

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT #512
COUNTIES OF COOK, KANE, LAKE, AND McHENRY, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Board Meeting of Wednesday, May 21, 2025

I CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 was called to order by Chair Kelley on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Wojcik Amphitheater.

Member Meyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II ROLL CALL

Present: Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola, Members Diane Hill, Eric Knox, James Meyer, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, Bill Kelley

Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. Yolonda Barnes, Dean, Business and Social Science; Mike Barzacchini, Director, Marketing Services; Dr. Dennis Baskin, Associate Provost of Student Affairs; Amber Blake, Manager, Internal Communications; Tony Butler, Director of Risk Management; Orlando Cabrera, Technical Support Specialist; Tom Cassell, Senior Director of Business Development and Event Operations; Amanda Duval-Norwood, Chief Human Resource Officer; Marcia Frank, Senior Director - Innovation and Development; Rob Galick, EVP Finance and Administrative Services; Bob Grapenthien, Controller; Erika Hartman, Administrative Coordinator; Bob Hayley, Assistant Controller; Dr. Joanne Ivory, Dean of Career and Technical Programs; Dr. Tamara Johnson, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Jeff Julian, Chief of Staff and Vice President of External Affairs; Njambi Kamoche, Dean Resources for Learning; Dr. Derek Leiter, Dean of Health Careers; Nancy Medina, Executive Director of Facilities Management; Kim Pohl, Director of Communications; Dr. Avis Proctor, President; Colleen Rice, Executive Assistant; David Richmond, Faculty; Aisha Robinson, Interim Coordinator - Community Standards and Outreach; Darlene Schlenbecker, Vice President of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Michelé Smith, Vice President of Workforce Solutions; Brian Thomason, Director - Client Systems; Suzette Tolentino, Senior Director, Finance and Operations; Darice Trout, Senior Director, Workforce Solutions and Job Placement; Dr. Ruth Williams, Provost; Dr. Roderica Williams, Dean - Student Success and Retention; Riaz Yusuff, Chief Information Officer; Heather Zoldak, Chief Advancement Officer

Guests: Elaine Bovalis, Student; Amy Gerry, Student; Chris Gorman, Robbins Schwartz; Zale Holmes, Citizen; Ashley Honore, Student; Preye Indiamawei, Student; Laura Johnson, Citizen; Herb Johnson, Citizen; Tori Macek, Student; Amelie Pineda, Student; Priyanka Saroya, Student

III AGENDA APPROVAL

Member Mundt, Member Stack seconded, approval of the agenda.

Ayes: Members Diane Hill, Eric Knox, James Meyer, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, Bill Kelley

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

IV PRESENTATION

No presentation this month.

V STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Student Trustee Adekunbi Aransiola shared his excitement and goals for the year ahead. Having been at Harper College for a year, he expressed his commitment to enhancing the student experience and making the campus a more welcoming and inclusive place. He noted that these goals align closely with one of the draft objectives from the recent Strategic Planning Conference: cultivating an inclusive and supportive community that prioritizes holistic well-being for everybody. He also reflected on a conversation with Jeff Julian about the concept of “third spaces”—places outside of home, work, or school where people can feel a sense of belonging—and related this idea to Harper College, which he views as such a space for many students, including himself. He emphasized the unique perspective he brings as a student actively engaged with both peers and staff, offering insight into the real, day-to-day experiences on campus. He concluded his remarks by recalling a meaningful piece of advice from Dr. Proctor, who reminded him that sometimes others can see potential in you before you recognize it yourself. He wrapped up his report, expressing hope that those in the room would see the potential he brings to Harper in the year ahead.

VI FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Faculty Senate President David Richmond began by expressing gratitude to Trustee Johnson for his years of dedicated service to Harper College. On behalf of the faculty, he presented him with a small gift—a union hat and shirt—as a token of appreciation. He sincerely thanked Trustee Johnson and wished him the best in the future. Richmond then reflected on the conclusion of another successful academic year, highlighting the recent graduation ceremony as a standout event, calling it an unchallenged success. He praised the steady improvement of the event each year and noted the college's

positive momentum with the completion of a new strategic plan. Richmond closed his remarks by wishing the board a warm, safe, and happy summer.

VII PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Proctor began by thanking Trustee Johnson for his years of service and reflected on the recent commencement ceremony, where over 800 graduates participated from a class of more than 2,400. She highlighted meaningful moments—such as first-generation students receiving stoles, participation by Career Skills Institute and high school diploma completers, and heartfelt speeches by keynote Dr. Ruth Morales and Student Government Association President Kenneth Reyes. She praised faculty and staff for making the event impactful for students and families.

