

**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MARCH 23, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Mohawk Valley Community College Board of Trustees held in Plumley Complex, Room 150, of Mohawk Valley Community College, Rome, New York was called to order at 3:58 p.m. by Vice Chair Jerrard on Monday, March 23, 2026. Vice Chair Jerrard acknowledged the visitors present to support the Airframe & Powerplant program. He noted that the Board had received no formal requests to speak and referred everyone to the College website that outlines the procedure to speak during the public comment if anyone would like to speak at a future Board meeting. He then told everyone present they were welcome to stay and observe the meeting and that their respectful presence would be appreciated.

**Members Present**

Dana Jerrard  
Camille Kahler  
David Mathis  
Elaine Falvo  
William S. Calli  
Frank Dubeck  
Anthony (Tony) Colón  
Minajla Ibrahim, Student Trustee

**Members Excused**

Anna D'Ambrosio  
Wendy Waters

**2. Call for Conflicts of Interest**

Vice Chair Jerrard requested that Trustees disclose any potential conflicts of interest related to items on the March agenda. No conflicts of interest were reported.

**3. Chair's Report**

Vice Chair Jerrard highlighted several recent accomplishments across the College. MVCC was recognized nationally as a 2026 Leader College of Distinction by Achieving the Dream, underscoring the institution's ongoing commitment to student success. Academic excellence was further demonstrated through the induction of 117 students into the Lambda Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, with the chapter earning multiple awards at the recent regional conference.

Vice Chair Jerrard also noted strong community engagement, including participation by more than 100 students and employees in the American Heart Association's Wear Red Day activities, raising over \$1,200 for heart-health initiatives. Additionally, 16 new law enforcement officers graduated from the Mohawk Valley Police Academy.

Finally, MVCC students contributed to regional STEM outreach as members of the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Club participated in Clinton High School's STEMposium, promoting STEM education and career pathways.

These achievements collectively reflect the dedication and impact of MVCC's students, faculty, and staff.

Vice Chair Jerrard then asked for the Treasurer's Report.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Interim Vice President for Administrative Services Mary Jane Parry delivered the Treasurer's Report, indicating that the College remains in a strong financial position. As of the reporting period, revenues exceeded expenses by approximately \$14.2 million, inclusive of grant activity, with \$14.4 million in net grant revenue recognized year-to-date. Total revenues were reported at 98.88% of budget, reflecting a minor shortfall primarily attributable to timing differences in revenue recognition. Chargeback revenue was below budget due to lower out-of-county enrollment and a reduction in the per-student rate, while out-of-state tuition revenue exceeded projections. Grant revenue was temporarily below expectations due to reimbursement timing, with no anticipated funding reductions.

Total expenses were higher than the prior year, consistent with increased enrollment and expanded operations. Higher costs were driven by wages, fringe benefits, increased healthcare claim activity, and unplanned facility repairs, which were partially offset by insurance proceeds. Scholarship expenditures exceeded budget due to increased student demand, while certain academic and non-credit program expenses were deferred or offset by corresponding program revenue. Overall, liquidity remained strong and expense trends were reported as aligned with institutional growth and operational needs.

#### **5. Student Trustee Report**

Student Trustee Minajla Ibrahim presented updates on Student Congress initiatives, including efforts related to free vending access, revisions to the student handbook, feedback on student desks and bookstore changes, and modifications to the voting process for Student Congress proposals. The report also highlighted the completion of a second spiritual room renovation, upcoming student engagement events for Spring 2026, and recent student participation in campus and external activities, including conferences and student-led events.

#### **6. Committees and Affiliations**

##### Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC)

Board Liaison Elaine Falvo reported that the Auxiliary Services Corporation met on February 17. The Board approved Mary Jane Parry as a new board member and received updates on Auxiliary Services operations, including bookstore performance and ongoing discussions with Barnes & Noble regarding a proposed Academic Advantage rate increase and a potential one-year contract extension. Updates were also provided on dining services, including new leadership appointments, the reestablishment of a dining advisory board, meal plan participation trends, and progress on capital improvements and register system upgrades. The Board also discussed student concerns related to dining access and received information on proposed vending options to supplement meal availability, with further review planned.

##### Dormitory Corporation (DC)

DC Vice Chair Frank Dubeck reported that the DC Board met on January 27 and March 23 to discuss and review financing options for improvements to the dorms.

### Foundation

Executive Director Ferro-Aurience reported on several key updates, including progress related to the proposed naming of the Athletics Suite in memory of Jennifer Krohn and the establishment of a scholarship in her honor, which has been finalized and is now accepting applications, with the first award anticipated this spring. The Board was informed of the approval of a workforce development funding proposal submitted in partnership with the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, which will support the expansion of FastTrack Healthcare programming, with a joint press release forthcoming. Despite recent market volatility and a planned portfolio withdrawal, the Foundation's investment balance was reported at approximately \$11.95 million. The Executive Director also noted the launch of the Foundation's annual Week of Giving, focused on securing the remaining funding needed for the theater and stage lighting capital project. Upcoming Foundation committee meetings and the next in-person Foundation Board meeting were also announced.

