

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 5:31 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

Trustees Present: Maureen Broderick, Jim Budzinski, Nancy Garcia Guillen, Diane Harris, Michelle Lee (virtual), Alicia Morales, Joshua Stamborski, and Student Trustee Ryan Queeney.

JJC student Luke Galloway led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2 Communications

Chairman Budzinski referenced an announcement he made at the August 2024 Board meeting where the Chairman shared that the Board and College would engage in an outside, independent law firm to investigate grievances from employees regarding incivility and a hostile work environment created by one or more Trustees. The Board and College has now received the final report. The investigation firm reviewed numerous documents, viewed Board meetings and conducted interviews to conduct a comprehensive assessment which took several months.

The report found that grievances lodged by President Namuo and the campus employee were in fact credible, despite the fact that Trustees Broderick and Trustee Lee refused to cooperate with the investigation. Additionally, investigators concluded that Trustee Maureen Broderick and Trustee Michelle Lee violated on numerous occasions, in many ways, multiple Board policies and rules. The two Trustees' actions interfered with the Board's business and the work of JJC employees with unprofessional communications where their actions were demeaning, threatening, offensive and created a hostile atmosphere for those to whom they were directed as well as observed.

Unfortunately, state law does not provide a mechanism for possible impeachment and or removal from elected office. In addition, multiple votes from this Board to censure both Trustee Broderick and Trustee Lee have done little to mitigate their unprofessional and uncivil behavior.

The firm has offered several recommendations which the Chairman fully intends to pursue with the support of the Trustees. He thanked the College community for its patience as they addressed these very serious claims and concerns of employees. Accountability exists across College operations, and it also extends to the Board of Trustees in their governing roles.

The Chairman said while we have different responsibilities to this institution, we all contribute to the equity, fairness and atmosphere of trust and respect. The Board takes these matters very seriously and will not tolerate unethical, uncivil, and generally unacceptable conduct by anyone, let alone from Trustees.

1.3.1 Community College Month Proclamation

JJC student Abby Camacho read the proclamation.

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to approve the proclamation. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.

1.3.2 Earth Month Proclamation

JJC student Ash Klinder read the proclamation.

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Student Trustee Queeney, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to approve the proclamation. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.

1.3.3 National Arab American Heritage Month Proclamation

JJC student Seja Rahman read the proclamation.

Trustee Broderick moved, seconded by Trustee Harris, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to approve the proclamation. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.

1.3.4 Harry Benton Appreciation 12x12x12 Proclamation

Dr. Namuo read the proclamation.

Trustee Broderick moved, seconded by Student Trustee Queeney, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to approve the proclamation. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.

Representative Benton thanked JJC for being a great partner and said JJC leads the state in dual credit. He appreciates the work JJC is doing by going above and beyond by offering so many opportunities for students.

1.3.5 Minooka School District Appreciation 12x12x12 Month Proclamation

Dr. Namuo read the proclamation.

Trustee Harris moved, seconded by Trustee Morales, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to approve the proclamation. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.

1.3.6 Lockport School District Appreciation 12x12x12 Proclamation

Student Trustee Queeney read the proclamation.

Trustee Harris moved, seconded by Trustee Broderick, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to approve the proclamation. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.

1.4.1 Janet Graham Recognition of Retirement

Dr. Ken Santiago read the recognition.

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Student Trustee Queeney, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to approve the recognition. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.

1.4.2 Myra Mitchell Recognition of Retirement

Dr. Ken Santiago read the recognition.

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to approve the recognition. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.

Myra thanked everyone and said it was a great place to work.

1.4.3 Lorena Verdin Recognition of Retirement

Dr. Ken Santiago read the recognition.

Trustee Harris moved, seconded by Student Trustee Queeney, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to approve the recognition. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.

1.4.4 Deborah Albert Recognition of Retirement

Dr. Ken Santiago read the recognition.

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to approve the recognition. A voice vote was taken. All voted AYE except Trustee Budzinski who voted a symbolic no. The motion carried.

Debbie said she appreciated the support all these years and that she felt she was given the opportunity to learn and was entrusted with what she believes is the heart of the college.

1.5.1 Affirming JJC Values and Commitment to Students Resolution 2025R02

Trustee Harris moved, seconded by Trustee Morales to table this agenda item.

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

1.6 Public Comments

Donna Theimer, a JJC Foundation member, addressed the Board saying she has watched Board meetings and read the Board minutes. Donna said Trustee Broderick has bullied her and asked Trustee Broderick to respectively do the right thing and dig deep for integrity to resign from her current seat and remove herself from the upcoming election ballot for JJC Trustee.

