

MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026
Dr. Gerard F. Burke Library
Brockton, MA
6:05pm

APPROVED – May 27, 2026

Attendees: Chair Tom Carroll, Vice Chair Jim Dunphy, Kenn Anania, Carl Kowalski, David Offutt, Daniel Pestana, Eval Silvera, Kate Welch

Absent: Trustee Chakrabarti, Trustee Lawson

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Anania - yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Pestana – yes
Trustee Silvera - yes
Trustee Welch – yes

Chairman’s Report

Chair Carroll welcomed Professor Emeritus Kenn Anania to his first meeting and stated that we are thrilled to have him here. He also thanked former Trustee Bonnie Blackler for all her support, time and energy over the years. Chair Carroll said that he is blessed to serve on the board with all those that have love for this college and appreciates all the time and energy everyone puts in. It’s great to be in the Dr. Gerard F. Burke Library and we are looking forward to the dedication ceremony later this month. This is an exciting time as we come to the end of the academic year.

President’s Report

President Mitchell welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Professor and MCCC President Robin Peery for his collaboration over this past year as he believes we will be getting a new MCCC President.

President Mitchell had an important statistic to share with the board. Michael Bankson, STEM Coordinator, has been doing bee research on this campus for 10 years. He shared that we have 15 former students from that program who are in the process of getting their PhD’s or have received their PhD’s. We have former students at Yale, University of Wisconsin etc. and it is truly amazing.

Ellen Craig, Senior Special Programs Coordinator, who runs our Center for Basic Needs, received a certificate from the Department of Public Health and Community, as a community health worker. It was bestowed upon her for the tremendous work she does.

Domenico Colace (Dom), Graphic Designer, shared the 60th logo for our 60th anniversary year. The logo is based off the clock that was once in the quad, and recognizable as Massasoit to students, faculty and alumni. The outline of the clock is a landmark here in the quad. Having the green color on the outermost ring represents the foundation of our history as it builds up to our present colors, embracing our future. The dates of 1966-2026 represent the 60 years we have been in existence. The large white “60” in the middle outlined in gold, is embracing and celebrating the milestone of 60 years. The clock has only “Massasoit”, not “Massasoit Community College” as we are more than just a community college, and the 3 campus names have been included.

President Mitchell shared a picture of Trustee Daniel Pestana, who was involved in the Dress for Success student fashion show, wearing clothes that were donated for students to use for their professional journey. He also mentioned that we are all officially sitting in the Dr. Gerard F. Burke Library, and we will be unveiling the sign on April 24, to formally recognize it. This is a result of a generous gift from the Burke family. We are also having a tree dedication to celebrate Trustee Blackler on May 6th. On a sad note, today marked the one-year passing of Dr. Gail Gibson Sheffield. He suggested we keep Gail in our hearts and thoughts.

Student Trustee Report

Trustee Daniel Pestana announced that senate president, Donovan Boyd will be the next student trustee. Trustee Pestana stated that the last SAC meeting was on April 2, 2026. The Department of Higher Education's Director of Civic Learning and Engagement came to speak, and the conversation was about aligning Massachusetts public higher education with the public good, the work they do toward their equity goal, how they are working to build our student's understanding of our system of government and how public citizens can engage in it. Student Senate hosted an event with ADR for Neurodivergence month and showed a movie "Normal Isn't Real, Succeeding with Learning Disabilities and ADHD". We are looking forward to our Student Leadership Banquet and the end of the month.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dunphy and seconded by Trustee Kowalski to approve the consent agenda.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Anania - yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Pestana – yes
Trustee Silvera - yes
Trustee Welch – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Global Learning Presentation by Katherine DiMarca, Professor, Liberal Studies and the Arts and Palin Kadercan, Assistant Professor, Liberal Studies and the Arts

