



Monroe Community College Board of Trustees Minutes

Monday, October 5, 2026
MCC Downtown Campus, High Falls A/B
4:00 pm

Mission: Monroe Community College transforms lives and communities, fostering the success of diverse students through affordable and innovative academic, career, technical, and workforce development programs. Our shared work inspires and champions excellence in higher education and builds global engagement and understanding.

Present: Allen K. Williams, Chair
Gladys Pedraza-Burgos, Secretary
John B. Baynes
Angelica Perez-Delgado
Rusty Smetanyak, Student Trustee
Tashanda Thomas
Grace S. Tillinghast, Chair, Nominating Committee
Connie O. Walker, Esq., Chair, Risk Management Committee

Dr. DeAnna R. Burt-Nanna, President
Linda M. Hall, Executive Assistant, Board of Trustees

Excused: Carla M. Palumbo, Esq., Vice Chair and Chair, Personnel and Programs Committee
Dale R. Rehkopf II, Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee

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Introduction and Opening Remarks

Allen K. Williams, Chair, Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order, and a quorum was established at 4:01 pm.

Consent Agenda

The following items were proposed to be adopted and approved by consent:

Board of Trustees

- Approves the Minutes from the August 3 Board Meeting

Finance & Facilities

- Operating disbursements totaled \$9,867,748.90 for the month of July 2026, subject to final audit. (A detailed listing is available upon request.)
- Accept the Interim Financial Report as of July 31, 2026
- Purchases of items over \$20,000 as listed for the month of July 2026
- Approves the MCC Foundation's recommendation that the newly renovated Optical Systems Technology Microcredential Laboratory in Building 9 of the Brighton Campus be known as the Bank of America Optical Systems Technology Microcredential Laboratory as of October 5, 2026
- Approves the MCC Foundation's recommendation that Monroe A and Monroe B located within the Warshof Conference Center in the R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center on the Brighton Campus be known as the Michael A. Krupnicki Commons as of October 5, 2026

Personnel & Programs

- Adopts the "Posthumous Degree Policy"
- Adopts and ratifies a Separation Agreement, as executed on August 6, 2026, between the College and a particular employee.
- Approves the Consent Calendar

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Monroe Community College adopt the consent agenda effective October 5, 2026. (T10-2026)

MOTION was made and seconded that the above resolution be adopted.
Motion was carried unanimously.

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Student Success

- Student Testimonial by Joel Ford
- Student Government Association Shared Governance Update – Gona Abdullah
- Student Trustee Shared Governance Update – Rusty Smetanyak
- Student Success Dashboard with Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Measurements
 - William Dixon, Chief Data Officer and AVP, Institutional Research and Assessment

College Updates

- Monroe Community College Foundation Report – Chair, Marty Birmingham
- Shared Governance Updates
 - Linda M. Hall, Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees, called on the shared governance groups for their updates. The following groups shared an update:
 - Faculty Senate – Julie Babulski
 - Support Staff Planning Council – written report
- Presentation: Annual Sexual Harassment Training
 - Calvin Gantt, Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Belonging and Executive Director, Downtown Campus
- Presentation: New Website Update
 - Christine Casalnuovo-Adams, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management
- Selected Executive Leadership Team Updates
 - Dr. Robin Cole Jr., Economic & Workforce Development & Career Technical Education
 - Dr. Calvin Gantt, Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Belonging and Executive Director, Downtown Campus
 - Dr. Michael Jacobs, Provost & Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
 - Dr. Craig Ross, CFO/Vice President, Administrative Services
 - Gretchen Wood, Vice President, Institutional Advancement and Executive Director, MCC Foundation
- Joint Finance and Operations Report
 - Dale R. Rehkopf II, Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee
 - Dr. Craig Ross, CFO/Vice President, Administrative Services
- President's Update
 - Administrative Update
 - Administrative Shared Governance Report

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College Updates (continued)

- Union Updates
 - Linda M. Hall, Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees, called on the union groups for their updates. The following groups shared an update:
 - Faculty Association – Amanda Colosimo
 - CSEA – written report

Information Items

Finance and Facilities

- CIP Status Report as of September 10, 2026
- Grants Report from August 4, 2026 to September 10

