

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JANUARY 20, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

**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 4:04 p.m. by Chair Waters on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

**Members Present**

Wendy Waters  
Dana Jerrard  
Camille Kahler  
David Mathis  
Anna D'Ambrosio  
William S. Calli  
Frank Dubeck  
Anthony (Tony) Colón  
Minajla Ibrahim, Student Trustee

**Members Excused**

Elaine Falvo

**2. Call for Conflicts of Interest**

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

**3. Chair's Report**

Chair Waters opened the January meeting by welcoming trustees to the new year and noting the start of the Spring semester. She highlighted the College's annual Data Summit for faculty and staff held on January 14 and the return of students for the first day of classes on January 21. Chair Waters also recognized the EOP program for receiving the Wings of the Hawk Award for outstanding service and student outcomes, noting that despite leadership transitions the program supported 68 students while achieving its highest cumulative GPA this fall through intentional academic support and advising. She concluded by sharing MV Hawk athletics news, noting the Men's Basketball team is currently ranked fourth in the nation and will be honored at the February meeting of the Oneida County Board of Legislators.

Chair Waters then asked for the Treasurer's Report.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Interim Vice President for Administrative Services Mary Jane Parry delivered the Treasurer's Report, providing an overview of tuition and grant revenue, expenditures, investment performance, and ongoing financial compliance activities. She reported that out-of-state tuition

revenue exceeded budget projections, while grant revenue is temporarily behind due to reimbursement timing, with no anticipated reductions in funding. Year-over-year expenses have increased primarily due to higher wages associated with staffing levels, rising healthcare costs, and roof repairs, though some costs have been offset by insurance recoveries. Spending is above budget due to increased student need and enrollment, while certain facilities and operational expenses remain lower than the prior year. Vice President Parry also noted that the College currently holds approximately \$15 million in U.S. Treasury bills yielding an average of 3.6 percent, generating over \$110,000 in interest income, and reported that the Business Office is preparing required tax filings ahead of the January 31 deadline in compliance with federal requirements.

## **5. Student Trustee Report**

Student Trustee Minajla Ibrahim presented updates on student engagement, including trustee and officer training, plans for office hours, outreach, HawksLife app utilization, and upcoming student events such as the chocolate festival.

## **6. Committees and Affiliations**

### Student Success Committee

Student Success Committee Chair Tony Colón reported that the committee met on January 15, focusing on two SUNY initiatives aimed at improving access, persistence, and completion for adult and nontraditional learners: Credit for Prior Learning (CPL/PLA) and the SUNY Reconnect program. MVCC has seen early positive outcomes with a 19% increase in PLA credits awarded and a 35% increase in student applications, reflecting increased awareness, strengthened advising practices, and targeted outreach to populations such as military veterans and individuals with industry certifications. Vice President Pine also provided an overview of SUNY Reconnect, a last-dollar grant program launched in May 2025 to provide free associate degrees for adults ages 25–55; for Fall 2025, 734 applications resulted in 155 funded students, with approximately \$336,000 in aid awarded, and nearly half of participants enrolling in health-related programs. The meeting concluded with discussion of potential future agenda topics, and presentation materials are available in the committee meeting documents on the Board portal.

### Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC)

The Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC) Board meeting schedule for the spring semester has been adjusted to avoid conflicts with Student Congress meetings. This change is expected to allow for full participation from student representatives at upcoming ASC Board meetings.

### Foundation

Executive Director Ferro-Aurience reported that the Foundation Board welcomed three new members and currently has one remaining vacancy, which the Nominating & Governance Committee will work to fill in the coming weeks. To support engagement among current and new members, the Foundation will host a Comets Night in the AIS Suite on February 27 at 7:00 p.m. for Foundation Board members, Trustees, and Cabinet members. As of December 31, 2025, the Foundation's portfolio had a market value of \$12,103,997 and achieved a 20.1% year-to-date return for 2025, representing approximately \$2.1 million in growth. The next Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for February 5.

## ACCT/NYCCT

Trustee Tony Colón reported recent federal policy updates affecting education funding and accountability standards, including the impact of potential government shutdowns and Department of Education regulations. On January 22, ACCT will release its legislative priorities, known as the Green Sheet, which will guide advocacy meetings during the upcoming National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC.