She also celebrated other year-end recognitions, including the academic honors convocation and faculty awards, and noted the positive energy that graduation season brings to campus. Dr. Proctor discussed the groundbreaking of the new Business and Social Sciences building, thanking teams involved in its planning and emphasizing community support.

On enrollment, she reported a 3.6% increase in summer FTE and a 2% rise in headcount, signaling continued positive trends. Legislatively, she expressed concern about proposed funding changes at the federal and state levels but also shared optimism about progress on legislation supporting community college bachelor's degrees, now gaining bipartisan support.

She closed by thanking the entire Harper community for a strong year and encouraged everyone to rest and recharge as they prepare for the next academic year.

VIII STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT

Accelerating Success:
Advancing Equity and
Completion through 8-
Week Courses

Dr. Proctor introduced Provost Dr. Ruth Williams and Associate Provost Dr. Kathleen Gorski emphasized the need to better serve Harper College's diverse student body through more flexible and innovative curriculum delivery. She noted that eight-week courses are a central strategy to accelerate success, improve equity, and support the college's HLC quality initiatives.

Dr. Williams and Dr. Gorski explained how the eight-week course model enhances student outcomes, supports equity, and aligns with institutional goals. By allowing students to take fewer classes at a time while earning full credit loads, the format reduces stress, improves focus, and maintains academic momentum. It also offers greater flexibility for students managing work and personal commitments.

The initiative is part of Harper's SOAR Student Success Framework and its HLC Quality Initiative. A cross-functional team formed in spring 2023 recommended clearer student communication, faculty development, and expanded instructional support. These efforts have since been integrated into Harper's strategic planning, with a focus on career programs that can be delivered fully in the eight-week format.

Dr. Gorski shared data showing strong results: 58% of students in eight-week courses were first-generation, and the model attracted a diverse mix by age, race, and gender. Equity gaps for first-generation and Pell-eligible students were nearly or entirely eliminated, and gaps for Black and Hispanic students were significantly reduced. Students in the eight-week model also had higher course success rates and fall-to-fall persistence.

Looking ahead, the college will expand faculty training, improve advising and transfer pathways, and continue building eight-week programs. The presentation reinforced that this model is a proven, effective approach to advancing student success and equity.

In response to Trustee Stack, Dr. Williams noted that while transportation wasn't directly studied in relation to eight-week course success, it's a relevant factor. She agreed to explore data from Harper's Lyft program to see if there's a connection.

In response to Trustee Mundt, Dr. Williams clarified that the data reflects eight-week courses only, not the Fast Track program, which is mostly online and includes additional support. She noted that further analysis would be needed to break down the eight-week data by in-person vs. online delivery.

Trustees thanked Dr. Williams and Dr. Gorski for an excellent presentation and expressed appreciation for how the eight-week course program adds value to students and the college as a whole.

IX PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

X CONSENT AGENDA

Member Hill moved, Member Stack seconded, approval of the Consent Agenda.

Upon roll call for approval of the Consent Agenda, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Members Diane Hill, Eric Knox, James Meyer, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, Bill Kelley

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

The Consent Agenda included:

The minutes for April 23, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting, April 28, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting; accounts payable; student disbursements; payroll for April 4, 2025 and April 18, 2025; estimated payroll for May 2, 2025 and May 16, 2025; bid awards; requests for proposals; purchase orders; faculty/administrative appointments; board travel; approval of travel expense exceptions; Student Service Awards 2025, Review of Closed Minutes for Destruction, Resolution for Trustee Herb Johnson; monthly financial statements; board committee and liaison reports; grants and gifts status report; review of consortiums, cooperatives and State of Illinois contracts purchasing status report, personnel actions; as outlined in Exhibits X-A.1 through X-B.5.

Minutes April 23, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting, April 28, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting.

Fund Expenditures	Accounts Payable	\$5,041,158.23
	Student Disbursements	\$242,570.52

The payroll of April 4, 2025, in the amount of \$3,599,729.70 and April 18, 2025, in the amount of \$3,516,036.69; estimated payroll of May 2, 2025, in the amount of \$3,500,000.00 and May 16, 2025, in the amount of \$3,500,000.00.

