

**MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025
Louison Board Room
Brockton, MA**

*APPROVED
December 17, 2025*

Attendees: Bonnie Blackler, Eshita Chakrabarti, Jim Dunphy, Carl Kowalski, David Offutt, Daniel Pestana, Eval Silvera, Kate Welch

Absent: Tom Carroll, Laura Lawson

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

Roll Call:

Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Kowalski – yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Pestana – yes
Trustee Silvera – yes
Trustee Welch – yes

Chairman's Report

Vice Chair Dunphy welcomed everyone to the meeting. President Mitchell introduced David Offutt, a former Massasoit trustee, who has now currently been appointed by Governor Healey, to serve on the board at Massasoit. Mr. Offutt stated that he is looking forward to giving as much support to the students as he can and that he is thrilled to be back, stating "It's home for me".

President's Report

President Mitchell spoke about SNAP benefits and the uncertainty surrounding it. He is proud of Massasoit and the employees who have stepped up and donated items beyond what we thought possible to keep our food pantry full. We have also reallocated \$20,000 to help keep it going, as people are struggling and our students are struggling. We had a wonderful open house and had 314 prospective students show up to learn more about Massasoit. Our next open house for the spring semester is March 28, 2026. President Mitchell stated that the senior team has decided to pause the EMT program for the spring semester, and current students will not be impacted. We as a college, consistent with our strategic plan, periodically reviews, assesses and improves our programs. We are concerned about space and the appropriate amounts of equipment and supplies. We want to ensure our students are well prepared for the workforce, and that there is gainful employment.

Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Daniel Pestana talked about the Student Advisory Council. The last meeting was at the Community College Student Leadership Conference on November 7, 2025. Both Trustee Pestana and Student Senate President Donovan Boyd attended. Much of the topic was about the Hunger Free Campus Coalition, and the work they've been putting in to pass a bill through the state, helping with food insecurity on a state and community college level. The bill is to cement the coalition into law to help with grants, and to raise the 2027 budget up to \$3 million dollars. In 2023, they were given 3.3 million, but in 2025 and 2026, they were given 500,000. When you are funding all the colleges in the state of Massachusetts, that is not as much as you might think. So, Trustee Pestana and Student Senate President Boyd spoke to student government representatives from other Community Colleges to discuss initiatives to further

improve their student body. He also discussed the Bright Act and how that would positively impact Massasoit on an infrastructural level. For Student Senate, on November 6th and 7th, he went to the CCSLA conference, where we learned about inclusive leadership and advocacy for diversity. The Stuff-A-Push event in Brockton and Canton went well and Canton sold out all 100 plushies within 15 minutes. He went to the World Kindness event and in December we are looking forward to Winterfest which will have gingerbread decorating and a snowman bowl.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Kowalski and seconded by Trustee Blackler to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Kowalski – yes
Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Pestana – yes
Trustee Silvera – yes
Trustee Welch – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Massasoit Student Senate Presentation by Senate President Donovan Boyd

Senate President Boyd introduced Senate members Alexis Flanagan, Michael Malinga and Justin Connolly. Justin Conley is the Student Body Vice President and a Criminal Justice major. He also did a brief stint in the Marine Corps for 4 years. His plan when he graduates is to work for the CBP, which is Customs and Border Patrol. He also went to an AI Conference at Mass Maritime, talking about the pros and cons of artificial intelligence, which was wildly successful. Michael Malenge is a Culinary Arts major and will be graduating in May 2026. He is active in the Student Senate, the Treasurer and the co-president of the Culinary Arts Club. Alexis Flanagan is a Social Science Transfer major and will also be graduating in May 2026. This is her first semester on Student Senate and is the Basic Needs Liaison, coordinating with the Basic Needs Department to support their efforts. She recently attended the State House with Student Trustee Pestana to lobby for the Hunger Free Campus Initiative. Outside the Senate, she is the president of Active Minds, which is a new mental health club, and is also part of our Gender Sexuality Alliance. In addition, she works part time with our theater department. Donovan Boyd has attended Massasoit since 2016. He is currently a Culinary Arts major as well as a hospitality major and has the honor of serving as Student Senate President. The Student Senate represents the students' interests, establishes and oversees all student clubs and organizations and acts a liaison between the student body, college administration and the board of trustees.

It's inspiring to see how the strategic plan contributes to something meaningful.

Goal 1 – Equitable Enrollment and Student Support.

One of the major responsibilities of the Student Senate is to recognize student clubs and support them as they grow. We actively encourage clubs to use the allocated funds to host events, build community, and create opportunities where students feel welcome, supported and involved.

Goal 2 – Academic Renewal and Innovation.

This year the Student Senate participated in STEM week's Cardboard Canoe Race. It was fun, but 3 seconds into the pool, I was sinking.

Goal 3 – Reimagining College Identity.

Over the last year, we have collaborated with marketing and communication to develop our identity. We now have an official logo, and our walls are covered with photos of our students

Goal 4 – Organization and Employee Excellence.

