

BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Board of Trustees

Board Meeting

NOTE: Changed to Virtual/Zoom Meeting based on College Closure Related to Weather

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 23, 2026

1. Call to Order

The four hundred and twenty-ninth meeting of the Bristol Community College Board of Trustees was held on Monday, February 23, 2026 (virtual meeting). The meeting was intended to be held in person on the Fall River Campus but was changed on 02.22.2026 based on college closure on Monday, 02.23.2026, related to weather. Chair Medeiros called the virtual meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Board Members present: Joan Medeiros, Chair of the Board; Todd McGhee., Vice-Chair; Lynn Motta, Secretary; Pamela Gauvin; Maria Gonzalez; Jeffrey Karam; Antonio (Tony) Lima; Steven Martins; and John Morris.

Board Members absent: Renee Clark

Others present: Sedgwick Harris, President; Lucinda Poudrier-Aaronson, Board Liaison; Jamie Wasilowski (*newly elected Student Trustee*); Joyce Brennan; Andrew Fisher; April Lynch; Steve Kenyon; Brianne McDonough; Jo Ann Pelletier; Stephen Bassler; Kathleen Hancock (*arrive 4:25 p.m.*); Angerla Johnston; and Bob Rezendes.

2. Chair's Remarks

Chair Medeiros began by thanking everyone for joining the virtual meeting as the college is closed today based on weather. She noted that since all Trustees are participating remotely today, Board Liaison, Lucinda Poudrier-Aaronson, was asked to proceed with roll-call attendance.

Renee Clark	
Pamela Gauvin	Present
Maria Gonzalez	Present
Jeffrey Karam	NOTE: <i>Arrived 4:05 p.m.</i>
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Present
Steven Martins	Present
Todd McGhee	Present
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	NOTE: <i>Arrived 4:20 p.m.</i>
Lynn Motta	Present
Chair Joan Medeiros	Present

Chair Medeiros thanked Lucinda. She reminded Trustees that an updated Directory and Committee List was located in their e-materials. She asked Trustees to check the confidential Directory to ensure accuracy and to let our Board Liaison, Lucinda, know if there are changes necessary.

In addition, Chair Medeiros stated our new Student Trustee for the remainder of this academic year, was joining us today. She noted that President Harris will do a proper introduction later in agenda, but in the meantime welcomed Jamie Wasilowski. She shared that Jamie is joining us today in spectator mode as he is in the process of completing his swearing in and required Trustee training.

3. Consent Agenda

- Consideration of Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting for January 26, 2026
- Report of Personnel Actions for February 2026
- Report of Workforce and Community Education Contracts for February 2026

Chair Medeiros stated she hoped that Trustees had the opportunity to review the consent agenda items posted last week electronically. She listed the three Consent Agenda items and asked the Trustees if there were any questions or items that needed to be moved for discussion.

Hearing none, Chair Medeiros stated she was seeking a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented was made by Trustee McGhee and seconded by Trustee Motta.

Chair Medeiros asked Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson to proceed with a roll-call vote.

Renee Clark	
Pamela Gauvin	Yes
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes
Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	Yes
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	
Lynn Motta	Yes
Chair Joan Medeiros	Yes

Upon completion of the roll-call vote, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented was approved.

Chair Medeiros thanked Board Liaison, Lucinda, and invited President Harris to provide the President’s Report.

Trustee Karam entered the Zoom space at 4:05 p.m.

4. President’s Report

- President’s Key Goals 2025-2026 – Update & Review
- Community Partnership Highlight
 - The Co-Creative Center space at Bristol – *Robert Rezendes*, Dean of Taunton & New Bedford and *Angela Johnston*, Director of Business Solutions & Partnerships
- Trustee Talking Points
 - 25 Years: 40 Artists Reflect on a Quarter Century of Exhibitions – *Kathleen Hancock*, Director Art Gallery
 - Grady Dining Room Grand Re-Opening – *Judi Urquhart*, Chief Advancement Officer
- Financial Update – *Steve Kenyon*, Vice President, Administration and Finance

President Harris provided updates and status of the key goals and performance indicators shared previously. Other updates and announcements included:

- Introduction of newly elected Student Trustee, Jamie Wasilowski
- Final approval of the college's new strategic plan and mission/vision statements
- Superintendent luncheon being hosted on campus March 9th
- Academic standardized scheduling
- Attended National Legislative Summit (NLS) Feb 9-11th in Washington, DC; would like to take 1-2 Trustees to this next year

Chair Medeiros thanked President Harris, and they invited Bob Rezendes and Angela Johnston to provide a Community Partnership highlight for the Trustees.

