



**Ratified at February 18, 2026 meeting**

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 21, 2026**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 3 PM in the Student Center Event Room.

**Trustees Present:**

Dr. LeRoy Mitchell, Chairperson, Deborah Raizes, Vice Chairperson, Robin Bikkal, Esq., (via videoconference), Susan Gerry, Esq., Hon. John Nonna, Sergio Serratto, Hon. Lyndon Williams, Yolanda Howell, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

**Trustees Excused:**

Dr. Norman Jacknis, Vice-Chairperson, Anabella Delduco, Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith.

**Cabinet Members Present:**

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President, Dr. Vanessa Morest, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, Jacqueline-Ann Clark, Vice President and Dean of Administrative Services, Dolores Swirin-Yao, Vice President and Dean, External Affairs, Executive Director, WCC Foundation, Tere Wisell, Vice President and Dean, Community Education and Workforce Development, Garrett McAlister, Vice President, Information Technology, Dr. Rinardo Reddick, Acting Vice President of Student Access, Involvement & Success, Ben Naylor, Chief of Staff & Vice President of Strategic Affairs.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson LeRoy Mitchell called the meeting to order.

**Ratification of Minutes**

Trustee Nonna made a motion seconded by Trustee Sergio Serratto to ratify the minutes of the December 10, 2025, Board meeting. The motion passed.

## INFORMATION AND DECISION

### A. President's Report

Dr. Belinda S. Miles reported:

#### Greetings

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first meeting of the spring semester. You may have noticed a number of *Welcome Tables* around campus – Student Involvement and volunteers from across the college community are greeting new and returning students and helping to connect students to the college community.

As you encounter students in hallways and on pathways, please take a moment to say hello – and perhaps to help them find their next class!

As we start the new year, we've also welcomed our new CFO and Vice President of Administrative Services – Jacqueline-Ann (Jackie) Clark, who has more than 20 years in higher education leadership and finance and a proven record of success in overseeing multi-million-dollar budgets, capital planning, facilities management, human resources, information technology, and sponsored research administration. Additionally, she has expertise in enterprise risk management, shared governance, and regulatory compliance. Jackie received her bachelor's degree in accounting and economics from Brooklyn College and her M.B.A. in Finance from Monmouth University. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Additionally, I'm pleased to share that Michelle Lilly-Miranda who joined the college in September 2025 as Senior Management Analyst has taken on the role of Acting Assistant Vice President/Controller. She brings 30 years of financial management, audit and treasury experience to the college and holds certifications for 5S, Six Sigma Green Belt, PMP, Paralegal Studies, and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Finance.

I look forward to announcing additional personnel appointments as Search committees conclude their work and new hires join the college community.

#### Enrollment Management

We are starting the spring semester strong!

- As of this morning, **over 11,000 credit students** are enrolled for **Spring 2026**, a **3.3% increase** compared to Spring 2025 at the same point in time.

- Similarly, **FTE is up 2.6%** compared to last year.
- Spring 2026 **applications are up 12%** and new student registrations are up **25%** year over year.
- Our Enrollment Management team continues to host activities and outreach around encouraging Spring 2026 registration.
- We expect enrollment to continue to grow as students enroll in any of the four sessions offered this semester:

### **RECONNECT**

To date, 699 students have been verified for SUNY Reconnect. Of these, 192 are new for Spring 2026. This number will continue to grow as more students are verified for the initiative.

### **MSCHE**

For anyone who might have missed the information shared in late November, I am pleased and proud to share that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirmed the accreditation of SUNY Westchester Community College. The College is in full compliance on all standards, including Standard V. This collective achievement is due to the dedication of everyone who works at SUNY WCC and especially those in Academic Affairs. Together we built systems and revised our culture and practices to make sure that assessment is a priority. This commitment will continue as we roll out our new Strategic Plan.

In closing, this past Monday, SUNY Chancellor King and the SUNY Board of Trustees issued a statement in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It reads in part,

“Dr. King said, 'We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.' As a public higher education institution, we hold dear not only our commitment to academic excellence, but also a commitment to helping our students become well-rounded individuals who are able to reach their full potential.”

As a college community, we embrace these values to advance student success and to foster inclusive spaces where diverse perspectives are welcomed and civil discourse is encouraged. As we begin this new semester, we invite every member of our community to engage fully in this shared mission. Guided by our strategic plan, let us work together to make SUNY WCC the very best community college in New York State.

## **B. Chair's Report**

Trustee Mitchell reported:

New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT)

- Advocacy for colleges
  - Advocacy Day this year will take place on February 4.
  - We encourage full participation because our advocacy last year was very successful.
- American Association of Community Colleges (ACCT)
  - National Legislative Summit – February 8-11, 2026
  - SUNY is arranging meetings with our respective legislators in Washington, DC.
  - On January 29, 2026, at 1 pm, ACCT will have a webinar regarding preparing for Workforce Pell (an overview of draft regulations).
- Today's Student Coalition (TSC)
  - They are currently in the process of recruiting their first student ambassador cohort of students from more traditional workforce training.
- Department of Education/Department of Labor
  - They are taking the next steps to implement a post-secondary education partnership.