Professor DiMarca and Assistant Professor Kadercan are members of the GLAM (Global Learning at Massasoit) team. They co-teach the Interdisciplinary Global Studies Seminar course which features one week of international travel abroad. This year it was Ireland during spring break. Massasoit is one of the few community colleges in Massachusetts that offer study abroad and this gives our students affordable access to a life-changing opportunity, historically only offered at 4-year institutions. There were 37 applicants and 16 accepted students. The makeup of the class is racially and culturally diverse and the majors of the students are from all over the college. They were based in County Donegal. This trip was made possible through the generous support from the Massasoit Foundation and our Liberal Studies and the Arts division. It is a type of social interpersonal learning that is transformative. Students grew together and built connections. Several students spoke of their experiences abroad, how appreciative they were of this wonderful opportunity and all agreed that it was the best experience of their lives.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve tenure to Kathlene Baird, Coordinator, Transfer Affairs, Laurie Hinken, Senior Academic Counselor, ATC Center and Julien Marques, Academic Coordinator, ACT Center by Joseph Harris, Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management (vote needed)

Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management, Joseph Harris, introduced Alessandra Monteiro, Director of the Advising Career and Transfer Center (ACT) to speak about all three staff members that are tenure candidates. Laurie Hinken, Senior Academic Counselor, has recently become a full-time employee after being a part-time staff member for over 25 years. She truly cares about every single student that she comes across and personalizes every single student's interaction with detail and care. Julien Marques, Academic Coordinator, has been our new student onboarding guru since day one. He seeks out innovative strategies and ways to streamline processes to improve student experience. Kathlene Baird, Coordinator, Transfer Affairs and Articulation has been awarded both The Marguerite Donovan award and Employee of the month for March 2026. She is one of our strongest student advocates and one of our shining stars in the ACT Center.

A motion was made by Trustee Welch and seconded by Trustee Offutt to approve tenure to Kathlene Baird, Coordinator, Transfer Affairs, Laurie Hinken, Senior Academic Counselor, ATC Center and Julien Marques, Academic Coordinator, ACT

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Anania - yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Pestana – yes
Trustee Silvera - yes
Trustee Welch – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve tenure to Eve Jankey, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences, Aaron Rovaldi, Assistant Professor, STEM, Sonia Schonning, Assistant Professor, Behavioral Science, Public Service & Education by Dr. Rita Jones-Hyde, Vice President of Academic Affairs (vote needed)

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Rita Jones-Hyde stated that she knows all the tenure recipients by reputation and has heard wonderful things about each person but thought that their individual supervisors could talk a little bit about them as they go into their tenure recommendations.

Susan Clover, Associate Dean of Nursing, was happy to recommend Eve Jankey, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences. Eve has extensive experience in medical assisting and has been at Massasoit for over 10 years. She brings lots of real-world experience and provides students with both theory and knowledge, and practical workforce aligned skills. Her summary evaluations, classroom evaluations and student feedback, have all been consistently strong and demonstrates her commitment to high-quality teaching and student success. Eve has served as department chair since 2020.

Karyn Boutin, Dean of the Middleborough, stated that it was her distinct pleasure to be here. Sonia came to Massasoit in 2019 and since then has changed the program and has made wonderful advances in the field. She makes sure that the students understand what they are doing, how they influence children, and how they impact the next generation. Sonia served as an Assistant Professor and as Department Chair twice since coming to the college. As department chair, she demonstrated leadership, vision and commitment. She has aligned the curriculum with NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) which is the gold standard and has shown excellence in doing so. She is known for her excellence in teaching, which is evidenced by high student evaluations. Finally, her service to community reflects the mission of the college in action. She is the consummate professional and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recommend her for tenure.