Director Johnston shared that the Co-Creative Center is currently located on Union Street in New Bedford. She shared it has 85 members practicing multiple disciplines like digital design, textile design, dance, music, painting, sewing and more. The Center hosts events for the community and has a community gallery. Director Johnston shared it is a community gathering space for many diverse groups.

She noted that the Co-Creative Center needed to relocate by the end of February, and shared that the college stepped up with an offer in the Purchase Street (New Bedford) campus location. The Co-Creative accepted this offer and plans to move into the new space as soon as possible (after the snow).

Director Johnston asked Dean Rezendes if she missed anything. He said she got everything and simply added that our hope is that Co-Creative Center will participate in the entrepreneurship and small business sector at the college.

Chair Medeiros thanked Director Johnston and Dean Rezendes. She invited Kathleen Hancock to present the first talking point related to the Art Gallery's 25th anniversary. Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson shared that Director Hancock was not yet in the Zoom space and suggested April Lynch on behalf of Judi Urquhart, Chief Advancement Officer, present the details of the Grady Dining Room Re-opening noting that CAO Urquhart was without power and internet so unable to join meeting today.

Chief Strategy Officer, April Lynch, shared that the Grady Dining room has been refurbished, and a grand re-opening will be on March 27th from 5:30 to 7:30. She noted that all Trustees are invited to attend and an e-invitation will be forthcoming. She stated that funding for the Grady Dining Room was originally made to honor Barbara Grady's memory, and that several members of Barbara Grady's family, including faculty members Tom Grady, Martha (Grady) Ucci, and Anthony Ucci will be in attendance. CSO Lynch stated she hoped Trustees would attend this college event.

Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson shared that Kathleen Hancock, Director of the Art Gallery, had entered the Zoom space and Chair Medeiros invited her to provide the anniversary update.

Director Hancock shared this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Art Gallery. She stated that the gallery and her role as founding director began at the same moment, so this milestone is both institutional and deeply personal. From the beginning, she noted that the goal was to create a serious contemporary art gallery within a community college setting—one that respects artists, challenges students, and welcomes the public.

Director Hancock stated the gallery was envisioned as a teaching space, not a white-cube retreat, but also not a compromise. She shared we wanted rigor without intimidation, and access without dilution. She noted that for our students, the gallery often provides a first direct encounter with contemporary art—not through slides or textbooks, but in real space, with real objects and real conversations. For the community, the gallery functions as a cultural anchor—free, open, and accessible, especially in a region where these types of spaces can be scarce. It's a place where students, faculty, artists, and neighbors encounter one another on equal footing.

Director Hancock conveyed that these core values haven't changed, but the gallery has become more porous over time. We've expanded our collaborations across disciplines, deepened community partnerships, and become more attentive to voices and histories that were once overlooked. The gallery now reflects a broader understanding of what contemporary practice can be—and who it is for. She shared that for over 25 years the gallery has presented more than 140 exhibitions. The highlights that Trustees will receive aren't just individual shows, but the accumulated impact: artists returning at different stages of their careers, students encountering work that alters their sense of possibility, and projects that connect art to history, memory, and social responsibility. The gallery has always been about continuity as much as moments.

Director Hancock noted that the future of the gallery is about sustaining what works while remaining adaptable which means continuing to serve students first, strengthening educational partnerships, and ensuring the gallery remains responsive to cultural

change. She stated that the next chapter isn't about expansion for its own sake—it's about maintaining integrity, curiosity, and relevance.

Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson stated that we would send the printed 25th anniversary compilation to Trustees along with other board materials in the mail following the need to hold the last two meetings virtually based on the college-related weather closures.

Trustee Morris entered the Zoom space at 4:20 p.m.

Chair Medeiros thanked Director Hancock and stated she was looking forward to viewing the compilation. She invited Steve Kenyon to provide the Financial Update.

VP Kenyon shared that from a financial perspective everything continues to fall into place, and that after discussing with the Facilities Committee, he wanted to use the financial update time to provide details related to a board funding request. He noted that campus security continues to be top of mind after several recent critical security related incidents in our region.