Personnel and Programs

- None

Board of Trustees

- Bios
- Staff Recognition

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Summary

- Chair Williams gaveled in the meeting at 4:01 pm.
- Chair Williams recognized those who received NYCCT awards this year: Trustees Pedraza-Burgos and Tillinghast, the Rochester Area Dealers Association and Alumni Debbie Stamps.
- Student Joel Ford provided his testimonial. The Board of Trustees and President Burt-Nanna thanked Joel for sharing his story.
- Student Government Association (SGA) President Gona Abdullah presented on behalf of SGA. Since the start of the semester, SGA has remained actively involved in campus life through leadership training, the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, voter registration and civic engagement efforts, Constitution Day programming, and volunteering at the opening of the Sydor Optics Advanced Technology Center. Looking ahead, SGA is focused on increasing student engagement, improving campus signage, and supporting enrollment growth among underrepresented communities.
- Student Trustee Rusty Smetanyak reported he attended the 72nd Annual Conference for Community Colleges in Saratoga Springs, where he gained insight into board governance, accreditation, college funding, and the role of trustees while connecting with representatives from community colleges across New York. A major highlight was being elected SUNY Student Assembly Community College Representative. In this role, he will advocate for community college students across SUNY, strengthen communication among campuses, and ensure student voices are represented at the SUNY level.
- William Dixon, Chief Data Officer and AVP, Institutional Research and Assessment, provided an update on Enrollment Trends and Fall 2026 Estimates. This meeting highlighted the Fall 2026 census, who is counted in the census, and end-of-term projections.
- Marty Birmingham, Board Chair, MCC Foundation, gave the MCC Foundation report. Chair Birmingham highlighted the grand opening of the Sydor Optics Advanced Technology Center. In addition to celebrating the Sydor family, they celebrated the Gene Haas Foundation's \$1M contribution to the Tooling & Machining Program, the Rochester Automobile Dealers Association and local dealers' \$1M gift, and S-P-I-E, Davenport Hatch and Pike Construction's naming of labs and classrooms within the space. On August 19, the dedication ceremony for the Emerson U. and Vernita Fullwood Academic Center was held. Chair Birmingham shared three new endowed scholarships: Grissing Family Endowed Scholarship for Engineering Science and Physics; Frederick S. Cohn, MD and Janice Campbell Loss, NP Endowed Scholarship for Radiologic Technology; and the H. David and Angie Chamberlain Endowed Baseball Scholarship. In the past fiscal year, the Foundation transferred a total of \$5.7M to the College. The 35th Annual Salute to Excellence is scheduled for November 18. The Salute to Excellence Award will be presented to Lori Van Dusen, and the MCC Alumni Hall of Fame inductees are: LaShay D. Harris '03, Reverend Julius D. Jackson, Jr. '96, Mark J. Pastorella '09, Kristin M. Scheible, M.D. '91.
- Faculty Senate President Julie Babulski noted they began the academic year focused on strengthening engagement, collaboration, and shared governance. Senate members were encouraged to actively participate, communicate with their constituencies, and contribute to college initiatives. A key goal this year is rebuilding community within the Senate, highlighted by the return to fully in-person meetings. Senators also played an active role in discussions about MCC's strategic plan, using a SOAR framework to identify institutional strengths, opportunities,

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aspirations, and desired outcomes. Key themes included student support, diversity, shared governance, community connections, alumni engagement, and workforce alignment. In addition, Senate continues its regular governance work in curriculum, academic policy, administrative searches, professional development, and program review. As the year progresses, the Senate aims to serve as a collaborative forum to address challenges, share ideas, celebrate successes, and help shape MCC's future.

- Support Staff Planning Council provided a written report.
- Divisional highlights were shared with the Board and delivered by selected members of the President's Executive Leadership Team.
- CFO and VP of Administrative Services Craig Ross gave the Joint Finance and Operations Report. Dr. Ross provided a status update on the July results, highlighting enrollment, revenues, expenses and fund balance.
- President Burt-Nanna began her report by extending gratitude and recognition to the Trustees, employees and students. President Burt-Nanna thanked the Faculty and Staff for making the Sydor Optics Advanced Technology Center grand opening event a success and thanked the Trustees who attended the event. Congratulations was also given to the NYCCT award recipients mentioned by Chair Williams and to Dr. Alexis Vogt, Engineering Technology, for being chosen by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) for its 2026 Northeast Regional Faculty award. Congratulations were also extended to those approved by the Board for appointments, reappointments, promotions, title changes, and retirements. Clayton Jones was welcomed as the Executive Director, Government Relations. Other highlights included acknowledging and thanking employees for a sixth year of enrollment growth, sustained improvement in student retention and rates of graduation, and reversing basic needs insecurities. A delegation of MCC Trustees participated in the launch of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program's Presidents & Trustees Collaborative in Washington, D.C. The initiative is designed to strengthen board governance and support the President's work in advancing economic mobility and workforce development. The work is unbridling talent throughout the community. Trustees were encouraged to continue participating in upcoming virtual sessions, which will help inform MCC's strategic planning and governance efforts over the next eight months. Recognition was given to the Strategic Planning Leadership Team (SPLT) and the engagement with the Board of Trustees who contributed their time and insights in the development of the strategic Plan. Trustees will receive a first read at the June 2027 meeting of the Board in anticipation of the Board's approval during its August 2027 public meeting.
- President Burt-Nanna's shared governance report highlighted that at the start of the fall semester, the President and Executive Leadership Team met with leaders from the Student Government Association and Faculty Senate as part of ongoing shared governance discussions. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest and incorporate student and employee perspectives into college decision-making. The administration expressed appreciation for the contributions of shared governance groups and labor partners, emphasizing the value of collaboration, expertise, and open dialogue in supporting MCC and its stakeholders.
- Faculty Association President Amanda Colosimo reported on behalf of the Faculty Association. President Colosimo highlighted MCC's recent growth and achievements, including increased enrollment and the new Advanced Technology Center, are being driven by faculty and staff who are facing staffing shortages, recruitment challenges, and growing workloads. The Faculty Association emphasized that continued success will require greater investment in people through

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competitive compensation, adequate staffing, and resources to prevent burnout and better support students. Chair Williams responded to President Colosimo, displayed a SUNY slide, and emphasized the need to partner as advocates for increased state funding, to which President Colosimo agreed.

- CSEA provided a written report.
- Chair Williams expressed his gratitude in recognition of the work being done every day by MCC employees. The next College Forum will be held on November 5. The Board looks forward to these opportunities to hear from college employees.
- The Board meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gladys Pedraza-Burgos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gladys Pedraza-Burgos
Secretary, Board of Trustees