North Central State College
Board of Trustees' Meeting
September 23, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Public notice of this meeting was given on 9/15/26 under §121.22(F). This meeting was held in a hybrid format with some participants attending in-person in the Board Room (165-Fallerius) and others online via Zoom. Trustee participation was eight in person and one online. One in person and one online arrived late and were not present for voting items.

Chair, Ms. Linda Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and asked all to rise and join her in reciting the pledge of allegiance followed by the Global ENDS Policy for North Central State College.

II. ROLL CALL

The Secretary, Mr. Stephen Williams called the roll.

Present:

Ms. Kristin Aspin (Virtual 6:31 p.m.)
Mr. Mark Masters
Dr. Dwight McElfresh
Ms. Elisabeth Morando
Ms. Linda Nelson
Ms. Duana Patton
Mr. Steven Stone
Ms. Kimberly Winkle
Mr. Patrick Williams (6:31 pm)

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

President Diab introduced: Dr. Kelly Gray, Vice President of Academic and Student Services; Ms. Lori McKee, Vice President of Business Services; Mr. Tom Prendergast, Executive Director for Strategic and Institutional Transformation; and Ms. Amber Wertman, Executive Director for Development and the College Foundation. President Diab introduced Ms. Aubrey Place the new facilitator representing the Faculty Caucus who was present virtually.

IV. FOCUS OF THE MEETING – *Ms. Linda Nelson*

Ms. Linda Nelson explained that the primary focus of tonight's meeting will be pretty routine with some discussion regarding what we will be doing at the next meeting in November at Avita Health Systems.

V. OSU-MANSFIELD ADVISORY BOARD REPORT – *Ms. Linda Nelson*

Board Chair, Ms. Linda Nelson announced that there is an OSU-M Advisory Board meeting coming up on November 19th and called for any Trustees who would be available to represent the NCSC Board at that meeting. Following some discussion, Ms. Elisabeth Morando responded that she could do it. Ms. Nelson thanked her for agreeing to represent the Board at this meeting.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – *Dr. Dorey Diab*

A. Student Organizations/Activities Updates

Dr. Diab provided the following student engagement updates:

- Honors College: Received 14 project contracts from 11 students for the fall semester, with 13 faculty members participating.
- Outstanding Faculty Member: Pamela Robison was named the Outstanding Faculty Member for Spring 2026.
- College Film: The first college film event was scheduled for September 23, 2026, featuring guest speaker Ayla Boslin of Cleveland State University. Boslin is pursuing degrees in psychology and criminology while working toward a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling.
- Phi Theta Kappa: Student leadership meetings resumed the previous Friday, with returning members beginning their second year. Recruitment of first-year students is ongoing through email outreach and classroom visits. Current members have expressed interest in attending the regional Phi Theta Kappa meeting in October, if possible.

Dr. Diab concluded the report and invited questions.

B. North Central State College Foundation Development and Update – *Ms. Amber Wertman*

President Dorey Diab introduced Ms. Amber Wertman, Executive Director for the College Foundation. Ms. Wertman presented the following report:

Annual Campaign: The Foundation has reached 28% of its $525,000 annual campaign goal. The target is to raise approximately 10% of the goal each month to meet or exceed the target. An additional amount of $41,500 in secured pledges has not yet been processed and is not included in the reported total.

Fundraising and Alumni Outreach: Preparations are underway for Richland Gives, along with a new alumni mailing intended to increase individual donors. Additional updates will be provided over the next several months.

Grant Activity: Four grant final reports were submitted during the quarter, along with a new donor-advised fund request to the Richland Foundation. Four additional grant applications are in progress, with deadlines approaching within the next month. The Foundation also presented a new funding concept to the Milliron Foundation and received an invitation to apply.