1.7 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.

1.8.1 Faculty Union Report

Curt Ward gave the faculty union report thanking Debbie Albert for her help in creating the auto curriculum. He also thanked student government for conducting the Trustee candidate election forum last week. He acknowledged the JJC theatre department for their production of Nunsense. Mr. Ward referenced the English and World Languages department for their work on the Wordeater literary magazine which recently won a national award and recognized the women's bowling team for having a national champion and overall fifth place.

1.8.2 Adjunct Faculty Union Report

There was no report.

1.8.3 JJC Foundation Report

Kristi Mulvey, Executive Director, Institutional Advancement, said the employee giving campaign will kick off next week and the alumni sock campaign had record sales of 442 pairs of socks raising \$6,225. The alumni podcast continues. The alumni race car project appeal is a hands-on learning project for automotive students and campus police. The car will race in the FIVE-O Race for Special Olympics in August. The Veterans Support Appeal is for student veterans facing financial gaps not covered by the GI Bill and state benefits. The spring appeal will be for the Crawford Honors College. The Empty Bowls project will take place on April 15 & 17 with funds being raised for the JJC food pantry.

1.8.4 Building and Grounds Committee Report

There was no report.

1.8.5 Board Policy Committee Report

Trustee Garcia Guillen recapped the first and second reads that were on the agenda.

1.8.6 Finance Committee Report

No report was given.

1.8.7 Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Queeney gave their report recapping recent campus and community events. OSA put together the Spring Fling on March 5th. They attended the Student Advisory Committee meeting on March 7th in Peoria. Student Lobby Day is April 9th in Springfield with the focus being on Community College Baccalaureate degrees as well as to increase funding for student mental health on campuses and also to continue state funding for MAP grants at community colleges. Ryan then discussed upcoming campus & community events. Ryan recapped the Earth Month events on campus and provided the Summer Advising events. They then recapped the essential truths for effective Trusteeship which include ethical behavior and the Boards relations with the President.

1.8.8 President's Report

Dr. Namuo gave his report acknowledging Student Trustee Ryan Queeney for their leadership and being active in statewide events during their term. Dr. Namuo discussed his radio interview regarding the governor's announcement regarding community colleges offering baccalaureate degrees. He then recapped items before the Board and the spring semester enrollment numbers. His Celebrations of Success included the accomplishments of the Women's Wrestling, Bowling, Soccer and Women's Basketball programs at JJC. Around the district events he attended included the annual YMCA Gala, the annual Joliet Chamber awards night, the Great Chefs Tasting and the Boys and Girls Club Gala. Dr. Namuo was asked to present on a panel as an invited guest of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The employee spotlight was on the employees who purchased socks in the annual campaign.

1.9 Closed Session #1

Trustee Stamborski moved, seconded by Trustee Garcia Guillen, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to move to a closed session at 6:45 p.m. for the reasons of 2(c)1 & 2(c)6.

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

1.10 Return to Public Session

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College to return to public session at 7:37 p.m.

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

1.11.1 Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on February 19, 2025

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Student Trustee Queeney, for the minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on February 19, 2025 to be approved as submitted.

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

1.12 Approval of Agenda

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Student Trustee Queeney, for the agenda to be approved as submitted. A voice vote was taken. Trustee Broderick voted no, all other Trustees voted yes. The motion carried.

1.13 Approval of Consent Agenda as Presented

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Garcia Guillen, for the items identified on the consent agenda to be approved as presented. Trustee Broderick pulled agenda items 3.1; 3.5 & 4.2.1. Trustee Lee pulled agenda items 4.2.2; 4.2.3; 4.2.4 & 4.2.5.

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

- 2.1.1 Recommending the Approval of the Resignation of One Full-Time Assistant Professor of English, Philosophy & World Languages
- 2.1.2 Recommending Sabbatical Leave for One Faculty Member
- 2.1.3 Recommending Sabbatical Leave for One Faculty Member
- 2.1.4 Recommending the Approval of Rescinding Retirement Date as Requested by One Faculty Member
- 2.2.1 Classified Staff Report Includes New Hires, Replacements and Separations
- 3.2.1 Bid: Main Campus Lighting Project
- 3.2.2 Bid: Parking Lot Improvements
- 3.2.3 Contractual Service: Troy Fire Protection District Fire Academy
- 3.3 Treasurer's Report
- 3.4 Financial Report
- 3.6 Board of Trustees Approval of Renaissance Center Banquet Operation Lease Amendment

3.1 Approval to Pay the Listing of Bills for the Period Ending February 28, 2025 as Presented

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees to approve the agenda item as submitted.

