



Monroe Community College Board of Trustees Minutes

Monday, February 2, 2026

MCC Brighton Campus, Monroe 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
Carla M. Palumbo, Esq., Vice Chair and Chair, Personnel and Programs Committee
Gladys Pedraza-Burgos, Secretary
Angelica Perez-Delgado
Dale R. Rehkopf II, Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee
Tashanda Thomas
Connie O. Walker, Esq., Chair, Risk Management Committee
Parker Werven, Student Trustee

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

Excused: John B. Baynes
Grace S. Tillinghast

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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 4:00 pm.

- Presentation - Annual Audit:
 - Andrew Kelly, Principal, Bonadio and Co., LLP
 - Jonathan Miller, Partner, Bonadio and Co., LLP

Consent Agenda

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

Board of Trustees

- Minutes of the December 8, Board Workshop and Meeting; September 30, and December 3, Risk Management Committee Meetings

Finance & Facilities

- Operating disbursements totaled \$10,998,371.51 for the month of November 2025, subject to final audit. (A detailed listing is available upon request.)
- Accept the Interim Financial Reports as of November 30, 2025
- Purchases of items over \$20,000 as listed for the month of November 2025
- Accept the Annual Audit of Monroe Community College for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2025, as conducted by Bonadio & Co., LLP
- Approves MCC Foundation's recommendation that the Alternative Fuel Automotive Lab within the Sydor Optics Advanced Technology Lab be named the Alternative Fuel Lab presented by the Rochester Cadillac Dealers Advertising Association as of February 2, 2026.
- Approves MCC Foundation's recommendation that the Toyota Automotive Lab within the Sydor Optics Advanced Technology Lab be named the Toyota Lab sponsored by the Rochester Area Toyota Dealers as of February 2, 2026.

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Finance & Facilities (continued)

- Approves MCC Foundation's recommendation that the Multi-Manufacturer Automotive Lab within the Sydor Optics Advanced Technology Lab be named the Multi-Manufacturer Lab sponsored by Ford, Honda, Hyundai, Nissan, and Subaru and their Rochester Area Dealers as of February 2, 2026.
- Approves MCC Foundation's recommendation that the General Motors Automotive Lab within the Sydor Optics Advanced Technology Lab be named the General Motors Automotive Lab sponsored by the Rochester Area Chevrolet Dealers as of February 2, 2026.
- Approves MCC Foundation's recommendation that the Automotive Entrance of the Sydor Optics Advanced Technology Lab be named the Rochester Automobile Dealers Association Wing as of February 2, 2026.

Personnel & Programs

- Anti-Hazing Policy
- Third-Party Provider Policy
- Approves the Academic Calendars for years 2027-2028 and 2028-2029
- Approves the Consent Calendar

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Monroe Community College adopt the consent agenda effective February 2, 2026. (T01-2026)

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

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Student Success

- Student Testimonial by Zazie Weldgen
- Student Government Association Update
- Student Trustee Update
- 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
- 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
- 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
 - Connie O. Walker, Esq., Trustee, Finance and Facilities Committee
 - Dr. Craig Ross, CFO/Vice President, Administrative Services
- President's Update
 - Administrative Shared Governance Update
- 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 – Bethany Gizioni
 - CSEA – written report

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Information Items

Finance and Facilities

- CIP Status Report as of January 12, 2026
- Grants Report from November 14, 2025 to January 8, 2026

Personnel and Programs

- SUNY Corning Jointly Registered Optical Systems A.A.S. Program

Board of Trustees

- Biographies
- Staff Recognition

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Summary

- Chair Williams gavelled in the meeting at 4:00 pm.
- Andrew Kelly and Jonathan Miller, from Bonadio and Co., LLP, presented the annual audit.
- MCC Alumna Zazie Weldgen provided her testimonial. The Board of Trustees and President Burt-Nanna thanked Zazie for sharing her story.
- Student Government Association President Jalisia Burno presented on behalf of the Student Government Association (SGA). As a result of the student survey on how students prefer to receive campus news and media, a dedicated tile will be created on the MyMCC platform. Members of the SGA will attend Advocacy Day in Albany on February 4. In prep for that event, they met with Government Relations Consultant Andres Pazmino and Provost Michael Jacobs. This will be a great opportunity to advocate for increased funding, specifically for community colleges.
- Student Trustee Parker Werven gave his report. Trustee Werven served as a co-chair for the Student-to-Student Communication Committee. He worked with Colin Canfield, Specialist for Instructional Technologies, to bring their survey research to life and a tile was programmed on the MCC campus home menu. Trustee Werven will attend Advocacy Day on February 4 in Albany to advocate for funding for community colleges and will attend the ACCT National Legislative Summit in early February to advocate for community colleges at the Federal level.
- William Dixon, Chief Data Officer and AVP, Institutional Research and Assessment, provided an update on the Student Success Dashboard and Key Performance Indicator Measurements. Highlights from this meeting included data sources, predictors of success, current student success rates, comparisons with other SUNY Community Colleges, and the factors that drive success.
- Gretchen Wood, Vice President, Institutional Advancement and Executive Director, MCC Foundation, gave the MCC Foundation report. VP Woods highlighted a \$1M investment led by the Rochester Automobile Dealers Association, which shows strong confidence in the critical role MCC plays in preparing the region's skilled workforce. Five spaces will be named as a part of this investment, which were voted on in today's Board agenda. Also shared was the establishment of the Dr. Christopher Shields Memorial Endowed Scholarship. The Gold Star Gala will take place on Saturday, April 25, at the Country Club of Rochester. The theme is the Monaco Grand Prix. The MCC Foundation has completed a semi-annual transfer to the College of \$850K in scholarship support and \$470K for program support. The MCC Foundation's total support to the College for this fiscal year is expected to be around \$5M.
- Faculty Senate President Julie Babulski gave the Faculty Senate report. President Babulski highlighted the work of the committees. The appropriate committees are working on proposed reorganizations, program and policy review, and aligning courses and programs with SUNY's updated General Education Framework. Broader institutional initiatives include Strategic Planning Initiatives, Academic Momentum efforts, Title II compliance and

