

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, September 17, 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 Bill Kelley on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Wojcik Conference Center, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois.

Member Meyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Also present: Robert Allare, Faculty; Mike Barzacchini, Director, Marketing Services; Dr. Dennis Baskin, Associate Provost of Student Affairs; Julie Bearden, Centers, Director of Campus Recreation; Amber Blake, Manager, Internal Communications; Tony Butler, Director of Risk Management; Orlando Cabrera, Technical Support Specialist; Dr. Scott Cashman, Senior Manager, Community, Career and Corporate Education; Amanda Duval-Norwood, Chief Human Resource Officer; Brenda Escutia, Manager, Scholarship and Special Projects; Marcia Frank, Senior Director - Innovation and Development; Bob Grapenthien, Controller; Michelle Harrell Dean, Resources for Learning; Erika Hartman, Administrative Coordinator; Bob Hayley, Assistant Controller; Dr. Tamara Johnson, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Jeff Julian, Chief of Staff and Vice President of External Affairs; Dr. Derek Leiter, Dean of Health Careers; Nancy Medina, Executive Director of Facilities Management; Kristyn Meyer, Associate Executive Director - Foundation and Major Gifts; Steve Petersen, Campus Architect; Kim Pohl, Director of Communications; Kimberley Polly, Dean Mathematics and Science; Dr. Avis Proctor, President; Colleen Rice, Executive Assistant - Board of Trustees; David Richmond, Faculty; Dr. Jaime Riewerts, Dean Liberal Arts; Darlene Schlenbecker, Vice President of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Michelé Smith, Vice President of Workforce Solutions and Strategic Alliances; Deann Surdo, Director - Outcomes Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness; Darice Trout, Senior Director, Workforce Solutions and Job Placement; Dr. Sandra Villanueva, Dean of Teaching and Learning; Dr. Sean Warren-Crouch, Promise Scholarship Program Manager; Bryan Wawzenek, Manager,

Communications; Dr. Roderica Williams, Dean - Student Success and Retention; Dr. Ruth Williams, Provost; Riaz Yusuff, Chief Information Officer; Heather Zoldak, Chief Advancement Officer

Guests: Dr. Judith Campbell, District 211; Melissa Cayer, Citizen; Phil Gerner, Robbins Schwartz; Erin Holmes, District 211; Patrick Mogge, District 214; Dr. Scott Rowe, District 214; Frank Wawrzyniak, Centers; Dr. Craig Winkelman, District 220

III AGENDA APPROVAL

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

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

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

IV PRESENTATION

College Now – Your Future Accelerated

Dr. Avis Proctor asked Provost Dr. Ruth Williams, Vice President of Workforce Solutions and Strategic Alliances Dr. Michelé Smith, and District 214 Superintendent Dr. Scott Rowe to present College Now – Your Future Accelerated, a new regional partnership that allows high school students to earn both a diploma and an associate degree while in high school. She acknowledged the leadership of superintendents from Districts 211, 214, and 220 and commended their collaboration in launching the program next fall.

Developed through the Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS), College Now reflects a shared regional goal of aligning pathways and expanding dual credit opportunities. The program enables eligible high school students to earn both a high school diploma and an Associate in Arts (AA) degree by graduation. Students apply during their sophomore year, begin college coursework at Harper in their junior year, and attend Harper full-time as seniors while remaining connected to their high school for lunch, afternoon classes, and extracurricular activities.

The presenters emphasized the importance of equity and consistency across districts, noting that all participating students complete the same application, meet the same eligibility requirements, and pay the same program cost - approximately \$1,000. Program costs are shared, with the majority covered by the school districts and Harper contributing 25% of tuition in alignment with existing agreements.

They also highlighted the program's affordability, intentional design, and the strength of the regional partnership that allowed for accelerated

development and launch. College Now reflects a commitment to expanding access, supporting readiness, and providing students with a meaningful head start toward postsecondary success.

In response to Trustee Stack, Dr. Williams stated that the program will begin with an AA degree, with plans to expand to additional degrees and certificate pathways in the future.