Engineering Program Support: Foundation Board member Glenn McClellan has been advocating for the College's engineering program by soliciting $1,000 contributions from companies. He has raised nearly $10,000 to date. The Foundation plans to submit a grant request to the Hire Family Fund, which has indicated it may consider matching the funds raised. Amber encouraged Board members to share similar fundraising and advocacy ideas.

Upcoming Events:

- The Scholarship Lunch and Alumnus of the Year Award event is scheduled for October 8. Amber thanked Board members who plan to attend.
- Planning meetings have begun for Scholarships for Success, scheduled for March at the Crawford Success Center. Additional opportunities for advocacy and giving will be shared as planning progresses.

Community Partnerships: Amber welcomed suggestions for potential donors, community partners, and grant opportunities that could benefit the College and its students. Discussion also highlighted upcoming outreach to the Ashland Alliance, where Amber will speak next month alongside a College alumnus who serves as a local chief of police. Amber also reported a recent conversation with Kim Winkle regarding Avita-related activities.

Ms. Wertman concluded the report by thanking the group and noting that she would continue reaching out to Board members regarding potential fundraising and partnership opportunities.

C. Monitoring Report: Executive Limitations Policy – Valuing and Respecting Individuals Policy (04-10)

Dr. Dorey Diab explained that the monitoring report discussion is continuing with going over the six Ends policies and the 10 Executive Limitations.

Valuing and Respecting Individuals Policy (ENDS)
Policy No. 3357:13-01-10

Valuing and Respecting Individuals – The College fosters a welcoming environment that values individual differences, promotes mutual respect, and ensures that all individuals have meaningful opportunities to participate and contribute.

The College values our students and our employees and respect individual differences. We continue to encourage an environment that provides opportunities for participation and contribution by all. This is evidenced by the open enrollment process for any student who is willing and able. The President continues to visit classrooms throughout the year to hear directly

from the students, as well as the faculty; and through the employee hiring process that is focused on knowledge, skills, and experience; as well as a good fit for the College mission and culture. We also hold monthly meetings for all faculty, and open forum for all faculty and staff once or twice a semester to enhance communication and exchange of ideas.

As a community college, that represents its community, one evidence to measure the impact of this policy is through the representation of different community groups.

From the charts shown during the retreat on student representation for last fall, we have exceeded our service region representation in the students' minority category (14.5% vs. 11.3%) for Fall 2025. Staff representation (full-time and part-time) was at 9.3%. Faculty representation (full-time and part-time) was at 9.4%. For representation on an annual basis, all employees are at 8%, adjunct faculty are at 7%, full-time faculty are at 12% (was 17% last year), full-time staff are at 9% (was 11% last year).

D. College Updates / Other

College Updates

1. From September first through September third, the College had a visit from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The three-members visitation team met with students, faculty, and administration and tour the campus facilities. The exit interview was very positive. We are awaiting their final report.

2. On September third, we had another Rural Guided Pathway meeting that was an Aspen Virtual Leadesrhip workshop that focused on student success principles.

3. On September third, Dr. Diab attended the AACC Commission meeting virtually. It focused on aligning commission structure with AACC strategy and the direction of the board.

4. On September third, Dr. Gray and the adminsitrative team led the faculty divisions meeting to prepare the College for the Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit, and went over the associated committees assignments.

5. On September fourth, Dr. Diab participated virtually on the exit interview with the state auditor delivering the report for the Ohio Association of Community Colleges. The report was good, yet with a management letter on improper use of Executive Session, Timely Posting of Credit Card Transactions, and ensuring all board members are responding to fraud questionnaire.

6. With this year focus on improving enrollment access, Dr. Diab and team presented to the Ashland Board of Education, at the Mansfield City School Staff Convocation (to be followed by a meeting on dual enrollment), and currently working on a meeting with the Crawford superintendents.

