

**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK**

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Mohawk Valley Community College Board of Trustees at the ThINCubator, 326 Broad Street, Utica, New York was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Chair Waters on Monday, June 16, 2025.

Members Present

Wendy Waters
Dana Jerrard
David Mathis
Anna D'Ambrosio
Anthony Colón
Frank Dubeck
Elaine Falvo
William S. Calli
Camille Kahler

Members Excused

Student Trustee

2. Chair's Report

Chair Waters opened the June meeting by expressing appreciation to the ThINCubator staff for hosting the June board meeting. With the academic year having concluded in May, there is not too much to report on as summer planning begins. Chair Waters went on review the past year's committee assignments and asked for trustees to confirm their interest to continue in their respective committee roles for the upcoming academic year. She concluded that many of the Board's gubernatorial appointments are in holdover status and looks like they will remain that way for the foreseeable future. NYCCT is looking into gubernatorial appointments as many other community colleges are also in a similar holdover status.

3. Treasurer's Report

Vice President Squires presented the current financial reports. He noted that revenue is presently below budget expectations due to a delay in grant revenue receipts, affecting the overall revenue position. Expenses have increased in accordance with enrollment growth. Fringe benefits have also seen a notable year-over-year increase as the College transitioned to a self-insured health insurance plan in 2024. Despite the short-term revenue timing variances and rising expenses, the College continues to maintain a strong financial position.

Vice President Squires concluded with an update on the \$15 million in staggered six-month U.S. Treasury bills, structured to mature monthly. These investments are yielding a 4.2% return and have generated approximately \$700,000 in interest income to date.

4. Student Trustee Report

As the Student Trustee position is currently vacant, there was no Student Trustee Report for the June meeting.

5. Committees and Affiliations

Facilities and Campus Safety

Facilities and Campus Safety Committee Chair Dana Jerrard reported that the committee met on June 11. The committee took a tour of the server room to understand the equipment and operations that support the college. Public Safety, Facilities, and Safety Walk reports were reviewed. A review of current capital projects were discussed and included updates on the Dental Hygiene lab and S&T bids. The capital projects for the upcoming fiscal year were reviewed and supported by the committee.

A motion to approve the 2026 Capital Projects request as reviewed in committee was made by Vice Chair Dana Jerrard and seconded by Trustee Elaine Falvo. Motion passed unanimously.

Governance and Personnel

Governance and Personnel Committee Chair Camille Kahler reported that the committee met on June 9. The committee discussed the Bronson Bill and its impact on local boards, the Student Trustee vacancy, and received an HR staffing update. Executive Director of Human Resources went on to review the proposed changes to the Romantic Relationships Board Policy to align with SUNY policy, strengthen language to prohibit undergrad relationships and enforcement, and procedural changes that support the policy revisions. The meeting concluded with a benefits update, current status of AMVA and APA negotiations, and legal update.

Foundation

President VanWagoner reported that the Foundation is in full preparations for the upcoming annual Foundation Golf Tournament.

ACCT/NYCCT

Trustee Tony Colon reported that over the past several weeks, ACCT has been working intensively in Washington on behalf of community colleges across the country. The focus has been on the reconciliation process currently playing out in Congress. The House recently passed its version of the reconciliation bill—known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”—which contains several provisions that would negatively impact our students and institutions. One major concern is the proposal to eliminate Pell Grant eligibility for students enrolled in fewer than 7.5 credits. For many part-time students, especially those juggling work, family, and school, this change could mean losing access to essential financial aid. The bill also calls for redefining full-time enrollment from 12 to 15 credit hours and proposes a risk-sharing model that would hold colleges financially responsible for student loan defaults.

The good news is that, thanks to persistent advocacy from ACCT and its members—including those of you who’ve engaged with lawmakers—the Senate’s version of the bill has removed these harmful provisions. Both the House and Senate proposals retain support for Workforce Pell and address the looming shortfall in the Pell Grant program, which is a positive step. At the same time, the Trump administration’s proposed FY2026 budget includes sweeping cuts to programs that support student success—like TRIO, GEAR UP, SEOG, and the Strengthening Community College Training Grant. It also proposes a \$1,600 reduction in the maximum Pell

award.

In response, ACCT is calling on trustees and presidents across the country to continue engaging their Senators, sharing data, stories, and outcomes to protect our students' futures. To support these efforts, ACCT has developed a platform called ACCT NOW(acct.org/acct-now)—a centralized online resource with legislative alerts, grant opportunities, federal policy summaries, and real-time updates.

NYCCT Chair Elect Wendy Waters shared that the NYCCT Annual Conference registration will open on Wednesday and will be held September 10 through September 12 in Saratoga. The theme of the conference will center around dialogue and focus on round table discussions. She then went on to provide an update into NYCCT actions around the developing Bronson Bill which has passed through both houses. She then asked Trustee David Mathis for an update on the SUNY Vice Chancellor Search.

