

**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Mohawk Valley Community College Board of Trustees held in the Stetson Boardroom, Payne Hall, Room 300, of Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, New York was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Chair Waters on Monday, August 18, 2025.

**Members Present**

Wendy Waters  
Dana Jerrard  
David Mathis  
Anna D'Ambrosio  
Anthony Colón  
Frank Dubeck  
William S. Calli  
Camille Kahler

**Members Excused**

Student Trustee  
Elaine Falvo

**2. Chair's Report**

Chair Waters opened the meeting by reviewing updated committee assignments and a scheduling change for the upcoming academic year. Committee meetings will now occur prior to board meetings and no longer on the same day, with reports uploaded to the Board portal in advance to allow time for review and preparation of questions.

She welcomed Erica Brindisi, incoming President of the Professional Association, and then recognized several recent college achievements:

- Watermark Award: In June, MVCC was one of only three institutions nationwide honored at the Watermark Conference in Washington, D.C. The award recognized MVCC's implementation of a fully integrated, campus-wide planning and assessment process that increased participation and underscored the College's commitment to continuous improvement.
- ThINCubator & SBDC Recognition: MVCC's ThINCubator, in collaboration with the Small Business Development Center, co-hosted a "How to Fund Your Business" seminar. At the event, Susan Burdick, owner of Suzy Q's, was named SBDC Woman-Owned Business of the Year for New York State—the second time in three years that a regional business supported by MVCC has received the award.
- NYCCT Recognition: At the upcoming NYCCT Annual Conference, MVCC's C3 Program will receive the Community College Innovation Award, and Trustee David Mathis will be honored with the Donald M. Mawhinney Jr. Trustee Leadership Award.

Chair Waters then asked for the Treasurer's Report.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Vice President Squires reviewed the current financial reports. Revenue is tracking 4.6% below

budget, due primarily to delays in grant funding, notably the Pre-ETS program, which budgeted \$3 million but has only expended \$1.027 million to date. This timing variance is expected to resolve in the coming months.

Expenses are increasing in line with enrollment growth, particularly in fringe benefits, following the College's transition to a self-insured health insurance model in 2024. Despite temporary imbalances, MVCC maintains a strong financial position.

He also reported that the College holds \$15 million in staggered six-month U.S. Treasury bills, structured to mature monthly, yielding a 4.2% return and generating approximately \$830,000 in interest year-to-date.

Fall semester charges were posted to student accounts on July 9. Census Day is scheduled for September 19, after which official enrollment numbers will be confirmed. Due to year-end financial preparation, no financial statements will be presented at the September or October board meetings.

#### **4. Student Trustee Report**

As the Student Trustee position is currently vacant, there was no report.

#### **5. Committees and Affiliations**

##### Nominating Committee

Committee Chair Frank Dubeck reported that the committee met on August 5 to review and recommend the following slate of officers the 2025-2026 academic year:

##### MVCC Board of Trustees

President, Randall J. VanWagoner

Chair, Wendy Waters

Vice Chair, Dana Jerrard

Secretary, Gloria Karol

Treasurer, Tom Squires

A motion to approve the slate of officers was made by Trustee William Calli and seconded by Trustee Tony Colón. Motion passed unanimously.

##### Dormitory Corporation (DC)

DC Chair Anna D'Ambrosio reported that the DC Board met prior to the Board of Trustees meeting. Items reviewed included the treasurer's report, fall occupancy and summer housing updates, RA training schedule, progress on security camera and window projects, and highlights of summer facilities work.

The Utica Fire Academy will be housed in Penfield Hall during the academic year. Additionally, the DC Board received a presentation from Strategic Financial Services and voted to target a 50–65% investment mix. Monthly executive committee meetings will be held to maintain momentum on the comprehensive master plan.

### Foundation

President VanWagoner announced the 2025 Hall of Fame Induction Class, expanding on the previously distributed Foundation report. The induction ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 6, and will honor: Donna Felitto, James Fiore, Stephanie Reynolds, and Rick Short.

### ACCT/NYCCT

Trustee Tony Colon provided an update on recent federal developments impacting community colleges. Key highlights included: preservation of Pell Grant eligibility for part-time students and protections for family farms and small businesses in aid calculations; the planned launch of Workforce Pell in 2026; and significant differences between the Administration's FY 2026 budget proposal, which includes deep cuts to student aid programs, and the Senate's proposal, which maintains level funding. Additional updates covered upcoming federal rulemaking on student aid and accountability, policy shifts moving certain education programs to the Department of Labor, new restrictions related to DEI practices, and changes to student eligibility under federal law. Nicholas Kent was appointed as Under Secretary of Education, overseeing postsecondary and student aid policy.

NYCCT Chair Elect Wendy Waters added that the SUNY public 60-day comment period on proposed rules and regulations will close today. She reported meeting with the Oneida County Executive, who has committed to submitting a formal response letter. NYCCT has retained The Parkside Group as its new lobbying firm, with promising advocacy potential. She reminded trustees of the upcoming NYCCT Annual Conference, which will include fireside chats featuring Todd McLee and President VanWagoner. Of note, four SUNY Trustees and the SUNY Chancellor are expected to attend the conference. An invitation to the Governor has been extended as well.

