

ISOTHERMAL

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY 20 2025

The Board of Trustees of Isothermal Community College met on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. at Isothermal Community College's Rutherford Campus in Spindale, NC. The following trustees were present: Michael Benfield, Amy Jenkins, David Scherping, Seema Daigle, James Hutchins, Grady Franklin, Jackie Godlock, John Condrey, Dave Hunt, Eddie Holland, Tony Helton, Jordan Barnes, Seema Daigle, and Marche Pittman attended via Zoom. The following personnel were present from the College: President Margaret Annunziata, DeeDee Barnard, Madeline Smith, Leeann Cline-Burris, Greg Thomas, Mike Gavin, Robby Walters, and Thad Harrill.

Chairman James Hutchins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Ethics Statement

Mrs. Jackie Godlock asked Board members if they knew of any actual conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest which exists concerning any matter coming before the Board of Trustees. No conflicts were noted.

Agenda Confirmation

Chairman Hutchins presented the agenda. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Hutchins presented the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda contained the minutes from March 25, 2025, April 22, 2025, and Budget Revisions. After no objections, the consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Nominating Committee

Chairman Hutchins appointed the following Trustees to the Nominating Committee, chaired by Mr. Tony Helton: John Condrey, Amy Jenkins, and Seema Daigle.

Trustee Items

Chairman Hutchins gave the Executive Committee report. On behalf of the Committee, he presented the following policies:

- Parental Leave Policy 03.02.19
- Pregnant & Parenting Employees Policy 03.04.10
- Tuition Residency Requirements Policy 06.01.02
- Purchasing Policy 06.03.07

Dr. Margaret Annunziata and Mr. Dean Shatley reviewed the policy changes with the Board of Trustees. Mr. John Condrey made a motion for the Board to consider these policies as a group based

on that these changes were mandated by new law or code from the NC State Board of Community Colleges. Mr. Dave Hunt seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Dr. Annunziata addressed the Board of Trustees in reference to the lease agreement with Big Guns Coffee and a bay in the Walter Dalton Engineering Technology building. She informed the Board that the College was in year two of the agreement, which has an end date in November of the current year. Big Guns Coffee has approached the College in reference to upgrading the electrical infrastructure in the leased bay. Dr. Annunziata announced that the Trustees may renew the lease for one additional year or not renew the agreement at the end of November. The Board discussed the purpose of the bays as incubator or training space for start up or expanding businesses. Mr. Dave Hunt made a motion not to renew the agreement. Mr. Michael Benfield seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. John Condrey gave the Facilities report. He announced that the Committee has been reviewing the Facilities Comprehensive Audit report and that Rutherford County Commissioners were asked to fund \$4 million of the \$6.5 million priority one needs. He announced that currently, the County is discussing \$1.7 million to address these facility needs. In addition, he shared the project tracker with the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Annunziata informed the Board of Trustees that the pool was currently closed due to pump issues. The closure is indefinite until the assessment is complete and a new pump costs around \$10,000. The Board of Trustees discussed the importance of the pool to the local community swim teams, including swim teams representing Rutherford County Schools. Dr. Annunziata announced a meeting with the coaches of the swimming teams organized by one of the local swimming associations. She shared her concerns of continual investments into a pool that was constructed over forty years ago. In addition, upgrades and general maintenance of the pool are an unfunded liability of the College. Dr. Annunziata expressed her concerns of using funds for the pool that may or will eventually impact funding for other facilities and/or programming for the College. She affirmed to the Board that she will carry out the will of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees recognized the asset of the pool and expressed concerns over its closure. In addition, the Trustees also recognized that the College cannot continue to solely fund the pool long-term. The Board discussed other alternatives with organizations similar to the YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs of America. The Board requested that the College work with community interests and partners to establish another alternative to the College's pool. Mr. Dave Scherping made a motion for the College to correct the current pump problem and establish some type of fee structure to offset the maintenance of the pool. Mr. John Condrey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Smith announced that Duke Energy and Fountain Electric were working on the main power source relocation and that Duke Energy is sharing in the cost of relocation. Dr. Smith shared recent design concepts with the Board of Trustees of the new Dr. Bobby F. England Health & Sciences Center. She discussed landscaping for the facility and announced that construction companies will be on campus the week of June 9, 2025.

