

MINUTES OF THE Business Meeting - Mar 24 2026
OF THE HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1500 W. RAAB ROAD, NORMAL, IL

HCCP - 211 E. Madison, Pontiac

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

6:00 PM

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Keith Cornille, Nora Dukowitz, Noah Lamb, Amy Pawlik, Sarah Diel-Hunt, Chris Downing, Laura Hughs, Trevor Hoberty, Joyce Tucker, Andy Litwiller, Melanie Fata, Kelly Pyle, April Fornero, Sara McKenna (Wipfli)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Becky Ropp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:03 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 Tom Whitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. President's Report


President Keith Cornille updated the group that spring is here, and priority registration begins next week. He thanked April Fornero for presenting the Pontiac Update at the preceding Board Workshop. He thanked Trustees Hood and Crockett for presenting to the regions' governing bodies about the Regional Strategic Plan earlier this month. Several of the College's leadership team just attended the Higher Learning Commission conference in Chicago over the weekend, preparing for the College's upcoming accreditation evaluation. President Cornille previewed next month's meeting, which will include recognition of several students, and also went over tonight's agenda.


5.1 FY2025 Audit Report

Noah Lamb introduced Sara McKenna from Wipfli to present on the FY2025 Audit Report. The auditors completed an Annual Consolidated Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2025, which covered Governmentwide Statements; the Uniform Financial Statements; Cash and

Investments; Capital Assets & Debt; Revenues, Expenses and Net Position; Single Audit and ICCB Compliance Audits; and a Preliminary Unmodified (Clean) Opinion. The Annual Consolidated Financial Audit Report will be finalized and dated March 27, 2026 by Wipfli, LLC.

5.2 Regional Strategic Plan

[HCC Pontiac Draft FY26-31 strategic plan.docx](#) 

[HCC Lincoln Draft FY26-31 strategic plan.docx](#) 

Chris Downing gave a presentation about the Regional Strategic Plan. He gave an overview of the process, which included an environmental scan, listening tour, and evaluation of enrollment trends. He reviewed the environmental scan findings, which indicated low employment participation rates in the areas and a need for health care workers, technical education, and CDL training, as well as a growing Hispanic community (Pontiac). The listening tour indicated employment challenges, unfamiliarity with Heartland's value, and area transportation challenges. Finally, Dr. Downing explained the future goals for the Pontiac and Lincoln campuses and items already in motion to achieve these goals. Dr. Downing thanked the Board for their engagement in the process of developing the Regional Strategic Plan. Questions and discussion ensued.

5.3 Cabinet Reports (Oral)

Dr. Sarah Diel-Hunt reported that Heartland's Marketing department again brought home the Paragon gold award for their Continuing Education program cover.

Dr. Chris Downing reported that April is the Invest in the Nest campaign and also Community College Month. Service Day is upcoming at the end of April, where students, staff, faculty, and others engage in various volunteer projects throughout the community. Dr. Downing thanked various staff members for their help with acting on implementation items for the regional center plans' goals.

Dr. Amy Pawlik reported that next week, Heartland will have visitors from our Sister City in Japan.

President Cornille mentioned that the Community College Economic Impact Study will be released next month. Heartland will be partnering with the other colleges in the same media market on media coverage for this release.

6. Financial Report

6.1 Finance Committee (Oral)

Trustee Hood reported on the activities of the preceding Finance Committee meeting, including the discussion of a draft Project Labor Agreement and the Lincoln Center lease renewal, an update on employee insurance, and a report on the audit. The Committee

recommends the approval of the Finance Committee-related items on the agenda tonight.

6.2 FY2027 Strategic Budget Update

Laura Hughs gave a presentation on the Strategic Budget Update for FY2027. She gave an overview of considerations such as enrollment, collective bargaining, employee compensation, budget requests, and inflation. She then reviewed budget forecasts versus actuals for past, present, and future years. She finished by talking about future pressures on the budget, both expenses and revenues.

7. Trustee Reports

7.1 ICCTA (Oral)

Trustee Tom Whitt reported on the recent ICCTA meeting at Moraine View Community College. The roundtable discussion focused on dual credit, the new FAFSA rollout, and the proposed Accountability Act. The seminar portion was on AI. Witness slips are available to support the Community College Baccalaureate (CCB). Community College Month is in April, and Lobby Day is coming up on May 6. The ICCTA Annual Convention is upcoming in June.

7.2 Student Trustee 

Trustee Aemun Lopeyok reported on the recent activities of the various student organizations, including the BSU Leadership event, the ICCB SAC meeting, the Hawks Food Drive 1st Birthday, and Alternative Spring Break, all earlier this month. Various end-of-semester activities including the Donning of the Kente and Lavendar Graduation are upcoming.


As this meeting is Trustee Lopeyok's last during his term, he shared kind words with the Board and thanked all for supporting him and working with him.

7.3 Calendar of Events 

8. Consent Agenda Action Items 

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

8.1 Bills 

8.2 Minutes:  Board Workshop and Business Meetings - February 17, 2026


Board Workshop - Feb 17 2026 - Minutes - Public.docx 

Business Meeting - Feb 17 2026 - Minutes - Public.docx 

8.3 Approval of FY2027 Budget Preparation Resolution 

8.4 Acceptance of the FY2025 Annual Consolidated Financial Report 

8.5 [Approval of HCC Lincoln Lease Renewal](#) 

8.6 [Approval of Academic Calendars: Final AY26-27, Final AY27-28, and Draft AY28-29](#) 

8.7 [Approval of Regional Strategic Plan](#) 

9. Non-Personnel Action Items

9.1 [Approval of WDC/Student Center Phase III Bids](#) 

Trustee Aemun Lopeyok made a motion to approve the WDC/Student Center Phase III bids. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

9.2 [Approval of PPB Storage Building Bids](#) 

Trustee Angell Howard made a motion to approve the PPB Storage Building bids. Trustee Janet Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

9.3 [Approval of CDL and WDC Air Handler Replacement Purchase](#) 

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to approve the air handler replacement purchase. Trustee Angell Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

9.4 [Approval of ICB Corridor Upgrades Project](#) 

Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to approve the ICB Corridor upgrades project. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

9.5 [Approval of CLC Flooring and Paint Job Order Contract](#) 

Trustee Aemun Lopeyok made a motion to approve the CLC flooring and paint job order contract. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

10. [Closed Session: Negotiations – Section 2\(c\)\(2\) of 5 ILCS 120 and Personnel - Section 2\(c\)\(1\) of 5 ILCS 120](#)

At approximately 7:46 pm, Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to approve going into Closed Session. Trustee Angell Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

At approximately 8:29 pm, Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to approve ending Closed Session. Trustee Mary Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

At approximately 8:29 pm, Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to approve returning to Open Session. Trustee Angell Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

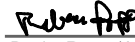
11. Personnel Action Items

11.1 Monthly Personnel Actions [Monthly Personnel Actions](#) 

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to approve the Monthly Personnel Actions.
Trustee Angell Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

12. Adjournment

At approximately 8:31 pm, Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to approve going into Closed Session. Trustee Mary Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed and the meeting adjourned.



Becky Ropp (Apr 22, 2026 13:15:49 CDT)

Becky Ropp, Board Chair



Josh Crockett (Apr 27, 2026 14:50:14 CDT)

Josh Crockett, Board Secretary


Business Meeting - Mar 24 2026 - Minutes - Members


Final Audit Report


2026-04-27


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