Katie Ruggieri, Dean of Science and Mathematics, stated she was pleased to recommend Professor Aaron Rovaldi, Chair of the Truck and Heavy Equipment Program for tenure. He is not only a faculty member, but a graduate of MCC, having earned two associate degrees before building a successful career in the diesel and heavy equipment industry. Aaron served as an adjunct instructor and now as a full-time faculty member and department chair, to give back to the very program that helped launch his career. In the classroom and lab, he delivers hand-on instructions, ensuring that our students learn theory and practical skills required by today's workforce. His experience allows him to bring real-world relevance into every lesson. As department chair Aaron's leadership has transformed the program. As a result, our graduates are positioned for high-demand, high-wage careers in the region. He is actively engaged in our prison education program, bringing the same level of commitment to students who are often underserved and overlooked. Aaron exemplifies true mentorship, leadership and service and for all these reasons, I strongly support Aaron Rovaldi's nomination for tenure.

A motion was made by Chair Carroll and seconded by Trustee Offutt to approve tenure to Eve Jankey, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences, Aaron Rovaldi, Assistant Professor, STEM, Sonia Schonning, Assistant Professor, Behavioral Science, Public Service

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Anania - yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Pestana – yes
Trustee Silvera - yes
Trustee Welch – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Assessment of MCC Writing Program Sabbatical presented by Tracey Schaub, Professor, Liberal Studies and the Arts
Professor Tracey Schaub stated that this project has been in the works for about 10 years. In 2017, the Massachusetts Department of High Ed, developed the program of the Corequisite at Scale Initiative, which we adopted, and particularly at Massasoit, we had a lot of students in developmental education. Nearly two-thirds of our students were testing on at least one developmental course in either math, intro to writing or reading. In, 2019, the English Department embarked on an overhaul of developmental education and the first-year writing program to address these concerns. As of Fall 2025, standalone developmental courses were eliminated, and the Reading Writing Studio corequisite model was revised to include reading outcomes.

The Assessment

- Essay-based outcome assessment
- Institutional Research completion and retention data
- All-faculty survey assessing student skills across 11 disciplines
- Review assessment best practices

The Outcomes Evaluation

- Ninety-five essays were evaluated based on course outcomes
- 101/098 Outperformed students in the standalone 101 course on every metric
- 101 Critical Reading and analysis as well as the use of sources and documentation, need attention
- 102: The overall strengths of the 102 course are thesis and organization. All other areas scored similarly

The Survey sent to non-English faculty

- 71 faculty members responded, representing 11 disciplines. 58% were part-time faculty and 42% were full-time faculty members
- Faculty identified student writing strengths in:
 - Clarity & Cohesion
 - Synthesizing information
 - Logical Argumentation

- Oral Communication
- Areas of improvement
 - Academic Research & Citation
 - Analyzing Complex Texts
 - Grammar & Writing Organization
 - Supporting Arguments with Evidence
- 102 Success Rate with a C+ or better
 - Pre-req 101 - 77.2%
 - Pre-req 101 ESL – 74.9%
 - Pre-req 99 – 71.3%
 - Pre-req 99 ESL 68.5%
 - Pre-req 098 ESL – 68.1%
 - Pre-req 98 – 67.2%
- Summary
 - 101/098 students outperformed standalone ENGL 101 in outcomes.
 - 102 students who pass standalone 101 have a 76-79% probability of succeeding ENGL102
 - 101 need to look at critical reading and analysis
 - ESL Student Success and Retention – Success rate of 66% (C or better) in Spring 2025.
- Recommendations to the English Department
 - Standardizing assessment, close research and reading gaps, protect ESL gains, align writing with college-wide needs, revisit the Qualifying Exam (QE) model

We have 50% of the English department who has agreed to work this summer to work on some of these initiatives.

Facilities Update by Mr. Christofer Volz, Executive Director of Facilities

William O’Neill, Vice President of Administration/CFO, introduced the newest member of his team, Marge Cysan, Comptroller.

Chris Volz, Executive Director of Facilities, discussed the closure and transformation of the Technology building. The closure resulted in the loss of 13 learning spaces, IT help desk, 18 faculty offices and planned on being utilized for overflow space during the Transformation through Renovation project. His team became creative, worked collaboratively with IT to combine offices and worked with the Registrar’s office to transform conference rooms and other spaces into usable learning spaces.

