

**MINUTES OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026
GREAT ROOM, KAPLAN HALL
NEWBURGH CAMPUS
5:00 pm**

Present: Chair Weddell, Maria Bruni, Peter Bambino, Eli Hart, Tom Hunter, Ralph Martucci, Karen Mejia, Yaa Yaa Whaley-Williams, Dr. Young, Charissa Gonzalez

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Weddell called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance*
- B. Invocation by Chair Weddell*

II. CONSENT AGENDA (Items A through C)

Note: Consent Agenda items held for discussion will be moved to Item D

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2026
- B. Approval of Financial Statements for March
- C. Approval of Retirements

Motion to approve consent agenda, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Eli Hart. Passed unanimously.

III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

SUNY Orange 2025-26 Men's Basketball

- Mid-Hudson Conference Champions
 - Region XV Champions
 - East A District Champions
 - National Sweet Sixteen Appearance
- The basketball team was in attendance and recognized for their achievements and successful season, including their 25-10 record, ranking as high as 11th nationally, and their performance in the NJCAA National Tournament.
- Individual player achievements are noted, such as RJ Little's sportsmanship award, Darren McFarlane's first-team All-American recognition, and Anthony Pacielli's single-season scoring record.
- Coach Tom Ricard was recognized as the Region 15 Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

IV. BOARD DISCUSSION I

- A. Board Role in Oversight of the 2025-2035 Facilities Master Plan Implementation: Structure and Approach
- Dr. Young introduced the topic of the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) and the Board's role in its execution.
- The Board is encouraged to stay informed and engaged, with updates provided monthly and more detailed reports quarterly.

- Paul outlined the steps involved in the FMP, including the approval process, project management, and the importance of timely execution.
- The Board discussed the need for a clear timeline and the involvement of various stakeholders, including the county, state, and SUNY.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Kristine Young

- Dr. Young announced that Provost Erica Hackman has been named the winner of the 2026 National Rising Star Executive Award by the American Association of Community Colleges.
- SUNY Orange student Devshi Saxena has been named the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Two-Year College Student of the Year. An international student who joined the SUNY Orange Honors Program in Fall 2025, Devshi quickly distinguished herself as a scholar, leader and community builder. She maintains a 3.96 GPA and will graduate with a liberal arts A.A. degree with honors distinction, completing well beyond the program's required honors credits. Beyond the classroom, Devshi has made a lasting impact on the honors program. She co-founded and serves as president of the Honors Social Club, creating opportunities for students to connect and build community through events such as Friendsgiving and other campus gatherings. She also serves as Lead Peer Mentor, guiding first-year honors students and supporting fellow mentors.
- SUNY Orange Honors Program students Stephen D'Ambrosio, Samreen Saleel, and Devshi Saxena were selected to share their capstone research at the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Conference in New Haven, CT, March 26–29. The 2026 conference theme was "The Haven of Honors: Cultivating Innovative, Upstanding, and Impactful Leaders." Each SUNY Orange student selected was a second-year student and delivered a 10-minute talk as part of a small panel in their respective topic area.
- SUNY Orange is using a State University of New York (SUNY) Workforce Development grant to support leadership training being offered to staff and executives at Walden Savings Bank, partnering with the bank to improve employee performance and internal communications in order to better serve customers and clients. The grant offsets 40 percent of the cost of the training, which is ongoing currently and is expected to conclude in July. Forty of WSB's team members are taking the six-module course being delivered by Anna Gibbs, a noted local executive leadership coach.
- SUNY Orange has retained its Military Friendly® Silver School designation for the 2026-27 academic year, placing the College among the nation's top 20 percent of higher education institutions in the rankings produced annually by Viqtor Media. It marks the sixth year in a row, and the tenth time in the past 13 years, that the College has earned a Military Friendly® designation. It is SUNY Orange's third consecutive Silver designation and fourth overall, following a similar commendation in 2018-19.
- SUNY Orange Math Department Chair Kaitlin Curry (you will remember her from last month's Bellwether presentation) has published research titled "Reducing Barriers to Higher Education for Undocumented Students," examining how U.S. court cases and public policies have influenced college access for undocumented students. Her work is featured in the newly released academic volume, "Higher Education and Migration Pathways," published by Springer Nature through its Palgrave Macmillan imprint.
- SUNY Orange AVP for Learning and Student Success Dr. Angela Rios, Director of the Center for Student Success Flor Araujo Payano, and Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Dana Salkowsky shared their findings on using Orange Connect as a centralized hub for student support and academic intervention at the League for Innovation in the Community College's 29th annual conference, held March 15–18 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The SUNY Orange session highlighted the College's use of Orange Connect, locally branded from Starfish. The presentation demonstrated how intentional use of Orange Connect has