Bid Awards	Ex. X-A.3.a	Accept bid and award contract for the FY 2025 HVAC Improvement Projects in Buildings A, B, D, and S to Quality Control Systems Inc., as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder in the total amount of \$438,604.00.00 including a base bid of \$389,640.00, 10% construction contingency of \$38,964.00, and Engineering Fee (Building S) of \$9,000.00, Reimbursables (estimate) of \$1,000.00 as provided in the Operations and Maintenance (Restricted) Fund budget and contained in the Buildings A & B PRV Station Replacement Project budget, the Building D Flash Tank Project, the Building S Upgrade Humidity Control Project budget, and the Capital Project Contingency budget.
	Ex. X-A.3.b	Accept bid and award contract for the Building L Make-up Air Unit Upgrade Project to Amber Mechanical Contractors Inc., as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder in the total amount of \$223,360.00

including a base bid of \$181,200.00, 10% construction contingency of \$18,120.00, engineering fee (DLR Group) of \$21,790.00 and reimbursables (estimate) of \$2,250.00 as provided in the Operations and Maintenance (Restricted) Fund budget and contained in the Building L HVAC Make-up Air Unit Upgrade Project budget.

- Ex. X-A.3.c Accept bid and award contract for the Building I Business and Social Sciences Building Project based on proposals and bids received from the following contractors:
- 02.1 – Building Demolition – American Demolition Corporation
 - 06.1 - General Trades – Pepper Construction Company
 - 23.1 – Mechanical – MG Mechanical Contracting, LCC
 - 26.1 – Electrical, Low Voltage, Fire Alarm and Security - McWilliams Electric Co. Inc.
 - 33.1 – Site Utilities - Everest Excavating Inc.
- and as the lowest responsible and responsive bidders in the total amount of \$3,292,729.00 including a base bid of \$1,888,440.00, general conditions fee of \$209,062.00, Pepper Construction management fee of \$741,924.00, CM fee (2.35%) of \$68,729.00, builders risk fee of \$4,008.00, bonds, fee, and insurance of \$81,227.00, and 10% contingency of \$299,339.00 as provided in the Operations and Maintenance (Restricted) Fund budget and contained in the Building I Business and Social Sciences Building Project budget.

Requests for Proposals Ex. X-A.4 There are no requests for proposals this month.

Purchase Orders Ex. X-A.5.a Approve a purchase order to Avotek to provide the furnishing and delivery of aviation maintenance trainers and training tools, in the amount of \$598,266.00, as provided in the Restricted Purposes Fund.

Faculty/Administrative Appointments Ex. X-A.6.a Approval of faculty appointments:

- LEAD Faculty Fellow (2nd Year) – Biology, Alex Pergams, 8/12/2025, \$66,856.00/year
- LEAD Faculty Fellow (2nd Year) – Music, Kirby Fellis, 8/12/2025, \$62,601.00/year
- LEAD Faculty Fellow (2nd Year) – English, Ashley Palmer, 8/12/2025, \$62,601.00/year

- Instructor – Chemistry, Melissa Illingworth, 8/12/2025, \$73,055.00/year
- Instructor – Earth Science, Jacqueline Cooney, 8/12/2025, \$60,778.00/year
- Instructor – Anthropology, Amaziah Finley, 8/12/2025, \$68,861.00/year
- Instructor – Economics, Golnoush Kazeminezhad, 8/12/2025, \$68,861.00/year
- Instructor – Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Kathleen Giesel, 8/12/2025, \$60,778.00
- Instructor – Mass Communication, Mark Zalewski, 8/12/2025, \$66,414.00
- Instructor – English, Nicole Mancha, 8/12/2025, \$64,479.00/year
- LEAD Faculty Fellow (1st Year) - English, Danilo Marin, 8/12/2025, \$59,008.00/year
- Instructor – Surgical Technology, Bridget Hoffenkamp, 8/12/2025, \$66,414.00/year
- Instructor – Speech/Theatre, Ilknur Ozgur, 8/12/2025, \$68,406.00/year

- Ex. X-A.6.b Approval of administrative appointments:
- Associate Dean, Career and Technical Programs, Courtney Bolhous, 6/2/2025, \$91,000.00/year

Board Travel	Approval of travel-related charges for the Board of Trustees, as presented in Exhibit X-A.7.
Travel Expense Exceptions	No travel expense exceptions, as presented in Exhibit X-A.8.
Student Service Awards 2025	Approval of the recommendation to recognize nominated Harper College students for their excellence in campus involvement and leadership for fall 2024 and spring 2025, as presented in Exhibit X-A.9.
Review of Closed Minutes for Destruction	Approval to review minutes of all closed meetings that have not yet been made available for public inspection as is practicable and determination of which, if any, may be made available for public inspection and/or whether the verbatim recordings thereof are approved for destruction under the Open Meetings Act, as presented in Exhibit X-A.10.
Resolution for Trustee Herb Johnson	Approval of the recommendation to honor Trustee Herb Johnson who served on the Board of Trustees for eight years and on the Harper

