

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, February 16, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.
1500 West Agency Road, West Burlington, Iowa - Board Room

Meeting Minutes

1.0 Routine Items

1.1 Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Lanny Hillyard called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Roll call indicated Trustees Heland, Fife-LaFrenz, Hillyard, and Howard were present in the room. Trustee Nabulsi was present via Zoom. Also present were President Michael Ash, Treasurer Cory Gall, Secretary Darcy Burdette, and SCC staff members Chuck Chrisman, Michelle Allmendinger, Amanda Estey, Laurie Hempen, and Jeff Ebbing.

1.2 Adoption of Formal Agenda

Trustee Heland moved to approve the formal agenda. Trustee Fife-LaFrenz seconded. Motion carried.

1.3 Communications (Limited to Five (5) Minutes per Individual)

1.3.1 Audience

None.

1.3.2 Administration

None.

1.3.3 Board

Trustees Heland, Hillyard, and Fife-LaFrenz attended the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., February 6–11, 2026. Trustees Fife-LaFrenz and Heland shared updates from their committee meetings, and each Trustee provided a brief report on sessions they attended, including discussions on AI, Pell Grants, and legislative priorities. Trustee Hillyard reported that meetings with legislators went well and that they continue to express support for community colleges.

Trustee Howard reported that the IASB foundation has been raising money and is creating a Student Teacher Grant and a foundation scholarship that will be available to Iowa high school seniors who are children or grandchildren of current or past Iowa school board, AEA, or community college board members with at least three years of board service.

1.4 Community Colleges for Iowa Trustee Board Report

Trustee Hillyard reported that the next IACCT Board meeting will be March 3, 2026. The Student Legislative Seminar, PTK Awards Dinner, and Community College Day on the Hill will also take place March 2 and 3, 2026.

2.0 Action Items

2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes

- **January 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

2. Presentation of Bills of Account

3. Resignations, Terminations and Mutually Agreed to Contract Adjustments

Name	Title	Date of Hire	Last day of Employment	Reason
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Scarlett Ballard	Pre-Employment Transition Coordinator: Vocational Rehabilitation	08/10/2022	02/01/2026	Accepted open Accessibility Services Specialist and Student Care Coordinator position.
James Mueller	Instructor: Nursing	08/14/2024	08/11/2026	Personal.
Douglas Patrick	Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs	07/25/2017	02/27/2026	Personal.
Shavonna Rhodes	Assistant Women's Volleyball Coach / Resident Advisor	07/14/2025	01/25/2026	Accepted open Interim Head Volleyball Coach position.
Ronald Telford	AEL Lead Instructor	03/27/2023	02/09/2026	Personal.

4. Employment Contracts

Name	Title	Contract Period	Salary
Scarlett Ballard (Replacement)	Accessibility Services Specialist and Student Care Coordinator	02/02/2026 – 06/30/2026	\$20,498.08 (\$50,000.00 annual)
Shavonna Rhodes (Replacement)	Interim Head Volleyball Coach	01/26/2026 – 06/30/2026	\$17,164.75 (\$40,000.00 annual)

Trustee Howard moved approval of the Consent Agenda items. Trustee Fife-LaFrenz seconded. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.

2.2 Consider and Approve for Filing and Publication the Proposed Certified Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Fix Time and Place for the Public Hearing

Vice President Cory Gall referred Trustees to their Board packets for review of the Certified Property Tax Budget for FY 2027 making note of the following:

- The certified budget is developed based on actual FY 25 data, re-estimates for FY 26, and other information currently known for FY 27.
- The tax levy proposed includes an increase of \$.0017 cents per \$1,000 value of taxable valuation for FY 27, related to \$1.58094
- Regular property tax valuations are up \$269M (5.4%), debt service tax valuations increased \$278M (5.4%) and TIF valuations increased \$9.1M (4.2%).

Vice President Gall noted that the Trustees will need to approve for filing and publication of the Budget Estimate for Fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, and set March 9, 2026 at 4:30 pm at the Board Room, 1500 West Agency Road, West Burlington, Iowa as the time and location for a public hearing.

Trustee Heland moved approval of the July 1, 2026– June 30, 2027 Budget Estimate and Certification of Community College Taxes. Trustee Fife-LaFrenz seconded. Motion carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.

3.0 Accountability

3.1 President's Report

President Ash referred Trustees to his report in the board materials and highlighted several items. He reported that he met with Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks in Washington, D.C., to request \$1.3 million in Community Project Funding to expand testing center facilities on both SCC campuses. He also shared legislative updates regarding the 260E program, WTED, and ACE. President Ash noted that a draft of the State Department of Education Interim Accreditation Report was received and reviewed, with communication sent back to the Department regarding a few corrections. Overall, the report was very positive. Trustees discussed items from the report and asked questions of President Ash.

3.2 Monthly Financial Report

Vice President Gall referred Trustees to the financial reports included in their board packets. In reviewing the Cash and Investments Report, he noted that cash investments are currently up. Funds previously held at First Interstate Bank were moved to a money market account in February to obtain a better rate, with no rate change expected until June. From the Financial Comparative Data Summary, he reported that tuition and fees are approximately \$1 million higher than at this time last year. The decrease in Other Income is primarily due to lower interest rates. Expenses are higher than last year, while salary expenditures remain under budget for the year to date. As previously reported, the Restricted Fund is higher than last year due to additional IRS-related revenue. Plant Fund expenditures are currently lower than last year but are expected to increase as projects continue.

3.3 Facilities Update

Vice President Gall shared an update of the progress in the 300 Building project. He reported that the restrooms are complete. Starbucks will open their coffee kiosk next week. The project is nearly substantially complete.

3.4 Data Review

Vice President Chuck Chrisman presented the spring enrollment report, noting the College has experienced enrollment growth for 15 consecutive semesters. He shared data on headcount, credit hours, and trends over the past five years. Trustees discussed the report, asked questions, and expressed appreciation for the information and the College's continued success.

3.4 Board Self-Eval

Board Chair Hillyard led a discussion of the Board Self-Assessment Survey results, focusing on areas where Trustees identified opportunities for improvement. The Board discussed these items and potential areas of focus for the coming year.

3.5 Board Goals

Board Chair Lanny Hillyard reviewed a list of proposed goals for calendar year 2026. He recommended approving the goals and reviewing them at the end of the year to evaluate progress. The goals include:

- World-Changing – Changing our Thinking (Agenda Item) Complete the Trusteeship book and continue to spend 20 minutes on a topic beneficial to trustee growth and education at all meetings in 2026.

- Attend the State Annual Conference - All 5 Trustees will attend the Community Colleges for Iowa Annual Conference in the summer of 2026.
- Campus Site Tours – Tour a portion of each campus at least once during the 2026 calendar year.
- The SCC Board of Trustees will participate in one retreat/work session during the 2026 calendar year.

Trustee Heland moved to approve the goals as listed. Trustee Howard seconded. Motion carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.

6.0 Future Meetings

Board Chair Hillyard reviewed the list of future meetings.

7.0 Adjournment

There was consensus that the meeting be adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

These minutes have been approved by the Board of Trustees and this is certified to be a true copy.



Darcy Burdette, Board Secretary