COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT TWELVE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Centralia College	
Hanson Boardrooms **Centralia College** **Centralia, Washington**	**Study Session/Regular Meeting** **June 11, 2026** **3:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Study Session

Board Policy Review

Dr. Mohrbacher provided a policy-by-policy review of Board policies subject to the Board's five-year review requirement. The Board reviewed proposed revisions intended to clarify language, improve consistency, and ensure policies remain current and demonstrate the Board's due diligence.

5.010 Board Chair's Role - Proposed revisions included clarifying that the Chair serves as the leader and facilitator of the Board's governance process and is responsible for ensuring the integrity of Board processes while representing the Board to external parties. Discussion focused on language specifying that no individual trustee, including the Chair, may speak on behalf of the Board except as authorized by Board action, Board policy, or law.

Proposed revisions stated that deliberations should be fair, open, thorough, efficient, timely, orderly, and focused on issues properly before the Board.

The trustees noted inconsistencies in capitalization throughout the various policy documents. Specifically, references to the Board, Chair, and Vice Chair were capitalized in some instances but not others. The Board agreed that terminology should be standardized throughout all policies, with official references to the Board and Board officer positions consistently capitalized.

5.001 Mission Statement - No revisions were proposed, noting that the mission statement had previously undergone a significant review process. The Board affirmed the mission statement without modification.

5.006 Bylaws - Trustees refined language concerning Board attendance, vacancies, and voting requirements. Certain actions require approval by a majority of the full Board membership, resulting in a requirement for at least three affirmative votes even when only four trustees are present and voting.

5.002 Governance Statement - The Board stressed the importance of maintaining clear governance language throughout the policy manual.

5.016 Policy Review – It was noted that college policies are generally reviewed on a five-year cycle and observed that the Board policy did not specifically establish a review schedule or clearly indicate whether Board policies were subject to the same requirement. The Board recommended incorporating a five-year review interval to align Board practices with the college's policy review process while recognizing that some policies may require updates more frequently due to changing circumstances.

The Board also reviewed language related to oversight of administrative policies. Dr. Mohrbacher explained that proposed revisions to administrative policies are routinely presented to the Board through the regular agenda process and are subsequently posted on the college website.

5.014 Board Evaluations - The Board discussed whether the policy should specify a particular evaluation method or designate responsibility for facilitating the process. Trustees agreed to retain the existing language, determining that it provides sufficient flexibility while maintaining the requirement for an annual self-evaluation.

5.004 Governing Style – The language is intended to distinguish governance responsibilities from operational management. The language appeared to reflect governance principles associated with the Carver model and the policy's intent to emphasize the Board's role in governance and oversight rather than involvement in day-to-day administrative operations or micromanagement. No specific revisions were proposed at this time.

5.012 Board Committees - Trustees discussed the potential value of establishing a standing Finance and Audit Committee. It was noted that many governing boards utilize finance, audit, or compensation committees to provide more focused review of complex financial matters before they are presented to the full board. Trustees discussed whether such a committee could improve efficiency and reduce the need for repeated explanations during Board meetings.

Committee membership is generally restricted to fewer than a quorum of trustees. The current policy does not prevent the Board from creating committees if needed and any future decision to establish a standing Finance and Audit Committee could be addressed through Board action and corresponding policy revisions. No changes were proposed at this time.

5.011 Budget Oversight - The Board considered a recommendation to increase the minimum unrestricted operating reserve from two months to three months of operating expenses based on the college's current fiscal position. Trustees reached consensus to revise the policy accordingly and to reevaluate the requirement as additional guidance from the State Board becomes available.

5.005 Board Job Description - The Board reviewed proposed language revisions to member qualifications and expectations. Minor grammatical and editorial revisions were also reviewed to improve readability and consistency.

Dr. Mohrbacher noted that the President’s Office will complete a final editorial review before the revised policies are posted, and that routine non-substantive corrections may be made administratively without returning to the Board for approval.

The Board reviewed the remaining governance policies. No additional substantive revisions were recommended, and the remaining policies could be considered reviewed. It was noted that individual policies may be brought back for future consideration if changes become necessary.

1. **Call to Order**

Board Chair Annalee Tobey called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Board members present:

- Annalee Tobey
- Pretrina Mullins
- Mark Scheibmeir

- Chris Thomas
- Court Stanley

2. Introductions/Presentations:

There were no introductions or presentations.

