MINUTES OF THE Business Meeting - May 19 2026
OF THE HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
1500 W. RAAB ROAD, NORMAL, IL
Community Commons Building - CCB 1406/07
Tuesday, May 19, 2026

6:00 PM

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

Members Absent: None

Others: Keith Cornille, Nora Dukowitz, Noah Lamb, Sarah Diel-Hunt, Amy Pawlik, Steve Fast, Jean-Marie Taylor, Chris Downing, Jason Nelson, Josh Woods, Terrance Bond, Sarah Tipton, Jennifer O'Connor, Kelly Pyle, Karla Huffman, Janet Titus, Trevor Hoberty, Gena Glover, Camille Springer, Sarah Tipton, Martin Newell, Mateusz Janik (Pantagraph), various others

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

   Chair Becky Ropp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 pm.

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

3. **Adopt Agenda**

   Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to adopt the agenda. Trustee Mary Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Public Comment**

5. **President's Report**

   Prior to the President's Report, Chair Becky Ropp congratulated President Keith Cornille on his recent award from the Multi-Cultural Leadership Program (MCLP).

   President Cornille then thanked those that presented on the College's enrollment plan at the preceding Board Workshop tonight. He thanked all of those that organized and attended last Friday's Commencement ceremony and all of the activities leading up to it. He gave a reminder of the upcoming Elevate Heartland event on Friday, May 29.

   President Cornille shared that the Project Labor Agreement anticipated for consideration tonight will be considered next month. He noted that the employee totals information was at each Trustee's seat. He then gave an overview of the evening's agenda.

5.1 Recognition of Gift - Seehuus Family Welcome Plaza (Oral)

Dr. Chris Downing gave an overview the Seehuus Family Welcome Plaza, a generous gift to the College made by the Seehuus Family. It is an outdoor plaza on the south side of the Student Center building.

5.2 Recognition of Gift - Springer Family Hawk Shop (Oral)

Dr. Downing then gave an overview of another generous gift, this one by the Springer Family for the Hawk Shop. He introduced Camille Springer to say a few words regarding her gift.

5.3 Phi Theta Kappa Update (Oral)

Past PTK President, Jenny Sanchez Cruz, and Past Vice-President, Kasia Bell, gave a brief presentation about PTK's activities over the past year.

5.4 Service Day Recap (Oral)

Dr. Downing introduced Gena Glover to give a recap of the 2026 Heartland Service Day, which was another great success with many volunteers participating in several service projects throughout the district. Gena was accompanied by a student who participated and shared their experience.

5.5 Introduction of Karla Huffman (Oral)

Dr. Sarah Diel-Hunt introduced Karla Huffman, the new Dean of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Karla Huffman has been a full-time faculty member at the College for many years.

5.6 Cabinet Reports (Oral)

6. Financial Report

6.1 Finance Committee (Oral)

Trustee Janet Hood reviewed the activities of the Finance Committee at its meeting earlier in the evening. The Committee extends its appreciation to the Insurance Review Team (IRT) for its work. The Finance Committee recommended approval of various items on this evening's agenda, including the employee insurance and compensation items.

6.2 Employee Insurance Update (Oral)

Noah Lamb provided a high-level employee insurance update. He detailed services available to employees. He showed trend data for insurance premium costs and gave an overview on recommended plan changes the Board will be asked to consider on the Personnel portion of the agenda tonight.

6.3 Strategic Budget Update (Oral)

Laura Hughs gave budget update, detailing where Fiscal Year 2026 stands currently and is anticipated to end and where next Fiscal Year is currently forecasted. A small surplus is projected for FY26. A deficit is forecasted for FY27 at this time, though staff anticipates bringing forward a balanced budget eventually. The tentative budget will come to the Board for consideration next month.

6.4 RAMP Capital Requests FY27 (Oral)

Noah Lamb gave an overview of the RAMP capital requests, which are submitted to the State on an annual basis. Current projects include a Health Sciences building, west side infrastructure development, and a Career and Technical Education building. These projects are contingent on State funding, and that approval process can be lengthy. Questions and discussion ensued.

7. Trustee Reports

7.1 ICCTA - Lobby Day Summary (Oral)

Trustee Tom Whitt reported that Lobby Day occurred in Springfield a few weeks ago. Legislators were asked to support MAPP and PATH funding and the Community College Baccalaureate. The ICCTA Convention will be June 5-6 in Lombard. The next regularly scheduled meeting is September 18-19 in Springfield.

7.2 **Student Trustee**

Trustee Summer Barone gave an overview of recent student activities, including the Student Leadership Celebration, Finals Fest, Taste of the World, Lavendar Graduation, Donning of the Kente, and more. She spoke about the importance of Commencement. She also spoke about Lobby Day and how impactful it was for the students and those they talked to afterwards.

7.3 **Calendar of Events**

8. Consent Agenda Action Items

Trustee Janet Hood asked for the Mid Central Community Action (MCCA) lease renewal to be removed from the Consent Agenda. With no objection, that item was moved to the Non-Personnel portion of the agenda. Trustee Tom Whitt motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with this amendment. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded, and the amended motion passed unanimously.

8.1 **Bills**

8.2 **Minutes** : Board Workshop and Business Meetings - April 21, 2026

Board Workshop - Apr 21 2026 - Minutes - Public.docx

Business Meeting - Apr 21 2026 - Minutes - Public.docx

8.3 **Travel Expenditures**

8.4 **Approval of RAMP Capital Requests FY27**

8.5 **Naming Agreements - Seehuus Family Welcome Plaza and Springer Family Hawk Shop**

8.6 **Mid Central Community Action (MCCA) Lease Renewal**

This item was moved to the Non-Personnel portion of the agenda and considered first during that part of the meeting. Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Angell Howard seconded the motion. Trustee Janet Hood abstained from the vote. All others voted in favor of the motion, and it carried 7-1 (in favor-abstain).

8.7 **Revised Final Calendar for Academic Year (AY)26-27**

9. Non-Personnel Action Items

9.1 **Approval of ICB Corridor Upgrades Project Bids**

Trustee Angell Howard made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Mary Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9.2 **Approval of HCC Lincoln Renovation Job Order Contract**

Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Angell Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9.3 **Approval of HCC Pontiac Renovation Job Order Contract**

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Summer Barone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9.4 **Approval of CDL Barrier Project Bids**

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Angell Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9.5 **Approval of Concrete Repairs Project Bids**

Trustee Angell Howard made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Janet Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9.6 **Approval of Pavement Repairs Project Bids**

Trustee Mary Campbell made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Janet Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9.7 **Second Reading - Board Policy: 6.7 Official Holidays**

Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Summer Barone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

At approximately 7:34 pm, Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to go into Closed Session, pursuant to the sections cited. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to end Closed Session. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Closed Session ended at approximately 8:35 pm.

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to return to Open Session. Trustee Angell Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Personnel Action Items

11.1 Monthly Personnel Actions **Monthly Personnel Actions**

Trustee Angell Howard made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11.2 **Approval of Full-Time Faculty Promotions**

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Mary Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11.3 **Approval of Emeritus Designations**

Trustee Angell Howard made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11.4 **Approval of Employee Insurance Premiums**

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-1 (in favor-opposed), with Trustee Whitt opposed.

11.5 **Approval of Employee Compensation FY27**

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the item. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Summer Barone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:44 pm.

Rebecca L. Ropp

Becky Ropp, Board Chair

Josh Crockett, Board Secretary