Trustee Mathis reported that the search committee has recommended three candidates forward. Unfortunately one of the candidates dropped out and the alternate was contacted to move forward. The remaining two candidates and the alternate are waiting to be interviewed by the SUNY Chancellor.

NYCCT Chair Elect Wendy Waters concluded with a report on advocacy efforts around legislation language specific to community colleges that seem to be gathering steam: The first bill, the “nursing bill” proposes to include additional funding directly to the colleges for each nursing student. The “floor bill” proposes to legislatively mandate the funding floor for community colleges and to include a provision that would increase the funding floor each year to adjust for inflation and higher employee benefit costs. Both bills have been assigned numbers and the Board will be updated on their progress.

SUNY/NYCCAP

President VanWagoner reported that information and details on SUNY Reconnect continue to be received as this initiative continues to evolve. He concluded with an update on state aid allocations and the college's status of applications for the various allocations available.

6. President's Report

President VanWagoner reviewed this month's Key Performance Indicator—MVCC has a vibrant organizational culture to support its mission —highlighting four key metrics: percent of overall employee satisfaction; percent of overall employee pride; percent of overall employee engagement; and full-time employee turnover rate. With data gleaned from the bi-annual climate survey, more than 93% of full-time employees are satisfied with their job (up from 90% last year). Nearly 92% feel proud to be a part of MVCC (up from 88% that past two years), and roughly 80% generally look forward to coming to work every day (slightly down from last year). The annual employee turnover rate has been fairly consistent around 11% for the past five years, dropping to 9.5% in 2023-24.

College Senate

College Senate has concluded for the academic year. There was no College Senate report for the

June meeting.

7. Vice President Reports and Academic Affairs Spotlight

There were no questions from the Board regarding the written reports submitted by the Vice Presidents. The Division of Student Affairs was spotlighted this month and presented to the Board on the Mohawk Valley Community College Care Team (formerly known as BERT). The transition to a Care Team has enhanced the College's guiding principle of holistic student support by promoting early intervention, resource connection, and community well-being. The Board was walked through the Care Team mission and guideline document.

8. Discussion Items

a. First Reading: Board Policy Revision 1010. Committees of the Board

Policy revisions to the Committees of the Board were presented to the Board as a first reading. A motion to waive first reading policy was made by Trustee Frank Dubeck and seconded by Trustee David Mathis. Motion passed unanimously. Further discussion continued with County Attorney Andrew Dean reading a summary of the Bronson Bill. A motion to approve the policy revisions was made by Trustee Frank Dubeck and seconded by Trustee William S. Calli. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Wendy Waters – Aye

Dana Jerrard – Aye

Camille Kahler – Aye

David Mathis – Aye

Frank Dubeck – Aye

Elaine Falvo – Aye

William S. Calli – Aye

Tony Colon – Aye

Anna D'Ambrosio – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

b. SUNY Lawsuit

Chair Waters reported that the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) has decided not to proceed with the lawsuit at this time, as SUNY has addressed one of the key claims. As a result, the matter has entered a 60-day response period. The public comment period will open tomorrow, and Trustees are encouraged to review all forthcoming communications from NYCCT related to this topic, which will be shared in the coming days. The public comment period will end Monday, August 18, 2025.

c. Summer Retreat

The Board discussed locations in the Rome area and agenda items for the upcoming July Retreat. An agenda and confirmed retreat location will be shared in the next few weeks.

9. Consent Agenda

Attachment a. Minutes of May 19, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting

Attachment b. Treasurer's Report

Attachment c. Naming of Classroom in the Aviation Hangar at Griffiss International Airport

as the “Bombardier Classroom”

Attachment d. Capital Project – Science & Technology Building Renovation & Upgrade

Attachment e. Collective Bargaining Agreement – Association of Mohawk Valley Administrators (AMVA)

Attachment f. Collective Bargaining Agreement – Mohawk Valley Community College Adjunct and Part-Time Association (APA)

Attachment g. Caitlyn Graham, Assistant Director of Financial Aid

Attachment h. Scott Eaton, Instructor School of Public and Human Services

Attachment i. Alexander Ciambriello, Data Analytics and Visualization Specialist

Attachment j. Amend Staffing Plan: Charith Reddy Kalva, Data Analytics and Visualization Specialist

A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9a–9j was made by Trustee William Calli and seconded by Trustee Anna D’Ambrosio. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion for an executive session with no further action to discuss legal matters was made by Trustee William Calli and seconded by Trustee Frank Dubeck.
Unanimously approved.

The Board of Trustees entered into executive session at 5:37 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 5:56 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Motion was made by Trustee Anna D’Ambrosio and seconded by Trustee William Calli to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m. Unanimously approved.