

**MINUTES OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026
GILMAN CENTER, LIBRARY
MIDDLETOWN CAMPUS
5:00 pm**

Present: Tom Weddell, Peter Bambino, Maria Bruni, Elinor Hart, Tom Hunter, Ralph Martucci, Karen Mejia, Kristine Young, Charissa Gonzalez

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Weddell called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Invocation

II. CONSENT AGENDA (Items A through D)

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

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2026
- B. Approval of Financial Statements for February
- C. Approval of Appointments
- D. Approval of Retirees

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

III. NEW BUSINESS I

- A. Resolution Recognizing the Generosity of Gayle McDonald and Rich Berzanski
 - The Board recognized Gail McDonald and Richard Berzanski for their support of a mastodon excavation project that benefited SUNY Orange students. Gail McDonald and Richard Berzanski were in attendance along with several students, Cory Harris, Chair of Behavior Sciences and Anthony Soricelli, all of whom participated in the excavation.

Motion to approve Karen Mejia, seconded by Tom Hunter. Passed unanimously.

- B. Resolution Recognizing SUNY Orange as the 2026 Bellwether Award Winner in the Category of Instructional Programs and Services

Motion to approve Ralph Martucci, seconded by Eli Hart. Passed Unanimously.

*Item C – Resolution to Authorize the Implementation of Phase One of the College’s Facilities Master Plan 2025 -2035 was moved to New Business II

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Bellwether Presentation - From Remediation to Momentum: Rethinking Math Placement and Pathways
Erika Hackman, [Josh Lavorgna](#), Kaitlin Curry, Donna Avery, & Christine Leroux

- Dr. Erika Hackman introduced the Bellwether presentation, explaining the competition's framework.
- Highlights of the competitions framework and presentation include:
 - The critical issue addressed is the misplacement of students in high-stakes placement exams, particularly affecting underrepresented groups.
 - The need for a more accessible and equitable math placement system
 - The college's response to this issue through guided self-placement and curriculum redesign.
 - Josh Lavorgna discussed the development and implementation of the guided self-placement test.
 - The test includes self-reported math course history, growth mindset questions, and math problem-solving questions.
 - Kaitlin Curry explained the redesign of the math curriculum, including the introduction of corequisite courses.
 - The new curriculum aims to accelerate student progress and provide in-time academic support.
 - Donna Avery presented the data showing significant improvements in math placement and course enrollment.
 - The percentage of students placed in developmental math courses has decreased, particularly for underrepresented groups.
 - Enrollment in gateway math courses has increased, with more students bypassing developmental courses.

- The redesign has led to improved student success and equity in math outcomes.

V. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - Dr. Kristine Young

- Dr. Young provided updates on the facilities master plan, which was unanimously approved by the E & E committee.
- The state budget negotiations are ongoing, with no significant changes expected for community colleges.
- Celebratory moments include the Mental Health Association's recognition of Jhack Sepulveda for Food Tech's effort to provide prepared food baskets for families in need during the Thanksgiving holiday, and Dr. Erica Hackman's nomination for a national Rising Star award.
- Athletics:

- **Men's Basketball:**

- The Colts and head coach Tom Rickard just returned home this weekend from the NJCAA Division II National tournament. It was their third trip in the past four years. The team was seeded 15th and defeated Prince George's CC 80-78 in the first round before losing 88-66 to 2nd seed Palm Beach. In the consolation bracket, the Colts beat 10th seed Mid-Michigan 103-91 before being eliminated from the consolation bracket by 17th-seed Lansing 95-74. Freshman Anthony Pacciarelli (Monroe, NY) scored more than 30 points in each of the team's victories and averaged 26.5 points per game for the tournament. **For the season, Anthony scored 875 points, breaking the SUNY Orange single-season record set four years ago by Romeo Aquino (who had 784). His 875 points were the most by any player in the country (regardless of division).**

- Anthony Pacciarelli was named to the NJCAA National Tournament all-tournament team. He was also the Region 15 Player of the Year and Region 15 Tournament MVP.
- Freshman guard Keishawn Morris (Brooklyn, NY) was also named first-team all-region.
- Darren McFarlane (Bronx, NY) and Gavin Williams (Fort Myers, Fla.) were named second-team all-region as well, with freshman R.J. Little (Suffern, NY) earning a spot on the Sportsmanship team.
- Tom Rickard was the Region's Coach of the Year for the fifth consecutive season.

- **Women's Basketball**

- The team finished 5-18, but close out the season in strong fashion with wins in three of their final five regular season games. A win over Rockland in the Region Semifinals earned the Colts a spot in the Region championship game (a loss to Westchester) as well as a spot in the East District B title game (a loss to Monroe). Freshman Madison Olsen () was named as a first-team Region 15 all-star while Adrianna Vasquez (Newburgh, NY) and team captain Rayanna Quintana () were second-team selections. Grace Breheny () was named to the Sportsmanship team.

- **Baseball (0-6)**
 - The Colts entered this afternoon's scheduled contest at Sussex CC looking for their first win. Freshman Garrett Srednicki (Warwick, NY) tops the Colts with a .412 batting average. Sophomore Jonas Kerzer (Wallkill, NY) is batting .400. Kerzer leads the Colts in total hits, RBIs, slugging percentage.
- **Softball (5-3)**
 - Softball is off to a 5-3 start. The team will visit Sussex Community College tomorrow afternoon for a doubleheader. Sophomore Hannah Moulton (Minisink Valley HS) leads the team with a .500 batting average. Freshmen Caitlyn Higby (Minisink Valley HS) and Tayler Horaz (Cornwall HS) are tied for the team lead with 12 runs batted in. Horaz is 3-1 with a 1.75 earned run average in her five starts as a pitcher.
- **Golf**
 - After securing the program's first regional title since 2004 last Spring, the Golf team Kicks off its 2026 season April 7 at Rockland, with Coach Rich Giordano returning for his second season.

VI. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT - Student Trustee, Peter Bambino

- Peter provided updates on student government initiatives, including a tiered funding system for clubs and the common hour survey.

VII. BOARD DISCUSSION I

- 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 II

- A. Resolution to Authorize the Implementation of Phase One of the College's Facilities Master Plan 2025 -2035

Motion to approve Ralph Martucci, seconded by Peter Bambino. Passed unanimously.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - None

X. 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

Academic and Student Services Committee – Karen Mejia, Chair:

- Karen provided an update on the Academic and Student Services Committee meeting, focusing on the SUNY Academic Momentum Campaign (ACMO).
- Karen explained the goals of ACMO, including increasing retention and graduation rates, and aligning existing strategies with SUNY's initiative.
- Karen stressed the importance of student support and the need for continuous improvement in academic and student services.

Enrollment and Retention Committee – Maria Bruni, Chair:

- Maria discussed enrollment updates, including the implementation of a new recruitment platform and strategic priorities. The platform is expected to enhance recruitment and communication strategies, addressing ongoing enrollment challenges.
- Strategic priorities include increasing new student enrollment, expanding adult learner engagement, and improving retention and persistence.

XI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - None

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 II - Open Discussion - None

XIV. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

XV. BOARD ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 7:03, Karen Mejia, seconded by Ralph Martucci. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
Great Room, Kaplan Hall
Newburgh Campus