

**MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
Louison Board Room
Brockton, MA**

**APPROVED
October 15, 2025**

Attendees: Tom Carroll, Bonnie Blackler, Jim Dunphy, Carl Kowalski, Daniel Pestana, Eval Silvera

Absent: Eshita Chakrabarti, Laura Lawson, Kate Welch

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

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Pestana - yes
Trustee Silvera– yes

Chairman's Report

Chair Carroll welcomed everyone to the meeting. He enjoyed attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the Science building on July 16. The project is underway and will transform the campus. A special welcome to our student trustee, Daniel Pestana. It is important to hear the voice of the students.

President's Report

President Mitchell reported that we eclipsed the 6,200-enrollment number as of September 16, 2025. Free community college, which has removed the financial barrier, certainly plays a part in this. Since last spring, we have hired over forty staff and faculty to support the increase in enrollment. Through the budget process we look at positions and what is needed to meet the mission of the College. President Mitchell hosted a pizza party with the girls' volleyball team. The search for the Vice President of External Relations is underway with over 40 applicants. Our Alumni Committee will host an event on Thursday, October 16. We have a preliminary visit scheduled with the NECHE chair, Dr. Cheryl Lesser, President Bay State Community College on November 20. The following staff have been recognized as Employee of the Month: Ellyn Moller, Staff Assistant, Marketing & Communications (June), John Caffelle, Director of Administrative Services (July), and Kylie O'Brien, Administrative Assistant, Academic Affairs, (August). President Mitchell introduced Eraj Mashmasarmi, Director of Students Rights & Responsibilities, who started in the position on Monday, September 15, 2025. He comes to us from a similar role at UMass Boston.

Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Pestana reported that the Board of Higher Education meeting is scheduled on October 1 and will be attended by himself and Senate President Donovan Boyd. The Student Advisory Council will meet on September 25.

Consent Agenda

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

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes

Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Pestana - yes
Trustee Silvera– yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan & NECHE Update by Dr. Rita Jones-Hyde, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Rita Jones Hyde reported on the Strategic Plan, which highlights the hiring of new employees and the Engage platform.

Goal 1. Equitable Enrollment and Student Support - we have improved processes and integration, particularly around admissions. In addition, we're continuing with early college and achieving sustainability. We're also continuing to look at how we do contracts, how do we support our students, and bringing back the early college premises of providing college experience for students.

Goal 2. Academic Renewal and Innovation - we are looking at our course and program offerings. One example is Liberal Arts Studies and Liberal Arts transfer programs and determining if we need one or both.

Goal 3. Reimagining College Identity – We offer many classes in Middleborough, and they are doing well. All the math and science classes are full for the fall semester.

Goal 5. Organizational and Employee Excellence - we have redone our faculty handbook to make it easier to find materials. The CEED department members made a part-time faculty quick guide. In addition, the CEED center will be hosting a Dean's and Department Chair appreciation lunch to engage our department chairs in understanding how their budget ties into the strategic plan and their program.

NECHE is scheduled for the fall of 2026 and is an evaluation from our peers. Dr. Cheryl Lesser, will lead the NECHE team and will visit our campus for a preliminary visit on November 20.

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

Mr. William O'Neill, Vice President of Administration/CFO reported that with the retiring of Executive Director of Capital Planning, Rich Hadley, Chris Volz has been promoted to Executive Director of Facilities and Capital Planning. The new Science building has been completely gutted. The work throughout the summer on this building has been to connect to the utilities, water and power. Roof work will begin towards the end of September and then once completed, work will begin to secure the building for the winter months. Commodore, the contractors, Jones Architect, and DCAM have begun weekly meetings which continue to be collaborative. Commodore continues to share information on the schedule so as not to disrupt the campus. While connecting to utilities, we had a campus wide shut down. That enabled us to do some high voltage preventive maintenance work in the T building. As we look at the \$52M project, Massasoit is responsible for \$11M. As we get closer to being 50% complete on the entire project, we will have a better sense of where we stand cost-wise. The bids have come in favorably. We are on time and on budget on this project. In terms of our resources, we are at \$45.1M with our invested reserves at CORIENT. Work in the T building continues and we plan to have classrooms online for the Spring 2026 semester.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the revised Massasoit Community College Board of Trustees bylaws (vote needed).

President Mitchell and Vice Chair Dunphy reported that the bylaws were updated to accurately reflect how the Board operates and had not been updated in over twenty years.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dunphy and seconded by Trustee Blackler to approve the revised Massasoit Community College Board of Trustees bylaws (vote needed).

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes

Trustee Pestana - yes
Trustee Silvera– yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of President Mitchell's evaluation by Chair Carroll

Chair Carroll stated that President Mitchell's April 2024 appointment as Interim President was for one year. Chair Carroll shared President Mitchell's evaluation with Commissioner Ortega and requested that President Mitchell remain as Interim President through spring 2026.

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

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Pestana - yes
Trustee Silvera– yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Recording Secretary – Cori Foy
Chair – Tom Carroll