

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 525
JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College, Illinois Community College District #525, held in the Board Room at Joliet Junior College, 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL was called to order by Chairman Budzinski at 5:32 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

Trustees Present: Elaine Bottomley, Maureen Broderick, Jim Budzinski, Nancy Garcia Guillen – arrived at 5:35 p.m., Diane Harris, Michele Lee – (virtual) arrived at 7:57 p.m., Alicia Morales and Student Trustee Brenton Bishop.

Trustee Lee was approved to attend the meeting virtually.

Trustee Morales led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2 Communications

Kelly Rohder-Tonelli, Executive Director of Strategic Engagement, introduced Anna Payton, administrator of the Will County Animal Protection Services, which has had a partnership for the past two and a half years with the JJC Veterinary Technology program. Anna said typically someone from the college falls in love along the way falls with the animals, so they don't even come back to the Will County Animal Protection for adoption. They're adopted out directly to JJC staff, family members or students, which is really a beautiful thing to see. The Will County Protection Services serves about 1,000 animals each year and has started an adoption program. They have rebranded from Animal Control to Animal Protection Services. The President's Leadership Experience was asked to take a look at bottlenecks and barriers for pet adoptions. PLE came back with lots of data ideas that they are working to implement now. Anna thanked JJC for this partnership.

1.3.1 Recognition of Retirement – Kristin Mulvey

Dr. Namuo read the recognition.

Kristi said it was hard to believe that nearly 25 years have passed since she first walked through the doors of Joliet Junior College. She said she's had the privilege of working with five presidents and said one of the greatest joys has been telling the JJC story out in the community. Kristi said her focus has always been helping students receive scholarships and ensuring the faculty have the resources they need to deliver an outstanding educational experience and it has been an honor to serve the college.

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Bottomley, for the recognition to be approved as submitted. A voice vote was taken. All voted yes. The motion carried.

1.3.2 Recognition of Retirement – Dawn Baffa

Karen Kissel read the recognition.

Trustee Broderick moved, seconded by Trustee Garcia Guillen, for the recognition to be approved as submitted. A voice vote was taken. All voted yes. The motion carried.

1.4 JJC Land Acknowledgement

Dr. Escortina Ervin said the acknowledgement recognizes and honors the indigenous people who originally inhabited the land that JJC is on right now. Jailen Bey, Manager of Inclusive Excellence, read the acknowledgement.

1.5 Public Comments

Timothy Broderick, former candidate for JJC trustee, spoke regarding his strong support for the Grundy County real estate purchase. He said this is a forward-looking investment in JJC's students, workforce and the region's economic future and brings education and job training closer to home, reducing travel barriers, supporting working families and giving young people the ability to learn, earn, and build a career without leaving their community. Timothy said it is also about strengthening regional partnerships.

1.6 Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed for members of the college family, students, community leaders, or relatives thereof, who had passed away since the last meeting.

1.7.1 Finance Audit Report

Karen Kissel, VP of Finance and Administrative Services, introduced Anthony Cervini from the audit firm of Sikich to give the audit report for JJC. Anthony said Sikich issued clean unmodified opinions of the following: 1) an unmodified audit opinion on the college's basic financial statements; 2) an unmodified opinion on compliance with state grants (ICCB); 3) an unmodified examination opinion on enrollment data and other bases upon which claims are filed and supporting reconciliation of semester credit hours and; 4) an unmodified opinion on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters based on an audit of financial statements performed in accordance with government auditing standards with no instances of noncompliance or other matters to report. He then highlighted the financial statement audit and said Sikich will issue an unmodified opinion on compliance for each major federal program; report on internal control over compliance and report on schedule of expenditures of federal awards required by the uniform guidance.

1.7.2 Levy Report

Jeff Heap, Sr. Director Financial Services and Comptroller, presented the report which included the 2025 Tax Cap Calculation. The tax levy budget assumptions include a 4% increase in operating funds, \$325 million in new construction, a 2.9% increase in the consumer price index and a 4.9% increase in the debt service levy. The proposed tax levy for 2025 is \$83,852,750 or 4.72%.