### SUNY/NYCCAP

President VanWagoner reported that SUNY has released the Student Momentum campaign where reporting data will be evaluated and responded back to with benchmarks each college will need to meet.

Chair Waters then provided an update on the Vice Chancellor search. Despite a national search and finalist recommendations, SUNY appointed an internal candidate to serve on a permanent basis.

**August 18, 2025 Minutes were amended at the September 15, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting as follows:**

**Discussion on the August 18, 2025 Board of Trustees minutes reflected a change under the NYCCT report to clarify Chair Waters update on the Vice Chancellor search. The minutes will be amended to reflect that SUNY appointed an internal candidate as the permanent candidate not on an interim basis.**

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda 9a with these changes was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Trustee Frank Dubeck. The motion was unanimously approved and the August 18, 2025 minutes will be amended.**

## **6. President's Report**

President VanWagoner noted that classes begin in two weeks, with Fall Opening and August Institute taking place tomorrow.

He reported that NYCCAP and NYCCT submitted a joint letter addressing concerns of the Bronson Bill and its potential impacts on community college governance.

MVCC will host executives from Chobani next week to explore expansion opportunities and strategic partnerships.

Regarding performance metrics, President VanWagoner discussed the KPI report provided to the Board, highlighting changes in data formatting and reporting frameworks. SUNY is increasingly engaging with community colleges and has secured the Richmond Federal Platform to replace the expired ACCT Voluntary Framework of Accountability.

This new platform offers access to richer data, though no benchmark comparisons are available during the transition year.

### College Senate

College Senate Chair Professor Christine Miller reported that Senate Advisory held their annual summer retreat. During the retreat, Senate Advisory reviewed committee reports and drafted follow up comments and questions for each committee. The group discussed how to engage committees and councils with Senate and what is still needed for Governance Taskforce recommendations. Cabinet/Senate Advisory goals were discussed and a plan drafted on how each goal will be addressed during the academic year.

## **7. Vice President Reports and Academic Affairs Spotlight**

There were no questions from the Board regarding the written reports submitted by the Vice Presidents. The Division of Academic Affairs was spotlighted this month and Assistant Vice President Sheila Flihan presented to the Board on the Center for Accelerated Pathways. The presentation reviewed the growth of dual credit in the high schools as well as the programming and partnership with over ten organizations that service early college programs, P-Tech, PROPEL, MSA, and IBEW.

## **8. Consent Agenda**

*Attachment a.* Minutes of June 16, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting

*Attachment b.* Treasurer's Report

*Attachment c.* Revised 2025-26 Tuition and Fee Schedule

*Attachment d.* Program Revision Proposal: Airframe and Powerplant Technician Certificate

*Attachment e.* December Break: 2025-26 Academic Year

*Attachment f.* Salary Increases for Excluded Administrative Staff

*Attachment g.* Delta CR-34 Engine Donation: MVCC Foundation to Mohawk Valley Community College

*Attachment h.* KoolMore FS4-2SS Commercial Freezers Donation: MVCC Foundation to Mohawk Valley Community College

*Attachment i.* Distinguished Retiree, Donna Felitto

- Attachment j.* Emeritus, Gabriel Melendez
- Attachment k.* Emerita, Lori Hughes
- Attachment l.* Emerita, Mary Kate LaPaglia
- Attachment m.* Distinguished Retiree, Karin Capuana
- Attachment n.* Shahida Dar, Interim Dean of the School of STEM Transfer
- Attachment o.* Susan Johnston, Director of Opportunity Programs
- Attachment p.* Tennille Knoop, Instructor School of Art
- Attachment q.* Steffani DiPierro, Coordinator of Student Engagement
- Attachment r.* Amend Staffing Plan: Madeleigh Place, Instructor School of Art
- Attachment s.* Patrick Beilein, Head Coach/Athletic Specialist
- Attachment t.* Anne Nolan, Dean of Institutional Research and Organizational Performance
- Attachment u.* Laura Goff, Dean of the School of Public and Human Services
- Attachment v.* Amend Staffing Plan: Heather Roberts, Programmer
- Attachment w.* Stephanie Bush, Associate Director of Human Resources for Benefits and Labor Relations
- Attachment x.* Krista Colucci, Coordinator Center for Accelerated Pathways
- Attachment y.* Alexandra Almanzar, Coordinator Center for Accelerated Pathways
- Attachment z.* Sean Lanning, Coordinator Workforce Development
- Attachment aa.* Amend Staffing Plan: Donald Cinque, Assistant Director of Public Safety and Emergency Management
- Attachment bb.* Jennifer R. Adams, Interim Associate Director of Human Resources for Employment and Compensation
- Attachment cc.* Adjunct Minimum Qualifications

A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 8a–8cc was made by Vice Chair Dana Jerrard and seconded by Trustee Anna D’Ambrosio. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion for an executive session with no further action to discuss personnel was made by Trustee William Calli and seconded by Trustee David Mathis.  
Unanimously approved.

The Board of Trustees entered into executive session at 5:30 p.m.  
The meeting reconvened at 6:18 p.m.

## **9. Adjournment**

Motion was made by Trustee Anna D’Ambrosio and seconded by Trustee William Calli to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. Unanimously approved.