



HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE Business Meeting - Aug 18 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, August 18, 2026

6:00 PM

Members: Summer Barone, Laurie Bergner, Mary Campbell, Janet Hood, Becky Ropp, Tom Whitt, Angell Howard (entered 6:33 pm)

Members Absent: Josh Crockett

Others: Keith Cornille, Nora Dukowitz, Jean-Marie Taylor and other members of the Heartland Adjunct Faculty Association (HAFA), Steve Fast, Maggie Stolfa, Chris Downing, Sarah Diel-Hunt, Noah Lamb, Amy Pawlik, Terrance Bond, Sarah Tipton, Gena Glover, Jen O'Connor, Samantha Nussbaum, Trevor Hoberty, Terrance Bond, Melanie Fata, Kelly Pyle, Brian Brennan, Laura Hughes, Lindsay Eickhorst, Jason Nelson, Josh Woods, and others

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

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

2. [Approval of Remote Attendance](#)

This item was no longer necessary and so was not acted upon.

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

4. **Adopt Agenda**

To adopt the agenda

Moved by: Thomas Whitt; seconded by: Janet Hood

Aye: Summer Barone, Laurie Bergner, Mary Campbell, Janet Hood, Becky Ropp, and Thomas Whitt

Absent: Josh Crockett and Angell Howard

Carried 6-0

5. **Public Comment**

Jean-Marie Taylor gave a public comment on behalf of the Heartland Adjunct Faculty Association (HAFA) thanking all for their participation in negotiations.

6. President's Report

President Keith Cornille thanked everyone for their work at the negotiation table. He also thanked those that presented at the preceding Board dinner regarding the College's new website. He then provided an overview of this evening's agenda.

6.1 Community Use of Space

Gena Glover and her staff gave a presentation on the increased use of College spaces by various groups for meetings and other events.

6.2 Strategic Plan

Terrance Bond gave a brief summary of the process and timeline of the drafting of the College's new Strategic Plan, which is before the Board for consideration tonight after over two years of collaborative work.

6.3 Cabinet Reports (Oral)

Sarah Diel-Hunt reported that Adam Campbell is presenting at a CTE conference in Las Vegas.

Chris Downing noted that both regional center directors have been asked to join leadership boards at area health agencies. Pontiac has its first ESL program, with 14 participants at launch. Heartland Night Out is upcoming on September 3rd.

Amy Pawlik reported that HALO continues to have record enrollments. The Hawk Hub was unveiled yesterday, providing support for evening students.

6.3.1. Fall Enrollment Report

Lindsay Eickhorst gave a fall enrollment update. Headcount and credit hours are down from last year, but enrollment of diverse students and those over 25 remains high. There is also continued growth at the College's regional centers.

7. Financial Report

7.1 Finance Committee (Oral)

Trustee Janet Hood gave a report on behalf of the Finance Committee. She indicated the Committee was supportive of the items before the Board for consideration this evening.

7.2 Voluntary Separation Incentive Plan (VSIP)

Noah Lamb gave an overview of the Voluntary Separation Incentive Plan (VSIP). This plan would provide compensation to certain employees to separate from the College. It would apply to regular, full-time employees with at least 15 years of service to the College and would provide one half-year's salary, a \$12,000 health insurance stipend, and a \$500 payment for each year of service. This plan has been introduced to campus already, and employees who would be impacted if the plan were approved have been given a timeline to consider participation. It is hoped that this plan would ultimately produce savings for the College that will help close an anticipated budget gap. Discussion and questions ensued.

- 7.3 Strategic Budget Update
Noah Lamb gave a report on how FY26 is anticipated to close and what is anticipated over the next few Fiscal Years. He highlighted certain opportunities and challenges on both the revenue and expense sides of College operations. The College continues to closely monitor its fiscal health and plan appropriately.

8. Trustee Reports

- 8.1 ICCTA (Oral)
The ICCTA Executive Committee met recently for a retreat in Freeport, IL. The focus of the leadership this year is student mental health and suicide prevention. The ICCTA received a grant to continue work on the community college baccalaureate. At the recent retreat meeting, challenges facing colleges were discussed such as funding and the enrollment cliff. The next ICCTA meeting is September 18th in Springfield, IL. Guided Pathways will be a main topic. October 21-24 is the ACCT conference in Chicago. November 13 is the next ICCTA meeting following that, which will be in Naperville, IL. The seminar topic is to be announced.