1.7.3 Grundy County Expansion Update II

Dr. Yolanda Farmer gave the report where she thanked the Grundy County Expansion committee members. She also reviewed the site proposed land as well as the project expansion journey and next steps. Dr. Farmer then introduced Lance Copes, Executive Director of the Grundy County Area Vocational Center, who reaffirmed the commitment to this project and said on behalf of the Grundy County stakeholders of the JJC Grundy County Campus Exploratory Committee, that they offer their full support for the proposed expansion of the new JJC facility in Morris. He said the committee spent two years exploring, deliberating and collecting data to create a community driven expansion plan to serve the residents and businesses in Grundy County. Lance said the new JJC campus will offer programs in industry and workforce development, healthcare education, general education and career and technical education. He said the committee also supports the proposed campus location on Route 47 in Morris.

1.7.4 Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Brenton Bishop gave his report referencing the student dodgeball tournament and the Center for Multicultural Access and Success events which included a first-generation student celebration, a scholarship workshop, international education week and the Native American Heritage month celebrations. Brenton also recapped the ACCT National Leadership Congress conference which he attended in New Orleans that had over 1,600 Trustees in attendance. He highlighted the Disability Awareness Club silent disco and the Romeoville Repair Café events. Brenton then concluded by focusing on the upcoming campus events for December.

1.7.5 Faculty Union Report

Curt Ward, the Faculty Union President, addressed the Board congratulating Kristi Mulvey on her upcoming retirement and the great work of her team. He also thanked all the faculty who participated in the recent Discover JJC event. Curt said that he noticed over 200 cars waiting in line for the food bank an hour before it was to begin. He said he is thankful JJC has a food pantry resource and this brought to his mind the level of food insecurity that that our community is facing right now. He concluded by challenging everyone to donate to the JJC food pantry.

1.7.6 Adjunct Faculty Union Report

Laurel Dieskow gave her report saying the students are in the home stretch and looking forward to completing this semester. Students have a lot of stress leading up to finals as well as the stressors of society and community.

1.7.7 JJC Foundation Report

There was no report.

1.7.8 Building and Grounds Committee Report

Trustee Bottomley said the committee reviewed the current bids. She recapped the main campus lighting replacement bid that is on the agenda and said the majority of funding is coming from a grant.

1.7.9 Board Policy Committee Report

The committee did not meet but Trustee Garcia Guillen recapped the second reads that are on the agenda.

1.7.10 Finance Committee Report

Trustee Morales said the committee did meet and previewed the audit and levy reports that were given at today's meeting.

1.7.11 President's Report

Dr. Namuo encouraged everyone to support the Wolves pantry. He highlighted Advance Illinois which referenced JJC's dual credit success. Dr. Namuo recapped the enrollment report for fall 2025 & preliminary numbers for spring 2026. He said he attended the Crawford Honors College ribbon cutting ceremony and thanked the foundation for putting on an amazing event. He said Dr. Farmer, Karen Kissel, Dr. Ostwinkle and other members of the cabinet conducted an ERP Optimization and Modernization summit to recommit the JJC community and invite our new partners to really be committed to the process. He also attended the Repair Café in Romeoville and said open gym with the President had about 100 students and staff attend. Discover JJC had 221 future students attend with their families. He acknowledged Jennifer Baynes and Amanda Bendoraitis for being co-chairs of the President's Leadership Counsel. He also gave a shout out to the all the students and employees who are veterans. Dr. Namuo highlighted the Trustees and staff who attended the ACCT conference in New Orleans. His celebration of success was the men's and women's soccer team as well as the men's and women's cross-country teams. He praised JJC being a 2026 Bellwether finalist in the instructional programs & services area. The employee spotlight was on the financial services team.

1.8 Closed Session #1

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Morales, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to move to a closed session at 7:04 p.m. for the reasons of 2(c)5.

AYES: Bottomley, Broderick, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris and Morales. Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

Trustee Lee joined the meeting virtually at 7:57 p.m.

1.9 Return to Public Session

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Broderick, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to return to public session at 7:57 p.m.

AYES: Bottomley, Broderick, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris, Lee and Morales. Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

1.10.1 Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on October 15, 2025

Trustee Harris moved, seconded by Trustee Bottomley, for the minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on October 15, 2025 to be approved as submitted.