3. Open Forum

No one requested to speak in open forum.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

<u>Adoption of Minutes:</u>

It was MOVED BY Chris Thomas THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE REGULAR MINUTES OF May 14, 2026, AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

<u>Policy Governance</u>

<u>Policy Updates</u>

Dr. Mohrbacher reported Institutional Effectiveness (IE) met June 3, 2026. Seven policies passed on second read.

- 1.240 Political Activity for Employees
- 1.320 Name Change
- 1.XXX Employee Responsibility Regarding Student Disruption
- 2.072 Student Club-Organization Advisor
- 3.080 Class Rosters
- 4.075 Attending & Withdrawing from Classes
- 4.100 Grade Forgiveness & Academic Renewal

Dr. Mohrbacher reported one policy was deleted.

- 3.060 Class & Office Disruptions and Student Discipline

The Board agreed that the policy revisions discussed during the study session would be presented for formal adoption at the regular meeting under the governance section of the agenda.

It was MOVED BY Court Stanley THAT THE BOARD ACCEPT THE BOARD POLICY UPDATES AS AMENDED AND PRESENTED IN THE STUDY SESSION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. <u>Trustee Reports</u>

Chris Thomas extended congratulations to faculty and staff recognized for tenure and retirement. Mr. Thomas noted that the recognition reflects the college’s culture of appreciation and contributes positively to the overall work environment.

Mr. Thomas attended the staff appreciation bowling event at the end of May, noting strong participation from employees across campus. Additional campus engagement included attendance at Spring Fest, the Veterans cording ceremony, and the time capsule display and announcement.

He also attended the Dollars for Scholars scholarship event and noted the importance of the College Foundation's role in supporting student success through scholarships. He also attended the college jazz ensemble performance, noting strong student participation and community attendance.

Court Stanley attended the tenure-retirement reception and noted the value of participation in such events.

Mr. Stanley reported on the establishment of a new professional recognition award honoring individuals for outstanding contributions to natural resource fields. The award, named the Nels Hanson Sherry Fox Award, recognizes the longstanding service and impact of two individuals with significant contributions to family forestry and natural resource education. Court had the opportunity to present the inaugural award for the Farm Forestry Association.

Mr. Stanley reported on a tree farm tour with the Governor's staff, during which workforce development in natural resources and the role of community and technical colleges were discussed. He emphasized the importance of continued advocacy for community college funding considering anticipated state budget constraints and encouraged ongoing engagement with state partners on workforce and funding priorities.

Pretrina Mullins reported attending the college's production of *Good Work If You Can Get It*, which she described as enjoyable and well received. She noted having limited additional activity since the previous meeting.

Ms. Mullins is looking forward to the upcoming commencement ceremony and will be participating in an upcoming affinity group meeting.

She received gubernatorial approval for her trustee appointment.

Mark Scheibmeir reported attending the time capsule dedication event, noting favorable weather, strong attendance, and appreciation for the coordination of the event.

Mark also attended the college musical production, *Good Work If You Can Get It*, and reported that it was an enjoyable performance and recognized the efforts of the performing arts staff and student performers for their work in producing the event.

Annalee Tobey attended the recognition event of tenured and retiring faculty and staff. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to celebrate these milestones.

Ms. Tobey participated in a scholarship presentation event at Adna High School and described the event as a meaningful opportunity to celebrate student accomplishments and welcome incoming students to Centralia College.

Ms. Tobey announced that this would be her final meeting as a member of the Board of Trustees, having submitted a formal resignation as the Board Chair in advance and notified fellow trustees. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve, reflected on the significance of the role, and acknowledged the value of relationships formed with students, faculty, staff, and the college community.

She will participate in the upcoming commencement exercises. She reaffirmed continued support for the college and expressed gratitude for the experience of serving on the Board.

WA-ACT

No report provided.

ACCT

The 2026 ACCT Leadership Congress is scheduled for October 21 – 24, 2026 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. The focus this year is leading with care, innovation, and effective governance in changing times.

6. President's Report

Dr. Mohrbacher thanked Annalee Tobey for her service and ongoing connection to the college community.

