(APPROVED)

BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 24, 2026

CONVENING

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Berkshire Community College was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, via Zoom. Chair Bowen called the meeting to order at 4:30PM and noted that meeting will be cablecast on Pittsfield Community Television. These meetings are allowed to be recorded under the MA Open Meeting Law and are not subject to editing. H. Seely conducted a roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

PRESENT:	Chair Bowen; Trustees: Gonzalez, Hughes, Kiely, Myers, Rivers Murphy, Zaffanella
ABSENT:	Chacon, Cuyler, Myers, Vrabel
ALSO PRESENT:	BCC President, Ellen Kennedy; Vice President for Students Affairs & Enrollment Management, Adam Klepetar; Vice President for Administration & Finance, Christina Wynn; Vice President of Academic Affairs, Laurie Gordy; Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Community Engagement, Jim Mancall; Jane Singer, Executive Director of Human Resources; Assistant to the President, Heather Seely Additionally, N. Mooney, R. Bucknell, L. Clairmont, S. Greb, J. Miesel Media: PCTV

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon a motion made by M Rivers-Murphy and seconded by L. Kiely it was VOTED to approve the minutes of December 2, 2025, meeting with C. Zaffanella abstaining

Upon a motion made by D. Gonzalez and seconded by C. Zaffanella it was VOTED to approve the minutes of December 9, 2025, meeting with J. Hughes abstaining

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Adam Klepetar, Laurie Gordy, and Jim Mancall presented on Berkshire Community College's achievement of the Leader College of Distinction Award from Achieving the Dream (ATD). The presentation highlighted significant improvements in student retention, including gains of 29% for Latinx students and 25% for Pell-eligible students. They attributed these outcomes to intentional structural and cultural changes in support of student success, such as the implementation of the One Stop service model, enhancements to first-year experience programs, and targeted improvements within English department coursework. The presenters emphasized that these efforts align with the College's mission, strengthen competitiveness for external funding, and support continued progress toward improved completion and workforce outcomes.

Jim Mancall reviewed revisions to the College's Shared Governance structure informed by three years of survey data. Updates include clarified definitions, refinement of the consensus decision-making model, consolidation of subcommittees into a single Shared Governance Council, adoption of a modified consensus model, and the establishment of elected co-facilitators and the president not sitting on the Council.

Ellen Kennedy reviewed the process taken the rename the Jonathan Edwards Library, initiated due to historical concerns regarding the namesake's connection to slavery. A task force was established to research and recommend potential new names that align with the College's mission and values, reflect Berkshire County connections, and promote diversity among campus building names.

Recommendation to rename the college library after Ruth Edmonds Hill, a renowned historian and oral historian who dedicated her life to documenting African American history and underrepresented voices. The committee selected Hill's name from a list of 23 nominees, with survey results showing strong support for her selection. With board approval this will be moved the Board of Higher Education for final approval.

Motion by M. Rivers Murphy and seconded by L. Kiley made under BHE Building Naming policy (FAAP 15-14), Section VI(1) to rescind Rev. Jonathan Edward's name due to the determination that he has or had acted in a manner that is inconsistent with the institution's values and mission. Rescind current library name due to Jonathan Edwards' history as an enslaver, leading to a task force that recommended renaming to uphold the college's commitments to equity and inclusion, emphasizing renaming as an act of reflection and accountability. Motion approved via roll call.

Motion by J. Hughes and seconded by C. Zaffanella under Section V of the BHE policy (Naming in Recognition), to name the building in honor of Ruth Edmonds Hill based on the determination that she has made a distinguished contribution of service or support to the community and the Commonwealth. Hill's legacy includes preserving African American history in Berkshire County, service at local libraries, co-founding the National Association of Black Storytellers, and contributing to important oral history and archival projects, making her a fitting namesake for the library. Motion approved unanimously via roll call.

Linda Clairmont, Executive Director of Workforce and Community Education, reported on the college's new HVAC heat pump training program, funded by a $1.2 million grant from Governor Healey's Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. The program will include a new lab and classroom on campus, with the first cohort of 10 students starting early 2027 and aims to address regional labor shortages in skilled trades.

<u>FOUNDATION BOARD REPORT</u>
L. Kiely noted the foundation board reported a clean audit and raised $620,699 from July to December 2025, with fundraising up nearly $70,000 year-over-year.

<u>STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT</u> No report

<u>ALUMNI TRUSTEE REPORT</u>
H. Seely shared report in absence of M. Myers that all current alumni board members are renewing terms and that there is a Dine to Donate at Frankie's in Lenox in May.

<u>SUBCOMMTTEE REPORTS</u>
Finance and Audit Committee: Presentation of 2nd Quarter Trust Fund report.

Upon a motion made by M. Rivers Murphy and seconded by D. Gonzalez it was VOTED to approve the 2nd Quarter Trust Fund, as presented, via roll call vote.

J. Meisel of Withum presented the FY25 Single Audit, which resulted in a clean, unmodified opinion. One minor finding related to the timing of reporting a student status change was noted. Prior year findings have been fully remediated.

Upon a motion made by C. Zaffanella and seconded by J. Hughes it was VOTED to accept and approve FY25 Singal Audit as presented, approved unanimously via roll call vote.

Student Success Committee:
Barbara Kotelnecki presented a proposal for a new meta-major education program at BCC, explaining that it would provide flexible pathways for students interested in education careers from pre-K to 12th grade, including roles as teachers, paraprofessionals, and school counselors. The program aims to reduce student confusion about course requirements, streamline advising, and increase transfer rates to four-year institutions like MCLA.

Upon a motion made by M. Rivers Murphy and seconded by C. Zaffanella it was VOTED to approve the education meta-major via roll call vote.

Governance and Nominating Executive: No Report

Executive Committee:
J. Bowen reported that Hara Charlier has signed employment terms and the Board's recommendation has been forwarded to the MA Board of Higher Education for final approval, with potential vote on April 7.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

J. Singer presented personnel actions for the period of December 9, 2025, to March 23, 2026 (attached).

Upon a motion, duly made by J. Hughes and seconded by L. Kiely, it was VOTED unanimously via roll call to approve the personnel actions as presented.

Additionally presented was the sabbatical for K. Dupuis that due to administrative errors was not previously brought forward to the board.

Upon a motion, duly made by M. Rivers Murphy, and seconded by J. Hughes, it was VOTED unanimously via roll call to approve the sabbatical.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58pm with motion by L. Kiely and seconded by *D. Gonzalez* and was VOTED unanimously.

DATE: Respectfully submitted,

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Heather Seely

Approved:

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Julia Bowen, Board Chair