

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PONTIAC  
211 E. Madison, Pontiac, IL – Room 220  
March 18, 2025  
6:00 pm**

Members Present: Mary Campbell, Josh Crockett, Janet Hood, Jon Kilgore, Auston Koch, Cecelia Long, Becky Ropp, Tom Whitt

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Keith Cornille, Chris Downing, Nora Dukowitz, Paul Ritter, Laura Hughs, Terrance Bond, Steve Fast, Sarah Diehl-Hunt, Noah Lamb, April Fornero

Chair Becky Ropp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 pm.

**Adopt Agenda**

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to adopt the agenda. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**President's Report**

President Keith Cornille thanked April Fornero for hosting this evening's meetings and thanked Chris Downing for presenting at the Board Dinner. President Cornille congratulated Paul Ritter on his award for Formal Educator of the Year. He also congratulated Daniel Johnson, Heartland's first Special Olympics winner (a silver medal in snowshoeing).

President Cornille reported that Heartland's annual Service Day is April 25<sup>th</sup>.

President Cornille reviewed the agenda for the evening.

**College Spotlight: Pontiac Annual Update**

President Cornille introduced April Fornero to give a presentation on the Pontiac campus annual report. Ms. Fornero reviewed various metrics from the past year, activities on campus, and goals for the future. She then entertained questions from the Board and discussion ensued.

**Executive Orders Update**

President Cornille introduced Terrance Bond and Steve Fast to give an update on recent federal Executive Orders. The College formed a task force in January to proactively monitor Executive Orders and keep the campus community appropriately informed. Mr. Bond described what the task force looks at when evaluating an EO, such as legal and political implications. The task force looks at four impact factors to determine risk: impact on learners, impact on resources, impact on operations, and impact on the College's mission. Mr. Bond then talked about levels of

risk and response and response protocols (pause, begin research process, catalog information, make recommendations to Cabinet or other appropriate level of authority, communicate). Mr. Fast then gave a recap on how this process has been used so far to evaluate EOs. Questions from the Board and discussion ensued.

President Cornille also asked Mr. Fast to give an update on the community college baccalaureate. Witness slips for this legislation are due tomorrow.

#### Cabinet Reports

President Cornille reported that the College learned this morning that retired longtime Heartland employee, Ann Pontus, passed away.

#### Financial Report

##### Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met earlier today. They discussed various projects, bids, the budget, and insurance. The Committee recommends approval of items on the Consent and Non-Personnel portions of the agenda.

##### FY26 Strategic Budget Update

Noah Lamb gave a brief presentation regarding the FY26 budget, showing a financial planning timeline, upcoming considerations (enrollment, employee compensation, departmental budget requests, general cost escalation, and upcoming College expansion and construction projects), and revenue and expense assumptions. A tentative budget will be presented to the Board for consideration in June.

#### Trustee Reports

##### ICCTA

The most recent ICCTA meeting was held last week in Lisle, IL. Trustee Tom Whitt described some of the presentations, including those regarding Executive Orders and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The ICCTA gave an update on the community college baccalaureate legislation. The state convention is upcoming on June 6 and 7 in Normal at the Marriott. May 7 is Lobby Day. More information will be forthcoming.

##### Student Trustee

Trustee Auston Koch reported on Alternative Spring Break. A group of students went to Tennessee to help with river cleanup. He then detailed upcoming student events. This is Mr. Koch's last meeting; the SGA is currently looking for more applications for leadership positions, including student trustee, for next year.

#### Consent Agenda Action Items

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of Bills
- Minutes: Workshop and Regular Meetings - February 18, 2025
- Academic Calendars: Final 2025-2026 and Draft 2026-2027
- Budget Preparation Resolution FY26
- Settlement Intervention Resolution (Amended)

Trustee Auston Koch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Non-Personnel Action Items**

Trustee Jon Kilgore made a motion to approve the Landscape Projects Phase II Bids. Trustee Mary Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Cecelia Long made a motion to approve the WDC Student Services Phase II Project. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the ICN Networking Project. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Auston Koch made a motion to approve the Tertiary Pump Replacement Bids. Trustee Janet Hood seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the CDL Water Heater Replacement Bids. Trustee Auston Koch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.


**Personnel Action Items**

Trustee Auston Koch made a motion to approve the Monthly Personnel Actions. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Having no further business, Trustee Auston Koch made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 pm.

  
Becky Ropp, Chair

  
Joshua Crockett (May 5, 2025 16:29 CDT)  
Joshua Crockett, Secretary