In response to Trustee Robb, Dr. Rowe stated that each district is targeting up to 50 students for the first year, though actual numbers may vary. The goal is to start small to ensure strong support and a smooth launch.

In response to Trustee Meyer, Dr. Williams stated that College Now participants are not eligible for the Promise Program, as students must choose one or the other. Dr. Proctor added that if Harper receives authorization to offer bachelor's degrees, the College will develop pathways to support students in completing a four-year degree.

Trustees praised the collaborative effort and highlighted the program's consistent, equitable design as a meaningful step toward expanding access for students.

V STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Student Trustee Adekunbi Aransiola provided an update on recent student activities at Harper, highlighting the success of the Hullabaloo event and the College's celebration of National Hispanic Serving Institutions Week, which featured multiple events including a visit from renowned choreographer Lyrik Cruz. Student Trustee Aransiola also noted the vibrant and inclusive atmosphere on campus in recent weeks. He also shared that he is currently gathering student feedback across various academic areas in preparation for a more detailed report to be presented in October.

VI FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Faculty Senate President David Richmond acknowledged the usual excitement that comes with the start of the academic year at Harper but noted that this year's energy has been tempered by difficult national issues affecting higher education, including discussions around mass deportations, funding cuts, and campus violence. He emphasized the importance of these ongoing conversations and expressed appreciation for the leadership and engagement of Dr. Proctor and the administration during this challenging time. He also highlighted that the College observed Constitution Day by hosting a program focused on the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, underscoring the continued relevance of civil rights in today's context.

VII PRESIDENT'S
REPORT

Dr. Proctor reflected on the strong start to the semester, noting both the vibrancy of student engagement and the challenges posed by broader societal events. She highlighted recent campus activities such as Hullabaloo, Constitution Day, and the kickoff of the College Now – Your Future Accelerated program, developed in partnership with NECSS. Dr. Proctor reported positive enrollment trends, including a 3.1% increase in headcount and strong retention, attributing the growth to a campus culture focused on belonging, in alignment with the College's strategic plan.

She also recapped recent external engagement, including a legislative breakfast with elected officials and a community celebration honoring Hoffman Estates Mayor William McLeod. On campus, the College commemorated the naming of the Martha Bell Gallery, recognizing Bell's philanthropic support and long-standing connection to Harper's arts community.

Dr. Proctor also acknowledged the recent passing of alumnus Charlie Kirk, expressing sympathy while recognizing the impact of such events on the campus community.

Addressing ongoing national concerns such as immigration enforcement, gun violence, and shifting federal funding for Hispanic Serving Institutions, Dr. Proctor emphasized the importance of unity, compassion, and mission-centered leadership. She thanked her leadership team and campus community for their continued resilience and announced an upcoming employee Q&A session to support open dialogue and shared problem-solving amid uncertainty.

VIII STUDENT SUCCESS
REPORT

Aspen Institute College
Excellence Program -
Unlocking Opportunity

Dr. Proctor asked Provost Dr. Williams to present an overview of Harper's recent acceptance into the Aspen Institute's prestigious Unlocking Opportunity initiative. This three-year commitment positions Harper among 55 colleges nationwide dedicated to transforming student success by focusing on access to and completion of high-opportunity programs leading to well paid jobs or bachelor's degree attainment.

Dr. Williams highlighted that this initiative addresses critical national challenges, including declining economic mobility, the shrinking number of jobs available to those with only a high school diploma, and barriers to equitable access for students in undervalued programs. She emphasized Harper's readiness for this transformation, citing alignment with the College's recently finalized strategic plan and ongoing reforms in student success models, program review, labor market responsiveness, and student support systems.

The project involves a comprehensive audit of Harper's credit portfolio, including certificates, transfer degrees, and applied science degrees, to identify strategies for modifying or discontinuing low-opportunity programs while expanding enrollment in high-opportunity pathways. Key leaders in the initiative include Director of Institutional Research Dr. Anna Strati, Dean of Business and Social Sciences Dr. Yolonda Barnes, CPE Program Coordinator Katie Thompson, and Senior Information Analyst Ron Serio, supported by a cross-functional working group.