College Educational Foundation board for three and a half years, as presented in Exhibit X-A.11.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Mr. C. Herb Johnson was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2017, and served with distinction until 2025; and

Whereas he worked tirelessly in support of the 2018 capital referendum that resulted in funding for the University Center, the Business and Social Sciences Building and for needed campus infrastructure improvements; and

Whereas, Harper College successfully reaffirmed its accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission during his term as Trustee, completed renovations of two major buildings: The David K. Hill Family Library and the Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center, and with his thoughtful input helped develop the 2021 Campus Master Plan; and

Whereas, he steadfastly represented the Board of Trustees as the ICCTA/ACCT Alternate delegate and ensured that the economic vitality of the District was considered in Board decisions, and tirelessly supported students in all deliberations; and

Whereas he served on the Harper Educational Foundation Board of Directors from December 2013 to April 2017, and in 2021, he established the CH Johnson Memorial Scholarship to support Harper students; and

Whereas, being an ambassador and advocate for Harper College, he attended annual Commencement and Convocation ceremonies, Committee Meetings of the Whole, Board Retreats, ACCT Meetings, and numerous College and Educational Foundation Receptions and Events. Now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Harper College honors the accomplishments of Mr. C. Herb Johnson as he served honorably and with distinction as a Trustee and friend. We thank him for all his contributions to Harper College and its community.

Attested the Twenty-first day of May in the Year 2025,

By:

William F. Kelley, Chair
Board of Trustees

Dr. Avis Proctor, President
Harper College

Monthly Financial
Statements

Review of monthly financial statement as outlined in Exhibit X-B.1.

Board Committee and
Liaison Reports

Alumni Liaison Report:

Trustee Knox reported that the nomination period for the Distinguished Alumni Awards closed in early May, with 19 nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award and nine for the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award. The awards ceremony will be held in early November. Alumni Relations engaged with over 150 graduates during Destination Graduation events, providing alumni gifts and information. All graduates participating in commencement received a Harper College Alumni mini flashlight. This summer, over 2,400 graduates will receive a postcard welcoming them to the alumni community and encouraging them to join the alumni network. Additionally, more than 1,000 Harper football alumni will receive a mailing asking them to update their contact information. Plans are underway for a football alumni reunion on campus in spring or summer 2026.

Foundation Liaison Report:

Trustee Hill shared that the Harper Professional Advisory Committee will host a free retirement planning seminar on June 5, with 42% of registrants being alumni or employees. The Foundation held a strategic planning retreat on May 20, attended by 28 board and committee members. Facilitated by Bank of America's Philanthropic Services team, the session covered stakeholder feedback, the Foundation's mission, values, and long-term direction. For the 2025–26 cycle, the Foundation received 18 Community Impact Fund grant submissions. Recipients will be announced in June, with \$50,000 allocated and a formal ceremony planned for early July. The Foundation's quarterly board meeting will take place on June 10, followed by a joint fellowship event with the Board of Trustees at 6 p.m. in the Wojcik Conference Center dining room. This is the second year of the fellowship event, created to strengthen board engagement.

ICCTA/ACCT Liaison Report:

Trustee Meyer reported that on May 7, he and Jeff Julian attended the ICCTA Lobby Day in Springfield to advocate for CCB, dual credit, and transfer credit. Harper's consultants coordinated meetings with state representatives and senators, all of whom expressed strong support for the legislation. Trustee Meyer praised Jeff Julian's leadership and knowledge during the visits. Additionally, Trustee Meyer served as a judge for ICCTA awards, reviewing numerous submissions for Outstanding Adjunct Faculty, Outstanding Full-Time Faculty, and the Business Industry Partnership Award, with winners to be announced at the June ICCTA Conference.

Chair Kelley also shared that he participated in a webinar with Dr. Proctor and other board leaders discussing federal initiatives impacting

colleges, including threats to academic freedom and funding challenges. He emphasized the importance of collective advocacy and encouraged principled stands to protect institutional integrity.

Grants and Gifts Status Report Current status of operational public and private grants to the College, and status of cash donations and in-kind gifts to the Educational Foundation, as outlined in Exhibit X-B.3.

Review of Consortiums, Cooperative and State of Illinois Contracts Purchasing Status Report Review of the monthly Consortium, Cooperative and State of Illinois Contract Purchasing Status Report, as outlined in Exhibit X-B.4.