VP Kenyon stated that Bristol Community College's Police and Preparedness department is seeking \$200,000 to modernize and expand video surveillance and perimeter security infrastructure at its Fall River and New Bedford Campuses. He shared that *Flash Security* conducted a review of the current surveillance system and identified areas with limited or no coverage.

Project investment:

- Replaces aging analog camera systems with high-definition digital technology
- Expands exterior and perimeter camera coverage
- Implements a secure, cloud-based video management platform
- Enhance real-time monitoring and emergency response capabilities
- Improves emergency response and coordination with local and state law enforcement
- Deters criminal activity and unauthorized access
- Provides scalable, long-term security capacity to support future campus needs

VP Kenyon stated that approximately 50 new cameras, along with upgrades to existing units, will be installed across interior spaces, building exteriors, and key campus access roads to enhance comprehensive coverage. He then outlined the planned college funding needs to support project:

- Digital Camera Replacement & New Units: ~\$103,000 – Install new cameras and replace aging units
- Installation, Cabling & System Integration: ~\$57,000 – Complete setup and network integration
- Network & Infrastructure Upgrades: ~\$15,000 – Support expanded surveillance and future needs
- Yearly Cloud-Based Video Management & Storage: ~\$25,000 – Secure, cloud-based video platform

VP Kenyon asked if there were any questions or discussion related to scope and expense for this project. Trustee McGhee asked if the cameras being purchased had AI capabilities explaining this feature could be an important feature. VP Kenyon was not sure if this AI capability had been included in the RFP but he would review and update based on this information.

Hearing no other questions, VP Kenyon requested a motion to approve a one-time budget request of up to \$200,000 for the acquisition of digital cameras to upgrade and expand the current security camera system, modernizing and enhancing campus surveillance infrastructure, with an associated recurring annual cloud management and storage fee of \$25,000.

A motion to approve the campus security surveillance system upgrade funding as presented was made by Trustee McGhee and seconded by Trustee Karam.

Chair Medeiros asked Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson to proceed with a roll-call vote.

Renee Clark	
Pamela Gauvin	Yes
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	Yes

Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes
Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	Yes
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	Yes
Lynn Motta	Yes
Chair Joan Medeiros	Yes

Upon completion of the roll-call vote, the motion to approve the campus security surveillance system upgrade funding as presented was approved.

VP Kenyon thanked the board for their support and stated his presentation was complete. Chair Medeiros thanked VP Kenyon and invited Chief Strategy Office, April Lynch, to provide the College Report Card presentation.

5. College Report Card – April Lynch, Chief Strategy Officer

CSO Lynch began by sharing the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Report Card was included electronically in their board materials, but a hardcopy of this report would also be sent Trustees in the mailing Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson mentioned earlier.

CSO Lynch began with an overview of the college’s 2020-2025 Strategic Plan noting that many initiatives were about building capacity and infrastructure to support growth and scalability (SSEM, Early College). The primary focus was on equity and retention (closing equity gaps, success rates, retention) and creating baselines for data in many areas. She also noted that rebuilding community based on effects of Covid (culture, trust, F2F) was also a significant need during this period. She also reminded Trustees that two significant new initiatives were also launched -- MassEducate and MassReconnect.

She also presented several key takeaways:

Key Take-aways

- Major shift from F/T to P/T Students
- The average age of our student is 27
- Students require more supports
- Retention is a primary goal
- Increase in online learning
- Needed shift to workforce and skills based trainings



CSO Lynch noted some key accomplishers in each pillar of the 2020-2025 Strategic plan:

- Student Success and Equity
- Organizational Excellence
- Academic Innovation
- Partnerships

She also presented some important lessons learned that will inform the new strategic plan moving forward. These lessons include a need for a formal project management tracking system. She also noted that all departments need to align their work with the new strategic plan ensuring that we can point to how each initiative will move the needle including a holistic picture of resources being allocated to initiatives and the measures and built in accountability for a better review of college’s return on investment (ROI).

CSO Lynch stated that she believes the new project management process will provide the structure needed to measure success both within individual departments and the college.

Chair Medeiros asked if there were any questions or discussion. Hearing none, she thanked CSO Lynch and invited the college's VP of Academic Affairs and Interim VP for Economic & Business Development, Andrew Fisher and Brianne McDonough, to provide an Economic Impact Study report.

