



HEARTLAND

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE Business Meeting - Oct 21 2025 OF THE HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2201 WOODLAWN RD., LINCOLN, IL**

HCCL - Room 2

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

6:00 PM

Members Present: Becky Ropp, Josh Crockett, Janet Hood, Angell Howard, Aemun Lopeyok

Members Absent: Laurie Bergner, Mary Campbell, Tom Whitt

Others: Keith Cornille, Chris Downing, Sarah Diel-Hunt, Noah Lamb, Steve Fast, Andy Litwiller, Dominick Demonica (DKA), Melanie Fata, Mateusz Janik (Pantagraph), Laura Hughs, Cherie Madigan, Nora Dukowitz

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America**
- 3. Adopt Agenda**
- 4. Public Comment**

Cherie Madigan gave remarks on behalf of Jean-Marie Taylor, President of HAFA. The comments pertained to providing remote access to meetings. A copy is attached.
- 5. President's Report (Oral)**

President Keith Cornille thanked the Lincoln site for hosting this evening's meeting and thanked Dr. Chris Downing and others for the report at the Board Workshop/Dinner regarding the Regional Centers Strategic Plan. The College received word that it received the Equity

Tax this year. President Keith Cornille then gave an overview of this evening's meeting.

5.1 Architect Presentation - WDC/Student Center

Dominick Demonica from DKA gave an update on the progress of the construction on the WDC/Student Center. He reviewed the remaining timeline, including key Board approval dates and an anticipated completion in spring 2027. He presented conceptual drawings and outlined phase III of the project, which includes the Enrollment Center, SAAS Offices and HALO classroom, Adult Education Office, new elevator, lounges, and outdoor plaza. This project is currently anticipated to come in under budget, thanks to the efforts of many.

5.2 College Spotlight: HCC Lincoln

Jennifer Kirby gave an annual update on the activities at the Heartland Lincoln location. Questions and discussion ensued.

5.3 Cabinet Reports

Dr. Sarah Diel-Hunt reported on awards recently won by Heartland's Marketing department, on recognition received by Adam Campbell, the Dean of Heartland's Career and Technical Education department, and on a grant the College's nursing department was recently awarded by the IBHE. Dr. Chris Downing reported on an Illinois State University alumni award April Fornero was presented with last week, on the upcoming Celebration of Excellence, on the opening of a garden dedicated to Ann Pontius, a longtime HCC employee who recently passed away, and on the upcoming ribbon cutting of the Constitution Trail extension at Heartland. Noah Lamb reported on the highlights of Heartland Athletics so far this season and also on Heartland's new employee onboarding program.

6. Financial Report (Oral)

6.1 Finance Committee Report

Janet Hood gave this month's Finance Committee report. The Committee received updates on transfers, the audit,

and equity tax eligibility. They also received information about the bids to be presented tonight.

6.2 Tax Levy Process and Equity Tax Authorization

Noah Lamb gave an overview of the tax levy process and the equity tax authorization. He also gave a brief update on the preliminary audit. The final audit will be presented to the Board later this year.

7. Trustee Reports

7.1 ICCTA (Oral)

Chair Becky Ropp gave a brief overview of recent and upcoming ICCTA activities, including the upcoming meetings in Naperville, IL. She also gave the dates for the ACCT National Legislative Summit, February 8-11, 2026.

7.2 Student Trustee Report

Trustee Aemun Lopeyok reported that the SAC meeting to be held last week has been cancelled. The next upcoming SAC meeting will be next month at the College of Lake County. The SGA has been hearing updates from Noah Lamb regarding the College's budget, in preparation for the tuition discussion in the spring. The College's food drive is upcoming, and Trustee Lopeyok encouraged people to donate to the drive. Next month's Board Workshop/Dinner will feature a conversation between student leaders and the Board of Trustees.

8. Consent Agenda Action Items

Item 8.6. was removed from the Consent Agenda by Trustee Janet Hood for an abstention vote. Trustee Josh Crockett moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Aemun Lopeyok seconded the motion. The motion passed. Items approved:

- Bills
- Minutes: September 16, 2025
- Travel Expenses
- Transfer to Restricted Purposes for Program Contingency
- Transfer to Restricted Purposes for Deferred Maintenance
- HCC Pontiac Sublease Renewal: Kankakee Workforce Board
- Board Policy: Order of Business – Second Reading

9. Non-Personnel Action Items

9.1. Equity Tax Resolution

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the Equity Tax Resolution, which was seconded by Trustee Aemun Lopeyok. The motion passed unanimously.

9.2. Approval of FRC Water Heater Replacement Bids

Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to approve the water heater replacement bids, which was seconded by Trustee Janet Hood. The motion passed unanimously.

9.3. Approval of Drywall Bids

Trustee Aemun Lopeyok made a motion to approve the drywall bids, which was seconded by Trustee Angell Howard. The motion passed unanimously.

9.4. HCC Pontiac Sublease Renewal: Mid Central Community Action, Inc. (Item pulled from Consent)

Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to approve the sublease renewal, which was seconded by Trustee Aemun Lopeyok. Trustee Janet Hood abstained from voting. The motion passed.

10. Closed Session - Personnel – Section 2(c)(1) of 5 ILCS 120

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to go into Closed Session, which was seconded by Angell Howard. Closed Session began at approximately 7:35 pm. Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to end Closed Session, which was seconded by Trustee Angell Howard. Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to return to Open Session, which was seconded by Aemun Lopeyok.

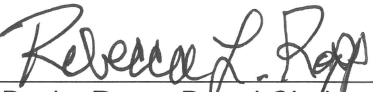
11. Personnel Action Items

11.1 Monthly Personnel Actions

Trustee Aemun Lopeyok made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Items. Trustee Angell Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

Trustee Angell Howard made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:46 pm.



Becky Ropp, Board Chair



Josh Crockett, Board
Secretary