### ACCT/NYCCT

Trustee Tony Colón reported on recent developments from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and related federal policy matters impacting community colleges. Trustees were informed of a projected Pell Grant funding shortfall resulting from expanded student eligibility, which will require congressional action to maintain program stability. Advocacy efforts at the federal level have helped preserve level funding for key programs, including Pell Grants, TRIO, GEAR UP, and workforce education initiatives. Looking ahead, ACCT is supporting proposals to increase the maximum Pell Grant and expand federal investment in workforce training and student success initiatives. Trustees also received a written federal policy update for reference and were encouraged to participate in the upcoming ACCT Northeast Regional virtual meeting scheduled for April 7.

Vice Chair Jerrard provided an NYCCT update on behalf of NYCCT Chair-Elect Wendy Waters. Vice Chair Jerrard reminded Trustees to register for NYCCT Educational Module 4 focused on SNAP Employment and Training and encouraged the Board to submit the NYCCT template letter to state legislators in support of community college funding priorities.

### SUNY/NYCCAP

There was no SUNY/NYCCAP report.

## **7. President's Report**

President VanWagoner reported that MVCC recently completed a Dental Hygiene accreditation site visit, noting that the process went as expected. The final accreditation report is anticipated within the next few weeks.

An update was also provided on the College's Key Performance Indicator (KPI) related to MVCC's commitment to student success through partnerships, as outlined in the accompanying report.

Additionally, President VanWagoner provided a brief white paper with a new application of the AI agent he built in Microsoft CoPilot called "FIRE" - the College Futures Insights and Risk Engine, which builds upon the scenario planning work conducted during the February Board retreat. Trustees received a handout outlining two brief scenarios intended to frame future policy-focused discussions in the near term. He proposed incorporating a ten-minute,

scenario-based discussion into the President's Report at future meetings, with each session focused on a single Board policy and guided discussion questions. Unlike the long-range (2040) scenarios used at the retreat, these scenarios would be shorter-term, looking approximately three years ahead (to 2029). Trustees were asked to consider whether these discussions would be better suited for a Board workshop or a public meeting, noting the importance of keeping the discussion at the policy level rather than operational matters. The idea will be discussed at the April Board meeting.

### College Senate

College Senate Chair Professor Christine Miller joined the meeting virtually to provide an update on recent Senate activity. She reported that February and March Senate meetings included discussions on academic momentum, General Education Committee updates, external group tabling processes, and the evolution of the Diversity Council, as well as review of the May 2025 Hawk Vision White Paper titled Harnessing Data for Student Success and Institutional Excellence. The Board was also informed of the election of new Student Congress Senators, including the Student Congress President, Treasurer, and an additional member. Professor Miller further noted that meetings between Senate Council Chairs and Senate Committee Chairs were held in February and March to strengthen communication, identify needs, and enhance support for committee and council work. An update was also provided regarding the upcoming Faculty Council of Community Colleges Spring Plenary.

President VanWagoner continued by noting the Continuing and Career appointment resolutions on today's consent agenda and provided his full support to all being recommended. He concluded by asking for an Executive Session with no further action following the Board meeting to discuss personnel.

## **8. Vice President Reports**

There were no questions from the Board regarding the written reports submitted by the Vice Presidents. Student Affairs provided a spotlight presentation focused on access and accommodation services and their role in supporting student success at Mohawk Valley Community College. The presentation highlighted trends in student needs, noting that while a significant percentage of students report having a disability nationally, a smaller proportion formally disclose or seek accommodations. At MVCC, the number of students completing the accommodation process has increased in recent terms, reflecting both growing awareness and expanded institutional capacity. Faculty perspectives were also shared, emphasizing strong commitment to student access alongside the need for continued support, clarity, and coordination in addressing accommodations in the classroom.

The presentation further outlined operational responses to increased demand, including significant growth in accommodative testing, expanded testing center capacity, cross-campus coordination, and enhanced faculty professional development. Data demonstrated a steady and substantial rise in testing requests since the return to on-campus instruction, with increasing complexity and expanded use across campuses and timeframes. Student Affairs emphasized a holistic approach that integrates testing services, case management, executive coaching, and student engagement initiatives. The presentation concluded by reinforcing the principle that access is fundamental to student success and that continued investment in infrastructure, communication, and data-informed practices is essential as student needs evolve.