AYES: Bottomley, Broderick, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris, Lee and Morales. Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

1.11 Approval of Agenda

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Bottomley, for the agenda to be approved as submitted.

AYES: Bottomley, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris and Morales. NAYS: Broderick. ABSTAIN: Lee.
Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

1.12 Approval of Consent Agenda as Presented

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Harris, for the items identified on the consent agenda to be approved as presented. Trustee Broderick pulled agenda items 3.1; 3.2.5; 4.1.1 and 4.2.

AYES: Bottomley, Broderick, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris, Lee and Morales. Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

- 2.1.1 Requesting Acceptance of Retirement of Executive Director of Institutional Advancement
- 2.2.1 Recommending Approval of Retirement as Requested by One Faculty Member
- 2.3.1 Classified Staff Report Includes New Hires, Replacements and Separations
- 2.3.2 Recommending Faculty Salary Schedule Columnar Advancement in Accordance with Current Contractual Agreement
- 3.2.1 Natural Bone Full Body X-Ray Phantom
- 3.2.2 Two 4x4 Gasoline Pickup Trucks
- 3.2.3 Electric Towable Boom Lift
- 3.2.4 Main Campus Lighting Replacement
- 3.2.6 Veterinary Technology Study Abroad Program in Guatemala
- 3.2.7 Japan Study Abroad Program
- 3.2.8 Employee Background Check Service
- 3.3 Treasurer's Report
- 3.4 Financial Report
- 3.5 Board of Trustees Approval of the Sale of College Personal Property
- 4.1.2 Policy 03.22.00 - Comprehensive Agreement Regarding the Expansion of Education Resources (Career)
- 4.1.3 Policy 05.01.00 - Institutional Compliance

3.1 Approval to Pay the Listing of Bills for the Period Ending October 31, 2025 as Presented

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Bottomley, for the agenda item to be approved as presented.

AYES: Bottomley, Broderick, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris and Morales. ABSTAIN: Lee.
Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

3.2.5 Large Format Graphics and Display Media

Trustee Bottomley moved, seconded by Trustee Harris, for the agenda item to be approved as presented.

AYES: Bottomley, Broderick, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris and Morales. ABSTAIN: Lee.
Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

4.1.1 Policy 01.65.00 - Policy Amendments

Trustee Bottomley moved, seconded by Trustee Garcia Guillen, for the agenda item to be approved as presented.

AYES: Bottomley, Broderick, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris and Morales. NAYS: Lee. Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

4.2 Approval of Board of Trustees Meeting Dates and Times for Calendar Year 2026

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Morales, for the agenda item to be approved as presented.

AYES: Bottomley, Broderick, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris, Lee and Morales. Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

3.6 Board of Trustees Approval to Adopt the Resolution Regarding Estimated Amounts Necessary to be Levied for the Year 2025

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Bottomley, for the agenda item to be approved as presented.

AYES: Bottomley, Broderick, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris, Lee and Morales. Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

3.7 Board of Trustees Acknowledgement of the FY 2025 Audit–Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

Trustee Harris moved, seconded by Trustee Bottomley, for the agenda item to be approved as presented.

AYES: Bottomley, Broderick, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris, Lee and Morales. Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

4.3 Resolution Approving the Grundy County Land Acquisition Contract

Trustee Bottomley moved, seconded by Trustee Garcia Guillen, for the agenda item to be approved as presented.

AYES: Bottomley, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris and Morales. NAYS: Broderick & Lee. Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

4.4 Board of Trustees Approval to Return Trustee Broderick to “Good Standing” (as Defined in Board Policies) Following Fifteen (15) Total Censures of Trustee Broderick in February 2024 and March 2025 as Well as Approval of a Resolution of a Vote of No Confidence as to Trustee Broderick in March 2024.

Trustee Harris moved, seconded by Trustee Bottomley, for the agenda item to be approved as presented.

AYES: Bottomley, Broadrick, Harris and Lee. NAYS: Budzinski, Garcia Guillen and Morales. Student Trustee Bishop did not favor the motion. The motion carried.