The senate participates in leadership development.

Goal 5 – Equitable Engagement and Community Belonging

The Student Senate co-hosts events with multicultural clubs, such as Black History Month with the Cape Verdean Student Association. We are proud to be the club that is championing the usage and promotion of the Student Life

Engagement Platform. We have a map of the school on it, and students can give us their input for what they would like the Senate to accomplish.

Academic year 2025

Last year, the Student Senate focused a lot of time on food service. We had a successful turnout of completed surveys on the campus's food and the campus climate of food service. We worked with Vice President Bill O'Neill to establish a food service committee and to help advocate for more signage about the food in the dining hall. Now the menu is posted on the Engage platform.

Academic Year 2026 Initiatives

We plan to focus on civic engagement and fundraising, community engagement in school pride and then restarting committees, and collaboration with other clubs and departments.

FY2025 Draft Financial Statements by Withum and Ms. Sandra Bartolo, Comptroller (vote needed)

Mr. Michael Cosgrove, Withum, reviewed the FY 2024 draft financial statements with the Audit & Finance committee on November 17 and concluded that the financial statements have an unmodified opinion which is the best opinion you can get on financial statements. There is an internal control audit report that tests the internal controls which was a clean report.

A motion was made by Trustee Welch and seconded by Trustee Silvera to approve the FY2025 Draft Financial Statements.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – 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 \$180,297.06 for a 36-month renewal and expansion of the TeamDynamix platform. Presented by CIO William Morrison (vote needed).

CIO William Morrison mentioned that the three intensive technology projects that were brought to the board last fiscal year are either complete or nearly complete. He requested a 3-year extension of the existing contract with Team Dynamics. Although Team Dynamics is highly flexible, we need to increase our license count to support Facilities, Institutional Research and the Business Office. Expanding Team Dynamics is part of a strategic shift to grow beyond IT Service Management and toward Enterprise Service Management. Consistence will improve customer experience and allow IT staff to focus on higher value work. The automation module will also support complex workflows spanning multiple departments. Funding for the 3 extension years will be included in the FY27, 28 and 29 spending plans. Trustee Silvera asked: Are you collecting feedback from any of the departments to get a sense of whether this tool is working? Mr. Morrison replied: Yes "Quality of Service" surveys are automatically sent to the person that opened the ticket for feedback.

A motion was made by Trustee Offutt and seconded by Trustee Chakrabarti to approve an expenditure of \$180,297.06 for a 36-month renewal and expansion of the TeamDynamix platform

Roll Call:

Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Kowalski – yes

Trustee Offutt – yes
Trustee Pestana – yes
Trustee Silvera – yes
Trustee Welch – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Rita Jones-Hyde reviewed the five areas of the strategic plan:

Equitable Enrollment & Student Support - There were 6,169 students enrolled this semester, which is an 11% increase from this time last year and 3,388 Continuing Ed. students, which is 16% increase from last year, 4,396 Part-time students which is 16% from last year, students of color, up 13%, first generation up 11%, high school students continuing to increase by 6% and new students 4%. Early College Access is creating a 5-year strategic plan and are growing.

Academic Renewal & Innovation – In 2026 through 2027, the credit-bearing associate degree academic program reviews will be reassessed. These are associate degrees and certificates for credit. We are using Tableau to provide timely and accurate program enrollment trends. The last one is proposed new programs that are moving through our academic governance process.

Reimagining College Identity – We have recently purchased an analyst tool called Lightcast, which can do economic overviews, specific to programs. The programs are associated with a code, and the code tells you what students can do with that program. If it is attached to a program, you can see if those things are available in our area and how far the degree takes you. It's a wonderful tool, easy to use, and we just did our first training for it.

Equitable Engagement and Community Belonging – We would like to be strategic with our budget and send one person, or their entire team, to a conference when they are looking at a new initiative in a new program. Grants are also tied to our strategic plan, so when we look for grants, we determine if it ties into anything, not just how much money it is.

Organizational & Employee Excellence – There is a new employee guide and peer mentor program available in the portal. The deans are planning all their budgets based around the strategic plan. We've also created an adjunct faculty guide. Our last piece is an update on the NECHI report. Our 10 years will be in October of 2026, and this is where we write a report, and get a peer review. They come to campus for several days, review us, and we provide a 100-page document that meets certain standards. The standards have been revised, down to 5 standards, and we've completed drafts of all those chapters. We are in the middle of all that work, so we can solidify those chapters. We are also planning engagement sessions for students, faculty and staff who can provide feedback to each section. The board will have a chance as well to go through and make comments.

Public Comments

Mr. Robin Peery, faculty member and president of the MPA (Massasoit Professional Association) spoke about having an equity study piece put into a bill. The professional staff and faculty at Massasoit are the lowest paid of all the community colleges in Massachusetts and New England. A study budget has been approved and it is underway now, to be announced on April Fool's Day.

A motion was made by Trustee Kowalski and seconded by Trustee Welch to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – 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 – Board Chair