BCCC
Baltimore City Community College

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Open Session Minutes | 4:00 pm September 17, 2025 (Virtual Zoom Meeting)

Board Members Present: Chairman Kurt L. Schmoke, Esq.; Ms. MacKenzie Garvin, Esq.; Ms. Billie Malcolm; Ms. Tanya Terrell; Dr. Roger Ward, Esq.; Mr. John C. Weiss; and Mr. Tyrese McBayne.

Also Present: President Debra L. McCurdy, PhD

I. Chairman Schmoke called the meeting to order a few minutes after 4:00 pm. The consent agenda (items a-f below) was unanimously approved upon a motion by Trustee Weiss.
   a. June 18, 2025 Open Session Meeting Minutes
   b. June 18, 2025 Closed Session Meeting Summary
   c. June 12, 2025 Finance/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes
   d. Student Government Association Report
   e. AFSCME Local #1870 at BCCC Report
   f. Faculty Senate Report

II. **AFSCME Address to Board:** Ms. Nena Kutniewski, representing AFSCME Council 3, Local 1870 addressed the Trustees. She addressed issues at the College that were indicated as concerns with administrative changes and vacancies, issues with employee salary errors, and matters that were raised at the meetings without response. Chairman Schmoke noted that an appropriate response would come at a later time.

III. **Procurements**: Chairman Schmoke noted that the Finance Committee met on September 12, 2025 and reviewed all new procurements.

IV. **Performance Accountability Report:** VP Becky Burrell presented the Performance Accountability Report (PAR), sharing the mandated requirements set forth by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) for community colleges. She indicated the PAR aligns with the goals of the State Plan for Higher Education: access, success, and innovation. It includes student and institutional characteristics as well as Performance Indicators, which are organized by the three goals. As the College moves forward with the strategic planning process, BCCC will align its goals, objectives, and additional key performance indicators with the State Plan for Higher Education as well as the Moore-Miller Administration 2024 State Plan. This process will guide the institution in establishing unit-level metrics and goals. VP Burrell commented, the PAR is led by Ms. Eileen Hawkins, Director of Institutional Research, with support from Deans, Associate Deans and Directors across the College. This year's Report reflected increases in enrollment in credit and non-credit courses. The College has held tuition and fees at the second lowest tuition rate in the State. Retention, persistence, and completion data are being utilized as part of the Maryland Transfer Intensive initiative. Persistence rates reflect preparing students for college-level readiness through dual enrollment, developmental coursework, and preparation for transfer. She shared how this ends the fifth year of the current PAR cycle and that 2026 marks the beginning of a new cycle, which will align with the institutional strategic key performance indicators, goals and objectives.

V. **Finance Update/FY 2024 Audit:** Ms. Eileen Waitsman, Controller, presented a summary from the Finance Committee meeting held last Thursday and reported that BCCC closed FY 2024 and is initiating the FY 2025 audit with a new audit firm. Ms. Waitsman stated that the FY 2024 financial statements were issued with the highest possible rating -- a clean unqualified opinion for the College, WBJC, CC-4, and other audit reports. She shared the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in the College's net position and provided insights into what goes into the various audits. The CC-4 includes financial as well as enrollment data for the MHEC.

   Trustee Malcolm asked about the use of HEERF funds for students. Ms. Waitsman commented that HEERF funds have been sunset by the U.S. Department of Education. Trustee Malcolm asked whether there were any HEERF funds used for students during the last year. She responded that HEERF funds had been used to pay tuition and fees for the summer, and to provide summer students with free books. Additionally, HEERF funds were used to provide free shipping for books.

   Chairman Schmoke asked about the fundraising efforts at WBJC and VP Augustus mentioned that they do fundraising throughout the year and are doing very well. Ms. Waitsman mentioned that WBJC has been raising funds for years and has been quite successful in doing so. WBJC has also received bequests from estates.

Chairman Schmoke noted that it was a positive report. SB and Company has returned as the external auditor for the College and the new audit is underway.

VI. **Budget Report:** Mr. Brandon Cohen, BCCC's new Director of Budgets, shared the year-to-year budget information. He provided insight into State-assisted funds and auxiliary funds for unrestricted use. He shared the FY 2025 budget vs actual performance and provided the status of FY 2026 budgeted revenue and expenses vs. actuals from FY 2025. Mr. Cohen noted that the comparison is positive.

