meet its obligations.
- Proposed a 1.0-mill reduction, establishing the FY 2027 mill levy at 22.642 mills.
- Initially indicated that she was willing to withdraw the 1.0-mill motion; however, Trustee Johnson declined to withdraw her second because she wanted her position on the record. Following legal counsel's guidance that the motion should proceed, the Board conducted a roll call vote.
- The 1.0-mill reduction motion failed on a 2-5 roll call vote, with Trustees Johnson and Scruggs Andrieu voting Yes.
- Subsequently supported Trustee Ash's 1.25-mill reduction, establishing the FY 2027 mill levy at 22.392 mills, and voted Yes on the motion, which passed 4-3.

The Board approved a 1.25-mill reduction in the FY 2027 mill levy, setting it at 22.392 mills. Following the Board's action, Dr. Schulte stated that administration would proceed with development of the FY 2027 budget, including identifying necessary expenditure reductions, efficiencies, and potential reserve utilization. He further clarified that the remaining agenda items concerning the **Notice of Public Hearing on Mill Levy Rate for FY 2027** and the **Notice of Public Hearing on FY 2027 Budget** would proceed based on the Board's mill levy action and did not require separate Board approval. The budget hearing and certification process would proceed according to the established timeline, with the budget to be returned to the Board the following month.

- Approval of the **Notice of Public Hearing on Mill Levy Rate for FY 2027**. Presented by Dr. Patrick Schulte, Vice President of Finance and Operations.
  - This item was incorporated into the discussion above regarding the Draft Budget and Mill Levy Rate Scenarios for FY 2027, which was approved by roll call vote. As a result of the Board's action, the Notice of Public Hearing on Mill Levy Rate for FY 2027 was authorized for publication.

- Approval of the **Notice of Public Hearing on FY 2027 Budget**. Presented by Dr. Patrick Schulte, Vice President of Finance and Operations.
  - This item was incorporated into the discussion above regarding the Draft Budget and Mill Levy Rate Scenarios for FY 2027, which was approved by roll call vote. As a result of the Board's action, the Notice of Public Hearing on FY 2027 Budget was authorized for publication.

19. **Adjournment:** Chair Hoskins Sutton thanked the Trustees for their robust discussion. Vice Chair Kump expressed appreciation to the Trustees, acknowledging that the discussion involved difficult decisions and stating that he understood and appreciated each Trustee's perspective. Trustee Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Kump seconded the motion. **The Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Chairperson, Linda Hoskins Sutton

Secretary, Sheryl Brownell