



Full Board Meeting Minutes

QCC Board of Trustees

Sepetember 11, 2025 at 12:00 PM

Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence St, Worcester, MA 01604

Trustees Present: Linda Maykel, Eric Goodwine, Jorgo Gushi, Lynn Keeley, Noah MacDonald, Satya Mitra, Raj Rajeshkumar

Trustees Absent: Mariyam Bhatti

Others Present: President Luis Pedraja, Michelle Tufau Afriyie, John Holloway, Karen Hutner (remote), Deb LaFlash, Nate Mackinnon, Sean Nelson, Kathy Rentsch, Sara Simms, Deb Spotts, Allison Vickstrom, Jen Arner Welsh (remote), Eden Edwards-Harris (remote), Jess Ahrens Montecalvo – Board Secretary

Meeting called to order at 12:45 PM by Chair Maykel and roll call attendance noted.

The Board of Trustees of Quinsigamond Community College, at its regular meeting held at the Worcester Senior Center on Thursday, September 11, 2025, took the following actions:

- I. **Consent Agenda:** *The purpose of the Consent Agenda is to expedite business by grouping routine agenda items together to be dealt with by one Board motion without discussion. Any member of the Board or staff may ask that any item on the Consent Agenda be removed and placed later on the agenda for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected. If any item is not removed from the Consent Agenda, the action on the agenda is approved/accepted by single Board action adopting the Consent Agenda.*

- A. Minutes from the June 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting (approve)
- B. Trust Fund Reports – FY25 & FY26 (accept)
- C. Informational Personnel Items (accept)
- D. President's Out-of-State Travel (accept)
- E. President's Leave Time (accept)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Consent Agenda (A-E) was approved/accepted by the Board.

II. Chair Updates

Dr. Linda Maykel, Board Chair

- Chair Maykel introduced Sean Nelson, Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration. Interim VP Nelson highlighted the financial viability of the College and discussed improvements in financial reporting. He shared updates on capital projects, including the QCC Center and Alden Library renovations, and spoke about the upcoming implementation of the new Jenzabar system, which will enhance financial, HR, and student data reporting.

- Chair Maykel shared that the Liz R. Pape Scholarship has been established to celebrate the life and legacy of Liz Pape, a former member of the Board of Trustees. The community is invited to make donations in her honor to the [Liz R. Pape Scholarship](#).
- Chair Maykel reported ongoing challenges in recruiting new board members. Despite initial approvals, two candidates withdrew due to personal or scheduling conflicts, leaving three vacancies. Two promising candidates were interviewed and expressed strong interest in joining the board. Their applications have been forwarded to Public Education Nominating Council (PENC) for consideration by the Governor. The Board discussed forming a nominating committee and developing a skills matrix to guide future nominations. President Pedraja emphasized the importance of confidentiality and compliance with open meeting laws during the recruitment process.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. **Audit and Oversight Committee** (no meeting)

Trustees: Mitra (Chair), Goodwine, and Gushi

The A&O Committee did not have a scheduled meeting, so no report was presented.

B. **Strategic Planning, Education, and Student Success Committee** (no meeting)

Trustees: Rajeshkumar (Chair), Bhatti, MacDonald, Maykel, and Keeley

The SPESS Committee did not have a scheduled meeting, so no report was presented.

C. **Executive Committee** (August 20, 2025)

Trustees: Maykel, Goodwine, Mitra, and Rajeshkumar

Chair Maykel reported that quorum was not met at the Executive Committee meeting, so no actions were taken.

IV. QCC Foundation Report

Jorgo Gushi, QCC Foundation President

Trustee Gushi presented the Foundation Report, highlighting the expansion of the Foundation Board with five new Directors. The Foundation has invested in modernization efforts, including new software for meeting management, and is working on rebranding initiatives such as a new logo and messaging.

V. Student Trustee Report

Noah MacDonald, Student Trustee

The new Student Trustee, Noah MacDonald, introduced himself. Student Trustee MacDonald is a business administration student and is actively involved in multiple student leadership roles at QCC. He plans to provide regular student perspective reports to the Board.

VI. President's Report

Dr. Luis Pedraja, QCC President

A. **Ongoing Initiatives & Campus Updates**

President Pedraja provided an update on enrollment and budget. Enrollment for Fall 2026 reached 8,909 students, the highest since 2012. The college ended the year with a surplus of over \$4 million, allowing for the replenishment of \$3 million into reserves. Plans are underway to develop capital reserve policies and a facilities master plan.

Investments have also been made in student support services, including the creation of a First Generation Center to serve the 4,400 first-generation students at QCC. The restructuring of student services aligns transfer, career, and testing support under one umbrella to better serve students.

VII. Other Business

A. 2024-2025 Presidential Evaluation

The Board reviewed the timeline and relevant documentation for the presidential evaluation process. Chair Maykel explained that this process began several months ago when President Pedraja presented a summary of his objectives and accomplishments from the past year for the Board's consideration. Trustees were then given time to complete individual evaluations of the President's performance, which have been compiled into a draft evaluation letter.

The Board reviewed the draft presidential evaluation letter to identify any necessary revisions and determine whether to approve and submit the final version to the Commissioner of Higher Education. One Trustee noted the draft reflected a balanced view of the President's performance and included both achievements and areas for growth but expressed concern that the positive sections were more data-driven while the sections on challenges were more generic. It was clarified that individual trustee evaluations would be submitted along with the final evaluation letter to ensure all feedback is represented. The Board agreed that this approach would provide full context and transparency.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board of Trustees unanimously accepted the draft of the presidential evaluation as edited. The Board further approved that President Pedraja shall receive all allowable increases, as determined by the Department of Education, including merit, cost-of-living, and/or equity adjustments, in light of his performance.

The board meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM, at which point the Board Retreat continued with scheduled presentations.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Executive Committee** – Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 4:00 PM, Zoom
- **Strategic Planning, Education & Student Success Committee** – Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 4:00 PM, Zoom
- **Audit & Oversight Committee** – Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 5:00 PM, Zoom
- **Regular Board Meeting** – Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 5:00 PM, Room 107A

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Ahrens Montecalvo, Executive Assistant to the President & Secretary to the Board