

MINUTES
WAUBONSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Board of Trustees
Special Board Meeting

February 4, 2026

I. Convene Open Session

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Waubonsee Community College, Community College District 516, Kane, Kendall, DeKalb, LaSalle, and Will Counties, IL, convened at 1:08 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, in the Dickson Center Community Board Room, Route 47 at Waubonsee Drive, Sugar Grove, IL.

Roll call found the following board members present: Rick Guzman, Daniel Jaquez, Patrick Kelsey, Stacey Ries, Maria Santillan, Greg Thomas, and Tina Willson; board member present by means of video conference, in compliance with Board Policy 1.100.06 and as allowed by the Open Meetings Act, sections 2.01 and 7(a): Rebecca D. Oliver; and staff members present: Dr. Brian Knetl, John Bryant, Dr. Kimberly Chavis, Dr. Anthony Ramos, Dr. Toya Webb, Mary Baccheschi, Emma Donatille, Mike Fier, Mary Greenwood, Darrin Kader, Abbas AL Khafaji, Dan Larsen, J. C. Paez, Jessica Price, Jacqueline Stepherson, Aaron Stevens, and Stephanie Wennmacher.

Board Vice Chair Patrick Kelsey assumed the duties of running the meeting because Board Chair Rebecca Oliver joined the meeting remotely.

II. Public Comment

A. General Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

III. Institutional Reports and Presentations

A. Vice President of Finance and Administration Report

1. Financial Updates

John Bryant shared a presentation outlining Waubonsee's FY2027 budget planning process, and long-term financial outlook with budget projections forecasted for the next five years based on revenue and expense assumptions. Mr. Bryant also reported on academic year 2026-2027 tuition and student fee rate considerations, as well as next steps regarding a recommendation for board approval at the February 18, 2026 meeting.

2. Facilities Master Planning Overview

Mr. Bryant and Dan Larsen, Executive Director of Campus Safety and Operations, shared an overview outlining Waubonsee's current financial position, plans for future investment, and major capital project priorities. These priorities include renovating Collins Hall, expanding academic programming, addressing space utilization needs, and deferred maintenance items. Mr. Bryant reviewed the current status of the Erickson Hall HVAC project with the Capital Development Board including a recommendation to terminate the project based on ongoing concerns.

III. Institutional Reports and Presentations (continued)

B. Executive Director of Development and of the Waubonsee Foundation Report

1. Foundation Campaign Update

Emma Donatille presented an overview of the Waubonsee Foundation, highlighting the significant impact of scholarships on student success. Ms. Donatille was happy to announce the launch of a new Spring 2026 Employee Foundation Campaign, that will run from February 2026 through June 2026. The primary goal for this campaign is to increase employees' understanding of the Foundation, with a focus on awareness, education, and participation growth, rather than aggressive fundraising.

C. Vice President of Talent and Culture and Chief Diversity Officer Report

1. Human Resources Update

Dr. Anthony Ramos and Jacqueline Stepherson, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, presented an overview of the Talent, Culture and Diversity Division, as well as Human Resources (HR) and its structure. HR data highlights included information on the total number and breakdown of employees, hiring activity, and departure reason trends, and an HR management and governance framework to help identify areas for improvement. Several opportunities to Enrich the Employee Experience have been identified and are currently being implemented.

IV. Executive Session

The board, on a motion by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Guzman, unanimously voted to adjourn to executive session at 4:07 p.m. in accordance with Section 2a of the Open Meetings Act where the board discussed items covered under the following exceptions: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body; matters of pending, probable, or imminent litigation; matters of collective bargaining or deliberations concerning salary schedules; and safety and security procedures.

V. Reconvene to Open Session

The board reconvened in open session at 4:33 p.m. Roll call found the following board members present: Rick Guzman, Daniel Jaquez, Patrick Kelsey, Stacey Ries, Maria Santillan, Greg Thomas, and Tina Willson; board member present by means of video conference, in compliance with Board Policy 1.100.06 and as allowed by the Open Meetings Act, sections 2.01 and 7(a): Rebecca D. Oliver; and staff members present: Dr. Brian Knetl, John Bryant, Dr. Kimberly Chavis, Dr. Anthony Ramos, Dr. Toya Webb, Mary Baccheschi, Emma Donatille, Terence Felton, Mary Greenwood, Darrin Kader, Abbas AL Khafaji, Dan Larsen, J. C. Paez, Jessica Price, Jacqueline Stepherson, and Stephanie Wennmacher.

VI. Adjournment

The board, on a motion by Mr. Jaquez and seconded by Ms. Ries, unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:34 p.m.



Greg Thomas
2026-02-19 02:45 UTC

Gregory Thomas, Secretary
Waubonsee Community College
Board of Trustees