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the DEI plan. The Senate also approved three resolutions from the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and President Babulski attended their Winter Plenary.

- 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.
- Trustee Connie Walker and CFO and VP of Administrative Services Craig Ross gave the Joint Finance and Operations Report. Dr. Ross provided a status update on the Voluntary Compliance Plan.
- President Burt-Nanna congratulated Trustee Tashanda Thomas on receiving the United Way 2025 Rodney A. Young Community Service Award and provided commendations to the MCC employees who were approved for appointments, reappointments and promotions. President Burt-Nanna welcomed the new Executive Director, Human Resources and Organizational Development, Fernan Cepero. The site evaluation team from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education will be on campus for a routine visit, which occurs on an 8-year cycle, for the College's reaffirmation of accreditation in March. The President and MCC colleagues look forward to partnering with the Trustees to host and engage with the team during their visit and anticipate a favorable outcome from the College. The College continues to monitor federal actions that could affect its operations, employees, and students, especially during a period of national uncertainty. Last month, the federal government reversed course from the "Dear Colleague" letter and affirmed the legality and importance of DEI—aligning with SUNY's longstanding values of inclusiveness and compliance with federal and state law. Pending House approval, the current Senate proposal preserves key funding sources vital to MCC students, including Federal Financial Aid, Maximum PELL grant awards, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Student work-study funding, and the Child Care Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program, which funds a significant portion of the College's childcare operations. These resources help students meet basic needs and support MCC's enrollment and financial stability. Enrollment trends continue to be positive, Fall enrollment increased 5.8% over the previous year and Spring projections indicate Spring 2026 enrollment will increase 3.6% over the prior year. Thanks were given to those who planned and supported the well-attended annual Western New York legislative advocacy breakfast hosted by MCC on January 22, where MCC made a compelling case for additional funding to support our campus and statewide needs. Trustees Williams, Pedraza-Burgos and Werven will travel along with the President to Washington DC for the American Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) National Legislative Summit to elevate MCC's Federal policy "ask" to congressional leaders. President Burt-Nanna will also represent MCC during the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) inaugural "Convening on Seeding America's Workforce Talent Pipeline." Conversations will focus on advanced manufacturing, bioscience, cybersecurity/IT, and health care. The President attended the American Association of Community Colleges Workforce Development Institute (WDI) in New Orleans from January 27-30, along with VP Cole and served on the panel for the opening plenary session titled "Resilient by Design" which focused on the community colleges' response to complex external changes. The presentation was the lead story entitled, "It's all about jobs," published

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in AACC's national publication, Community College Daily. Thanks were provided to the Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty Senate, and Support Staff Planning Council for their positive contributions to preserving and strengthening shared governance at the college.

- Faculty Association President Bethany Gizzi gave the Faculty Association report. The FA after holiday party raised \$2,000 in support of the FA Follow Your Dream and the Matthew Hachee Memorial Scholarships. The scholarships will open to students in a few weeks and will be awarded in May. The FA has been partnering with HR and the Lawley group to address concerns with the transition to the new pharmacy benefit manager ProAct. Members of the FA Legislative Committee will participate in a legislative breakfast organized by NYSUT and meet with statewide representatives at their local offices to focus on advocacy for community college funding. Proud to report that the American Federation of Teachers led the fight, which led to the government rescinding their "Dear Colleague" letter, which is a win for unions who are leading the way in defending education, civil rights, and equity. NYSUT was awarded \$1.1M to support the Many Threads, One Fabric Implicit Bias Training Program and to launch a statewide Safe Zone training initiative to address the LGBTQ plus community. President Gizzi was asked to develop the statewide training, as well as the train-the-trainers program. Four MCC colleagues will be certified as Safe Zone trainers.
- CSEA provided a written report.
- Carla Palumbo, Vice Chair and Chair of the Personnel and Programs Committee, reaffirmed the Board's support for the Academic Freedom and Student Success policies and their continued relevance and application to carrying out MCC's mission.
- Chair Williams expressed his gratitude in recognition of the work being done every day by MCC employees and announced there will be two College Forums held in the Spring semester on March 12 and May 13. The Board looks forward to these opportunities to hear from college employees.
- The Board meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Gladys Pedraza-Burgos
Secretary, Board of Trustees