

# BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Board of Trustees Board Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 6, 2026

#### 1. Call to Order

The four hundred and thirtieth meeting of the Bristol Community College Board of Trustees was held on Monday, April 6, 2026. The meeting was held in person at the college's Taunton Center location (2 Hamilton Street, Taunton, MA, Room 120). Chair Medeiros called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**Board Members present:** Joan Medeiros, Chair of the Board; Todd McGhee, Vice-Chair; Lynn Motta, Secretary; Pamela Gauvin; Maria Gonzalez; Jeffrey Karam; Antonio (Tony) Lima; Steven Martins (*virtual*); John Morris (*virtual*); and Jamie Wasilowski

**Board Members absent:** Renee Clark (*arrival 4:14 p.m.*)

**Others present:** Sedgwick Harris, President; Lucinda Poudrier-Aaronson, Board Liaison; Joyce Brennan; Emmanuel Echevarris; Andrew Fisher; April Lynch; Steve Kenyon; Brianne McDonough; Jo Ann Pelletier; Sandra Bartolo; Ray Franke; Kelli Hiller (*virtual*); David Ledoux; Bob Rezendes; Rebekah Senay; Martha Ucci; Eliyana Berberena; and Stephanie Lawrence.

#### 2. Chair's Remarks

Chair Medeiros noted that since a couple Trustees are joining us remotely today, she asked Board Liaison, Lucinda Poudrier-Aaronson, to proceed with roll-call attendance.

Renee Clark	
Pamela Gauvin	Present
Maria Gonzalez	Present
Jeffrey Karam	Present
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Present
Steven Martins	Present ( <i>virtual</i> )
Todd McGhee	Present
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	Present ( <i>virtual</i> )
Lynn Motta	Present
Jamie Wasilowski	Present
Chair Joan Medeiros	Present

Chair Medeiros thanked Lucinda. She reminded Trustees that an updated Directory and Committee List was in their e-materials and in the materials before them. She asked Trustees to check the confidential Directory to ensure accuracy and to let our Board Liaison, Lucinda, know if there are changes necessary.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- Consideration of Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting for February 23, 2026
- Consideration of Minutes of Board of Trustees Mini-Retreat for March 18, 2026
- Report of Personnel Actions March 2026 (*including faculty change of rank/promotion*)
- Report of Workforce and Community Education Contracts for March 2026

Chair Medeiros stated she hoped that Trustees had the opportunity to review the consent agenda items posted last week electronically and available in materials today. She listed the four Consent Agenda items and asked the Trustees if there were any questions or items that needed to be moved for discussion.

Hearing none, Chair Medeiros stated she was seeking a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented was made by Trustee McGhee and seconded by Trustee Karam.

Chair Medeiros asked Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson to proceed with a roll-call vote.

Renee Clark	
Pamela Gauvin	Yes
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	Yes
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes
Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	Yes
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	Yes
Lynn Motta	Yes
Jamie Wasilowski	Yes
Chair Joan Medeiros	Yes

Upon completion of the roll-call vote, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented was approved.

Chair Medeiros thanked Board Liaison, Lucinda, and invited Vice President of Academic Affairs, Andrew Fisher, to provide requests for approval of sabbaticals.

4. **Request for Approval of Sabbatical** – *Andrew Fisher, Vice President, Academic Affairs*

VP Fisher presented two requests for sabbatical for Fall 2026 – Martha Ucci and David Ledoux. He provided a brief outline of their respective work. He also noted that the sabbatical request memoranda were in their board material today as well as posted in Trustees’ electronic material last week.

Once reviewed, he asked if there were any questions or discussion necessary. Hearing none, Chair Medeiros asked for a motion to approve both sabbaticals as a pair.

A motion to approve the sabbaticals of both Martha Ucci and David Ledoux as presented was made by Trustee McGhee and seconded by Trustee Gauvin.

Chair Medeiros asked Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson to proceed with a roll-call vote.

Renee Clark	
Pamela Gauvin	Yes
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	Yes
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes
Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	Yes
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	Yes
Lynn Motta	Yes
Jamie Wasilowski	Yes
Chair Joan Medeiros	Yes

Upon completion of the roll-call vote, the motion to approve the sabbaticals of both Martha Ucci and David Ledoux was approved unanimously.

The board congratulated Martha Ucci and David Ledoux before they exited.