NYCCT Chair-Elect Wendy Waters reported that the NYCCT Board Chair Monthly Communicator has been distributed to all trustees. She noted that several trustees, including Trustee David Mathis, will meet with representatives from CUNY next week to strengthen statewide community college advocacy efforts. She also highlighted the upcoming NYCCT Lobby Day on February 4, where trustees, presidents, and students will participate in meetings with the Division of the Budget and members of the Governor's staff, followed by an evening legislative reception.

Chair Waters further noted that the Governor's veto message regarding the Bronson Bill has been formally entered into the record and emphasized the importance of effective shared governance in higher education. She highlighted that language submitted by NYCCT regarding shared governance concerns was reflected in the Governor's veto memorandum, representing a significant advocacy success for NYCCT and community colleges statewide. She also acknowledged the advocacy efforts of students, noting that 45 students submitted letters to the Governor in support of the position.

## SUNY/NYCCAP

There was no SUNY/NYCCAP report.

## **7. President's Report**

President VanWagoner reported several positive developments for the College. He shared that MVCC has received notice from Senator Schumer's office that an \$800,000 federal congressional directed allocation for the Applied Technology Center's Precision Metals Training Center equipment remains under consideration as the federal appropriations process continues. If awarded, the funds may be eligible for state matching support, potentially increasing the project investment to approximately \$1.6 million. He also announced that MVCC has been selected as one of eight colleges nationally to participate in a competitive Achieving the Dream dual credit pathways initiative, a two-year engagement supported by a \$20,000 grant that will help strengthen partnerships and pathway development with local school districts.

President VanWagoner also highlighted this month's Key Performance Indicator on MVCC's commitment to student success, noting that the College's three-year graduation rate increased to 39 percent and the two-year on-time graduation rate increased to 31 percent, both the highest levels in the College's history, reflecting sustained institutional focus on student success. Additionally, recent gains in student retention have helped MVCC qualify as an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction, recognizing institutions demonstrating strong and improving student outcomes.

## College Senate

College Senate Chair, Professor Christine Miller, delivered the College Senate report summarizing the recent FCCC meeting, faculty discussions on academic freedom and AI, Senate mentorship activities, and upcoming Senate leadership transitions.

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

## **8. 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 Michael McHarris, Director of Facilities and Operations, who presented a retrospective on 25 years of campus infrastructure evolution, highlighting major projects, operational challenges, and future planning as he approaches retirement.

## **9. Discussion Items**

### First Reading Board Policy Revision: 3014. College Withdrawal, Medical Withdrawal, Emergency Medical Withdrawal, or Immediate Mental Health Assessment

The board reviewed the proposed policy revisions. There were no questions or discussion around the revisions and this will move to the March Consent Agenda for formal adoption.

### GLBA Report

Network and Security Specialist Chuck Hendricks presented the annual information security report, detailing compliance requirements, risk assessments, technical safeguards, incident response, and the integration of AI and SUNY resources in cybersecurity operations.

## **10. Consent Agenda**

*Attachment a.* Minutes of November 15, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting

*Attachment b.* Treasurer's Report

*Attachment c.* Board Policy: Policy on Policies

*Attachment d.* Annual Plan 2024-2025 Year-End Report

*Attachment e.* Laptop Donation: MVCC Foundation to Mohawk Valley Community College

*Attachment f.* Radiology Lab Equipment Donation: MVCC Foundation to Mohawk Valley Community College

*Attachment g.* Excluded Administrative Staff Appointments

*Attachment h.* Mary Jane Parry, Interim Vice President for Administrative Services

*Attachment i.* Amend Staffing Plan: Stephanie Roberts, Care and Wellbeing Coordinator

*Attachment j.* Yue Riesbeck, Instructor – Economics

*Attachment k.* Kayleigh Lallier, Instructor – Nursing

*Attachment l.* Suada Ikeljic, Director of Compliance

*Attachment m.* Richard Gloo, Instructor – Computer Science

*Attachment n.* Kyle Bradley, Instructor – Metal Fabrication

*Attachment o.* Kristen Beckwith, Instructor – Nursing

A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 10a-10o was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Trustee Frank Dubeck. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion for an executive session with no further action to discuss personnel and contracts was made by Trustee Anna D'Ambrosio and seconded by Trustee William S. Calli. Unanimously approved.

The Board of Trustees entered into executive session at 5:44 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:21 p.m.

**11. Adjournment**

Motion was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Vice Chair Dana Jerrard to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. Unanimously approved.