During the new year weekend of 2023/2024, the ground water pumps in the Technology building became overrun with silt which caused it to fail. The pump also took out the circuit that leads to our alert beacon which normally would notify us of the issue. The building overflowed with water and damaged the switchgear beyond repair. The building became immediately offline. We applied for a DCAMM emergency. Through our utility plant operations and our high voltage contractor, we were able to provide temporary power through a panel that was fed through the science building into the technology building. This is important for three reasons: it gave us fire alarm protection, it provided a few lighting circuits, and it provided rooftop units. As you go through DCAMM funding, you must meet certain criteria at certain points. In this case it was a design study. The switch gear was not available for 52 weeks. Our contractor found a rental replacement for \$15,000 a month. Our in-house electrician found a replacement which included install for \$15,000. We expedited the switchgear and were able to get it within 30 weeks.

In January 2026 we opened Phase I of the Technology building which included ten classroom spaces. Prior to opening the building Facilities crew did deep clean and cosmetic repairs. During this time, our facilities staff continued to work on the police renovation, Middleborough resent, had two major storms, and most recently completed a project with DCAMM for fleet charges for Facilities and the Police.

During the last day of finals, December 2025, there was a water main break between the Science & Technology building. We were able to isolate the issue and repair it quickly. Prior to the demolition of the LA building, Brockton Fire Department utilized the space for training which included a door breaking exercise.

Lessons learned throughout this process include never having too many redundancies, improved emergency response planning, and incorporated advanced technology. The Technology building is currently open and will be rolling out additional phases and we have had a significant impact on Deferred Maintenance within this building.

Trustee Offutt asked regarding deferred maintenance what is your biggest concern and how many folks are on top of it? Vice President O'Neill responded that each campus has its unique concerns. Chris Volz and his team are on top of it. He will go in depth on this topic at the May Board of Trustees meeting.

Chair Carroll asked if there was a concern about where the switchgears are in the other buildings? Vice President O'Neill responded that we have a multilayer warning system and there is no concern.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve an expenditure of \$118,000 for the purchase of one (01) new Caterpillar 906 Wheel Loader tractor for Facilities Management, by William O'Neill, Vice President for Administration/CFO (vote needed)

William O'Neill, Vice President of Administration/CFO reported that our current wheel loader is over twenty years old and we are having difficulty maintaining it. We do have the funds in 2026 budget for this purchase.

A motion was made by Trustee Welch and seconded by Trustee Silvera to approve an expenditure of \$118,000 for the purchase of one (01) new Caterpillar 906 Wheel Loader tractor for Facilities Management

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Anania - yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Pestana – yes
Trustee Silvera - yes
Trustee Welch – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve an expenditure of \$127,980 for the purchase of one (01) new Chevrolet 6500 4WD dump truck for Facilities Management, by William O'Neill, Vice President for Administration/CFO (vote needed).

William O'Neill, Vice President of Administration/CFO reported that our current dump truck is over twenty years old and we are having difficulty finding replacement parts. We do have the funds in 2026 budget for this purchase.

A motion was made by Trustee Welch and seconded by Trustee Silvera to approve an expenditure of 127,980 for the purchase of one (01) new Chevrolet 6500 4WD dump truck for Facilities Management.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Anania - yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Offutt – yes

Trustee Pestana – yes
Trustee Silvera - yes
Trustee Welch – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve a college credit card for Joseph Harris, Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management, as outlined in the College Trust Fund Guidelines (vote needed)

President Mitchell informed the Board that the credit card is utilized for staff professional development opportunities and for emergency purposes only.

A motion was made by Trustee Anania and seconded by Trustee Kowalski to approve a college credit card for Joseph Harris, Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Anania - yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Pestana – yes
Trustee Silvera - yes
Trustee Welch – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Offutt and seconded by Chair Dunphy to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Anania - yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Pestana – yes
Trustee Silvera - yes
Trustee Welch – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Cori Foy / Recording Secretary
Tom Carroll / Chair