MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEDNESDAY, October 21, 2026
Library
Canton, MA
6:00pm

APPROVED
November 18, 2026

Attendees: Chair Carroll, Trustee Anania, Trustee Boyd, Trustee Chakrabarti, Trustee Kowalski, Trustee Offutt, Trustee Welch

Vice Chair Dunphy & Trustee Silvera attended the meeting remotely via zoom.

Absent: Trustee Lawson

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call:
Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Anania – yes
Trustee Boyd – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Kowalski – yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Silvera
Trustee Welch - yes

Chairman's Report
Chair Carroll thanked everyone for joining the meeting and thanked all those on campus that participated in NECHE. He appreciated all those who took the time to answer questions and give their feedback. He met with Dr. Cheryl Lesser, Chair NECHE and the NECHE team and had a great conversation with them about the college. This is an important process not only for accreditation purposes but also the opportunity to reflect on areas we've been successful in and those that need more attention. A very special thank you to Dr. Rita Jones-Hyde and Dr. Angelina Mederios who did an incredible job pulling all this together.

This week is STEM week at Massasoit and one of the events was the Cardboard Boat Contest, where teams build boats out of cardboard and duct tape and must traverse back and forth in the college's pool. Trustee Donovan Boyd was on 3 boats that wound up on the bottom of the pool. It's events like this where you have a little fun, learn a lot, and make some good memories.

President's Report
President Mitchell stated the fall semester is almost half over and that things are going well. Our LPN to associate's degree and Full-Time Day Nursing program, all 32 students, 100% passed the NCLEX exam. Commissioner Ortega, MA Department of Higher Education, has stepped down from his role. President Mitchell recently met the interim commissioner, Dr. Jose Luis Santos, and invited him to our campus. He will be visiting on Friday, November 13. We have a legislative breakfast scheduled for Friday, January 22, 2027. .

Title II is a federal law under ADA to assist visually impaired students with public facing documents or materials. Mr. Jesse Schreier, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, has been providing amazing training and software to help process. We must clean up our website and make everything compliant.

The Federal government is pulling TRIO back. At Massasoit, we are working as a senior team to figure out our next moves. We have the smaller grant until August of 2027, and we are in year three of the five-year larger grant.

Some new guidelines about accreditation came out and as a community college system through MAC, we submitted our feedback. To have successful metrics that are the same for all schools is inherently unfair.

Ms. Jennifer Holbrook, Director of Presidential Operations, spoke about the 60th Anniversary fun run and walk/kids dash event, which was held on Saturday, October 17th. There were 48 runners, 56 walkers, 22 kids under 18 and 11 kids for the Kids Dash, at our very first event. Our oldest couple was 79 years old and they met at Massasoit! Ms. Holbrook stated they would like to do this again next year.

Mr. Joseph Harris, Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management gave an update on Fall enrollment. As of this date, 6,257 students (an increase of 1.4%) enrolled in 53,773 credits (an increase of 3.7%) compared to the same time last year.

William O'Neill, Vice President of Administration/CFO gave highlights about financials and will do a full report at the November meeting, as everyone in the state has hit a delay with the audit. With the Commonwealth converting the accounting to ERP from Mars to Mosaic, we did not get our numbers until 6 days ago. When you look at the draft numbers, it's a good year. We increased our net position by over 27M. We had increase in investments of $3.5M and $2.2M from Q4.

Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Boyd stated that the student senate has officially recognized 13 clubs this year. They voted to put the new swim club on a probation period which will allow them 6 weeks to develop their club and plan. Student Senate had a guest speaker to assist with leadership and advocacy skills and provide secondary guidance for initiatives that we are working on this year. Members had the chance to talk to the NECHE visiting committee on October 19 and also met with President Mitchell. Student Life held a well-being fair to show our students all the community resources that are available to them. They also held their second annual Carnival of Champions which was a collaboration with Athletics and Veteran Services. In September, we gave out 13,274 lbs. of food, and had 497 unique family visits, which included students to the pantry.

A motion was made by Trustee Anania and seconded by Trustee Kowalski to approve the consent agenda.

Roll Call:
Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Anania – yes
Trustee Boyd – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Kowalski – yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Silvera
Trustee Welch - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Presidential Search Update by Chair Tom Carroll

Chair Carroll stated that we have set up a Presidential Search web page on the MCC website. We are currently accepting letters of interest from individuals interested in serving on the presidential search which is due by October 30. After we get the interest, we will put together the search committee. The next piece is exploring the selection of a search firm; an RFP is in the process of being posted. Vice Chair Dunphy and I will meet with a couple of search firms and bring a recommendation back to the board based on our input. Additional information will be provided as the process moves forward, and we will be back at the November meeting with a search committee named. Trustee Offutt thanked President Mitchell for all the partnerships formed under his leadership and how critical it is to find a new president with that kind of external capacity to reach out and develop relationships in the community.

NECHE Update by Dr. Rita Jones-Hyde, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dr. Angelina Mederois, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Rita Jones-Hyde, Vice President of Academic Affairs stated that they received their verbal NECHE exit report which is outlined below. They will receive the written report from the site visit team in about 6 weeks, and the college will have the opportunity to review any factual errors and then respond. She and President Mitchell will attend the NECHE April meeting on behalf of Massasoit to give updates and have discussions.

Standard 1 – Mission, Organization, Governance and Planning
Strengths: Clearly articulated mission, strategic plan, a support for Mass Educate and our Prison Education program. Also, strong investments in student technology, our buildings and our resources.
Challenges: Planning and assessment need to connect to consistent assessment cycles, more faculty transparency and decision making, using enrollment trends to systematically inform decision making and the use of a data governance team or way to report out on data governance.