7. On September eight, Dr. Diab attended the Business Progarm Advsiory Committee. The faculty focused on presenting a new bachelor degree: The Associate of Science in Business, with focus on artificial intelligence, to be finished in three years with around 90 credit hours (instead of 120). **If approved, imagine the ability of having our CollegeNow Business high school students finishing their associate degree one month before graduating from high school, and finishing their bachelor degree in one year past that, with no tuition (Tuition Freedom or scholarships), and at 19 years of age. WHAT A SUCCESS story that would be.**

8. On September nine, the trustees and the president attended the Governor's and the Ohio Department of Higher Education's (ODHE) Trustees Conference. There were multiple presentations on board governance, facilities and planning, state and federal law, the student exeperience, and institutional adavancement. Presenters included the Governor, Lt. Governor, the Chancellor, college and university presidents, and ODHE staff. The College did very well in addressing ODHE's Trustee Challenge in the five different financial metrics:

    a. ***On the Operations – FY25 Days Cash on Hand metric***: the College was in the top quintile with the highest score of 390 among the community colleges, within the range of 390 to 199 of all community colleges.

    b. ***On the Wealth – FY25 Expendable Net Assets Per FTE metric***: the College was also in the top quintile with a score of $24,159, within the range of $27,258 to $14,132 of all community colleges.

    c. ***On the Net Income – FY23-FY25 Three-Year Average Net Income Ratio metric***: the College was also in the top quintile with a score of 9.92%, within the range of 13.03% to 9.41% of all community colleges.

    d. ***On the Margin – FY25 Change in Net Assets Per FTE metric***: the College landed in the fourth quintile with a score of $416, within the range of +$416 to -$240 of all community colleges (i.e. we need to increase our net assets by generating more revenues relative to our expenses).

    e. ***On the Plant Costs – FY25 Percent of Operating Expenses metric***: the College landed in the fifth quintile with a score of 12%, within the range 10.47% to 12.62% of all community colleges (i.e. we need to reduce our plant cost relative to our operating expenses).

9. The College is submitting an application to the Bellwether Award which is a prestigious national honor presented annually to community colleges with cutting-edge, trendsetting programs worthy of replication. We are looking into submitting applications in one or more of their three categories:

    a. Instructional Programs & Services: Programs or activities that have been designed and successfully implemented to foster or support teaching and learning in the community college.

b. Planning, Governance, & Finance: Programs or activities that have been designed and successfully implemented to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the community college.

c. Workforce Development: Public and/or private strategic alliances and partnerships that promote community and economic development by producing an industry-aligned workforce.

10. Just like we did last year, we are restarting the Leadership and Management Academy. The Academy is an internal program designed to help identify, develop, and prepare the next generation of leaders and managers at North Central State College. In simple terms, it's our way of growing our own. Faculty and staff participate in monthly meetings covering topics that include: understanding the institution; leading people; self-awareness and leadership presence; strategy and planning; Budget, finance, and resources; student success and community impact; communication and influence; and others.

11. On September 17 and 18, College faculty, staff, and administration participated in the Ohio Association of Community Collegs Student Success Leadership Institute with presnetations on student success topics.

VII. REQUIRED APPROVALS AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair, Ms. Linda Nelson, presented the Consent Agenda and called for any items that should be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. On a motion by Dr. Dwight McElfresh and seconded by Ms. Kimberly Winkle and passing unanimously, the following items were approved.

A. Approval of Minutes for August 26, 2026 "Regular Meeting"

B. Consideration of Approval of Employment of College Personnel – *R-2026-33*

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF
EMPLOYMENT OF COLLEGE PERSONNEL

R-2026-33

NEW HIRES

BE IT RESOLVED: *by the Board of Trustees that the following faculty and staff members are hereby employed at the dates stipulated below:*

BEGINNING September 8, 2026
Jessie Furner, Admissions Representative
Ohio University, Bachelor of Science, Human and Consumer Science

Marion Technical College, Associate of Applied Science, Human Resources

BEGINNING September 8, 2026
Shelby Jones, Advisor, College Credit Plus
College of Wooster, Bachelor of Arts. Anthropology