6. Economic Impact Study Report – *Andrew Fisher*, Vice President for Academic Affairs and *Brianne McDonough*, Interim Vice President for Economic and Business Development

VP Fisher began by providing some brief history leading up to this moment. He noted that when the Trustees gathered in March 2025 to provide some focused feedback to help drive the work of the college forward. He shared that one of the outcomes of the board's work led to a contract with Hanover Research to provide college with our first resource report that measures our economic impact in Bristol County.

He noted that the report, available in their materials, would first provide some of the demand side of the story about spending and local economic activity. He explained that this report explains how Bristol's payroll, purchasing, facility investments, and students' off-campus spending circulate through local businesses and households, generating ripple effects in total economic activity, labor income, and jobs supported.



Interim VP McDonough shared that second story of the Hanover report is about the college's long-term value in building human capital through credentials, training, transfer preparation, and community services, reflected in enrollment and completions, affordability and access, workforce development activity, and modeled alumni earnings effects.

VP Fisher noted the following insights:

- For every dollar spent by the college and our students, collectively, we have an impact of \$1.64 on the local economy.
- For students who complete an associate's degree, their median earnings rise from \$39,988 to \$47,254. This is a 15.4% annual increase.
- Total economic impact of both the demand and supply sides equates to \$289M in Bristol County.

President Harris noted that in addition to the full Economic Impact Study from Hanover, the Trustees would also find a one-page infographic containing some high-level examples of the college's economic impact in Bristol County. He also added that this report and our economic impact would be a primary focus of the Board's mini-retreat in mid-March.

Chair Medeiros asked if there were any questions or discussion needed related to this work and presentation. Hearing none, she thanked VP Fisher and McDonough for their presentation. She invited President Harris on behalf of VP Kate O'Hara to provide the Student Trustee Update.

7. Student Trustee Update – *Kate O'Hara*, Vice President Student Services and Enrollment Management

President Harris once again welcomed Jamie Wasilowski as he has been elected as our new Student Trustee. He shared that Jamie is a student in our Business Administration Transfer program. He noted that Jamie is actively involved in multiple clubs, organizations, and leadership roles at the college, particularly at our New Bedford campus. He reminded those of the Trustees

that attended our Legislative Breakfast in December, Jamie was one of our student panelists. He shared that Jamie will be graduating this year, so he will serve as our Student Trustee until the end of the semester.

8. Report of the Awards Committee – *Trustee Renee Clark*

Chair Medeiros shared that she would provide the Awards Committee report and seek board approval for nominees on behalf of Committee Chair, Renee Clark.

She shared that the Awards Committee met on Monday, January 26, 2026, via Zoom (virtual meeting). The meeting was intended to be held in person on the Fall River Campus but was changed to virtual based on college closure on Monday, 01.26.2026.

She noted that the Committee approved the minutes from the meeting on January 27, 2025, and then reviewed the 2026 award nominees for both the Honorary Degree and Distinguished Citizen Awards to be granted at the 2026 Commencement ceremony.

Chair Medeiros stated that the Awards Committee unanimously recommends Dr. Jean MacCormack as the recipient of the 2026 Honorary Degree Award, generally noting Dr. MacCormack’s scope of work and contributions to the region and Commonwealth. She asked if there were any questions or discussion needed related to this nominee. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the nomination of Dr. Jean MacCormack for the Honorary Degree Award.

A motion to select Dr. MacCormack as the 2026 Honorary Degree Award recipient was made by Trustee Gauvin and seconded by Trustee McGhee. Chair Medeiros asked Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson to proceed with a roll-call vote.

Renee Clark	
Pamela Gauvin	Yes
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	Yes
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes
Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	Yes
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	Yes
Lynn Motta	Yes
Chair Joan Medeiros	Yes

Upon completion of the roll-call vote, the motion to approve Dr. Jean MacCormack as the 2026 Honorary Degree Award recipient was approved.

Chair Medeiros stated that the Awards Committee unanimously recommended two recipients for 2026 Distinguished Citizen Award. She shared recommendations for both Mr. Rob Mendes and Mr. Steve Pemberton generally noting their scope of work, contributions, and impact on the region. Chair Medeiros asked if there were any questions or discussion needed related to these nominees. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the nominations of both Mr. Rob Mendes and Mr. Steve Pemberton for the Distinguished Service Award.