Dr. Mohrbacher attended the college jazz band concert and noted the continued series of upcoming performing arts events, including orchestra and community band performances, as well as numerous ceremonies and activities scheduled for the following week. Dr. Mohrbacher reminded trustees of commencement logistics, noting required arrival time for participants and indicating that additional reminders would be distributed.

Dr. Mohrbacher provided an update on the state capital budget. While the overall capital budget remains relatively stable compared to other state budget areas, funding allocations for community and technical college capital projects have remained flat over time despite increased overall state bonding capacity. He outlined the structure of the capital budget, including maintenance and operations funding, minor works projects, intermediate capital projects (up to $15 million), and major capital projects.

Dr. Mohrbacher explained that escalating costs, particularly in minor works, have led to a need to reassess annual escalation rates to preserve funding capacity for future capital construction. Maintaining the current escalation rate would eventually constrain the system's ability to fund new building projects, given the current multi-year project backlog. There is a possibility of potential restructuring options, including adjustments to escalation assumptions, to ensure continued balance between maintenance needs and new capital development. These issues will continue to be discussed at the system level. The current escalation rate for minor works funding is applied on a biennial basis, equivalent to approximately five percent annually. Due to significant construction cost increases, the current escalation rate is increasingly insufficient to fully support project scopes as originally planned, resulting in reduced project coverage over time.

Dr. Mohrbacher noted that a statewide efficiency study, directed by the Legislature, is underway and is expected to inform future discussions regarding system capacity and capital planning. This topic remains under active discussion and that further clarity will be developed through ongoing system-level and legislative review.

Tariq Qureshi reported that the esplanade project is substantially complete; however, final inspection is scheduled for the following Wednesday, and final acceptance has not yet occurred. There are unresolved issues related to the concrete work, and the contractor has not yet provided confirmation regarding required repairs. As a result, the decision was made to keep the area closed to pedestrian traffic to allow time for completion of corrective work and ensure the space is ready for the Seattle to Portland (STP) bicycle event.

Dr. Mohrbacher explained that South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) closed several academic programs: paralegal studies, pastry arts, and culinary arts. The decisions were based on changes in labor market demand, program costs, and post-completion employment outcomes. Programs that were no longer cost-effective to operate, particularly those that did not lead to improved employment opportunities or higher wages for graduates, were identified through data analysis as part of broader budget reduction efforts totaling approximately $3.4 million.

Dr. Robert Cox provided an update on the TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) program. An interim director has been appointed for a three-month term in accordance with federal grant requirements, after which a permanent position will be filled through a formal search process.

An assistant director's position has also been filled by a former TRIO SSS employee, and both hires were able to begin employment on short notice.

Additional temporary staff have been hired on short-term assignments to support student outreach and recruitment efforts. These efforts are focused on meeting federal TRIO service delivery requirements, including serving a minimum number of eligible students within the grant year. Recruitment and service activities are actively underway.

Dr. Mohrbacher noted ongoing uncertainty related to federal grant funding determinations and eligibility requirements, including the need to meet annual service deliverables to secure continued funding.

Despite these challenges, Dr. Cox expressed optimism regarding the college's ability to meet program requirements and continue serving students effectively.

7. SAALT

Alicia Jenkins, Student Advocacy Activities Leadership Team (SAALT) President, reported that activities had recently concluded for the academic year and highlighted several end-of-year events, including a cap decorating event, student recognition activities, and a review of student government processes and allocations.

The student government completed recognition programming for student committee members and club leaders, and that adjustments were made to ensure continuity of funding access for student veteran-related programs, including allowing rollover of unspent funds to support continued student benefits.

The student recognition night was particularly successful, and Alicia acknowledged the contributions of student leaders and award recipients. Specific recognition was given to Izzy Rushing who received the Barbara Dodge Award for outstanding involvement and service.

Several SAALT members attended the veteran's cording ceremony, which she described as a meaningful opportunity to recognize student veterans.

Alicia introduced the incoming Student Body President, Liam Ponyah.
Liam expressed enthusiasm for connecting with the trustees monthly and participating in college events.

Trustees welcomed the incoming Student Body President.

8. **Faculty**

Mark Gorecki, Faculty Representative, Centralia College Federation of Teachers President, reported that the academic year is concluding and noted strong attendance at the Tenure & Retirement event. He also reported that the faculty collective bargaining agreement was ratified earlier in the week.