Mr. Jordan Barnes gave the Naming Committee report. He informed the Board of Trustees that two groups have pledged funding to the Health & Sciences Center that meets the criteria for naming. The Glenn & Lucy Daniel Foundation has pledged \$200,000 and Paul and Paula McIntosh have pledged \$400,000 for the Health & Sciences Center. Both groups have already made significant donations based on their pledges. On behalf of the Naming Committee, he made a motion to name lab space in the new Health & Sciences Center in memory of Glenn & Lucy Daniel and the naming of the simulation suite in honor of Paul & Paula McIntosh. He announced that these naming recognitions are contingent upon receipt of the full pledged amount. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Annunziata gave the President's report. She announced that the truck driving partnership with Caldwell Community College comes to end with the graduation this week with the final students. Isothermal Community College's stand alone program begins this fall and the trucks have arrived and are awaiting to be detailed with Isothermal's logo and other information about the college. The Board discussed the new and upcoming classes offered at the College with bus and community transportation driving classes. Mrs. Jackie Godlock discussed the immediate workforce and job opportunities that these programs offer.

Dr. Annunziata announced that 564 students graduated during this year's Commencement. In addition, she announced that these students obtained 681 credentials. Chairman Hutchins discussed the importance of Commencement and expressed his appreciation to Dr. Annunziata and the staff for accomplishing the program under difficult circumstances with the weather and transferring the program from outdoors to indoors.

Dr. Annunziata announced that Isothermal Community College is receiving the 2025 Workforce Development Award from the Community Colleges of Appalachia for the XRAIL program. The award will be presented at their annual convening in Asheville, NC.

Dr. Annunziata discussed the proposed legislation with public broadcasting that may impact funding for WNCW through a syndicated broadcasting grant through NPR. She discussed that this funding does not cover all the funding needed for the station, but the current \$161,000 grant funds will be felt at the station.

Dr. Annunziata discussed the proposed legislation with Federal Pell grants moving to a halftime model and the impact on current Isothermal students.

	Current	Proposed	Number of Students Impacted
Part time:	6 hours	7.5 hours	1,165
Full time:	12 hours	14 hours	801

If this legislation passes, she discussed the impact on access for students and the Powers Promise Scholarship program that currently offers aid to all students of Rutherford and Polk Counties. This will potentially reduce the number of students that may receive the Powers scholarship. She announced that she has shared this impact with representatives on the state and national level.

Dr. Annunziata announced that the SACSCOC off-site audit report has been received, and of the forty standards, ten were noted in the report for additional information. She announced that these are not significant findings, and additional information will be submitted to answer the questions.

Dr. Annunziata shared that ClarkNexsen, a firm working on the library renovation project, was recently acquired by Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson, INC. Since the renovation project is underway, official notification must be given to the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Annunziata informed the Board that with the focus on workforce development and the need to increase access to short term credentials, she is adding a vice president of workforce development. She discussed the great work being done with Curriculum and Continuing Education programming under the leadership of Dr. Greg Thomas and keeping that focus intact. The advertisement for the position will post this week.

Under the counsel of Mr. Dean Shatley, Mrs. Jackie Godlock made a motion to go into closed session under General Statute 143-318.11.3 and 6 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Mr. Michael Benfield seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session, and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded.
- (6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.

Mr. Jordan Barnes on behalf of the Personnel Committee made a request to amend Dr. Margaret Annunziata's contract to include mileage reimbursement outside of the service area at the IRS reimbursement rate. Mr. Dave Hunt made a motion to approve the amendment and Mr. Dave Scherping seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned.



CHAIRMAN
MR. JAMES HUTCHINS



PARLIAMENTARIAN/SECRETARY
MRS. JACKIE GODLOCK