Dr. Williams explained that data-driven strategies will focus on transfer, employment, and wage outcomes to ensure equitable access for all students, especially those historically underserved. Expected outcomes include improved post Harper success, enhanced reputation for student workforce outcomes, and sustained competitiveness.

Throughout the first year, Harper will receive ongoing support from the Aspen Institute through guidance documents, workshops, and data office hours. Following the kickoff meeting, the team expressed excitement about advancing this work to enhance student advancement rates.

In response to Trustee Mundt, Dr. Williams said low opportunity programs are identified using a living wage metric and a rubric from Aspen. The focus is on creating better pathways, like encouraging bachelor's completion, rather than cutting programs. She emphasized that the strategies will be targeted and data driven. Dr. Proctor added that local labor markets will shape how this is applied.

Trustees applauded the strategic, data-informed approach and acknowledged the initiative's potential to significantly improve student success and economic opportunities throughout the community.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

The Consent Agenda included:

The minutes for July 23, 2025 Board Workshop, August 13, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting, August 20, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting; accounts payable; student disbursements; payroll for July 25, 2025 and August 8, 2025; estimated payroll for August 22, 2025 and September 5, 2025; bid awards; requests for proposals; purchase orders; faculty/administrative appointments; board travel; approval of travel expense exceptions; 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, Faculty Tenure Status Report (1st Year Mid-Year Hire); as outlined in Exhibits X-A.1 through X-B.6.

Minutes

July 23, 2025 Board Workshop, August 13, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting, August 20, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting.

Fund Expenditures

Accounts Payable	\$5,878,136.87
Student Disbursements	\$71,429.94

The payroll of July 25, 2025, in the amount of \$3,462,816.80 and August 8, 2025, in the amount of \$2,833,605.01; estimated payroll of August 22, 2025, in the amount of \$3,600,000.00 and September 5, 2025, in the amount of \$3,600,000.00.

Bid Awards

Ex. X-A.3.a Accept bid and award contract to Semper Fi Landscaping Inc. for the 2025 Exterior Stair and Retaining Wall Maintenance Project, as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder in the total amount of \$666,930.00 including a base bid of \$606,300.00, and 10% construction contingency of \$60,630.00, as provided in the Operations and Maintenance (Restricted) Fund budget and contained in the 2025 Exterior Stair and Retaining Wall Maintenance Project budget and the 2026 Exterior Stair and Retaining Wall Maintenance Project budget.

Ex. X-A.3.b Accept bid and award contract to Arlington Construction Services Inc. for the Harper College Police Department Generator Project at Building B, as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder in the total amount of \$233,942.00 including a base bid of \$190,765.00, 10% construction contingency of \$19,077.00, base fee (DLR Group) of \$22,600.00, and reimbursables (estimate) of \$1,500.00 as provided in the Operations and

Maintenance (Restricted) Fund budget and contained in the Harper College Police Department Generator Project budget and Capital Project Contingency budget.

Ex. X-A.3.c Accept bid and award contract to Powerlink Electric LLC for the Building S Electrical Service Upgrade Project, as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder in the total amount of \$277,808.00 including a base bid of \$233,780.00, 10% construction contingency of \$23,378.00, base fee (DLR Group) of \$19,150.00, and reimbursables (estimate) of \$1,500.00 provided in the Operations and Maintenance (Restricted) Fund budget and contained in the Building S Electrical Service Upgrade Project budget and Capital Project Contingency budget balance.

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

Purchase Orders Ex. X-A.5.a Approve a purchase order to Studio GC for the professional services for the Learning and Career Center Storage Garage Project, in the amount of \$37,500.00, as provided in the Operations and Maintenance (Restricted) budget.

Ex. X-A.5.b Approve a purchase order to Studio GC for the professional services for the Learning and Career Center (LCC) Family/All-Gender Restroom Upgrades (LCC103/105) and the Underground Sewer Line Replacement Project, in the amount of \$76,500.00, as provided in the Operations and Maintenance (Restricted) budget.