Standard 2 – Students, Faculty and Staff including Academic programs
Strengths**:** Strong support for populations such as our first gen, ESL, Veterans and early college population. The library was "noteworthy" in addressing student and curriculum needs. Our Academic innovation team for professional development workshops and speakers.
Challenges: Move from collecting data to using information for student success specifically and then strengthening our academic ESOL program into the composition courses, into the additional credit-bearing courses for English.

Standard 3 – Institutional Resources
Strengths: Finally put to bed the 10-year discussion on financial stability. They highlighted capital improvements and thoughtful planning through FY31.
Challenges: Evaluated the presence in our Middleboro site and discussed our 2-year lease on that property and evaluating faculty and staff numbers and populations.

Standard 4 – Educational Effectiveness and the Success of All Students
Strengths: Commended the college's investment in institutional research and IR's use of Tableau dashboards and analytics to expand access to data and review of student outcomes.
Challenges: NECHE noted the need for data governance and an assessment committee to support the use of data across the college community, the also noted the need for internal assessment of governance and committee work. There was a very significant concern about our need to pause and reassess our internal academic program review process.

Standard 5 – Integrity, Transparency and Public Disclosure
Strengths: Recognized the college's commitment to uphold high ethical standards for students, faculty and staff. They also recommended our redesign of the website for improved access to important information.
Challenges: No concerns

The results were consistent and aligned with the findings presented in our overall self-study report.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Update by Dr. Rita Jones-Hyde, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dr. Catherine Powers-Ozyurt, Dean of Allied Health and Nursing

Dr. Powers-Ozyurt, Dean of Allied Health and Nursing stated that the NECHE report called for the benefits of incorporating more assessment and data-driven solutions to better serve our students and workforce. Both the EMT program and paramedic program were paused in early 2026 and we recently submitted a voluntary accreditation hold to focus on a review of the EMT education program, which is a feeder into the paramedic program. There are several benefits for integrating EMT into Health Sciences, such as shared resource allocation, access to high fidelity simulation labs, interpersonal training spaces and institutional support systems. It is also part of the regional workforce strategic plan as a health science initiative. Everyone can come in at the same level, at the same standard and we can keep them and support them. Trustee Offutt asked what the capacity is for the EMT program? Dr. Powers-Ozyurt responded that we strive to do well versus do more, so we are looking at probably 15 to 20 students so we can match the college model of a 15-week semester. They will prepare for the national exams, and we will have a fall and spring semester. If successful we may have a summer semester and Bridgewater State University has approached us for a summer session for their students.

Sabbatical Presentation, Development of a Secondary Education Transfer Program Pathway by Dr. Sawsan Zahara, Professor Behavioral Science, Public Service and Education

Dr. Zahara is presenting today because there is a shortage of qualified teachers in Massachusetts and in the United States in general, and we at MCC have been asked multiple times whether we offer a secondary education program. Teacher vacancies have led the state to rely on uncertified staff, so DESE has allowed educators to teach while they are in their master's program and apply for licensure after. The shortage in general is in special education where students need individual attention or STEM where there are a lot of vacancies. Dr. Zahara looked at the DHE requirements for a secondary education program, what are the associate to bachelor requirements in Massachusetts? She looked at our sister institutions and what community college system had a secondary program. She worked with Kathy Baird, Coordinator of Transfer Affairs and Articulation, for resources, and lined up all the Mass Transfer Agreements that community colleges have with state universities, UMASS's and some private universities. The primary objective is transferring to a four-year program and pursuing a secondary degree as well. They will require core curriculum courses and electives for those interested in STEM, English or History. These electives will be built into the program so students will have some of those courses before transferring. Students will also need observation hours and classroom experience. Dr. Zahara reviewed the plan that DHE has and matched it up to what courses we have at Massasoit to build up the map for the program for four semesters. The program would require licensure, so students would have to go into a master's program. There are only 4 community colleges in MA that offer a secondary education track. Transferability is the biggest concern for our program, and there are associate to bachelor maps available for students after they finish their associates degree, to slide into any one of the state colleges on the list. In summary, the program would be about 20 courses with only 2 courses that need development, and those courses are underway. Chair Carroll thanked Dr. Zahara for her time, energy and commitment and said that this type of work is exactly what a sabbatical is all about.

Sabbatical Presentation, Teaching and Learning in the Social Sciences: External and Internal Force Impacts on Pedagogy Practice and Student Success by Lisa Coole, Associate Professor, Liberal Studies and the Arts

Ms. Lisa Coole, Associate Professor, Liberal Studies and the Arts, methods were to do three things, a literature review, professional development engagement and a data analysis. She used her sabbatical time to attend conferences and workshops remotely across the state and across the country, and the theme was "what can we

all do together" to help student success, to help faculty and to help administrators build programs. The goal of the Faculty Survey was to get a sense of the lived teaching experiences from both full-time and adjunct faculty. The response rate was 52%. We looked at teaching experience and found that we are not changing what we teach, but how we approach it and how we work with students. As for the Student Survey, students are doing alright and the few that aren't we keep working with them. In conclusion, celebrate what we are doing well, discuss professional development with folks in CEED, and more collaboration with faculty and advising staff to share what's working on both ends.

Other Business
Chair Carroll asked if there was any other business and there was none.

Public Comments
Chair Carroll asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dunphy and seconded by Trustee Kowalski to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Roll Call:
Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Anania – yes
Trustee Boyd – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Kowalski – yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Silvera
Trustee Welch - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Approved
November 18, 2026

Tom Carroll
Chair, BoT

Cori Foy
Board Liaison