## 9. Discussion Items

### Achieving the Dream Racial Equity Leadership Academy (RELA)

Building on early Guided Pathways work that improved overall student outcomes, MVCC recognized that aggregate gains did not eliminate persistent equity gaps for racially minoritized students. Over time, racial equity was elevated as a strategic priority and embedded into institutional planning, academic program review, professional development, and governance structures. Participation in Achieving the Dream Racial Equity Leadership Academy (RELA) provided the technical assistance to sharpen focus, define a clear equity objectives, and move from broad commitment to measurable, system-level change.

The RECE logic model serves as the organizing framework for this work, aligning institutional inputs, activities, and outcomes around a focused goal: strengthening intervention pathways for students at academic risk, with particular attention to those on academic probation. The model emphasizes cross-divisional collaboration, data-informed decision-making, faculty and staff professional development, and proactive student support systems. Core activities include enhanced early intervention, advising coordination, gateway course redesign, and expanded use of inclusive and universal design practices. Outcomes are structured across short-, intermediate-, and long-term horizons, with the ultimate aim of reducing equity gaps in retention, credit accumulation, and completion while institutionalizing race-conscious inquiry into planning, policy review, and continuous improvement. Collectively, the logic model positions equity as a shared, sustainable responsibility central to MVCC's mission of student success and community impact.

A comprehensive statistical analysis was presented illustrating roughly 20 independent variables and the extent to which they influence the dependent variable of academic probation. Identifying risk factors that increase the likelihood of going on academic probation was the priority focus identified for the RELA experience. Results showed several key factors that were statistically significant and will be used to identify priority interventions in the coming year.

## 10. Consent Agenda

*Attachment a.* Minutes of January 20, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting

*Attachment b.* Treasurer's Report

*Attachment c.* Board Policy Revision: 3014. College Withdrawal, Medical Withdrawal, Emergency Medical Withdrawal, or Immediate Mental Health Assessment

*Attachment d.* Naming of Athletic Training Suite in the Jorgensen Center on the Utica Campus: Jennifer Krohn Athletic Training Suite

*Attachment e.* Nelissa Nowicki, Associate Professor Emerita

*Attachment f.* Program Deactivation: Geospatial Technology A.A.S.

*Attachment g.* Program Revision (Title): Liberal Arts and Sciences Adolescent Education to Adolescent Education A.S.

*Attachment h.* Program Revision (Title): Liberal Arts and Sciences Childhood Education to Childhood Education A.S.

*Attachment i.* Program Revision (Title): Liberal Arts and Science Psychology to Psychology A.S.

*Attachment j.* Minimal Qualifications Matrix Revision

*Attachment k.* Agreement between MVCC and Rebecca Pepperine

*Attachment l.* Association of Mohawk Valley Administrators (AMVA) – Continuing Appointment

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|                      | Vincent Petronio   | Dean of the School of Business and Hospitality        |
| <i>Attachment m.</i> | Professional Association (PA) – Career Appointments  |   |
|                      | Valarie Day  | Financial Aid Advisor                                 |
|                      | Patrick Gosier   | Student Support Advisor                               |
|                      | Michael Grider   | Veteran Education Coordinator                         |
|                      | Jared Hensel   | Technical Assistant Athletics                         |
|                      | Samantha Johnston  | Student Support Advisor                               |
|                      | Stephanie Lai  | Program Technical Assistant                           |
|                      | Jessica Norris   | Financial Aid Advisor                                 |
|                      | Peter Steiner  | Network Technician                                    |
|                      | Dustin Swiss   | Technical Assistant Hospitality                       |
| <i>Attachment n.</i> | Professional Association (PA) – Continuing Appointments                                    |   |
|                      | Valerie Anguilli   | Assistant Professor – School of Health Sciences       |
|                      | Gabrielle Coffey   | Assistant Professor - Head Coach/Athletics Specialist |
|                      | Stacey Day   | Assistant Professor – School of Health Sciences       |
| <i>Attachment o.</i> | Joseph Saccento, Recruitment and Employment Specialist                                     |   |
| <i>Attachment p.</i> | Amend Staffing Plan: Edy Munoz, Data Analytics and Visualization Specialist                |   |
| <i>Attachment q.</i> | Amend Staffing Plan: Jesse Zavaro, Coordinator of Experiential & Justice-Involved Learning |   |
| <i>Attachment r.</i> | Brett LaSalle, Director of Facilities and Operations                                       |   |

A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 10a-10r was made by Trustee Frank Dubeck and seconded by Trustee Tony Colón. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

The Board of Trustees entered into executive session at 5:15 p.m.  
The meeting reconvened at 5:28 p.m.

## **11. Adjournment**

Motion was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Trustee Tony Colón to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 p.m. Unanimously approved.