

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE
Wye Mills, MD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 22, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Chesapeake College Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom video conference. Chair, Mr. Reza Jafari called the meeting to order.

ATTENDANCE

Dr. Blenda Armistead, Ms. Mary Dennard-Turner, Ms. Addie Eckardt, Mr. Brent Fuchs, Mr. Chris Garvey, Ms. Shelly Gross-Wade, Mr. Reza Jafari, and Ms. Erica Osterhout attended the meeting on Zoom. Absent was Ms. Brenda Shorter. Dr. Clifford Coppersmith and Ms. Latellya Stewart were also present.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Gross-Wade, seconded by Dr. Armistead, and carried unanimously the agenda was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

CONSENT AGENDA

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Gross-Wade, seconded by Ms. Osterhout and carried unanimously, the Board approved the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting.
- The minutes of the December 17, 2025 closed session meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Coppersmith informed the board that the Governor's proposed FY2027 budget includes the Queen Anne's Tech Building project on the state capital projects list. The College is finalizing contracts for both design and construction. The project will replace the existing building and represents one of the largest capital initiatives undertaken by the College since 1965. Design is anticipated to begin in late spring. Due to delays in the state capital process, completion may shift to 2029.

Dr. Coppersmith expressed appreciation for county support and approvals from the Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of General Services, and the State Office of Budget Management (pending final confirmation). Appreciation was also extended to faculty and staff, especially Ms. Miriam Collins, who contributed to the project's advancement. The Chesapeake College Foundation, with Ms. Amber McGinnis, will begin planning a capital campaign to support equipment and scholarships related to the new facility.

Regarding the Governor's proposed budget, no funding cuts to community colleges have been identified at this time. A modest funding increase is proposed, reflecting continued support for public higher education, though the budget remains subject to the legislative process.

Spring enrollment is strong, pending final census confirmation. Headcount is up 5.1% and FTE is up 3.6% compared to last year. Enrollment has exceeded 2,000 students for the first time since 2016, with 2,055 students registered. Dual enrollment reached a new spring record of 779 students, representing 38% of total enrollment.

Dr. Coppersmith concluded by noting that next month's meeting will include a mid-year retreat to present the FY2027 budget, review progress on the strategic plan, and approve the FY2027 Budget Proposal for submission to the College's five supporting counties.

FINANCE AND FACILITIES REPORT

Ms. Gross-Wade presented the following action items to the board for approval.

Action Item: Budget Transfer for Replacement Backup Appliance

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Gross-Wade, seconded by Mr. Fuchs and carried unanimously, the Board approved a budget transfer of \$35,000 from the FY2025 Nutanix Replacement Project to a new Backup Appliance Replacement Project.

GOVERNANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Ms. Osterhout did not have any action items to present to the board.

PROGRAMS, PLANNING AND OUTREACH

Strategic Enrollment Management Plan Update by Ms. Jody Gordon, AACRAO Consultant

Ms. Jody Gordon presented the Board with the implementation plan for the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Plan. She discussed the goal of harmonizing enrollment efforts by maintaining open access while improving student access, despite limited resources. The intent is to align and strengthen each component of enrollment management to support institutional goals.

The SEM Plan is holistic and aligns with the College's Strategic Plan, which includes five focus areas centered on empowering students. The three primary sub-goals of the SEM Plan are to:

- Increase overall enrollment by 2029
- Increase success rates for all students by 2029
- Increase completion rates for all students by 2029

Ms. Gordon emphasized the importance of return on investment through engagement, data-informed decision-making, organizational structure, actionable strategies, LinkEx, and capacity building.

Ms. Gordon expressed appreciation for the partnership with AACRAO.

COLLEGE REPORTS

Faculty Assembly

Mr. Crouse, Faculty Assembly Chair, reported that the Faculty Assembly has long-term work ahead. He noted the role of AFACCT in encouraging faculty to support one another. Faculty met in early January for

a teaching-focused conference that included discussions on artificial intelligence, including the ethical and unethical use of AI. The meeting emphasized professional growth and encouraging one another to improve. Mr. Crouse also shared that ADA accommodations for students are currently being discussed and will be addressed further at the Faculty Assembly meeting in two weeks.

Petitions regarding the healthcare benefits were delivered to each Board member's house. Concerns were expressed about the difficulty for employees to retire due to the high cost of healthcare benefits. These issues are currently being discussed through the collective bargaining process.

Staff Assembly (StARs)

Ms. Lyndy Galan, Staff Representative, reported that the January Staff Member of the Month is Mr. Jim Miller. She also shared that the annual Super Bowl pool is underway, and prizes for the winner will be announced following the Super Bowl.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Mr. Jafari, chair of the board, reported MACC Trustee Conference and Legislative Reception may be cancelled but the conference may be held on zoom. Final arrangements will be sent out shortly.

CLOSED SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Jafari, seconded by Ms. Eckardt and carried unanimously, the Board entered into a closed session in accordance with Md. Code, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1), to discuss legal matters.

OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Jafari, seconded by Mr. Garvey and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned closed session at 4:25 PM.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION


In closed session, the Board of Trustees discussed legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Eckardt seconded by Ms. Gross-Wade and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.



Latellya Stewart, Staff Associate to the Board

APPROVED: 

Reza Jafari, Chair

DATE: 1/22/26

