

**MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025  
Louison Board Room  
Brockton, MA  
6:00 p.m.  
*Approved***

Attendees: Tom Carroll, Bonnie Blackler, Eshita Chakrabarti, Jim Dunphy, Kacey Hilton-Gilleo, Carl Kowalski, Laura Lawson, Eval Silvera

Remote: Laura Lawson

Absent: Kate Welch

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

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes  
Trustee Blackler – yes  
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes  
Trustee Dunphy – yes  
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes  
Trustee Kowalski - yes  
Trustee Lawson – yes  
Trustee Silvera - yes

Chairman's Report

Chair Carroll welcomed everyone to the meeting. He was still smiling from our January Trustees meeting when we named Kenn Anania the very first Professor Emeritus. Kenn was at Massasoit for over 50 years as a faculty member and is an alumnus from the first graduating class at Massasoit. It was a special evening for a special person. Steve Murphy resigned from the Board of Trustees and his work is appreciated. Interim President Mitchell and Chair Carroll are working with the Department of Higher Education on his replacement. We find ourselves in uncertain times. Many are faced with trying to understand the impact of the new Administrations policies and executive orders. We, at Massasoit, are here to provide a safe and inclusive environment for our students to learn. We need to remain calm and committed to our mission and our strategic plan to provide the best for our students. February Black History Month. This year Chair Carroll recognizes Mary McCloud Bethune, born in 1875 to former slaves. Mary became a prominent educator, civil rights activist and Presidential advisor who helped lay the foundation for the modern civil rights movement. She founded a private school for African American students that became the current Bethune-Cookman University, the only historically black college founded by a woman. Chair Carroll shared his favorite quote from Dr. Bethune – “We must make the effort to be less race conscious and more conscious of individual and human values”.

President's Report

Interim President Mitchell thanked Chair Carroll for his leadership. Due to the new administration, there is a lot of information being sent to us multiple times per day. The goal is to continue doing what we are doing at Massasoit. Our students need us more than ever and our goals have not changed. Interim President Mitchell will hold a Town Hall meeting on February 20, for staff and faculty to address questions. Interim President Mitchell recently attended the Association of Community College Trustees Legislative Summit in Washington D.C. The summit was well attended by State Presidents, Trustees, and 1400 students. They met with our legislative Congressional delegation. We advocated for the continuation of Pell and to also include certificate programs with Pell. Proposals have been discussed that if students take out Federal loans and they default on the loans the institution would have some financial liability. We made it clear to our delegation that this would negatively impact community colleges. I, along with numerous MA

community college Presidents have recently met with the MA Attorney General and the Secretary of Education. Massasoit continues to welcome and support everyone who wants to come here and create a sense of belonging. Interim President Mitchell announced that this year's Keynote Speaker at Commencement will be Trustee Eval Silvera. Trustee Silvera looks forward to this honor.

#### Student Trustee Report

Trustee Hilton-Gilleo stated that the Board of Higher Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25. The Student Advisory Council (SAC) will meet on Thursday, February 27. At a recent Senate meeting with the Student Engagement Officers, Officer Irina Deane-Costa and Officer James Briggs discussed bridging the gap of resources with the Student Senate and the officers. Zach Snyder recently attended a meeting to discuss active minds and health and wellness. The Valentines Day fundraiser raised \$380. We had over 225 students attend the Candyland event in Canton. Our Cape Verdean club hosted an event which included a lot of dancing. The Student Senate will host a Mardi Gras event on March 5, which will include a local band.

#### MCC Foundation Report

The Foundation Report was given by Interim President Mitchell. The College's Finance team recently met with the Foundation Finance Team to discuss the financial operations of the Foundation and the path forward. The Evening of Champions event is on May 15, 2025, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and invitations will be mailed on or about March 14. This year's honoree is Carol Bulman, CEO Jack Conway.

#### Consent Agenda.

**A motion was made by Trustee Kowalski and seconded by Trustee Blackler to approve items 1, 2, 3 and 4 on the Consent Agenda.**

#### Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes  
Trustee Blackler – yes  
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes  
Trustee Dunphy – yes  
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes  
Trustee Kowalski - yes  
Trustee Lawson – yes  
Trustee Silvera - yes

**The motion passed unanimously.**

#### Annual investment update by CORIENT

Mr. Robert Quinn, CORIENT, gave an update on the Massasoit College portfolio. The goal is to preserve and grow the funds of the College for the long term and to protect the independence and integrity of the mission of Massasoit. The portfolio started the year with \$42.6M and during the month of January received an income of \$50,820 an appreciation of \$1,070,000. The portfolio as of February 19 is over \$44M. Looking back to January 2023, the portfolio is up \$10M or 40%. Looking at the equity allocation at 72.3%, \$31.6M in stock and \$12.1M in bonds and cash.