## **C. Committees**

### Governance Committee

Trustee Gerry reported:

The Governance Committee had discussion on the following:

- Strategic Planning – 2026-2031
- Federal and State Advocacy
- Future Public Hearing regarding Bylaws adoption of amendments
  - Video Conferencing
  - Quorum

### Program Committee

Trustee Raizes reported:

The Program Committee had discussion on the following:

- Workforce Pell
  - Expanding in terms of how students can use the money that they receive.
  - Also expanding to short time workforce, noncredit programs 8-15 weeks long.
  - The law takes effect on July 1, 2026.
  - SUNY will be offering seven short term non-credit programs at this point. As far as we know, five in healthcare, one is in HVAC and one in IT.
- Enrollment Update
  - Dr. Miles presented us with exciting numbers. The Board appreciates all the hard work of our administrators and our outstanding faculty, because that's how these numbers get to be what they are.
- Five-Year Trends in Programs
  - Rapid and consistent growth has been seen in accounting and finance, cybersecurity, engineering, science, and health sciences. Health sciences appear to have the largest enrollment and include liberal arts, math, and science courses that support pathways into health sciences and nursing, which is also experiencing growth. There was also an interesting discussion about the paralegal program, particularly regarding how artificial intelligence may impact the field.

### Finance/Facilities

Trustee Williams reported:

The Finance committee had discussion on the following topics.

- Operating Forecast
- Capital Projects Update
- Contracts

Trustee Williams asked Vice President Jacqueline-Ann Clark to go over the forecast for the month ending December 31, 2025, and the contracts.

Vice President Clark presented the contracts to the Board.

### Resolution: Contract Ratification

**WHEREAS**, Westchester Community College is required to enter into agreements for the continued operation of the College; and

**WHEREAS**, the attached schedule represents those agreements approved by the College since the last meeting of the Board of Trustees; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College hereby ratifies the aforementioned agreements.

<u>CONTRACT #</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR NAME</u>	<u>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
26-0155-706	Clifton Larsen Allen, LLP	Grant Management, and compliance consultant services. Exercise first renewal option and add additional fund.	1/1/26 – 12/31/26	\$10,000
25-0155-675	McAllister & Quinn	Grants development writing/consulting. Exercising first of three, one-year renewals.	3/1/26 – 2/28/27	\$50,000
26-9607-421	Peekskill School District	Payment for Peekskill dual enrollment tuition and administrative services.	7/14/25 – 6/20/26	\$14,100 Revenue Grant funded. SMART Scholar Grant
26-9605-420	Peekskill School District	Payment for tuition and administration of PTECH grant activities	7/14/25 – 6/60/26	\$12,500 Revenue Grant funded. PTECH Grant
26-9110-711	Dan CM Consulting, LLC	Provide onsite NYS asbestos handler certification training to EOC students enrolled in asbestos handler training program.	2/15/26 – 6/30/28	NTE \$87,000
26-9110-710	Guardian Group Services, Inc.	Provide on-site/virtual OSHA-30 for construction safety and Health 10 hr. site safety training to EOC students enrolled in the OSHA program.	7/1/26 – 6/30/29	NTE \$99,000
26-9110-712	CPR & Safety Consulting and Training, LLC	Provide on-site/virtual OSHA-30 for construction safety and Health 10 hr. site safety training to EOC students enrolled in the OSHA program.	7/1/26 – 6/30/29	NTE \$99,000
26- 9110-709	Guardian Group Services, Inc.	Provide onsite security and fire guard training course consisting of 8 hr. pre-assignment training and 16 hr. on-the-job training.	7/1/26 – 6/30/29	NTE \$81,000
26-8301-050	Good for Girls, Inc.	Provide STEAAM Programming for 7 <sup>th</sup> grade bipoc girls through Good for Girls, Inc. 50 students at \$100 per person.	7/27/26 – 7/31/26	\$5,000 Revenue
26-8221-0552	MEDXWASTE-NY, LLC	Contract amendment to include SUNY Mt. Vernon for biohazard/medical waste pickup and proper disposal	1/12/26 – 8/31/29	\$960

**\*\*Motion: Williams/Nonna – all in favor**

**RESOLUTION: APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE 2026-2031 STRATEGIC PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, SUNY Westchester Community College is committed to providing accessible, high-quality and affordable education to meet the needs of our diverse community, with a focus on student success, academic excellence, workforce development, economic development, and lifelong learning; and

**WHEREAS**, SUNY WCC enters the 2026–2031 planning cycle at a pivotal moment in higher education, shaped by shifting demographics, evolving student expectations, technological disruption, and increasing financial pressures; and

**WHEREAS**, the College has engaged in a years-long strategic planning process that included broad internal and external campus community engagement and the diligent work of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed 2026-2031 SUNY Westchester Community College Strategic Plan establishes the College's sets forth institutional goals and strategies to guide the College's work over the next five years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Strategic Plan has been reviewed by senior administration and by the Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, following adoption, the College will engage in the implementation phase of this Strategic Plan, including the development of key performance indicators (KPIs), and will provide quarterly updates to the Board of Trustees on progress toward the Plan's goals;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the SUNY WCC Board of Trustees hereby adopts the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan, as attached hereto, effective immediately.

**\*\*Motion: Gerry/Raizes – all in favor**

Public Comment

Trustee Mitchell invited members of the community for public comment.

No Public Comment

**The Chairperson convened an Executive Session under provisions of Section 105 of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law to discuss personnel matters.**

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

**\*\*Motion: Williams/Nonna – all in favor**

Motion out of Executive Session

**\*\*Motion: Gerry/Raizes – all in favor**

Adjournment

**\*\*Motion: Williams/Nonna – all in favor**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for February 18, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

*Yolanda Howell*

Yolanda Howell

Secretary, Board of Trustees