BEGINNING September 8, 2026
Megan Metcalf, Academic Liaison, Engineering Technology, Business and Criminal Justice Division
Ohio University, Master of Science, Geological Sciences/Bachelor of Science, Applied Management

BEGINNING September 21, 2026
Nicholas Calderone, Executive Director, Marketing and Public Relations
Columbus College of Art and Design, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Media Studies

BEGINNING September 21, 2026
Alissa Brokaw, Part Time Substitute, Child Development Center

BEGINNING September 21, 2026
Georgiana Kosht, Part Time Substitute, Child Development Center

BEGINNING September 29, 2026
Shawn Conley, Accounting Clerk

BEGINNING September 29, 2026
D'Ayjon Harris, Staff Accountant, Accounts Receivable
University of Akron, Bachelor of Science, Accounting

EXPLANATIONS OF NEW HIRES FOR RESOLUTIONS R-2026-33
Jessie Furner is hired as Admissions Representative to replace Robert Wappner.
Shelby Jones is hired as Advisor, College Credit Plus to replace Marissa Hamilton.
Megan Metcalf is hired as Academic Liaison, Engineering, Business and Criminal Justice Division to replace Greer Gledhill.
Nicholas Calderone is hired as Executive Director, Marketing and Public Relations to replace Keith Stoner.
Alissa Brokaw and Georgiana Kosht are hired as Part Time Substitutes at the Child Development Center.
Shawn Conley is hired as Accounting Clerk to replace Tina Foley.
D'Ayjon Harris is hired as Staff Accountant, Accounts Receivable to replace Lisa Barrick.

C. Consideration of Approval of College Personnel Professional Growth Recognition – *R-2026-34*

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF

COLLEGE PERSONNEL PROFESSIONAL GROWTH RECOGNITION

R-2026-34

Jordynn Liggett *has completed a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Capella University.*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: *by the Board of Trustees that the appropriate monetary recognition is added to base salary effective September 25th in accordance with the policy adopted under resolution 1991-30 for "Professional Growth Recognition."*

REGULAR AGENDA

A. Consideration of Approval of Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Administration and Technology Degree Curriculum – *R-2026-35 – Dr. Dorey Diab/Dr. Kelly Gray*

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNOLOGY DEGREE CURRICULUM

R-2026-35

WHEREAS, *the Board of Trustees of North Central State College is responsible for establishing and approving institutional policies that guide the academic and operational functions of the College; and*

WHEREAS, *Section 3345.457 of the Ohio Revised Code requires each state institution of higher education to adopt a curricular approval process that provides faculty the opportunity to offer advice, feedback, and recommendations regarding the establishment or modification of academic programs, curricula, courses, general education requirements, and degree programs, while affirming that such recommendations are advisory in nature and that the Board of Trustees retains final authority over such actions; and*

WHEREAS*, the administration has completed its evaluation of the College's Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Administration and Technology curriculum, including learning outcomes, course requirements, assessment practices, and the degree to which the curriculum reflects the competencies identified by the State of Ohio; and*

WHEREAS*, the Academic Services leadership team, faculty, and curriculum committees have provided detailed findings and recommendations to inform this review by the Board of Trustees; and*

WHEREAS*, the Board has received, discussed, and evaluated the results of the College's internal review as required under House Bill 96;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Central State College Board of Trustees formally acknowledges that it has completed the review and evaluation of the College's Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Administration and Technology curriculum in accordance with Section 381.750 of House Bill 96 and approves the program curriculum as presented; and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board authorizes the submission of this resolution and all supporting documentation to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.*

ACTION TAKEN: Ms. Duana Patton moved for approval of resolution - *R-2026-35* Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Administration and Technology Degree Curriculum. Mr. Mark Masters seconded the motion, and the item was approved with a unanimous vote.

