

**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK**

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Mohawk Valley Community College Board of Trustees held in the Stetson Boardroom, Payne Hall, Room 300, of Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, New York was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chair Waters on Monday, December 15, 2025.

Members Present

Wendy Waters
Dana Jerrard
Camille Kahler
David Mathis
William S. Calli
Elaine Falvo
Frank Dubeck
Anthony (Tony) Colón

Members Excused

Anna D'Ambrosio

2. Call for Conflicts of Interest

Chair Waters invited members to disclose any potential conflicts related to the December agenda items. No conflicts of interest were reported.

3. Open Forum: Prospect Memorial Field

The Board received a presentation from community member, Dale Hart, on the potential use of the newly renovated Prospect Memorial Field, 2 State Street, Prospect, for the MVCC's Women's Softball team.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Waters shared highlights as the calendar year concludes, including a reminder that MVCC's December Commencement will be held Friday, December 19, in Schafer Theater. The Board welcomed new Student Trustee Minajla Ibrahim and celebrated several recent honors: Julia Hobika and Carolyn DeJohn were recognized by the Continuing Education Association of New York for excellence in adult and community education; Jen Krohn and Amanda Roy-Small were named Outstanding Educators by the Genesis Group; and Dr. George Searles was honored nationally with the establishment of the George J. Searles Award by the Philip Roth Society. Chair Waters also acknowledged the Experience Utica project—a community design collaboration between MVCC Graphic Design students and the City of Utica—launching December 16.

Chair Waters then asked for the Treasurer's Report.

5. Treasurer's Report

President VanWagoner, serving as Interim Vice President for Administrative Services, reviewed the College's monthly revenue and expenditure reports. He noted that the Warrants page includes an increase to the petty cash fund on the Rome Campus due to the discontinuation of the College's Walmart credit card. Additionally, he reported a budget amendment to the 2025–2026 Operating Budget reflecting an increase in grant funding, resulting from additional

approval received from the governing agency.

6. Student Trustee Report

Newly elected Student Trustee Minajla Ibrahimy introduced herself to the Board. A graduate of Proctor High School, Minajla is currently majoring in Biology at MVCC. She shared an overview of her involvement both on campus and in the community and concluded by reflecting on how these experiences have prepared her for her role as Student Trustee and active participation in Student Congress.

7. Committees and Affiliations

Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC)

Board Liaison David Mathis reported that the ASC Board met on November 20. Adam Palmer was welcomed as a newly appointed member of the Board. The meeting included discussion on the bookstore, bottled beverage offerings, and on-campus vending machine operations. Trustee Mathis noted that student attendance has been low due to scheduling conflicts between ASC meetings and Student Congress. President VanWagoner will collaborate with Student Activities to reschedule ASC meetings in the Spring semester to avoid these conflicts and support greater student participation.

Foundation

Executive Director Ferro-Aurience reported on the Foundation's year-end activities and the 2026 MVCC Alumni Award recipients. The Annual Faculty & Staff Campaign is concluding with over \$33,000 raised toward a \$40,000 goal, culminating at the Celebration of Success. Concurrently, the Foundation's Year-End Campaign is underway, with mail and email outreach continuing through December 31. The Board was pleased to learn of the 2026 Alumni Award winners: Nazaria "Nazy" DeLoach (Young Alumni Award), Tressa LaBella (Distinguished Alumni Award), and Nicholas L. Mayhew (Alumnus of Merit). The Alumni of Merit Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, January 13. The Foundation currently manages a portfolio valued at approximately \$12.16 million. The next Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 18.

ACCT/NYCCT

Trustee Tony Colon reported on national policy developments that may impact community colleges. He concluded by reminding the Board of the upcoming ACCT National Legislative Summit being held February 8-11 in Washington, D.C.

Board Chair and NYCCT Chair-Elect Wendy Waters shared a new monthly communication that the NYCCT Chair has created in an effort to foster connectedness and build communication across New York State Trustees. The December 2025 NYCCT Board Chair Monthly Update communication was distributed to each trustee. She further went on to report that NYCCT in conjunction with SUNY will be holding Community College Lobbying Day and legislative reception in Albany on February 4. She concluded that the Bronson Bill has made it the Governor's desk and the Governor has until December 19 to take action.

SUNY/NYCCAP

President VanWagoner has shared SUNY and NYCCAP updates in his Friday Focus communications to the Board. He noted that SUNY Vice Chancellor Will Schwartz and Vice Chancellor Valerie Dent visited campus on December 9th along with members of the Board

Wendy Waters, Dana Jerrard and Tony Colón.

8. **President's Report**

President VanWagoner reported that the MVCC Men's Basketball team is currently ranked third in the nation.

He then reviewed this month's Key Performance Indicator, focused on graduate outcomes using Department of Labor employment data. MVCC remains committed to advancing student success through career pathways. The data indicate that, compared to last year, women are earning approximately 80 to 85 percent of what their male peers earn. Additionally, graduates who received Pell Grants are earning between 15 to 37 percent less than non-Pell recipients, depending on the comparison group. While these gaps tend to narrow slightly over time, significant racial disparities in earnings persist.

President VanWagoner concluded by asking for an Executive Session with no further action following the Board meeting to discuss personnel.

College Senate

The College Senate report is available in the Board Portal.

9. **Vice President Reports**

There were no questions from the Board regarding the written reports submitted by the Vice Presidents. The spotlight presentation was delivered by Sarah Lam, Executive Director of Community and Workforce Development, who provided an overview of Fast Track Plus, an initiative supported by the MV Empowers grant. The program enables the expansion of MVCC's Fast Track model to Herkimer College, SUNY Oneonta, and Fulton-Montgomery Community College, while also incorporating a whole-family education approach.

10. **Discussion Item**

Motion to Take from the Table: First Reading Policy on Policies

Policy on Policies was tabled at the November 17, 2025 Board meeting. A motion to take from the table the first reading of the Policy on Policies was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Trustee Elaine Falvo. Motion passed unanimously.

There were no other questions or discussion around the Policy on Policies and this will move to the January Consent Agenda for formal adoption.

11. **Consent Agenda**

Attachment a. Minutes of November 17, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting

Attachment b. Treasurer's Report

Attachment c. Board Policy Revision 2030. Sexual/Romantic Relationship Policy

Attachment d. Board Policy Revision: 1007. Board Conflicts of Interest Policy

Attachment e. Capital Project Budget Increase – Dental Hygiene Program

Attachment f. Capital Project Budget Increase – Theater Upgrades

Attachment g. Amend Staffing Plan: Amy Arnold, Instructor - Chemistry

Attachment h. Amend Staffing Plan: Heather Bishop, Instructor - Biology

Attachment i. Amend Staffing Plan: Michael Zombek, Coordinator – Workforce Development

Attachment j. Microcredential: Hotel Operations & Event Management

A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 11a-10j was made by Trustee Elaine Falvo and seconded by Trustee Frank Dubeck. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion for an executive session with no further action to discuss personnel was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Trustee Frank Dubeck. Unanimously approved.

The Board of Trustees entered into executive session at 5:02 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 5:37 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Motion was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Vice Chair Dana Jerrard to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Unanimously approved.