strengthened cross-campus collaboration, improved early alert and follow-up practices, and supported students from initial connection through completion.

➤ Athletics:

- Baseball (1-12): Begins four-game weekend series with Mid-Hudson rival Rockland tomorrow. Games 1 and 2 will be in Middletown Thursday and Friday, while Saturday's doubleheader will be at Rockland. Jonas Kerzner (Wallkill) is leading the team with a .351 batting average. Garrett Srednicki (Warwick) has a team-best 1.86 earned run average.
- Softball (9-7): Hosting a doubleheader versus Westchester in Middletown now. Caitlyn Higbie (Minisink) is batting .500 with team highs of 26 hits and 26 RBIs. Hannah Moulton (Minisink) is close behind with a .490 batting average.
- Golf (0-0): SUNY Orange finished tied for second out of five teams at Spook Rock Golf Course on Monday, April 6. The Colts posted a 405, tying with Westchester, while Nassau claimed the team title with a 375. Dylan Williams (Westtown) led the Colts with a 97, followed by Garrett McGovern (Goshen) with a 101. The team is next in action April 22 against Westchester.

VI. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT - Student Trustee, Peter Bambino

- Peter provided an update on the Student Senate's activities, including their participation in the Student Assembly and the resolutions passed.
- Peter discussed the "common hour initiative", aiming to create a consistent time for campus-wide events to encourage student engagement and community building.

VII. BOARD DISCUSSION II

- A. Responses to Submitted Reports from Administration, Shared Governance, & Foundation
- B. Updates from ACCT and/or NYCCT - Chair Weddell and/or Trustees at large

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Resolution Recognizing April 2026 as Community College Month at SUNY Orange

Motion to approve, Eli Hart, seconded by Tom Hunter. Passed unanimously.

- 2. Resolution to Set Tuition (Academic Year 2026-2027)

Motion to approve, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Eli Hart, one opposed, 7 in favor and passed.

- 3. Resolution to Set Certain Student Fees (Academic Year 2026-2027)

Motion to approve, Tom Hunter, seconded by Eli Hart. Passed unanimously.

- 4. Resolution to Set Military Tuition (Academic Year 2026-27)

Motion to approve, Karen Mejia, seconded by Peter Bambino. Passed unanimously.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - None

X. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - None

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
Academic and Student Services	Karen Mejia
Audit and Finance	Ralph Martucci
Enrollment and Retention	Maria Bruni
Governance and Nominating	Tom Hunter
Policy	Flo Hannes
Presidents Performance Review and Compensation	Ralph Martucci

- Audit and Finance – Ralph Martucci, Chair: The committee is working on the budget and will present the final budget to the Board for approval at May’s meeting.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

- A. A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting. Each member of the public wishing to address the Board will be granted 2 minutes to speak, at which time, the Board will ask you to have a seat to allow others to speak.

XIII. BOARD DISCUSSION III - None

XIV. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

XV. BOARD ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 7:18, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Maria Bruni. Passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Gilman Center, Library
Middletown Campus**