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

3.5 Board of Trustees Approval of the Sale of College Personal Property

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Harris, for the Board of Trustees to approve the agenda item as submitted.

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

4.2.1 Policy 01.55.01 - Public Comment at Board Meetings

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees to approve the agenda item as submitted.

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

4.2.2 Policy 02.01.18 - Workplace Civility

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Harris, for the Board of Trustees to approve the agenda item as submitted.

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

4.2.3 Policy 02.03.01 - Employment at Will

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees to approve the agenda item as submitted.

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

4.2.4 Policy 03.01.02 - Transfer Credit

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Student Trustee Queeney, for the Board of Trustees to approve the agenda item as submitted.

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

4.2.5 Policy 04.16.00 - Grades

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees to approve the agenda item as submitted.

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

4.3.1 Taking from the table from the February 19, 2025 Board Meeting Agenda Item 4.3.1 Approval of Board Policy 05.02.00 Prohibition of Sexual Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Title IX Allegations)

Trustee Garcia Guillen moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees to approve the agenda item as submitted.

AYES: Broderick, Budzinski, Garcia Guillen, Harris, Lee, Morales and Stamborski. ABSTAIN: Queeney. The motion carried.

4.3.2 Approval of Board Policy 05.02.00 Prohibition of Sexual Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Title IX Allegations)

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees to approve the agenda item as submitted.

AYES: Broderick, Budzinski, Harris, Lee, Morales and Stamborski. ABSTAIN: Garcia Guillen & Queeney. The motion carried.

4.4.1. Censure of Trustee Maureen Broderick for Comments to College Employees at Recent Public Events Stating That She Did Not Support the Raise Given to the President of the College with His Recent Contract Extension, Said Comments Violating Board Policy 01.01.00, Board Policy 01.03.00, and the Model Standards of Good Practice for Trustee Boards Nos. 3 and 10.

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees to approve the agenda item as submitted.

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

4.4.2 Censure of Trustee Maureen Broderick for Comments to College Employees at a Recent Public Event Stating that She Monitors Department Budgets, Intimidating Those Employees, Said Comments Violating Board Policy 01.01.00, Board Policy 01.03.00, and the Model Standards of Good Practice for Trustee Boards No. 8.

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the Board of Trustees to approve the agenda item as submitted.

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

5.1 Representative to ICCTA/ACCT Report

Trustee Harris gave her report saying that there is an upcoming ICCTA meeting which she will attend. She also asked everyone to respond to the ICCTA survey.

5.2 Trustee Updates

Student Trustee Queeney said they are excited for Student Lobby Days coming up in April which they plan to attend. They also thanked the students who attended the meeting tonight.

Trustee Stamborski thanked the students, staff and faculty for coming to the meeting.

Trustee Garcia Guillen thanked the students for attending the meeting during their spring break.

Trustee Morales thanked the students for coming and for putting on a very well-organized candidate forum. She said the Board has a vested interest in seeing that the students are receiving a quality education and having a wonderful experience while at JJC. She then reminded everyone to vote as your voice matters.

Trustee Harris congratulated the students for being part of JJC. She also said the ICCTA meeting will have a discussion related to the state of DEI in higher education.

Trustee Broderick said as the senior of the member of the Board she believes the Board is not functioning at the best level. She also believes the 13 censures and vote of no confidence against her violate the Open Meetings Act. She said the Chair and the Executive Board changed policies to add verbiage on Trustee good standing which restricted Trustees not in good standing from being able to attend events and the Chair also didn't keep her as the ICCTA representative or assign her to any committees. She said the past two years have been very trying and missing a lot of respect to her as the senior Board member.

Trustee Lee said the election is coming up and to get out and vote. She is supporting Maureen Broderick as she knows the questions to ask and Robert Wunderlich as he had been on the Board for over 40 years.

5.3 Chair Report

Chairman Budzinski said the independent investigation of bad Board behavior found the claims to be valid. While a Trustee says there are no facts, the report produced facts. The senior Trustee has now been censured three different times (for a total of 16 censures), yet the behavior has not improved. We are dealing with behaviors that just are so unacceptable. We have students coming to the Board meeting to talk about it. We have outside guests come to talk about it. We see reports from employees that report it, and we get feedback from the community about the bad behavior.

6. Closed Session #2

There was no closed session.

8. Adjournment

Trustee Morales moved, seconded by Trustee Stamborski, for the meeting to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.