Chair Medeiros invited Kelli Hiller, President of the Faculty & Professional Staff Senate, to provide their annual report.

5. **Faculty & Professional Staff Senate Presentation** – *Kelli Hiller*, President, Faculty & Professional Staff Senate

President of the Faculty & Professional Staff Senate, Kelli Hiller, provided a brief presentation related to the on-going work, advocacy, and actions taken by the Senate over the past year.

Chair Medeiros thanked Kelli Hiller, and invited Rebekah Senay to provide the annual Staff Senate presentation.

*Trustee Clark arrived at 4:14 p.m.*

6. **Staff Senate Presentation** – *Rebekah Senay*, President, Staff Senate

President of the Staff Senate, Rebekah Senay, provided a presentation outlining the Staff Senate’s work including mission and purpose, 2025-2026 updates including leadership, vacant seats, Staff Senate teams, recognition, and a number of events and programs designed to increase engagement.

Chair Medeiros thanked Rebekah Senay, and invited President Harris to provide the President’s Report

7. **President’s Report**

- Review President’s Key Goals 2025-2026
- Community Partnership Highlights
  - Recap from August 2025 - Women’s Fund Southcoast *Fostering Women’s Entrepreneurship* initiative – *Ray Franke*, Dean, School of Business, Industry, and Career Programs
  - MOU with GNBVRTHS for Welding – *Brianne McDonough*, Interim Vice President, Economic and Business Development
- Trustee Talking Point
- 2026 Teaching, Learning and Student Development Conference (TLSD) on May 1 – *Andrew Fisher*, Vice President, Academic Affairs

President Harris provided updates and status of the key goals and performance indicators shared previously. Other updates and announcements included:

- Updates from the Office of General Counsel, including Gina Yarbrough's retirement announcement, and his subsequent participation of the search committee for that vacancy
- Alternative Employee Recognition events at each location with the unfortunate cancellation of the traditional annual event based on weather
- Superintendent Luncheon held on campus March 9th (President Key Goal 9) noting they would hear more about this event later on the agenda
- Government relations updates and the related legislative support of Bristol's submissions for several significant grants totaling over \$8M in congressionally directed spending; he noted we may not get them all but the submissions correlate strategically with the college's strategic plan and direction

President Harris invited Ray Franke, Dean of the School of Business, Industry and Career Programs, to provide one of the two Community Partnership Highlights. Dean Franke recapped from the August 2025 board meeting where the Women's Fund Southcoast *Fostering Women's Entrepreneurship* initiative was first presented. He noted the leadership of Professor Britney Ganeto, member of the college's business faculty and the new Director of the Academic Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE). He provided an update on the initial cohort (2025) as well as the 2026 cohort just launched at end of March.

President Harris thanked Dean Franke for the partnership highlight and invited Brianne McDonough, Interim Vice President for Economic and Business Development, to provide the second of the two Community Partnership Highlights. Interim VP McDonough highlighted the recent MOU for Welding with Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School. This new MOU complements previously announced Welding partnership with Diman Regional Vocation Technical High School in Fall River.

President Harris thanked Interim VP McDonough for her presentation and work on this important partnership. He invited VP Andrew Fisher to provide today's Trustee Talking Point.

VP Fisher provided a quick update and overview on the 2026 Teaching, Learning, and Student Development Conference being hosted at the college on May 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted this is our second year hosting this event and will provide professional development experience for staff and faculty at all fifteen community colleges in the Commonwealth. He also noted early indications seem to show that participation numbers will exceed attendance from last year. VP Fisher noted that President of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) President, Dr. DeRionne Pollard, would be a featured speaker and we are also expecting participation from the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and the MA Department of Higher Education.

Chair Medeiros thanked VP Fisher.

Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson made a request for one additional item as part of the President's Report. She introduced Bristol Student Eliyana Berberena and learning coach, Stephanie Lawrence. Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson shared that Ellie participates in the MAICEI (Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative) and currently is a student intern in the President's Office this spring. She noted that Ellie prepared and organized the material for today's board meeting.

Trustees recognized and applauded Ellie's efforts.

Chair Medeiros thanked Ellie. She also thanked President Harris for providing the President's Report. She invited the college's Chief Strategy Officer, April Lynch, to provide a presentation focused on the recent school superintendent event hosted at Bristol in early March.

