



**HEARTLAND**  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**MINUTES OF THE Business Meeting - Nov 18 2025**  
**OF THE HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**1500 W. RAAB ROAD, NORMAL, IL**

Community Commons Building - CCB 1406/07

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

**6:00 PM**

Members: Becky Ropp, Josh Crockett, Mary Campbell, Aemun Lopeyok, Laurie Bergner, Janet Hood, Tom Whitt, Angell Howard

Others: Keith Cornille, Nora Dukowitz, Steve Fast, Sarah Diel-Hunt, Noah Lamb, Chris Downing, Jennifer O'Connor, Jean-Marie Taylor, Melanie Fata, Wayne Bass, Cristina Prestin, Mateusz Janik (Pantagraph), Terrance Bond, Amy Pawlik, Scott Bross, Jason Nelson, Josh Woods, Trevor Hoberty, Amanda Walton, others

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Becky Ropp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:06 pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America**

**3. Adopt Agenda**

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to adopt the agenda. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**5. President's Report**

President Keith Cornille thanked Trustee Aemun Lopeyok for putting the preceding Board Workshop together. He also thanked those who attended the recent Veterans Day event and the Foundation Celebration of Excellence dinner.

President Cornille asked Dr. Chris Downing to introduce the Murphy Family, represented by Mary Jo Murphy, to acknowledge their recent gift to the College for the second-floor lounge in the WDC/Student Center ("The Murphy Family Lounge").

President Cornille noted the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents (ICCCP) legislative agenda for the 2026 Fiscal Year and the priorities going forward. There is alignment with the ICCCP legislative agenda and the ICCTA legislative agenda.

President Cornille reviewed the evening's agenda.

5.1 **Instructional Innovation Grant Program** ⓘ

Faculty members Wayne Bass, Amanda Walton, and Cristina Prestin gave a presentation on the Instructional Innovation Grant Program and the various projects that have been completed because of it.

5.2 **Board Policy Revision - First Reading - Campus Crime and Security** ⓘ

President Keith Cornille completed the first reading of the Board Policy revision for Campus Crime and Security. There was no objection. This item is anticipated to come back for a second reading in December.

5.3 **Cabinet Reports (Oral)**

Dr. Sarah Diel-Hunt reported that two faculty members recently presented at a recent Assessment Institute.

Dr. Amy Pawlik shared that International Education Week is happening this week, with several events planned. She also reported on how campus is addressing student food insecurity issues. Messaging has been sent to the campus community about resources that are available.

Dr. Chris Downing reported that the Lincoln Holiday Parade is upcoming on December 4th. Also, the Celebration of Excellence was held last week and was

well attended and successful. Not only were students and donors recognized, but also alums.

Mr. Noah Lamb updated the group on the status of Heartland Athletics. The teams are doing well. Some have already gone to Nationals and others participating later in the week.

## **6. Financial Report**

### **6.1 Finance Committee (Oral)**

Trustee Janet Hood gave a recap of the Finance Committee's agenda and activities for their November meeting, which reflect and include the items coming forward for the Board's consideration tonight.

### **6.2 Estimated 2025 Tax Levy**

Mr. Noah Lamb gave an overview of last year's tax levy compared to the proposed levy for this year. He noted that the proposed levy maintains the tax rate for the ninth year in a row. The College will be receiving more money than in the past, however, due to an increase in the area's Equalized Assessed Value (EAV). The levy is preliminary and based on estimates. This will come back to the Board for consideration in December, at which time there will be a Public Hearing as the levy increase is more than a 5% increase.

### **6.3 FY25 Preliminary Annual Consolidated Financial Report and Single Audit**

Mr. Noah Lamb gave an update on the progress of the Fiscal Year 2025 Preliminary Audit Report. The final audit presentation is anticipated to be brought to the Board in January or February of next year. This is slightly later than originally expected; some extra work was needed by the College, and the institution is also waiting on the federal government so that the College can submit the audit, as all Illinois community colleges are. Mr. Lamb gave a brief overview of key definitions as they relate to an audit process.

### **6.4 Professional Services - Compensation**

Mr. Noah Lamb gave an overview of the Professional Services - Compensation item that the Board will

consider on tonight's Consent agenda. It covers more than just salary. This company will help the College to think through compensation as a whole.

## **7. Trustee Reports**

### **7.1 ICCTA/ACCT/GLI**

Trustee Tom Whitt updated the Board on last week's ICCTA events in Naperville. At the ICCTA events, the legislative agenda and other topics were reviewed. At the ACCT Governance Leadership Institute (GLI), part of the ICCTA event, Trustee Becky Ropp stated that very worthwhile information was presented. It was a good refresher. Trustee Ropp sat on a panel during this event also.

Trustee Whitt also gave a report on his recent trip to the ACCT event in New Orleans. Topics including AI and procurement were covered.

The next ICCTA meetings are in March of next year. The ACCT National Legislative Summit is in February of next year.

### **7.2 Student Trustee Report**

Student Trustee Aemun Lopeyok gave a report to the Board regarding recent and upcoming student events. He thanked people for contributing to the student food drive. He reported on the Student Advisory Committee's (SAC) recent gathering at the College of Lake County to discuss priorities, advocacy, and more.

### **7.3 Calendar of Events**

## **8. Consent Agenda Action Items**

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Angell Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **8.1 Bills**

#### **8.2 Minutes - October 21, 2025**

[October 21, 2025 Workshop Minutes.docx](#) 

[October 21, 2025 Business Meeting Minutes.docx](#) 



8.3 **Travel Expenditures** Ⓢ

8.4 **Naming - Murphy Lounge** Ⓢ

8.5 **Approval of Professional Services - Compensation** Ⓢ

**9. Non-Personnel Action Items**

9.1 **Estimated 2025 Tax Levy Resolution** Ⓢ

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the Estimated 2025 Tax Levy Resolution. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9.2 **Approval of Fiber Optic Cable Replacement Bids** Ⓢ

Trustee Angell Howard made a motion to approve the Approval of Fiber Optic Cable Replacement Bids. Trustee Janet Hood seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**10. Personnel Action Items**

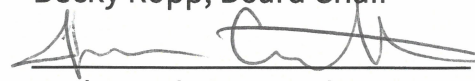
10.1 Monthly Personnel Actions

Trustee Aemun Lopeyok made a motion to approve the Monthly Personnel Actions. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**11. Adjournment**

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Angell Howard seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:49 pm.

  
Becky Ropp, Board Chair

  
Josh Crockett, Board  
Secretary