Mr. Gorecki stated that negotiations were conducted in a cordial and collaborative manner, with clear communication between parties throughout the process. He noted that updated budget information was reviewed during negotiations and described the overall experience as positive and constructive.

9. **Classified**

Emil Parke-Fagerness, Classified Representative, reported that the first Union Management Communication Committee (UMCC) meeting has been scheduled for July 8, 2026. The committee, chaired by the senior union representative on campus, will meet quarterly with college leadership to facilitate ongoing communication between classified staff and administration.

Classified staff are encouraged to bring questions, concerns, and feedback to the committee. The purpose of the UMCC is to strengthen communication, promote collaboration, and foster a productive working relationship between classified staff and college leadership.

10. **Instruction**

Connie Smejkal, Vice President of Instruction, reported the college received notification that the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) approved the new Medical Billing and Coding program, allowing the program to launch in the upcoming fall term.

Several Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) sites achieved Level 5, the highest quality rating available. Ms. Smejkal recognized the significant growth of the program in recent years, noting increases in the number of sites, children served, and program revenue while maintaining and improving the quality of services. The college's childcare programs serve children from infancy through preschool age, with ECEAP services available for children age three through kindergarten entry.

The trustees commented on the success of the recent Family Fun Fest, noting strong community participation and the wide range of resources available at the event. Ms. Smejkal explained that Family Fun Fest and related family engagement events are intended to support children and families and strengthen connections between parents and the college by introducing them to educational programs and campus resources.

11. **Human Resources & Equity**

Joy Anglesey, Vice President of Human Resources and Equity, reported that the College Cares Fund continues to support a variety of employee and community engagement initiatives, including the Family Fun Fest and the employee appreciation bowling event. She also reported that employee listening sessions were completed, and the resulting summary report was submitted to the President's Cabinet for review. Additionally, the dedication ceremony for the Rikkey Outumouro memorial plaque on the

Diversity Plaza was well attended and meaningful, and appreciation was expressed for the positive response from the family.

Regarding the reported air quality concerns on the second floor of the TransAlta Commons, Ms. Anglesey reported that a final report from the environmental testing consultant is expected before a comprehensive summary is released. She noted that preliminary findings have not identified a definitive cause for the reported concerns; however, testing has not identified any ongoing indoor air quality issues. She added that the situation will continue to be monitored should similar concerns arise in the future.

12. Student Services

Dr. Robert Cox, Vice President of Student Services, introduced Athletic Director Jason Moir. Dr. Cox noted that a separate athletics budget presentation would be provided later in the meeting, allowing Mr. Moir to address budget-related questions at that time.

Dr. Cox reported that current enrollment trends are generally consistent with the previous year. While Running Start enrollment is slightly higher and state-supported enrollment is lower, overall enrollment remains stable. He also explained that the implementation of two-quarter registration has created registration barriers for some Running Start students, as outstanding fees from multiple quarters must be resolved before students can register for summer or fall classes. The college is identifying the affected students and implementing targeted communications to assist them in resolving these issues. These efforts are expected to result in a modest increase in summer enrollment, particularly among Running Start students.

Dr. Cox acknowledged that changes to the college's previous academic tutoring and student support model for student-athletes had affected student success outcomes. He explained that the former eSports Coach/Navigator position, which provided targeted support for student-athletes, had been restructured to allow resources to serve a broader student population. As a result, the college is working with Blazer Central staff and academic intervention specialists to develop new strategies for connecting student-athletes with academic support services.

Dr. Cox added that recently hired coaches have established academic expectations for their teams that exceed departmental minimum standards. Combined with renewed efforts to connect student-athletes to available support services, these changes are expected to improve student success and academic performance.

Mr. Moir added that the transition to new coaching staff contributed to the challenges experienced during the year. He also noted that the return of TRIO tutoring services would provide student-athletes with additional academic support opportunities. He expressed confidence that the Athletics Department has identified the necessary steps to strengthen academic support and will continue encouraging student-athletes to utilize available tutoring and support resources.

13. Administrative Services

Tariq Qureshi, Vice President of Finance and Administration, provided an update on the college's financial position and recent grant activity.