B. Treasurer's Report for August 31, 2026 – *Ms. Lori McKee*

Ms. Lori McKee presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31, 2026. She stated that revenues for the month totaled $1,814,260. Expenditures were $1,977,251 leaving a deficit of $162,991. Year-to-date revenues totaled $8,371,863. Year-to-date expenditures totaled $3,097,737 leaving an excess of $5,274,126. The Month End Investment Balance for August 2026 was $15,084,990 ($3,381,607 in Star Ohio and $11,703,383 in Park National Bank). Ms. McKee described the trends that are demonstrated by the Tracking of the Monthly Cash Flow feature as well as the dashboard indicators.

ACTION TAKEN: Dr. Dwight McElfresh moved for approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31, 2026. Mr. Steven Stone seconded the motion, and the item was approved with a unanimous vote.

VIII. POLICY GOVERNANCE

A. 2027 Nominating Committee Report – *Dr. Dwight McElfresh*

Dr. Dwight McElfresh reported that the Nominating Committee recommends Ms. Linda S. M. Nelson, Ms. Elisabeth L. Morando, and Ms. Kristin Aspin for consideration of reappointment to another term of service to the North Central State College Board of Trustees. Ms. Nelson, Ms. Morando and Ms. Aspin have accepted the committee's recommendation for reappointment. Therefore, the nominating committee forwards these recommendations for consideration of reappointment. Furthermore, the committee has confirmed the ascension of Mr. Mark Masters to the office of Board Chair and Ms. Kristin Aspin to the office of Vice Chair and nominates Ms. Kimberly Winkle for appointment to the office of Secretary of the Board beginning in 2027 and Ms. Winkle as accepted this nomination.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Steven Stone made a motion for approval of the Nominating Committee's recommendation to forward the names of Ms. Linda S. M. Nelson for consideration of reappointment to a local appointment for Crawford County and Ms. Elisabeth L. Morando for consideration of reappointment to a local appointment for Richland County and Ms. Kristin Aspin for consideration of reappointment to a governor appointment for Ashland County and for consideration of approval to appoint Ms. Kimberly Winkle as the Secretary of the Board beginning in 2027. Ms. Elisabeth Morando seconded the motion, and the item was approved with a unanimous vote.

C. Discussion of Agenda Planning – *Ms. Linda Nelson*

1. 2026-2027 Annual Calendar/Agenda

Board Chair, Ms. Linda Nelson called for a preview of the 2026-2027 Annual Calendar\Agenda for the upcoming months of October, November, and December.

2. Review of Actionable Items.

Board Chair, Ms. Linda Nelson reviewed the listing of Actionable Items which included:

a. Resend the registration confirmations for the 2026 Trustee Conference (September 9th) to all trustees. – This item was accomplished prior to the meeting.

b. Send out the concept paper for the ACCT presentation to presentation team members for review and input. – This item was accomplished prior to the meeting.

c. Schedule a meeting for the ACCT presentation team (Elizabeth, Dwight, Patrick, Steve Williams) for September 23rd at 2:00 PM. – This item was accomplished prior to the meeting

d. Submit nominations for the OACC Excellence Awards (Mark Romanchuk, Steve Stone, Patrick Williams) by September 18th. – This item was accomplished prior to the meeting.

e. HB96: General Education Curriculum Review – This item will be discussed at a later time as appropriate.

f. HB96: General Education Curriculum Changes – This item will be discussed at a later time as appropriate.

3. Community Connections.

Ms. Kimberly Winkle

Trustee Kim Winkle shared an update on the partnership between AVITA Health System and North Central State College's nursing programs following a recent meeting with Amber Wertman.

- LPN Program: The partnership provides financial support to AVITA employees pursuing Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) credentials. Foundation funding covers expenses such as tuition and workbooks, while AVITA pays the remaining costs, leaving employees with minimal out-of-pocket expenses. Since the program began, 34 AVITA employees have earned their LPN credentials, with 14 additional employees currently enrolled. Participants have included employees from various departments, including registration, environmental services, and food and nutrition.