A motion to select both Mr. Rob Mendes and Mr. Steve Pemberton for the 2026 Distinguished Service Award recipients was made by Trustee McGhee and seconded by Trustee Gauvin. Chair Medeiros asked Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson to proceed with a roll-call vote.

Renee Clark	
Pamela Gauvin	Yes
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	Yes
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes
Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	Yes
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	Yes
Lynn Motta	Yes
Chair Joan Medeiros	Yes

Upon completion of the vote, the motion to approve Mr. Rob Mendes and Mr. Steve Pemberton for the 2026 Distinguished Service Award recipients was approved unanimously.

Chair Medeiros reminded all that these awardees are confidential until the time that President Harris can facilitate formal notifications, and the college makes official announcement. She asked if any further discussion was needed. Hearing none, she thanked Trustee Clark and the Awards Committee for their work.

She then invited Trustee Gauvin to provide a Report of the Risk Management Committee.

9. Report of the Risk Management Committee – *Trustee Pamela Gauvin*

Committee Chair Gauvin reported that the Board Risk Management Committee met on February 6, 2026.

She noted that the Committee discussed the following items:

- Employee Settlements & Judgements Report Update
- Quarterly Risk Report (Oct-Dec 2025)
 - The overall risk trend across the college in 4Q '25 remains worsening, primarily due to the impending ADA Title II effective date (online content), preparation for Ellucian/Banner migration, ongoing Taunton re-location efforts (round 2 RFP), and initiating the College Bookstore RFP process.
 - The ADA Title II compliance date of late April 2026 requires completion of actions to ensure compliance, such as confirmation of accessibility of externally facing third-party online services.
 - Recent Brown University and MIT events compelled re-evaluation of Bristol's Facilities and Campus Emergency Preparedness plans. Efforts are underway to further enhance camera and entrance/exit monitoring safety measures.
 - Areas of attention for the next quarter include strategic planning and data assessment in preparation for Ellucian/Banner modernization efforts, College Bookstore RFP process, and monitoring of grant expenditures to maximize expected benefits.
- Risk Metrics
 - A positive trend of employees not clicking on links in test phishing emails sent by ITS, who are now using a more sophisticated test generation software
 - Reporting on Academic Programs with more than 10 active students – a goal of 80% has been established, however the past three terms reflect a result of plus/minus 70%
 - The track-record of Board Committee meetings being held and a future objective to review the Committees and their scopes to ensure Committees are effectively providing the Board with information, e.g., delivery of the new 5-year Strategy, Ellucian/Banner implementation, Workforce Training expansion, etc.

- o College Policy Program efforts - building on 2025's progress of re-approving 95 policies – focus shifting to implement a new reporting cycle to leverage policy exception decisions and any identified policy violations to inform appropriate changes to policies.

Trustee Gauvin shared the next meeting of the Risk Management Committee is expected to be in early May 2026; with suggested agenda topics of the Top Risk mitigation plan status and the 1Q 2026 Risk Report Executive Summary, with prioritized Risk Metrics. She asked if there were any questions or items for discussion.

Hearing none, Chair Medeiros thanked Trustee Gauvin and invited any items for Old Business in addition to the Board Self-Assessment item.

10. Old Business

Hearing no additional items, Chair Medeiros asked Trustees for any outstanding Board Self-Assessments to be completed and sent to Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson before the March 2 deadline. She noted that as of today we had 6 of the 10 completed assessments we were expecting.

Next, Chair Medeiros invited any items for New Business.

11. New Business

Hearing none, Chair Medeiros asked if there were any final thoughts, comments, or questions for the Board's consideration as part of the regular board meeting today.

12. Adjournment

Hearing none, Chair Medeiros asked for a motion to adjourn this board meeting at 5:14 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee McGhee and seconded by Trustee Gauvin.

Chair Medeiros asked Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson to proceed with a roll-call vote.

Renee Clark	
Pamela Gauvin	Yes
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	Yes
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes
Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	Yes
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	Yes
Lynn Motta	Yes
Chair Joan Medeiros	Yes

Upon completion of the roll-call vote, the motion to adjourn the board meeting at 5:14 p.m. was approved unanimously.