- 8.2 [Student Trustee](#) 

Trustee Summer Barone gave the Student Trustee report. The semester has officially begun with many activities planned, such as Week of Welcome and the Involvement Fair. Clubs are beginning to meet. Trustee Barone is excited to meet other student leaders on campus. Heartland welcomed new international students to campus last week with an orientation.

Trustee Barone has been going around campus and asking students their opinions. They are frustrated with construction. Students would like a Heartland food court and additional "hang out" spots identified. Summer has forwarded these concerns and ideas as appropriate.

- 8.3 [Calendar of Events](#) 

- 8.4 Upcoming Elections (Oral)

Chair Becky Ropp gave an overview of the upcoming election next April. Heartland has three trustee seats coming open, two six-year seats and one two-year seat. People can begin circulating petitions on August 25th. Chair Ropp gave an overview of the filing process.

9. [Consent Agenda Action Items](#)

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented

Moved by: Thomas Whitt; seconded by: Mary Campbell

Aye: Summer Barone, Laurie Bergner, Mary Campbell, Janet Hood, Angell Howard, Becky Ropp, and Thomas Whitt

Absent: Josh Crockett

Carried 7-0

9.1 [Bills](#) 

9.2 [Minutes](#) 

[Board Workshop - Jun 16 2026 - Minutes - Html](#) 

[Business Meeting - Jun 16 2026 - Minutes - Html](#) 

[Board Retreat - Jul 21 2026 - Minutes - Html](#) 

9.3 [Travel Expenditures](#) 

9.4 [Approval of Professional Services - Background Checks](#) 

9.5 [Approval of Professional Services - Procurement Cards](#) 

9.6 [Approval of College Strategic Plan](#) 

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

To enter into closed session to consider collective negotiating matters, citing Section 2(c)(2) of 5 ILCS 120, and personnel, citing Section 2(c)(1) of 5 ILCS 120
Moved by: Laurie Bergner; seconded by: Thomas Whitt

Aye: Summer Barone, Laurie Bergner, Mary Campbell, Janet Hood, Angell Howard, Becky Ropp, and Thomas Whitt

Absent: Josh Crockett

Carried 7-0

11. Personnel Action Items

11.1 Monthly Personnel Actions

To approve the recommendation as presented in Board Agenda Item 11.1. (to approve the Monthly Personnel Actions)

Moved by: Janet Hood; seconded by: Angell Howard

Aye: Summer Barone, Laurie Bergner, Mary Campbell, Janet Hood, Angell Howard, Becky Ropp, and Thomas Whitt

Absent: Josh Crockett

Carried 7-0

11.2 [Approval of Heartland Adjunct Faculty Association Collective Bargaining Agreement](#)

To accept the recommendation as presented in Board Agenda Item 11.2. (to approve the HAFA CBA)

Moved by: Laurie Bergner; seconded by: Angell Howard

Aye: Summer Barone, Laurie Bergner, Mary Campbell, Janet Hood, Angell Howard, Becky Ropp, and Thomas Whitt

Absent: Josh Crockett

Carried 7-0

11.3

Approval of Voluntary Separation Incentive Plan 

To approve the recommendation as presented in Board Agenda Item 11.3. (to approve the VISP)

Moved by: Janet Hood; seconded by: Mary Campbell

Aye: Summer Barone, Laurie Bergner, Mary Campbell, Janet Hood, Angell Howard, Becky Ropp, and Thomas Whitt

Absent: Josh Crockett

Carried 7-0

12. Adjournment

To adjourn

Moved by: Thomas Whitt; seconded by: Janet Hood

Aye: Summer Barone, Laurie Bergner, Mary Campbell, Josh Crockett, Janet Hood, Angell Howard, Becky Ropp, and Thomas Whitt

Carried - The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:18 pm. 8-0


Becky Ropp, Board Chair


Josh Crockett, Board Secretary