- RN Program: The partnership has expanded to support employees pursuing Registered Nurse (RN) degrees. To date, 13 employees have earned their RN credentials, with 19 currently participating in the program.

- RN-to-BSN Program: The current academic year marks the first year of the RN-to-BSN program, with seven employees enrolled.

Trustee Winkle emphasized the value of the partnership to both participating employees and the broader community. The programs enable employees to advance their education and earning potential while helping address the community's need for nurses. She noted that she plans to share this information with the Board and throughout the community to highlight the partnership's impact.

Amber Wertman shared highlights from her discussions with OhioHealth and AVITA regarding opportunities to expand educational partnerships and workforce development. Discussions explored the future need for facilities management personnel at both healthcare organizations. Amber noted the potential for North Central State College to help prepare employees for these roles through relevant educational programs and suggested that employees could use the College's associate degree programs in leadership to advance into supervisory or leadership positions within their organizations. She emphasized the opportunity to work more closely with OhioHealth and AVITA to identify additional programs that address workforce needs and support employee career advancement. These kinds of conversations could lead to other opportunities for the College to expand its educational partnerships and better serve regional employers and their employees.

Ms. Elisabeth Morando

Trustee Elisabeth Morando commented on employment trends and the growing importance of healthcare and healthcare administration.

- Career Growth: Trustee Morando referenced a recent report identifying healthcare and healthcare administration among the career paths expected to experience the greatest growth over the coming years.

- Regional and Statewide Employment Trends: Dr. Dorey Diab added that healthcare is the leading business sector statewide, followed by manufacturing. In the College's region, manufacturing currently ranks first and healthcare second. However, manufacturing employment is declining while healthcare is growing, suggesting that healthcare may eventually become the region's leading business sector.

Dr. Dwight McElfresh

Trustee Dr. Dwight McElfresh shared recent conversations that reinforced the relevance of the College's proposed academic programs to student interests and workforce needs.

- Artificial Intelligence Program: Dr. McElfresh described meeting with an Apple employee who is pursuing an online degree in artificial intelligence (AI) and who had previously earned an associate degree from North Central State College. After learning about the College's proposed AI program, she expressed interest. Dr. McElfresh encouraged her to complete her degree and suggested she might consider teaching in the program in the future.

- Mechanical Engineering and HVAC: He also recounted a recent conversation with someone whose son was interested in HVAC. Dr. McElfresh discussed the potential value of pursuing mechanical engineering and noted that the College offers a related program.

Dr. McElfresh observed that these conversations reinforce the timeliness of the College's proposed and existing academic offerings in relation to student interests and workforce needs. He encouraged continued conversations with community members about their educational and career interests to help assess how well the College's programs align with regional needs.

Mr. Mark Masters

Trustee Mark Masters shared reflections on the long-term impact of Board service and the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the workplace.

- Board Engagement and Long-Term Impact: Trustee Masters emphasized the importance of active Board engagement and the lasting influence trustees can have on an organization's future. Reflecting on his company's 140th anniversary and 100 years at its current location, he noted that the organization's longevity reflects the commitment of previous generations who understood its mission and customers. He encouraged trustees to recognize that their service extends beyond present-day responsibilities to preparing future generations, particularly College students, for the challenges ahead.

- Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace: Trustee Masters described his company's implementation of an internal AI agent, informally named "Millie," which provides employees with answers to questions about company policies, procedures, and archived documents. Following approximately seven years of work to digitize organizational records, the AI agent now searches relevant documents, summarizes findings, cites sources, and directs employees to appropriate contacts when additional clarification is needed. He noted that the system has substantially improved employees' ability to locate and apply procedural information.

- Practical Applications and Accessibility of AI: Trustee Masters explained that the AI project was developed by a 25-year-old employee with no prior AI experience, illustrating that effective AI applications do not necessarily require specialized expertise. He also described two recent presentations to his company's Board, including one delivered by college interns, that demonstrated practical applications of AI.