4.5 Board of Trustees Approval of Censure #1 of Trustee Broderick for Waiving, Without Permission of or Authority from the Board of Trustees, Attorney-Client Privilege When She Transmitted Attorney-Client Privileged Communications to a Third Party on September 2, 2025, in Violation of Board Policies 01.01.00 and 01.03.00.

Trustee Harris moved, seconded by Trustee Bottomley, for the agenda item to be approved as presented.

AYES: Bottomley, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris and Morales. NAYS: Broderick & Lee. Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

4.6 Board of Trustees Approval of Censure #2 of Trustee Broderick for Discussing, on October 15, 2025, in Public, Information and Items Brought to the Board of Trustees in Executive/Closed Session, in Violation of Board Policy 01.03.00.

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Bottomley, for the agenda item to be approved as presented.

AYES: Bottomley, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris and Morales. NAYS: Broderick & Lee. Student Trustee Bishop favored the motion. The motion carried.

5.1 Representative to ICCTA/ACCT Report

Trustee Harris reported she attended the ICCTA South Suburban Regional Meeting and the next ICCTA Trustee meeting on November 13th & 14th in Naperville, IL. Diane also reported on her attendance at the ACCT conference in New Orleans where she attended the Public Policy and Advocacy committee meeting of which she is a member. At the ACCT conference, she attended the central regional caucus and the ACCT senate meeting. She then recapped the sessions she attended at the conference.

5.2 Trustee Updates/ACCT Conference Report

Trustee Morales provided a recap of the sessions she attended at the ACCT conference in New Orleans which included a session on fraud in higher education and creating a center for student civic engagement.

Trustee Garcia Guillen thanked Student Trustee Bishop for his presentation and said she likes to see all that the students are doing on campus. She then wished the students good luck as the semester wraps up and is glad to see all the supports JJC offers to the students. She was also happy to see so many families attended the Discover JJC event.

Trustee Bottomley said she stands by every vote taken tonight and she looks forward to the future when the Board is not so dysfunctional. JJC is doing great things despite the Board's disfunction and would like all Trustees to treat each other with respect. She gave a shout out to financial services for the work they do and encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming blood drive.

Trustee Broderick said thank you to Kristi Mulvey for her 25 years of service. She said she is surprised and really concerned that two censures were placed on her today. She said we need to be prepared for the future of AI in colleges.

Trustee Harris congratulated Kristi Mulvey on her upcoming retirement and said that as a Trustee, she will always stand up for what is right.

Student Trustee Bishop said he respects all Trustees' opinions and that they use those opinions to vote their conscience. He said he will be sharing what he learned at the ACCT conference with student government. He said he represents the students and encouraged everyone to donate to the JJC food pantry as one in eight students are struggling with food security. He stated that he feels the Grundy County land acquisition that was voted on tonight, is a commitment to the students. Brenton also said he is proud to be a nursing student at JJC starting next semester.

Trustee Lee congratulated the Student Trustee for making it into the nursing program. She said there was an incorrect Facebook post regarding Grundy County and the Trustees are doing their fiduciary duty by asking questions.

5.3 Chair Report

Chairman Budzinski reported that at the ACCT conference he went to a session related to manufacturing communities where he realized that JJC already does many of the things that were presented and we have had many businesses from our community come before this Board. He also congratulated Kristi Mulvey on her upcoming retirement and for the 25 years of service to JJC. He said one night at the conference the group went out to dinner and discovered 898 miles away from JJC, a server at the restaurant that went to JJC who was very excited to talk to us. He also met another server at a local restaurant who is just starting classes at JJC. We are going to call these random interactions Wolves in the Wild. It's always a good feeling and exciting to interact with current and former JJC students. At the ACCT conference he was surprised to learn that some of the Student Trustees of other colleges are not as involved or get to participate in as much as the JJC Student Trustee and he is proud that JJC involves the Student Trustee in all that we can. He also said ACCT has recognized JJC for service and dedication to the honorable mission of higher education.

6. Closed Session #2

There was no closed session #2.

8. Adjournment

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Bottomley, for the meeting to adjourn at 9:42 p.m. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.