He reported that year-to-date actual expenditure remains approximately $2.2 million, or 8.5 percent, below budget. He noted that this variance is expected to decrease following the processing of year-end faculty contractual payments and referenced the prior fiscal year, which concluded approximately 4 percent under budget.

Mr. Qureshi also highlighted two recently awarded grants from the Washington State Department of Commerce. One grant will support lighting upgrades in the Science Center; offsetting costs associated with improving the facility's lighting systems. The second grant will fund energy-efficiency improvements, including the installation of solar panels on campus. The work on the solar energy project will begin during the summer.

14. Foundation

Christine Fossett, Associate Vice President of Advancement, provided an update on Foundation activities, noting that the Foundation's primary focus over the coming months, in addition to its ongoing scholarship efforts, is fundraising for the Teacher Education building project. She reported that she and Dr. Mohrbacher have met with several local community members regarding the campaign, with additional meetings scheduled. As the Foundation begins outreach for annual gala sponsorships, discussions will also include opportunities for larger philanthropic commitments in support of the Teacher Education building to strengthen long-term fundraising efforts.

Ms. Fossett also reported that the Foundation successfully conducted an additional scholarship application session for student-athletes and other students. The session resulted in strong participation, with students completing scholarship applications and many already accepting scholarship awards for the upcoming fall term.

15. New Business

Faculty Negotiated Agreement

The Board received a recommendation to ratify the recently negotiated faculty collective bargaining agreement. Administration reported that negotiations had concluded successfully and were conducted in a collaborative manner. Faculty members subsequently voted to ratify the agreement, and the matter was presented to the Board for final approval.

The Board was advised that the agreement included several language revisions, with the primary fiscal impact consisting of salary increases for adjunct and in-line faculty.

It was MOVED BY Court Stanley THAT THE BOARD RATIFY THE FACULTY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEARS 2026-29 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

S & A Budget

Dr. Robert Cox introduced Alan Cox, Chair of the Services and Activities (S&A) Fee Budget Committee, to present the proposed student government and athletics budgets.

Mr. Cox presented the proposed Services and Activities Fee Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. He reported projected S&A fee revenue of $1,098,495, the highest revenue projection to date and approximately $50,000 greater than the previous year. Total funding requests amounted to $1,089,250, resulting in projected revenues exceeding requested expenditures.

Mr. Cox noted that many budget requests reflected increased operating costs due to inflation. He highlighted several significant adjustments, including increased funding for the Children's Lab to support additional student employees and improve staff-to-child ratios, as well as increased funding for the Student Life and Involvement Center to provide overlap and cross-training between outgoing and incoming Student Life and Involvement Directors.

There was a reduction in funding for eSports staffing following the transition of the former full-time dual-role position to a part-time position, allowing resources to be redirected to other student priorities. The proposed budget included a new line item to provide dedicated funding for the Trailblazer Kickoff student orientation program.

The Budget Committee recommended placing the projected excess revenues into a contingency reserve to be carried forward for future years, providing flexibility should future funding requests exceed available revenues.

Athletic Budget approval

Athletic Director Jason Moir presented the proposed athletics portion of the Services and Activities (S&A) Fee Budget. He reported that, although the overall athletics budget request increased by $4,000, the proposal primarily reflects the reallocation of funds resulting from the transition of the eSports position from a full-time athletics position to a part-time position within Student Life.

Mr. Moir highlighted several significant budget adjustments, including an increase in funding for athletic scholarships from $45,000 to $90,000 to provide greater financial support for student-athletes.

Additional budget adjustments included increased funding for assistant coaches, raising assistant coach compensation from $3,000 to $5,000, updated funding for athletic insurance to reflect annual costs more accurately, and a modest increase in game management funding. These adjustments were achieved through the reallocation of existing resources rather than a substantial increase in the overall athletics budget.

Alan Cox reported that the Student Budget Committee recommended funding all submitted requests, as total requests remained below projected revenues. The committee consisted of five student members and that managing a budget exceeding $1 million provided valuable leadership and financial governance experience for participating students.

The complete S&A budget was presented alongside the athletics budget to provide the Board with a comprehensive view of student fee allocations.

The current waiver allocation would remain unchanged considering the college's financial position. The long-term objective is to grow the athletics endowment sufficiently to reduce or eliminate reliance on tuition waivers and student fee support, allowing privately raised funds to sustain athletic scholarships and related expenses. Fundraising has been particularly successful during the current year and continued fundraising efforts and endowment growth will strengthen the program's long-term financial sustainability.

