



Full Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

QCC Board of Trustees

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Administration Building Room 107A, 670 West Boylston Street, Worcester, MA 01606

Trustees Present: Linda Maykel, Max German (remote), Mari Gonzalez (remote), Flo LeClair, Noah MacDonald, Jessica Mandes, Satya Mitra

Trustees Absent: Eric Goodwine, Jorgo Gushi, Lynn Keeley, Raj Rajeshkumar

Others Present: President Luis Pedraja, Kathy Rentsch, Sean Nelson, John Holloway, Deb Spotts, Deb LaFlash, Karen Hutner (remote), Allison Vickstrom, Jess Ahrens Montecalvo – Board Secretary, Dawit Quilty (2026-27 Student Trustee)

Meeting called to order at 5:10 PM by Board Chair Maykel and roll call attendance noted.

The Board of Trustees of Quinsigamond Community College, at its regular meeting held at Quinsigamond Community College on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 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 April 28, 2026 Regular Board Meeting (approve)
- B. Trust Fund Report – 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

- Board Chair Linda Maykel welcomed the new Student Trustee, Dawit Quilty, whose term officially starts on July 1, 2026. Chair Maykel also expressed appreciation to the outgoing Student Trustee, Noah MacDonald, for his service and contributions.
- Chair Maykel and Executive Director John Holloway highlighted an upcoming campus Juneteenth event, “A Historical Milestone and the Ongoing Responsibility: The Story of Juneteenth,” which will be held on Tuesday, June 16 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM in HLC109B.

- Chair Maykel discussed QCC Foundation scholarship application reviews, which are currently underway, and welcomed trustee participation in the process.
- Chair Maykel attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Latest Action in Washington Live webinar last week and shared updates, including changes to federal financial aid programs such as Pell Grants.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Audit and Oversight Committee (May 27, 2026)

Trustees: Mitra (Chair), German, Gonzalez, Goodwine, and Gushi

1. FY26 Budget Update

- Associate Vice President Deb LaFlash presented the Trustees' Budget Report through April 2026. Tuition and fee revenue totaled approximately \$48.5 million, or 109% of the budgeted amount. Total expenditures were approximately \$62.8 million and remained below budgeted levels. Academic Affairs showed slightly elevated expenditures due to retroactive salary adjustments for DCE faculty. The College anticipates a reserve contribution of \$500,000 and an overall year-end carry-forward of \$1 million. Interim Vice President Sean Nelson noted that the College had a surplus of approximately \$1.9 million in the fall and reinvested that into the budget, which is not reflected in the year-end surplus. Overall, he noted the College is expected to have over \$3.6 million in cumulative surplus activity in FY26.

2. FY27 Budget Draft

- Interim Vice President Sean Nelson presented an update on the FY27 operating budget. He noted that 89% of the operating budget is supported by public funding in the form of appropriations and financial aid. State appropriations were expected to remain relatively flat, with a modest increase to cover collective bargaining costs. Tuition and fee revenue was projected to increase \$2.35 million based on a 1% increase in student credit hours and a previously approved 2.76% fee increase. Other revenue categories, including workforce development, interest earnings, and bookstore commissions, were projected to remain stable with modest increases. The College also planned to use \$1 million carry-forward funds from FY26. Total new revenue: \$2.2 million
- Interim Vice President Nelson reviewed FY27 expenditure increases, including contractual salary increases, fringe benefit rate increase of approximately 22%, new hires, IT costs including Jenzabar One (J1) implementation, leases, and rising energy costs. Total projected expenditures for FY27 are expected to increase by approximately \$8 million.
- To address the expense increase, the College implemented multiple strategies totaling approximately \$5.2 million in budget savings. These strategies include reduction in part-time staffing expenditures, non-personnel budget reductions, review and potential restructuring of Southbridge operations, deferral of one-time costs, reduction in institutional financial aid due to decreased demand under free community college, discontinuation of the Police Academy, and reduction of deferred maintenance. The Board discussed the impact of these budget reductions on College operations.

