MINUTES OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026
OSIRUS COUNTRY CLUB– WALDEN NY

Present: Chair Thomas Weddell, Maria Bruni, Flo Hannes, Eli Hart, Thomas Hunter, Ralph Martucci, Karen Mejia, Yaa Yaa Whaley Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Weddell called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Consent Agenda, Ralph Martucci and Maria Bruni seconded. Passed unanimously.

A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes on May 13, 2026
B. Approval of Promotions
C. Approval of Retirements
D. Approval of Appointments

III. PRESIDENT'S SUMMER UPDATE - DR. YOUNG

Dr. Kristine Young reported a positive summer, a unanimously passed budget, and a successful audit. She mentioned the Chancellor's concern about high-cost programs and a requested detailed survey on high-cost programs. The budget variance was explained by state legislative changes. Enrollment trends showed a consecutive 14-term increase. Dr. Young discussed the NYCCT Conference being held in Saratoga in September. The Mastodon dig was discussed by Dr. Young and Dr. Hackman, and Dr. Young announced a County Legislative Public Hearing on August 6 which will begin at 5:45 pm. SUNY Orange will be on the agenda at 6:00 pm. Dr. Young mentioned the 2040 scenario that the BOT retreat would be participating in.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - CHAIR WEDDELL

Chair Weddell expressed appreciation for the positive report presented at the County Committee meeting and thanked the committee for its work in preparing an accurate budget. The committee also reviewed the write-off for bad debts, which was satisfactorily explained. Chair Weddell clarified that the Board-approved budget was submitted before the New York State budget was enacted. Subsequent State changes to the ERS Tier 5 and Tier 6 retirement contribution rates resulted in an approximately $400,000 variance identified during the auditors' review. The variance was fully attributable to the State's post-budget legislative changes and was offset by savings in other budget lines, leaving the College's overall budget unchanged. The discussion emphasized the importance of monitoring potential State legislative changes that could affect future budgets, particularly when the State budget is delayed. Chair Weddell also noted that he had contacted Chancellor King seeking an explanation for why approximately $126,000 in additional State funding was outweighed by roughly $400,000 in increased retirement costs. The Board agreed that the financial impacts of such State budget decisions should be better understood and anticipated whenever possible.

V. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Went into Executive Session at 9:17 am to discuss personal matters.
Executive session ended at 9:55 am.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve both resolutions, Eli Hart approved, seconded by Yaa Yaa Whaley Williams

1. Resolution to Authorize the use of Operating Funds to Cover Cost Overruns in a Capital Project (Resolution #12)
2. Resolution to Authorize Execution of a Pledge Agreement Including Renaming Rights to the Bio-Tech Building (Resolution #13)

VII. BOARD DISCUSSION

Discussion included the request to evaluate the cost of high-cost programs, enrollment, and budget numbers and $90,000 overage from Resolution #12. The college will initially put out the $90,000 and see if there is a possibility of reimbursement from the county. The Board discussed the incorrect letter local high school students received from SUNY in reference to college admittance. Jean reported being awarded a $140,000 grant called “Setting Up for Success” with part of the grant to work with ESL and HSE students.

VIII. COMMENT FROM THE PUBLIC

Michelle Tubbs provided feedback on the preference of verbal board reports as to written submissions for members of the public to stay informed about college activities. She suggested making written reports available with the meeting agenda in advance or providing copies at meetings so attendees can review them and better understand what is being reported to the Board.

Next Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2026 5:00 PM
Great Room-Kaplan
Newburgh Campus