Trustee Terrell asked about the College's financial positioning. President McCurdy responded that institutions are being guided to keep budgets flat. The College is facing a possible $1.2M cut but will still submit deferred maintenance and capital project requests. Trustee Malcom asked about the $3M potential gap. Mr. Cohen noted that Maryland Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is telling all state agencies (not just the College) not to ask for additional funding. Chairman Schmoke commented that the State universities received a similar communication.

VII. **Enrollment Report:** Ms. Eileen Hawkins, Director of Institutional Research, provided an update on credit enrollment trends and projections. Chairman Schmoke asked about standards for dual enrollment. IVP Donna Thomas noted that the new standards for dual enrollment have had a direct impact on the program and BCCC's work with Baltimore City Public Schools. The College is in the process of developing new strategies for recruitment and engagement. In response to Trustee McBayne's question regarding the Mayor's Scholars Program (MSP), she stated that applicants within Maryland are now eligible to attend BCCC as an MSP student if they meet certain criteria. As the College continues to discuss MSP's rebranding, a plan and targeted approaches will be developed to address recruitment.

VP Michael Thomas presented the non-credit enrollment data noting that quarterly update will occur moving forward. Trustee Terrell asked about the impact of the federal changes on Title III dollars from the U.S. Department of Education. VP Thomas indicated that this is a moving target, since the College has not received formal notification of a reduction in funds, but is planning for how to sustain the programs.

Trustee Garvin shared that in terms of the Title I funds related to the Department of Labor, not much is known about when cuts will come. She commented on workforce metrics and asked about the outcomes in terms of completions and credentials. Since she will be meeting with Trustee Terrell on this issue, VP Thomas said that he looks forward to the feedback from them to guide future reports. VP Thomas noted that the FY 2025 licensures and placements will be brought to the next presentation.

VIII. **Information Technology Report:** Dr. Wayne Rose, CIO, provided an update on the new contract with Ellucian on advisory services as well as technology improvements for communications, printing network, telecommunications, and adobe express premium (which is used by students as well as staff and faculty). Accomplishments made during the summer include Gross Pay Phase 1 implementation, Gross Pay Phase 2 testing, updating of the Campus Directory, Infrastructure updates for disaster recovery, and increasing internet communication capacity in partnership with the Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT). Trustee McBayne asked about how the changes are communicated to students. CIO Rose discussed upcoming information sessions.

IX. **President's Report:** President McCurdy reported that the **r**ealignment remains in progress. She provided an update on the transition on July 1, 2025 to the State's Gross Pay system and the complications that were encountered and addressed. AVP Nicole Carter provided more detail on the work between the State's Central Payroll Bureau and the College's Payroll Office, as well as describing how the BCCC Payroll Office is seeking insights from other State colleges and universities. Dr. McCurdy spoke to the need for ongoing communication to the College community.

President McCurdy reported that negotiations continue with AFSCME and the American Federation of Teachers. AFSCME members were honored with a Governor's citation, acknowledging Ms. Kutniewski; President McCurdy extended congratulations to her. Additional bargaining meetings between college management and bargaining teams of both unions will be held in September.

President McCurdy highlighted the work being done to support the College and Career Readiness (CCR) component of the Maryland Blueprint through the collaboration of BCCC faculty with Baltimore City Public Schools high school teachers creation of developmental courses and curriculum as well as the Maryland Transfer Intensive initiative with the Aspen Institute and MHEC.

Updates were provided on the Life Science Building (a soft reopening is planned for October 2025), Learning Commons Renovation and Addition (Library), Bard Building – Center for Innovation, and Nursing Building.

An update on Barnes & Noble College (BNC) highlighted the need for ongoing communication. Trustee Garvin asked for more information regarding how issues are resolved. VP Burell explained how the BNC team meets regularly with the BCCC team managing the transition.

X. **Closing statement and Motion for Adjournment**: Chairman Schmoke read the following closing statement:

> The open session meeting of the Board of Trustees has concluded. Pursuant to the General Provisions Article, Sections 3-305(b) (1), (7), (8), and (9), the meeting will move into closed session so that the Board can:
>
> Discuss the employment, onboarding, separation, compensation and discipline of specific College employees;
>
> Consult with counsel to obtain legal advice;
>
> Discuss strategy, merits, and legal advice regarding pending litigation and administrative complaints involving the College; and Discuss matters related to collective bargaining.

Chairman Schmoke asked for a motion to adjourn and close. Trustee Garvin moved to close the meeting at 6:14. Trustee Malcolm seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.