- Interim Vice President Nelson reported that the FY27 operating budget is balanced. The College will continue to monitor several key factors, including the final reconciliation of the FY27 state budget, fall semester enrollment and credit hours, and opportunities for investments and cost savings. Additionally, he provided an overview of the College’s revenue and expense trend for FY23 through FY27, along with a summary of campus reserves and an update on investments from the FY26 operating budget surplus. He also presented updates on major campus projects, including the Alden Library Renovation, classroom furniture upgrades, the campus master plan, and the QCC Center.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board unanimously approved the fiscal year 2027 budget as presented.

B. Strategic Planning, Education, and Student Success Committee (May 27, 2026)

Trustees: Rajeshkumar (Chair), LeClair, MacDonald, Mandes, Maykel, and Keeley

1. Spring 2027 Sabbatical Leave Requests

- The Board considered two sabbatical leave applications for Spring 2027 for the following faculty members: Lee Durden, Professor of Manufacturing Technology, and Benjamin Wendorf, Professor of History. Both applications were reviewed and recommended by the Sabbatical Leave Committee, the Area Dean, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and the President.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board unanimously approved the sabbatical leave requests for Spring 2027.

2. Policy for Awarding a Posthumous Degree/Certificate

- The Board considered the Policy for Awarding a Posthumous Degree/Certificate. Chair Maykel noted that the policy establishes the criteria and procedures for awarding a posthumous degree/certificate to a student who passes away prior to completing all requirements for graduation.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board unanimously approved the Policy for Awarding a Posthumous Degree/Certificate.

3. Proposed Degree Closure: Healthcare – Practical Nursing

- The Board reviewed the proposal to close the Healthcare – Practical Nursing degree program (Program Code: HCPN). Board Chair Maykel noted that the proposed closure was based on a determination that the program was not meeting its intended outcomes and emphasized that the closure would not negatively impact any currently enrolled students, as all students would be supported in completing their coursework and program requirements.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board unanimously approved the degree closure of the Healthcare – Practical Nursing program.

4. Recap: Cabinet End-of-Year Reports

- The Cabinet end-of-year reports, which summarize accomplishments and initiatives led by Cabinet members aligned with the annual presidential goals, were included in the SPESS meeting materials and are available in OnBoard for trustees' review.

C. Executive Committee (May 27, 2026)

Trustees: Maykel, Goodwine, Mitra, and Rajeshkumar

1. ACCT Award Nominations

- The Board was invited to submit nominations for the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) awards. After discussion, the Executive Committee decided to proceed with nominating President Luis Pedraja in the CEO category and Board Chair Linda Maykel in the Trustee Leadership category. Nomination materials are being prepared and will be circulated for the Board's information.

2. Presidential Retirement & Transition Planning

- On May 29, 2026, President Luis Pedraja informed the Board of his intention to retire effective July 31, 2027. Chair Maykel discussed transition planning and provided trustees with copies of the Board of Higher Education's guidelines for presidential searches. She shared that the Executive Committee will begin work over the summer to identify and engage a search firm to support the process. The selected firm will conduct campus interviews and assist in creating a presidential search profile. A search committee will be established in the fall with representation across key stakeholder groups. Chair Maykel emphasized that the process will adhere to all Board of Higher Education guidelines and that the full Board will remain actively engaged throughout.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board unanimously approved authorizing the Executive Committee to develop and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an executive search firm to support the upcoming presidential search and to take any necessary preliminary steps related to this process.

3. Presidential Evaluation

- Chair Maykel discussed the process for the President's annual evaluation. Given the upcoming presidential transition, the Executive Committee decided to use the existing presidential evaluation survey instrument to maintain consistency. She noted the possibility of revisiting and revising the evaluation tool in a future year. Trustees will be asked to complete the presidential evaluation form via Microsoft Forms after President Pedraja presents his 2025-2026 report.

4. Board Self-Assessment Update

- Chair Maykel noted that the Board committed to conducting a self-assessment every three years, with the most recent assessment completed in 2023 and the next now due. After reviewing the timeline, the Executive Committee decided to defer the assessment until later in the year to allow newly appointed trustees additional time to engage in Board work before participating in the process.