- Encouraging AI Exploration: Trustee Masters encouraged trustees to overcome apprehension about AI by experimenting with available tools and learning through firsthand experience. He observed that members of his company's Board who initially expressed uncertainty about AI became more interested and willing to explore its applications after seeing practical demonstrations. He expressed enthusiasm for the College's proposed AI degree program and emphasized that gaining personal experience with AI can help trustees better understand its potential and support the College's educational initiatives.

D. Board Policy Governance Training (IAW 02.70) – *Ms. Linda Nelson*

1. Ms. Linda Nelson led the discussion of Rehearsal Scenario 5.9 "Should the CGO Withhold Information from the Board?"

In this scenario: The CGO of a trade association learns that the association's new CEO left her former agency (a member of the association) in a financial condition far worse than was known. The CGO is asked by the member agency not to publicize this information, as in its struggle to regain solvency, bad publicity would harm its fundraising efforts. What should the CGO do?

2. Policy Governance Policy Review (IAW 02.14) – training includes a continuing review, refresher, and reassessment of current Policy Governance policies. Mr. Patrick Williams led the discussion and review of Governance Process policies 4.0, 4.1 & 4.2. The Board concurred that policies 4.0, 4.1, and 4.2 are still relevant and still accurate.

IX. BOARD CHAIRPERSON REPORT- *Ms. Linda Nelson*

A. Board meeting for October moved to November 4th

Board Chair Linda Nelson reviewed plans for the November 4th Board meeting, which was moved from October as discussed at the previous meeting.

- Meeting Location: The meeting will be held at AVITA's Cancer Center, located in the former Sears building. Trustees were directed to use the west entrance near the pharmacy driveway and red walk-in clinic signage. A sandwich board and/or balloons may be used to help identify the entrance and welcome trustees.

- Facility Tour: Trustees will gather at 4:00 p.m. to get oriented before taking a tour of the Cancer Center. Approximately one hour will be allotted for the tour and questions.

- Dinner Arrangements: A light dinner of pizza, salad, and dessert will be provided at approximately 5:00 p.m., with time to eat and prepare for the regular meeting.

- Meeting Schedule: The regular Board meeting is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. on November 4th.

B. 2026 ACCT Leadership Congress (October 21-24, Chicago, IL)

Board Chair Linda Nelson provided the following updates regarding the upcoming Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Congress:

- Board Presentation: Chair Nelson reminded the Board that its presentation at the ACCT Congress is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. She referenced the participating Board members, including Elisabeth Morando, Dwight McElfresh, Patrick Williams and Steve Williams.

- ACCT Voting Instructions: Chair Nelson shared a letter from ACCT containing instructions for individuals who have not previously participated in ACCT voting. She noted that the materials provide a helpful overview of the voting process and encouraged trustees to review them as a possible introduction to future participation.

- Voting Participation: Chair Nelson indicated that Elisabeth Morando would handle the voting process this year on behalf of the Board but welcomed other trustees to consider participation at future meetings.

C. Reflections from ODHE Trustee Conference (September 9th @ Fawcett Event Center, Columbus, OH)

Multiple trustees shared their reflections on the Ohio Department of Higher Education Trustee Conference held on the 9th at the Fawcett Center.

- Conference Format and Accessibility: Trustees expressed concerns about the conference format, noting that attendees spent approximately six hours in an auditorium with few or no breaks. Some recalled that the previous year's conference offered sessions in separate classrooms, providing more opportunities for movement and interaction. The auditorium setting and limited access to alternative spaces were viewed as drawbacks.

- Educational Content: Several trustees indicated that much of the material covered was familiar and that they did not take away substantial new information. However, the morning presentation by the individual associated with the Gallup poll was described positively, and the Governor's remarks were also viewed favorably.