It was MOVED BY Mark Scheibmeir THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ATHLETIC BUDGET FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

<u>Fiscal Year 2027 Budget presentation and approval</u>

Tariq Qureshi provided an overview of the preliminary Fiscal Year 2027 budget, noting that the projections remain subject to change as revenue estimates are refined and additional expense reductions and cost-saving measures are evaluated. Initial revenue projections have been developed, with final state allocation figures expected later in the month.

Mr. Qureshi included enrollment trend data comparing the college with peer institutions. Overall enrollment trends remain positive, and the continued strength of the college's Running Start program continues to outperform comparable colleges.

Running Start enrollment has continued to increase despite recent changes to student eligibility and the program has not yet reached the anticipated plateau. Running Start has become an increasingly attractive option for students and parents due to its academic reputation, college credit opportunities, and, in some cases, limited elective offerings available at smaller high schools.

Rising personnel costs, including cumulative cost-of-living adjustments, together with inflationary increases in operating expenses, have contributed to increasing costs and ongoing budget challenges.

There is an anticipated reduction of approximately one percent in the college's state operating allocation, while tuition revenue is projected to increase through the state-authorized tuition rate adjustment, assuming stable enrollment. Running Start revenue is expected to increase due to both projected enrollment growth and higher reimbursement rates.

The preliminary FY 2027 operating budget was presented at approximately $32 million. The major revenue sources supporting the proposed budget, including state allocations, tuition, Running Start funding, legislative provisos, and the planned use of approximately $1.5 million in institutional reserves to maintain current operations. While most revenue projections are based on state allocation estimates and are expected to remain relatively stable, tuition and Running Start revenues remain dependent upon final enrollment levels.

Mr. Qureshi explained that the planned use of reserves has enabled the college to avoid the significant program reductions and workforce reductions experienced by some peer institutions but emphasized that reliance on reserves at the current level is not financially sustainable over the long term.

If the college achieves similar year-end savings to the prior fiscal year, approximately 4 percent under budget, this could reduce the anticipated draw on reserves by approximately $1 million, lowering the projected reserve use from $1.5 million.

While current reserve levels are sufficient to cover short-term budgetary needs, sustained reliance on reserves is not financially viable and would create long-term structural imbalance if continued over multiple fiscal years.

Mr. Qureshi also discussed complexities in enrollment composition, noting that different student populations (including basic skills students and bachelor's degree students) carry different funding weights and tuition structures, making precise impact calculations more complex.

Mr. Qureshi noted that the FY 2027 $32 million budget is distributed across institutional divisions and remains dependent on continued monitoring of enrollment trends, state funding formulas, and reserve utilization to maintain fiscal stability.
The functional allocation of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget increases across all major categories. Instruction increased by approximately $400,000; academic support by $100,000; institutional support by $260,000; student services by $190,000; library services by $27,000; operations and maintenance by $98,000; and safety and security by approximately $12,000.

A graphical overview of expenditures by category was also provided, showing the distribution of the budget as follows: instruction (39%), institutional support (23%), student services (17%), academic support (9%), operations and maintenance (9%), library services (2%), and safety and security (1%).

Mr. Qureshi summarized the overall fiscal outlook, noting that reserve levels remain sufficient for current operations, though ongoing expense increases continue to create financial pressure. The college is pursuing cost containment and operational efficiencies, including evaluation of IT, procurement processes, printing and document management systems, and other non-personnel expenditures.

Mr. Qureshi reported preliminary State Board updates indicating variability in projected cost increases, including slightly lower-than-expected increases in employee health benefit costs. Final state allocation figures remain pending and are expected later in the month. Revenue and expenditure assumptions remain subject to revision as additional state guidance is received.

Board members requested additional long-term planning information, including a multi-year strategy for cost containment and a reserve utilization strategy. Mr. Qureshi noted ongoing development of enhanced financial dashboards, including a Power BI tool to improve transparency in purchasing and expenditure tracking, and indicated that broader budget strategy discussions will be incorporated into future Board agendas.

