ATTACHMENT 10a

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 21, 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 4:00 p.m. by Chair Jerrard on Monday, September 21, 2026.

Members Present

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

Members Excused

None

2. Call for Conflicts of Interest

Chair Jerrard invited trustees to disclose any potential conflicts related to the September agenda items. No conflicts of interest were reported.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Dana Jerrard opened his remarks by expressing appreciation to immediate past Chair Wendy Waters for her leadership and service. He asked trustees to consider a potential schedule change for the November Board meeting and student dinner to Tuesday, November 17. He then highlighted several recent College accomplishments and recognitions, including the completion of New York Power Authority internships by 18 MVCC students; the recognition of Jocelyn Ireland by the SUNY Librarians Association; the success of the Second Annual Robotics Coaches' College; and artificial intelligence awareness training delivered by Franca Armstrong and MVCC in partnership with the Oneida County Office of Workforce Development. He concluded by thanking the College community and its partners for their continued commitment to MVCC. He then called for the Treasurer's Report.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was deferred to the VP Spotlight.

5. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Minajla Ibrahimi reviewed the Student Congress officers for the 2026-2027 academic year, including David Almleaf, President; Faizal Rahman, Vice President of Utica;

Carl Vitevich, Vice President of Rome; Pyo Moe, Treasurer; and Bee Simmons-Noel, Program Board Director. She also provided an update on several Student Congress initiatives, including wellness vending machines, committee activities, use of Viva Engage, updates to Braille signage in the Learning Commons, and the transition to a Student Congress Idea Box. Additionally, she highlighted recent student engagement activities sponsored by Student Congress, including Casino Night, Movie Night, and Club Day.

6. Committees and Affiliations

Board committees are in the process of being scheduled for the academic year. Committee composition and dates will be shared to trustees.

Foundation

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Deanna Ferro-Aurience provided an update on Foundation activities and fundraising efforts. She reported that the Foundation's Building Better Futures Campaign exceeded its original $5 million goal, raising more than $7.7 million through cash gifts, in-kind contributions, and outstanding pledges in support of student success, academic programs, campus enhancements, and areas of greatest need. Looking ahead, fundraising efforts will focus on naming opportunities associated with the Applied Technology Center and the Dental Hygiene Clinic. Ferro-Aurience also reported on the success of the Foundation's annual MV Gives campaign, which raised more than $95,000 with support from donors and matching gift opportunities, including a significant contribution from the M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund.

In addition, she highlighted plans for the College's 80th Anniversary celebration and Alumni Day activities recognizing MVCC alumni employed at Indium Corporation, Rome Health, and Oneida County. She also shared information regarding upcoming Foundation-sponsored events, including the Wilcox Presidential & Exceptional Scholarship Luncheon, the Dental Hygiene Clinic Ribbon Cutting, the MVCC Hall of Fame Reception and Ceremony, and the Board Holiday Gathering.

Ferro-Aurience concluded that the Foundation closed the fiscal year with more than $3.6 million in contributions and maintained approximately $13.2 million in its Strategic Financial Services investment portfolio. Ferro-Aurience closed by reporting that it closed the fiscal year with more than $3.6 million in contributions and maintained approximately $13.2 million in its Strategic Financial Services investment portfolio.

ACCT/NYCCT

Trustee Tony Colón provided an update on recent federal policy and regulatory developments affecting community colleges. He reported on the continuation of federal funding through December 11, 2026, while noting ongoing uncertainty regarding future appropriations and potential impacts on student aid, workforce development, career and technical education, and other federally supported programs. He also reviewed the implementation of Workforce Pell and the Student Tuition and Transparency System (STATS), highlighting new federal accountability measures tied to workforce outcomes, earnings, and program eligibility for federal student aid. He noted the importance of continued monitoring of federal funding, accountability, and regulatory developments that may affect MVCC and community colleges nationwide.

Trustee Wendy Waters, Chair of NYCCT, thanked trustees for attending the NYCCT Annual Conference held September 16-18. She noted that MVCC was well represented during the awards ceremony, where Tony Colón received the Anne M. Bushnell Memorial Award for Special Achievement, the highest honor bestowed by NYCCT, and Greg Evans received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for Professional Contribution. Trustee Waters shared several conference highlights, including sessions at the New Trustee Institute on the new MSCHE standards and Open Meetings Law. She also reported that NYCCT continues to strengthen its relationships with trustees and presidents from CUNY as many joined the NYCCT conference. Trustee Waters concluded by encouraging trustees to participate in the upcoming NYCCT educational module on federal educational earmarks scheduled for October 8.

SUNY/NYCCAP

President VanWagoner reported that the College's Dental Hygiene program has received approval from SUNY and is awaiting final action by the Governor. He also noted that SUNY has approved all community college budgets for the current fiscal year.