#### Presentation of sabbatical leave Fall 2023 by Marc Simmons, Professor Mathematics & Science

Professor Marc Simmons has been a biology faculty member for over thirty years. His sabbatical was to create a comprehensive laboratory manual for a second semester biology course. The project scope included an introduction and overview of biological principles, regional terminology and overview of organ systems, introduction to histology, integumentary system, skeletal system, muscular system, nervous system, endocrine system, cardiovascular system, lymphatics and immune response, respiratory system, digestive system, urinary system, and reproductive system. This is available as an electronic resource to the students at no cost. Plans include adding sections of missing avian and reptilian content, create original artwork to replace figures from other sources, write sections currently adapted or paraphrased from other sources, updated original photomicrographs with new slides, and incorporate feedback from program faculty and students.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the sabbatical leave for Fall 2025 to Susan J. Hall, Professor and Tracey Schaub, Professor by Vice President Gail Gibson Sheffield and President William Mitchell (vote needed).

Dr. Gail Gibson Sheffield reviewed the Sabbatical leave process. There is a Sabbatical Committee represented by faculty members who make their recommendations to the Deans and the President. Professor Susan Hall will research placement structures and systems for Massasoit Community College's four-semester Spanish language course sequence. The college currently does not have any consistent placement criteria for language courses. Professor Tracey Schaub's sabbatical is to analyze data on student performance and retention rates within the English department focusing on the writing program.

**A motion was made by Trustee Dunphy and seconded by Trustee Silvera to approve the sabbatical leave for Fall 2025 to Susan J. Hall, Professor and Tracey Schaub, Professor.**

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes  
Trustee Blackler – yes  
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes  
Trustee Dunphy – yes  
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes  
Trustee Kowalski - yes  
Trustee Lawson – yes  
Trustee Silvera - yes

Transformation through Renovation Update by William O'Neill, Vice President of Administration/CFO

Mr. William O'Neill, Vice President of Administration/CFO, discussed the \$51.8M Transformation through Renovation project. In a recent design team meeting, discussions included the footprint of the project, and how it will contract and expand while it's focused on the LA building. Trailers will be set up and a plan for foot traffic and deliveries is underway. Brockton Fire Department will be onsite to train on forced entry interior doors and will be back before the abatement process to do additional training on the exterior doors. The Chief also discussed training on reduced visibility. We have removed the locked cores on the doors as they are relatively new and can be used in the new building. We are a few weeks away from the construction documents. We will go to bid in late March or early April. We are on schedule as our timeline is intact. Construction will begin this summer in the LA building for completion in June 2026.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees accept the FY 25 Second Quarter Report presented by William O'Neill, Vice President of Administration/CFO (vote needed)

Mr. William O'Neill, Vice President of Administration/CFO presented the Massasoit Community College's second quarter financial report for the period ended December 31, 2024. The College operating fund is at 88.49% of its projected revenue for the year – within the prior year's trend. Expenses remain in line with projections for the approved Spending Plan and are slightly lower than the prior year trend in terms of percent expended. There are no anomalies to highlight with this report. We continue to focus on determining the impact of Mass Educate on the college's operating finances. The State Appropriated line is 49.29% (\$14.6M) and the operating fund is 88.49% (\$19.2M). The College dedicates 5% (FY25=\$2.7M) of the total budget to Capital Adaptation and Renewal projects per Board of Higher Education requirements. Second quarter projects include: Campus Police renovation, Business Office renovation, LED lighting install in LBR & PCR, paint spray booth install (Canton), design and bidding on T building switchgear, LA-H bldg. ADA entrance design, creating temporary classroom space and TTR logistics.

**A motion was made by Trustee Lawson and seconded by Trustee Kowalski adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.**

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes  
Trustee Blackler – yes  
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes  
Trustee Dunphy – yes  
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes  
Trustee Kowalski - yes  
Trustee Lawson – yes  
Trustee Silvera - yes

Recording Secretary  
Cori Foy

Vice Chair Dunphy