#### 8. **Superintendent Think Tank Update** – *April Lynch*, Chief Strategy Officer

CSO Lynch noted that the recent superintendent event (K-12 Listening Session) was an important, strategic opportunity step for the college. She noted the overarching message was Bristol's next chapter should be built with school districts, vocational school and employers to reflect local needs and workforce priorities. She noted that there were several key priorities that became evident during the think tank event. These include:

## Five Key Priorities

- 1 **Career Exploration & Counseling**  
Expand access to early career guidance and exploration for students across all grade levels.
- 2 **Voc-Tech & Trade Pathways**  
Strengthen dedicated pathways for vocational-technical and trade students, including entrepreneurship.
- 3 **Reducing Barriers**  
Address transportation, cost, and scheduling challenges that limit student participation.
- 4 **Communication & Infrastructure**  
Improve partnership communication systems and shared coordination across districts.
- 5 **Employer Collaboration**  
Deepen regional employer engagement through a more formal consortium model.

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CSO Lynch also shared the opportunity is clear. Bristol Community College is well-positioned to become a connecting force in building a stronger, more responsive regional education and workforce ecosystem for the Southcoast.

Chair Medeiros thanked CSO Lynch for the presentation. She invited Trustee Motta to provide the Report of the Finance Budget Committee including the FY 2027 Budget Review & Approval.

### 9. Report of the Finance Budget Committee – Trustee Lynn Motta

- FY2027 Budget Review & Approval

Trustee Motta noted the Finance/Budget Committee met via Zoom on February 23, 2026, with all members present. She outlined the key actions included:

- Approval of meeting minutes from the December 1, 2025, Committee meeting
- Review of Trust Fund Report from Quarter 2 Fiscal Year 2026
- Review of the Report on Reserves (Aug 31 – Oct 31, 2025)
- Approval of Security Camera Project Funding (up to \$200,000)
- Approval of President’s Credit Card Expenditures

Trustee Motta also shared that the Committee reviewed the overall status of fiscal year 2026 budget noting that the college’s financial position remains stable, with expenditures and encumbrances tracking as expected. She noted that adjunct faculty costs represent the largest expense at \$12.7M for the year. She shared that a temporary receivable can be attributed to delayed state reimbursements. She stated that the snow-related expenses have exceeded the budget by approximately \$100,000 while investment performance remains strong, outperforming benchmarks. She also noted Certificates of Deposit are maturing, with reinvestments planned at slightly lower rates.

Trustee Motta provided an update of FY26 budget’s most notable highlights to date:

- Revenue exceeded projections, driven by a 14% enrollment increase (vs. 6% projected).
- Net investment income revised upward from \$400K to approximately \$1M, with additional unrealized gains possible.
- Operating surplus is projected to exceed the original \$1.2M estimate and should be closer to \$4M
- Increased expenses in compensation and scholarships are directly tied to higher enrollment and free community college.

She then provided an update of preliminary FY27 budget planning and outlook:

- Fee Increase
  - The state has authorized a maximum 2.79% fee increase (~\$6 per credit).
  - Management recommends adopting the full increase to preserve future financial flexibility.
- State Budget
  - The Governor’s proposed FY27 budget is level-funded (~\$33.6M).
  - Additional funding may emerge through the House and Senate budgets as supplemental bills get filed. This is typically limited to funding contractual increases.

- Budget Development
  - FY27 budget planning is ongoing, with a cautious approach due to:
    - Potential enrollment stabilization
    - Uncertainty in overall labor costs
    - Limited visibility into final state funding
    - Sector-wide trends indicate that enrollment growth may begin to level off across community colleges.

Trustee Motta reported that the Committee also approved funding (up to \$200K) for campus security upgrades at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. These upgrades include cloud storage and potential integration with access control systems with an annual recurring cost of approximately \$25K to be included in the FY27 budget. She noted that this investment addresses safety priorities and closes coverage gaps at key campus access points.