7. President's Report

President VanWagoner introduced Executive Director Alen Smajic to speak to the challenge coins that are at each trustees' seats commemorating the College's 80th and America's 250th Anniversaries that will be used through the College's 80th Anniversary celebrations.

President VanWagoner reviewed the September Key Performance Indicator (KPI) measuring the College's financial capacity to fulfill its mission. He reported that MVCC's projected FY2026 fund balance is approximately $4.01 million, representing 6.5% of operating costs and remaining above the Board-established 5% minimum, though lower than the FY2025 level. Preliminary fiscal year-end results indicate that expenditures remained below budget, while revenue projections are also below budget as year-end adjustments continue to be finalized. He noted that alternative revenue sources, including Foundation support, BOCES agreements, and grant-related indirect cost recovery, continue to provide significant supplemental funding and demonstrate the College's efforts to diversify revenue streams. The report also highlighted the Foundation's substantial contributions to College operations, capital projects, scholarships, and other institutional priorities.

College Senate

Dr. Shahida Dar, Chair of the College Senate, provided an overview of the College Senate's role in shared governance and its responsibility for reviewing and discussing College policies, programs, and matters affecting faculty, staff, and students. She reviewed the Senate's governance structure, including the Senate Advisory Committee, Faculty Caucus, and the various Senate committees and councils that support institutional decision-making and governance activities.

Dr. Dar highlighted several ongoing Senate initiatives, including a Senate assessment, review of Senate bylaws, Summer Institute, orientation and mentoring efforts for new senators, and other activities designed to strengthen shared governance participation and effectiveness. She also reported that the Senate had endorsed the College's revised Strategic Framework and student use of Viva Engage and is working to develop a policy dashboard to improve policy access and transparency. Institutional priorities discussed by the Senate include the development of a policy on the equitable evaluation of transfer credit and continued participation in the College's Middle

States Self-Study process.

President VanWagoner concluded his report by asking for an executive session with no further action to discuss release estate relating to the property lines with the Utica City School District and personnel relating to the president contract.

8. Vice President Reports

There were no questions from the Board regarding the written reports submitted by the Vice Presidents. Interim Vice President of Administrative Services Mary Jane Parry and Executive Director of Budget and Finance Colin Mackey presented the Vice President Spotlight, providing an overview of year-end financial reconciliation efforts and ongoing work to strengthen financial reporting and transparency. They reported on the status of account reconciliations, year-end closing activities, and preparations for the upcoming audit. The presentation also highlighted the review of general ledger accounts, efforts to better understand and track financial activity across the College, and the development of enhanced reporting tools to improve account monitoring, budget development, and year-end financial processes. Interim Vice President Parry and Executive Director Mackey concluded by recognizing the contributions of staff members involved in the reconciliation and review process.

Executive Director of Budget and Finance Colin Mackey reported on the College's financial position as of August 31, 2026. The College remains in a stable financial position as fiscal year-end activities continue. Although revenues finished below budget, expenditures also remained below budget, reflecting continued fiscal management during the year-end closing process. Increased expenses associated with higher enrollment and expanded non-credit programming were offset in part by stronger-than-budgeted non-credit program revenues. The financial results remain subject to final year-end adjustments and audit review.

9. Discussion Item

AI Board Advisor

President VanWagoner presented an AI agent currently under development to support the work of the Board of Trustees. The tool is being designed to provide trustee-level guidance on governance, meeting preparation, strategic oversight, and Board-related research while drawing upon Board institutional knowledge and governance resources. Discussion focused on potential uses of the tool by trustees, as well as methods for identifying key questions, institutional history, and governance information that could be incorporated into the knowledge base to preserve Board knowledge and support future decision-making.

10. Consent Agenda

Attachment a. Minutes of August 17, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting
Attachment b. Treasurer's Report
Attachment c. Thomas Mihevc, Emeritus
Attachment d. Gail Warchol, Distinguished Retiree
Attachment e. Capital Project Increase: Academic Classroom & Spaces Renovation and FMP Update C20178
Attachment f. Capital Project Approval: Athletic Facility Upgrades
Attachment g. Alina Shuman, Associate Director of Human Resources for Employment and Compensation

Attachment h. Adam Palmer, Executive Dean of Academic Development and Innovation
Attachment i. Muhammad Hasan, Instructor School of Humanities
Attachment j. Beth Haas, Instructor School of STEM-Transfer
Attachment k. Mark Shean, Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations
Attachment l. Capital Project Increase: ATC Project

A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 10a-10l was made by Trustee Frank Dubeck and seconded by Trustee Elaine Falvo.
Unanimously approved.

Motion for an executive session with no further action to discuss real estate and personnel was made by Vice Chair William S. Calli and seconded by Trustee Wendy Waters.
Unanimously approved.

The Board of Trustees entered into executive session at 5:39 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 6:21 p.m.

11. Adjournment
Motion was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Trustee Elaine Falvo to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. Unanimously approved.