Faculty/Administrative Appointments Ex. X-A.6.a There are no faculty appointments.

Ex. X-A.6.b Approval of administrative appointment:
i. Director of Infrastructure Services, Barry McGreer, October 6, 2025, \$140,000.00/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.

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

Board Committee and Liaison Reports Reports from liaison officers are provided as part of the Consent Agenda, as outlined in Exhibit X-B.2.

Alumni Liaison Report:

Trustee Knox reported on recent alumni engagement efforts. Alumni Relations, in partnership with the Health Careers Division, will host a Health Careers Alumni Reception on October 3. The Distinguished Alumni Awards will take place on November 6 at the Wojcik Conference Center, celebrating alumni achievements in career and community service. Trustee Knox also noted the launch of the new season of the Harper Talks Alumni Podcast, featuring alumni stories, including that of Jose and Maria Macias. Since its launch in 2020, the podcast has produced 47 episodes and is co-produced by WHCM Harper Radio and Alumni Relations.

Foundation Liaison Report:

Trustee Hill reported that the Foundation's quarterly board meeting on September 9 approved Bill Kuehn, an attorney from Barrington with Williston, McGibbon & Kuehn, as a new board member. The board learned about the Adult Educational Development Program and heard from donors and recipients of two new scholarships: the Roxann Bloom Memorial Endowed Scholarship and the Edgar and Lisa Alvarado Education Scholarship. The Foundation also approved its 2025-26 unmodified audit.

In August, the Foundation received notice of a planned gift from a Dental Hygiene alumna to support scholarships for dental hygiene students. The annual interactive Donor and Prospect Tour is September 25, featuring a Harper mystery theme with visits to the Crime Scene Lab, Center for Interprofessional Simulation and Innovation, and media labs.

ICCTA/ACCT Liaison Report:

Chair Kelley reported that he and Trustee Meyer attended an informative ICCTA meeting in Springfield. The event started with a trustee roundtable, which Chair Kelley finds consistently engaging. President of Illinois Central College Sheila Quirk-Bailey, previously with Harper, gave a strong presentation on the workforce ecosystem with promising insights.

A seminar on the impact of executive orders offered balanced, encouraging information. Chair Kelley suggested sharing some

presentations with the full board. A key highlight was the confirmed funding of Workforce Short-Term Pell Grants, which he called a major benefit for the College.

Chair Kelley also noted that he and Trustee Meyer will attend the ACCT conference in October with Dr. Proctor, where they are scheduled to deliver several presentations.

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

Luigi Cutolo, PT, Lab Assistant - GIS and Drone Technology, Business and Social Science, 8/11/2025, \$37,096.80/year

Michelle Bozikis, PT, Manager - Grants Administration, Strategic Alliances and Innovation, 8/11/2025, \$77,000.00/year

Emilio Trejo Espinoza, PT, Lab Assistant - HVAC - R, P/T, Career and Technical Programs, 8/11/2025, \$22,913.28/year

Jonathan Huffman, PT, Specialist - Technical Support, Client Systems, 8/11/2025, \$69,523.00/year

Ash Beane, PT, Staff Interpreter, P/T, Access and Disability Services, 8/11/2025, \$63,800.00/year

Holly Wittel, CS, Program Assistant, Health Careers, 7/28/2025, \$47,307.00/year

Megan Biewer, CS, Preschool Teacher, Early Childhood Laboratory School, 8/11/2025, \$39,000.00/year

Lloyd Russell, ICOPS, Police Officer, Harper College Police Department, 8/11/2025, \$63,128.00/year

Mark Anthony Everette-Aucapina, IEA, Custodian - 3rd Shift, Operations Services, 7/15/2025, \$37,772.80/year

Position Changes

Jessica Carracher, SM, Operations Coordinator, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, 7/28/2025, \$69,000.00/year

Daniel Miller, SM, Manager - Conference and Event Services, Events Management, 7/28/2025, \$93,574.00/year

Lynda Baumgartner, SM, Manager - Fast Track, Business and Social Science, 8/11/2025, \$89,013.00/year