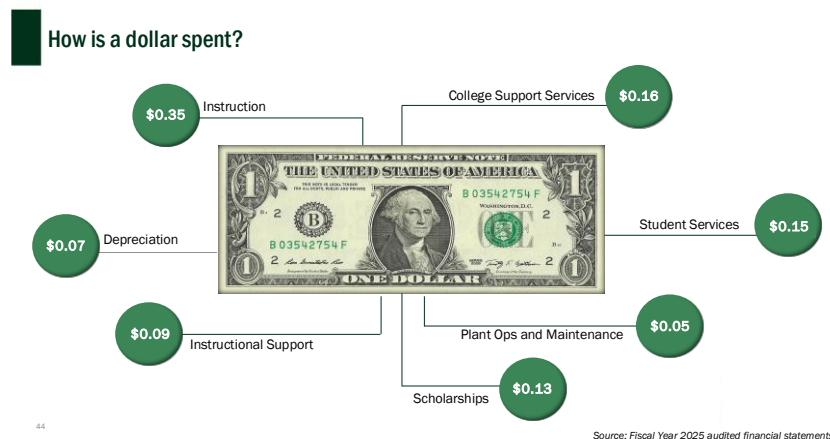
Trustee Motta shared that the Finance/Budget Committee also met on March 18, 2026, for a special meeting related to FY 2027 operating budget. She noted this budget reflects the college’s ongoing priority to keep programs affordable while maintaining relevance.

She stated the committee reviewed each slide in your handout and had a thorough discussion lasting about one hour. The Committee feels the budget used reasonable assumptions in its creation and we felt comfortable that it was reasonably conservative noting the \$6 per credit fee increase recommended by management was appropriate given the recent legislation that allows the state to control fees.

Trustee Motta reported that the Committee voted to approve both the FY27 operating budget, and a \$6 per credit fee increase per student.

She invited Vice President Steve Kenyon to provide a summary of what he presented to the Committee noting that after his presentation she would be seeking a board vote to approve the budget and the fee increase.

At Trustee Motta’s request VP Kenyon provided an extensive overview and presentation of the college’s FY 2027 operating budget including goals and objectives, Massachusetts law and accounting principles, important dates, headcount and rate comparisons with other MA community colleges, and a snapshot look at how each dollar is spent for the college.



At the conclusion of VP Kenyon’s presentation, Committee Chair Motta asked if there were any questions or additional discussion necessary. Hearing none, Committee Chair Motta asked for a motion to approve FY 2027 operating budget as presented.

A motion to approve the FY 2027 operating budget as presented was made by Trustee McGhee and seconded by Trustee Motta.

Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson proceeded with a roll-call vote.

Renee Clark	Yes
Pamela Gauvin	Yes
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	Yes
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes
Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	Yes
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	Yes
Lynn Motta	Yes
Jamie Wasilowski	Yes
Chair Joan Medeiros	Yes

Upon completion of the roll-call vote, the motion to approve the FY 2027 operating budget as presented was approved unanimously.

Next, Committee Chair Motta asked for a motion to approve a \$6 per credit fee increase for FY27 as presented.

A motion to approve a \$6 per credit fee increase for FY27as presented was made by Trustee McGhee and seconded by Trustee Karam.

Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson proceeded with a roll-call vote.

Renee Clark	Yes
Pamela Gauvin	Yes
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	Yes
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes
Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	Yes
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	Yes
Lynn Motta	Yes
Jamie Wasilowski	Yes
Chair Joan Medeiros	Yes

Upon completion of the roll-call vote, the motion to approve a \$6 per credit fee increase for FY27as presented was approved unanimously.

Chair Medeiros thanked Trustee Motta and VP Kenyon for their leadership and report. She invited Student Trustee Jamie Wasilowski to provide the Student Trustee Report.

10. **Student Trustee Report** – *Trustee Jamie Wasilowski*

Student Trustee Wasilowski said this was his first official report since he was elected as Student Trustee. He shared that he is currently pursuing the interest and possibility of a part-time Dean’s List at Bristol noting that 70% of our students are part-time. Trustee Wasilowski shared that he was looking at Dean’s List structures at other institutions including both Bridgewater State and UMass Dartmouth. He shared he would continue to advocate for this change and keep the board apprised of the progress.

Chair Medeiros thanked Trustee Wasilowski. She asked if there any Old or New Business to come before the Board of Trustees this evening.

11. **Old Business**

12. **New Business**

Hearing no items for either Old or New Business, Chair Medeiros made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

13. **Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 p.m. was seconded by Trustee Clark. Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson proceeded with a roll-call vote.

Renee Clark	Yes
Pamela Gauvin	Yes
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	Yes
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes
Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	Yes
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	Yes
Lynn Motta	Yes
Jamie Wasilowski	Yes
Chair Joan Medeiros	Yes

Upon completion of the roll-call vote, the motion to adjourn the board meeting at 5:29 p.m. was approved unanimously.