Personnel Actions Approval of personnel actions, as outlined in Exhibit X-B.5.

Appointments

Roderica Williams, AD, Dean of Student Success and Retention, Student Affairs, 4/7/2025, \$130,000.00/year

Poro Suzuki, CS, Office Assistant II, P/T, Career and Technical Programs, 4/7/2025, \$31,969.60/year

Kyle Roudebush, ICOPS, Community Service Officer II, Harper College Police, 4/21/2025, \$44,553.60/year

Position Changes

Lynda Baumgartner, SM, Interim Fast Track Manager, Business and Social Sciences, 4/10/2025, \$56,881.50/year

Jhon Rojas Quinjano, SM, Foreman - Custodial (3rd Shift), Operations Services, 4/20/2025, \$52,427.00/year

Azad Dillon, PT, Specialist - Purchasing, Purchasing, 4/7/2025, \$63,000.00/year

Amy Bennet, PT, Interim Perkins Grant Coordinator, Career and Technical Programs, 4/7/2025, \$64,954.50/year

Ogden Fitzgerald, ICOPS, Community Service Officer Supervisor, Harper College Police, 3/31/2025, \$58,240.00/year

Separations

Elizabeth Barahona, FAC, Lead Faculty Fellow, Liberal Arts, 7/31/2025, End of assignment, 1 year

E-B Garcias, FAC, Lead Faculty Fellow, Liberal Arts, 5/20/2025, End of assignment, 6 years 8 months

Maria Soltuzu, CS, One-Stop Phone Representative, One-Stop Center, 3/21/2025, Resignation, 2 years 7 months

Gabe Rivera, CS, Associate-Publishing and Distribution Services, Publishing and Distribution Services, 4/11/2025, Resignation, 7 months

XI NEW BUSINESS

Exhibit XI-A: Classified Staff Wage Rate Increases Member Stack moved, Member Hill seconded, to approve classified staff members, who are in good standing and employed prior to April 1,

2025, with the exception of classified staff members who are receiving a promotion that is effective on July 1, 2025, receive a three percent (3.0%) salary increase for Fiscal Year 2026. The salary schedule will increase by 2.0% for Fiscal Year 2026, as outlined in Exhibit XI-A.

Ayes: Members Diane Hill, Eric Knox, James Meyer, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, Bill Kelley

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

Exhibit XI-B: Supervisory
and Manager Salary
Increases

Member Robb moved, Member Knox seconded, to approve Supervisory Manager staff members, who are in good standing and employed prior to April 1, 2025, with the exception of Supervisory Manager staff members who are receiving a promotion that is effective on July 1, 2025, receive a three percent (3.0%) salary increase for Fiscal Year 2026. The salary schedule will increase by 2.0% for Fiscal Year 2026, as outlined in Exhibit XI-B.

Ayes: Members Diane Hill, Eric Knox, James Meyer, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, Bill Kelley

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

Exhibit XI-C: Second
Reading of Workplace
Consensual Relationships

Member Mundt moved, Member Stack seconded, to approve the second reading of Workplace Consensual Relationships, as outlined in Exhibit XI-C.

Ayes: Members Diane Hill, Eric Knox, James Meyer, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, Bill Kelley

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

Exhibit XI-D: Trustee
Emeritus Designation

Member Robb moved, Member Hill seconded, to approve the recommendation to designate Herb Johnson as Trustee Emeritus, as outlined in Exhibit XI-D.

Ayes: Members Diane Hill, Eric Knox, James Meyer, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, Bill Kelley

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

XII ANNOUNCEMENTS
BY CHAIR

Communications

No communications.

Calendar

The next Committee of the Whole Meeting will be Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Wojcik Amphitheater. The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Wojcik Amphitheater.

XIII OTHER BUSINESS

Member Knox motioned, Member Aransiola seconded, to enter closed session per 2CI of the Open Meetings Act at 6:53 p.m.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Members Diane Hill, Eric Knox, James Meyer, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, Bill Kelley

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

XIV CLOSED SESSION

Member Stack motioned, Member Robb seconded, to adjourn the closed session and re-enter the regular Board meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Members Diane Hill, Eric Knox, James Meyer, Walt Mundt, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, Bill Kelley

Nays: None

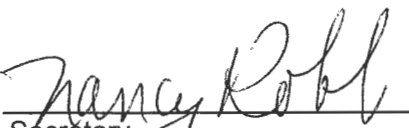
Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

XV ADJOURNMENT

Member Stack moved, Member Mundt seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

In a voice vote, motion carried at 8:23 pm.


Chair


Secretary