5. 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar

- The Board discussed the meeting scheduling for the upcoming academic year. Chair Maykel explained that the Executive Committee identified two potential options (Monday or Thursday evenings) for consideration. During the discussion, trustees noted potential conflicts with Thursday evening commitments and expressed a preference for Monday evening meetings. Chair Maykel concluded that there was consensus in favor of the Monday schedule.
- The Board also discussed the annual Board retreat, and it was confirmed that the retreat would take place on September 10, 2026 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM at the Worcester Senior Center.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board unanimously approved the Monday 2026-2027 Board meeting calendar.

IV. QCC Foundation Report

Jorgo Gushi, QCC Foundation President

A. QCC Foundation YTD Fundraising Report

- Chief Advancement Officer Deb Spotts presented a detailed report on QCC Foundation and Advancement activities. She noted that the past year had been highly successful, particularly in the area of grants, with \$10.3 million in grant funding across 32 grant awards and additional proposals still in development. The Foundation has been actively pursuing new funding opportunities for the upcoming fiscal year, including proposals to support programs at the Auxilium Center and a federal grant focused on childcare access for student parents. In addition to grant activity, the Foundation reported progress in expanding Board membership, strengthening Board development, and launching its strategic planning process. Efforts to enhance alumni engagement, donor outreach, and community partnerships were also highlighted, with expectations for continued growth in fundraising capacity in the coming year.

V. Student Trustee Report

Noah MacDonald, Student Trustee

- Student Trustee Noah MacDonald reported that the academic year has concluded and noted the successful completion of Commencement as well as leadership transitions within student organizations, including the Student Government Association and Phi Theta Kappa. He also shared that a new student government president has been selected and is currently working to recruit and appoint additional officers, with preparations for the upcoming academic year already underway.
- The incoming Student Trustee, Dawit Quilty, introduced himself to the Board, sharing his enthusiasm for the role and his involvement in campus leadership. Trustees welcomed him and expressed support for his upcoming term.

VI. President's Report

Dr. Luis Pedraja, QCC President

A. Ongoing Initiatives & Campus Updates

- President Pedraja reported that over 1,400 students graduated, with approximately 600 students participating in the Commencement ceremony. He noted that QCC continues

to rank among the leading community colleges in the state in terms of graduation numbers, reflecting the institution's commitment to student success.

- President Pedraja provided an update on federal grant funding, noting that a previously unfunded TRIO grant had been reinstated following the College's participation in a lawsuit related to funding criteria. His report also included updates on enrollment trends and on ongoing advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels. He emphasized the importance of continued advocacy for funding equity, workforce development, and support for community colleges. President Pedraja further discussed higher education policy developments, including anticipated changes to federal regulatory frameworks that may affect accreditation, data reporting, and institutional accountability.

B. President's Annual Report 2025-2026

- President Pedraja presented his President's Report for the 2025-2026 academic year. He noted that over the past ten years he has achieved his key strategic priorities, including advancing student success, stabilizing enrollment, and diversifying revenue. He expressed his intention to remain focused and finish his tenure strongly as he approaches his planned retirement. He also provided a copy of his resume for newer trustees to see his background.

C. President's Goals 2026-2027

- President Pedraja presented his proposed goals for the upcoming year. He outlined his priorities related to strengthening support systems, expanding transfer and career pathways, advancing innovation through initiatives such as artificial intelligence, expanding apprenticeship programs, and maintaining strong fiscal management. Additional goals included completing major capital projects, strengthening partnerships with industry and community organizations, and supporting the forthcoming presidential transition.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board unanimously approved President Luis Pedraja's fiscal year 2027 goals.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Executive Committee** – Monday, August 17, 2026, at 3:00 PM, Zoom
- **September Board Retreat & Full Board Meeting** – Thursday, September 10, 2026, from 12:00 – 4:00 PM at the Worcester Senior Center
- **Executive Committee** – Monday, September 21, 2026, at 3:00 PM, Zoom
- **Strategic Planning, Education & Student Success Committee** – Monday, September 21, 2026, at 4:00 PM, Zoom
- **Audit & Oversight Committee** – Monday, September 21, 2026, at 5:00 PM, Zoom
- **Regular Board Meeting** – Monday, October 5, 2026, at 5:00 PM, Room 107A

Respectfully submitted,

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