It was MOVED BY Pretrina Mullins THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

August 13, 2026, Board Meeting

Dr. Mohrbacher raised the question of whether to retain the August 13 Board meeting on the annual calendar. The meeting has traditionally been scheduled each year but is often cancelled. The Board could either continue scheduling the meeting and cancel it if unnecessary or remove it from the annual calendar and convene a special meeting as needed.

Board members agreed that it was preferable to maintain the scheduled meeting and cancel it if not needed, to preserve flexibility and avoid the need for a special meeting should circumstances arise.

It was MOVED BY Chris Thomas THAT THE BOARD CANCEL THE AUGUST 13, 2026, MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Old Business

Strategic Planning

Fia Eliasson-Creek, Executive Director of Institutional Research, reported on the development of concise institutional summary materials to support strategic planning and community engagement. She noted that the effort followed the Board's request in receiving a streamlined "college snapshot" to complement existing dashboards and detailed data reports.

She presented a draft summary containing high-level institutional data for the current academic year. Board members reviewed the draft and expressed support for the proposed format and its use as a concise institutional reference for Board materials and community engagement.

It was suggested that enrollment figures, staffing levels, and other key institutional metrics be periodically updated. Suggestions included demographic information such as student age distribution, gender balance, ethnic background, and part-time/full-time enrollment status. Ms. Eliasson-Creek noted that many of these data elements are already available through institutional dashboards but agreed that a simplified summary would improve accessibility for non-technical audiences.

Further refinement of the format and content would be discussed at a future Board retreat, with an emphasis on balancing usability with administrative efficiency and avoiding unnecessary duplication of reporting efforts.

Accreditation

Fia Eliasson-Creek, Executive Director of Institutional Research, reported that several significant changes are being proposed that will affect institutional assessment and reporting requirements moving forward.

The previously established standard related to mission fulfillment, including the use of five key performance indicators (KPIs) to assess annual mission effectiveness, has been eliminated under the revised standards.

A new standard specifically focused on board governance, ethics, and transparency is being introduced. Additional changes include revisions to expectations related to assessment of student learning outcomes and modifications to the use of peer institution comparisons for measuring student success and achievement. Under the proposed revisions, greater emphasis will be placed on evaluating student outcomes through return-on-investment measures, using federal and state-defined metrics where available.

These proposed changes are expected to shift institutional assessment practices toward standardized external metrics tied to funding frameworks, though details are still forthcoming. The accreditation commission is scheduled to vote on the proposed revisions at its July meeting, with implementation expected in the following academic year if approved.

Additional guidance will be provided once final standards are adopted.

17. Executive Session

Under RCW 42.30.110, the Board may hold an executive session for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee and current or potential agency litigation or to review professional negotiations.

At 5:35 pm Board members moved into executive session to consult with legal counsel about current or potential litigation and to review the performance of public employees. The Board expects Executive Session to last approximately 20 minutes. The Board will be in Executive Session until 5:55 p.m. unless notified that the time is extended.

The Board has adjourned the Executive Session and reconvenes in Open Session. The time is 5:55 p.m.

The Board will proceed with the final agenda items.

18. Action from Executive Session

There was no action from executive session.

19. Board Elections

It was MOVED BY TRUSTEE COURT STANLEY TO ELECT CHRIS THOMAS THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE 2026-27 YEAR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was MOVED BY TRUSTEE COURT STANLEY TO ELECT PRETRINA MULLINS TO THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE 2026-27 YEAR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

20. Announcement of Upcoming Meeting Date and Place:

The next meeting is the board retreat and will be held Monday, July 27, 2026, at 3512 Gravelly Beach Loop Northwest, Olympia, WA.

21. Comments

The Board briefly discussed upcoming commencement ceremony coordination. The Board reviewed recognitions during the ceremony, including acknowledgment of the passing of Hank Kirk, recognition of a student who passed away after completing degree requirements, and the posthumous awarding of the student's degree. The Board supported allowing the family to determine their preferred level of participation in the presentation.

The Board also discussed arrangements for Bob O'Neill, the honorary degree recipient, including accessibility, accommodation, and seating. Participation would remain flexible based on Mr. O'Neill's wishes and confirmed that appropriate accessibility measures and reserved seating would be available for him and his guests.

22. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Annalee Tobey, Board Chair	*Dr. Bob Mohrbacher, Board Secretary*