Sheila Cheripka, PT, Specialist - Apprenticeship Program, Job Placement Resource Center, 7/28/2025, \$67,060.50/year

Prince Priyanshu, CS, Library Assistant I, P/T, Library Services, 8/11/2025, \$18,495.36/year

Separations

Thomas Cassell, ADM, Senior Director, Business Development and Events Operations, 9/30/2025, Retirement, 13 years 1 month
 Brittany Barber, SM, Manager, Cultural Center, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, 7/29/2025, Resignation, 3 years, 8 months
 Fernanda De Souza Ramos Kuzuhara, PI, Lab Assistant - GIS and Drone Technology, P/T, Business and Social Science, 7/27/2025, Resignation, 2 Years 6 Months
 Eftychia Abaco, PT, Analyst - Compliance, P/T, Institutional Research, 7/31/2025, Resignation, 4 Months
 Monica Shirley, PT, Coordinator - Student Diversity Initiatives, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, 8/1/2025, Resignation, 3 Years 6 Months
 Philip Mahoney, PT, Lab Technician - HVAC-R, Career and Technical Programs, 8/22/2025, Resignation, 3 Years 7 Months
 JoAnn Martinez, CS, Assistant - Purchasing, Purchasing, 8/15/2025, Resignation, 1 Year 5.5 Months (Effective Date Changed)
 Sarahy Ramirez, CS, Library Assistant I, P/T, Library Services, 7/25/2025, Resignation, 11 Months
 Janet Makuch, CS, Administrative Secretary, Business and Social Science, 7/29/2025, Resignation, 1 Year 7 Months
 Lori Skala, CS, Associate - Computer Testing, Assessment Center, 7/31/2025, Resignation, 5 Years 6 Months
 Brenna Sitz, CS, Receptionist and Office Assistant, P/T, Center for New Student and Orientation and Women's Program, 7/31/2025, Resignation, 1 Year 8 Months
 Paula Riccardo, CS, Pre-School Teacher, Early Childhood Laboratory School, 8/4/2025, Resignation, 5 Years 11 Months
 Kyle Roudebush, ICOPS, Community Service Officer II, Harper College Police Department, 7/14/2025, Resignation, 2 Months
 Conan Fender, ICOPS, Police Officer, Harper College Police Department, 8/3/2025, Resignation, 5 Years 4 Months

Faculty Tenure Status
 Report (1st Year Mid-Year
 Hire)

Approval of faculty who will be eligible for tenure at Harper College beginning in the fall of 2027, as outlined in Exhibit X-B.6.

First employed spring 2025: Claudia Lopez Heinrich, English As a Second Language

XI NEW BUSINESS

Exhibit XI-A: Transfer of
 Funds from FY25 Budget
 Surplus

Member Robb moved, Member Stack seconded, to approve the recommendation to transfer surplus funds for current and future initiatives and projects into Restricted Purposes Funds, as outlined in Exhibit XI-A.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

Exhibit XI-B:

Recommendation to Enter a Partnership Agreement with Life Fitness Member Mundt moved, Member Aransiola seconded, to approve entering into a five (5) year Partnership Agreement with Life Fitness for their use of Room M2510 in the Health and Recreation Center (Building M). In exchange, the College will receive new fitness equipment with an approximate value of \$600,000, as outlined in Exhibit XI-B.

Ayes: Members Pat Stack, Nancy Robb, James Meyer, Eric Knox, Diane Hill, Walt Mundt, 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, October 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Wojcik Amphitheater. The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Wojcik Amphitheater.

XIII OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

XIV CLOSED SESSION

Member Stack motioned, Member Meyer seconded, to enter closed session pursuant to 2(C)(1) Open Meetings Act at 6:50 p.m.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

Chair Kelley left the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Member Robb motioned, Member Stack seconded, to adjourn the closed session and re-enter the regular Board meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Motion carried. Student Member Adekunbi Aransiola advisory vote: aye

XV ADJOURNMENT

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

In a voice vote, motion carried at 7:37 pm.


Chair


Secretary