

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 Committee of the Whole Meeting of Wednesday, August 13, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 was called to order by Chair Bill Kelley on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Wojcik Conference Center, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Also present: Dr. Yolonda Barnes, Dean - Business and Social Science; Mike Barzacchini, Director of Marketing Services; Dr. Dennis Baskin, Associate Provost of Student Affairs; Dr. Courtney Bolhous, Associate Dean - Career and Technical Programs; Tony Butler, Director of Risk Management; Orlando Cabrera, Tech Support Specialist; Scott Cashman, Senior Manager, Community, Career and Corporate Education; Craig Duetsch, EVP Finance and Administrative Services; Amanda Duval-Norwood, Chief Human Resources Officer; Marcia Frank, Senior Director - Innovation and Development; Bob Grapenthien, Controller; Dr. Kathleen Gorski, Associate Provost - Curriculum and Instruction; Erika Hartman, Administrative Coordinator; Michelle Harrell, Dean - Resources for Learning; Dr. Joanne Ivory, Dean of Career and Technical Programs; Dr. Tamara Johnson, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Jeff Julian, Chief of Staff/Vice President of External Affairs; Matt McLaughlin, Director of Insights, Planning and Decision Support; Kristyn Meyer, Associate Executive Director Foundation; Bob Parzy, Associate Provost Enrollment Services; Steve Petersen, Campus Architect; Kimberley Polly, Dean Mathematics and Science; Dr. Avis Proctor, President; Colleen Rice, Executive Assistant Board of Trustees; Dr. Jaime Riewerts, Dean Liberal Arts; Darlene Schlenbecker, Vice President of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness; Deann Surdo, Director - Outcomes Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Michelé Smith, Vice President of Workforce Solutions; Darice Trout, Senior Director of Workforce Solutions and Job Placement; Dr. Roderica Williams, Dean of Student Success and Retention; Dr. Ruth Williams, Provost; Riaz Yusuff, Chief Information Officer; Heather Zoldak, Chief Advancement Officer.

Guests: Genesis Santiago, Association of Community College Trustees, (ACCT) (virtual); Jose Miranda, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) (virtual)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DISCUSSION OF
FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Dr. Proctor introduced Genesis Santiago and Jose Miranda from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), who attended virtually. Santiago and Miranda provided a high-level overview of recent legislative and administrative developments affecting higher education.

The briefing focused on the recently passed FY2025 reconciliation law, which includes major changes to federal student aid, including the Pell Grant program, Workforce Pell Grants, and Federal Student Loans.

On federal appropriations, Congress faces a deadline to pass a continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown. The President's proposed budget includes significant education cuts, while the Senate has proposed largely maintaining current funding levels. More details are expected from the House in September.

The Department of Justice has issued new guidance for recipients of federal funding to ensure they "do not engage in unlawful discrimination". The DOJ outlined examples of initiatives it considers legally risky. This document does say that "the recommended best practices provided in this guidance are non-binding suggestions to assist entities in avoiding legal pitfalls and upholding equal opportunity for all."

The Trump Administration also reinterpreted the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), which would make undocumented immigrants ineligible recipients of such federal programs and services as Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Adult Basic Education (ABE). This order is delayed in 20 states and DC, including Illinois, due to a lawsuit against the Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor.

Santiago and Miranda encouraged Harper College to stay informed, submit comments on Workforce Pell rulemaking, and use ACCT resources. Slides and supporting materials will be shared following the meeting.

Next, Dr. Proctor introduced Darlene Schlenbecker, Vice President of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness. Schlenbecker presented the FY2025 Accountability Report, which provided an overview of the college's progress on strategic initiatives and operational goals.

Of the 16 Institutional Effectiveness Measures (IEMs), data were available for 14, with 11 on target and 3 needing attention. The report

also identified 28 equity gaps across eight measures, with only five showing progress and 23 requiring further focus.

Looking ahead, the FY2026–2029 Strategic Plan is built on three priorities: cultivating an inclusive and supportive community, providing innovative and responsive education, and achieving organizational excellence. The FY2025 Operational Plan included 32 tasks aligned with the six strategic goals: some targets were met, while others, such as the BILT advisory model expansion, Path for Success milestone completion, and HBCU transfer agreements, were not. Several initiatives remained in progress, including the financial literacy program and international enrollment plan, while the bookstore RFP was postponed.