- Trustee Interaction and Networking: Trustees appreciated opportunities to interact with fellow trustees and other attendees, although they felt that interaction was limited once the conference sessions began in the auditorium. One trustee also noted the value of

greeting the Governor, speaking with him briefly, and interacting with other state officials.

- Governor's Remarks: Discussion included appreciation for the Governor's recent decisions and his willingness to act in accordance with his stated values.

- Chancellor's Remarks and Financial Concerns: A trustee expressed disappointment that the Chancellor devoted relatively little time to financial concerns in his remarks. The trustee observed that the Board spent considerably more time discussing its five areas of measurement and questioned why those issues received limited attention during the conference presentation.

D. OACC Annual Conference (November 12th Columbus State Community College & November 13th Mitchell Hall Event Center)

The Board discussed plans for the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC) Annual Conference scheduled for November 12–13 at Columbus State Community College and the Event Center at Mitchell Hall.

- Board Participation and Presentations: Dr. Dwight McElfresh and Steve Williams were identified as presenters. The presentation will be similar to the one planned for the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Congress and will focus on practical applications of Policy Governance that have helped the Board address challenges and overcome obstacles.

- Conference Schedule: The conference schedule was reviewed to help trustees determine whether they could attend. The governing board meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, followed by lunch and afternoon breakout sessions. Friday's activities include morning breakout sessions and the awards and election program starting at noon. The primary conference activities were described as running approximately from noon Thursday through noon Friday.

- Attendance Considerations: One trustee indicated that attendance might be possible for part of the conference, depending on the agenda, but noted a scheduling conflict with a national board meeting. Reviewing the agenda was identified as helpful in determining whether attending for a portion of the two-day conference would be worthwhile.

- Additional Presenter Participation: The presenters explained that the Policy Governance material draws on practices the Board regularly uses, including rehearsal scenarios and other routine governance activities. They encouraged other trustees interested in participating in the presentation to volunteer, noting that the content reflects familiar Board practices.

The discussion emphasized confirming attendance, reviewing the conference schedule, and providing opportunities for additional trustees to participate in the presentation.

E. Review/Confirm Ethics/SB1 Training Requirements for 2026

The Board discussed the training requirements for trustees under Ohio Senate Bill 1 (SB1) and the status of confirming compliance for 2026.

- Trustee Attendance: It was confirmed that all trustees were present at the referenced trustee conference. A memorandum documenting the Board's attendance had been prepared and submitted to the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

- Confirmation of Training Compliance: Trustees discussed whether attendance at the conference would satisfy the annual SB1 training requirements. Although attendees recalled being advised that participation would fulfill the requirement, formal confirmation and individual training certificates had not yet been received.

- Clarification of Requirements: Questions were raised regarding whether additional requirements might apply and what documentation would be sufficient to demonstrate compliance. The Board noted that clarification was still needed from the appropriate authorities and discussed seeking further guidance through the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC).

- Applicability to Community Colleges: Trustees expressed concern that portions of the training requirements and related content may be more applicable to universities than community colleges. Discussion emphasized the distinct workforce-focused mission of community colleges and the importance of ensuring that trustee training requirements appropriately reflect their governance responsibilities.

- OACC Follow-Up: It was noted that OACC would continue efforts to make the training more relevant to community college trustees.

X. MEETING EVALUATION

Board Chair, Ms. Linda Nelson called for the meeting evaluation. Trustees noted that the meeting ended with all present and appreciated the extra effort to make the meeting even if needing to arrive late.

XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at the Avita Health Systems, Ontario facility at 715 Richland Mall, Ontario Ohio. Note that Avi Zaffini of OACC will be present as well.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair called for any additional business requiring Board action.

ACTION TAKEN: As there was no further business requiring the Board's consideration, the Board Chair, Ms. Linda Nelson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen R. Williams
Mr. Stephen R. Williams, Board Secretary

Linda Nelson
Ms. Linda S. M. Nelson, Board Chair