The report concluded with a look ahead to the College Plan presentation in September and ongoing updates on strategic and operational activities.

Student Trustee Aransiola asked for clarification on whether diversity metrics were being measured strictly by race and ethnicity, which the administration confirmed, noting those were the available data. Trustee Meyer raised a question about international student enrollment: while there had been concern about struggles, the administration explained enrollment was holding steady, though federal policy shifts remain an ongoing factor. Trustee Mundt expressed strong interest in the financial literacy program, asking how funding and programming connect directly to student success, and suggesting similar approaches could be applied to other initiatives.

Discussion also covered the EPIIC grant, where Harper is collaborating with four other colleges to test workforce development models. Math completion was another focus, with concerns that students delay gateway math until late in their programs. Administration explained that although students now have pathways to complete math earlier, many postpone it; however, new student success models and policy adjustments are expected to help. Finally, trustees asked about aligning financial resources with student success outcomes and whether adjustments could be made in financial support strategies moving forward.

Craig Duetsch, EVP of Finance and Administrative Services, and Bob Grapenthien, Controller, presented the FY2025 Surplus Recommendations, Financial Reserves Update, and FY2026 Budget Overview. They outlined the budget process, noting that the preliminary budget was presented in May, adopted in June, and posted publicly, with a public hearing scheduled for the August 20 Board meeting.

The college expects a FY2025 surplus of \$10.9 million, with \$3.2 million allocated to reserves to maintain a 49.5% fund balance and

\$7.7 million designated for one-time investments. These include \$2.7 million for student success initiatives, \$2 million for risk management related to construction oversight and campus safety upgrades, \$1.6 million for IT modernization and cost studies, \$900,000 for academic programs, \$300,000 for external affairs, and \$100,000 for innovation and partnerships.

Trustees engaged in discussion around the classification of \$2 million in "risk management," with Trustee Mundt suggesting it may be more appropriately recorded as capital project support for transparency. Trustee Meyer raised questions about specific allocations, such as the Lyft program, Salesforce integration, murals around campus, and HR/Finance system costs, requesting clearer justification.

Finally, Chair Kelley reaffirmed governance practices, emphasizing that trustee requests for information must be routed through the chair in accordance with Robert's Rules and board best practices to ensure equal access and avoid overburdening staff. The administration committed to providing further detail on specific allocations ahead of the upcoming budget vote, with the public hearing and adoption of the FY2026 budget set for the August 20 Board meeting.

Jeff Julian reviewed the August Board Packet. This included Trustee Meyer updating the Board on the exhibit he is recommending, to amend Section 01.29.00 of the Board Policy Manual.

FORMAL ACTIONS

Member Stack motioned, Vice Chair Mundt seconded to enter closed session per OMA section 2(c)(1): The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body...; Per OMA section 2(c)(2): Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives...; and Per OMA section 2(c)(11): Litigation.

Closed session began at 6:50 p.m.

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

Absent: Member James Meyer

Also present: Craig Duetsch, EVP Finance and Administrative Services; Amanda Duval-Norwood, Chief Human Resources Officer; Jeff Julian, Chief of Staff/Vice President of External Affairs; Dr. Avis Proctor, President; Dr. Ruth Williams, Provost

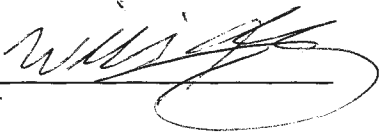
Member Hill motioned; Member Stack seconded to adjourn the closed session and re-enter the regular meeting at 7:21 p.m. In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

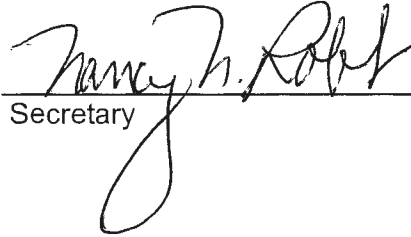
Member Mundt moved, Member Stack seconded, adjournment at 7:22 p.m.

In a voice vote, motion carried.

Chair

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, positioned above a horizontal line.

Secretary

A cursive handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy H. Robt", positioned above a horizontal line.