

# BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Board of Trustees Board Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 4, 2026

#### 1. Call to Order

The four hundred and thirty first meeting of the Bristol Community College Board of Trustees was held on Monday, May 4, 2026. The meeting was held in person at the college's Fall River location (777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA) in the Commonwealth College Center (G-Building). Chair Medeiros called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**Board Members present:** Joan Medeiros, Chair of the Board; Todd McGhee, Vice-Chair (*virtual*); Lynn Motta, Secretary; Renee Clark; Pamela Gauvin (*virtual*); Maria Gonzalez; Jeffrey Karam; Antonio (Tony) Lima; Steven Martins; and Jamie Wasilowski

**Board Members absent:** John Morris

**Others present:** Sedgwick Harris, President; Lucinda Poudrier-Aaronson, Board Liaison; Joyce Brennan; Emmanuel Echevarria; Andrew Fisher; April Lynch; Kate O'Hara; Jo-Ann Pelletier; Judi Urquhart; Sandra Bartolo; Andrea Fortier; Dean Munroe-Meyers; and Brian McGuire.

#### 2. Chair's Remarks

Chair Medeiros noted that since two Trustees are joining us remotely today, she asked Board Liaison, Lucinda Poudrier-Aaronson, to proceed with roll-call attendance.

Renee Clark	Present
Pamela Gauvin	Present ( <i>virtual</i> )
Maria Gonzalez	Present
Jeffrey Karam	Present
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Present
Steven Martins	Present
Todd McGhee	Present ( <i>virtual</i> )
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	
Lynn Motta	Present
Jamie Wasilowski	Present
Chair Joan Medeiros	Present

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

*<Trustee Gauvin and Trustee McGhee began experiencing technical challenges intermittently related to Zoom>*

3. **Consent Agenda**

- Consideration of Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting for April 6, 2026
- Report of Personnel Actions April 2026
- Report of Workforce and Community Education Contracts for April 2026

Chair Medeiros stated that she hoped Trustees had the opportunity to review the consent agenda items posted last week electronically and available in materials today. 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 Karam and seconded by Trustee Martins.

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

Renee Clark	Yes
Pamela Gauvin	Yes ( <i>virtual</i> )
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	Yes
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes
Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	<i>(tech trouble)</i>
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	
Lynn Motta	Yes
Jamie Wasilowski	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

4. **President’s Report**

- Review President’s Key Goals 2025-2026
- Community Partnership Highlights
  - Empire Ford Car Show & Financial Aid Partnership – *Alaina Marcotte*, Title
- Trustee Talking Point
  - Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Chapter and Involvement Update – *Dean Munroe-Myers*, PTK President & Bristol student and *Brian McGuire*, PTK Advisor & Associate Professor of English
- Financial Update – *Sandra Bartolo*, Comptroller

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

- Congressionally Directed Spending Overview and Status; the advancement of legislative support of several of Bristol’s submissions for grants totaling over \$8M in congressionally directed spending; he noted we may not get them all but the advancement of several submissions is good news.
- The college hosted the Massachusetts Association of Community College presidents on Thursday, April 30, 2026. This in-person meeting included the presidents visit with Dr. DeRionne Pollard (AACC).

- Dr. Pollard was the opening keynote speaker for the Teaching, Learning and Student Development Conference (TLSD) hosted at Bristol on Friday, May 1, 2026.

President Harris invited Alaina Marcotte, Director of Financial Aid Counseling, to highlight an upcoming partnership involving a community event hosted annually at Bristol Community College. The FAFSA partnership with Empire Ford will be held on June 20th at the Annual Car Show. The partnership is meant to attract males since our historical and current FAFSA filing percentages show large disparity for males.

Director Marcotte noted that the 2026-2027 FAFSA indicates of the over 8000 filers 65% are female and 26% are male. She noted that attendees will be provided with food vouchers to anyone who completes a FAFSA with the college. She also noted we have college branded tire pressure gauges to give away. She shared that Empire Ford will be providing Fun 107 advertising (radio) and will have on site DJ for family fun.

President Harris thanked Director Marcotte for this creative community-based partnership. He then invited Dean Munroe-Myers, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) President & Bristol student, and Brian McGuire, PTK Advisor & Associate Professor of English, to provide an update regarding Bristol's chapter involvement and recent successes.

They noted that PTK is the official international honor society for two-year colleges, recognizing academic achievement, leadership, service, and scholarship. They shared that PTK has more than 1,200 chapters across the United States and internationally. They noted that students gain leadership experience, scholarship, transfer and networking opportunities, as well as community service experience, and academic recognition on their transcripts and resumes. They noted that PTK members also have access to regional and international conferences.

They noted that Bristol Community College's PTK chapter, Beta Eta Phi, has maintained prestigious 5-Star Chapter Status this year sharing that chapter members attended and presented at regional and international PTK conferences. They stated that Dean Munroe Meyers was recently elected as New England's Regional President for 2026–2027. In addition, they shared that Bristol's chapter earned multiple regional and chapter recognitions, including individual member and advisor awards.

They shared that Bristol's chapter continued its Honors in Action project focused on homelessness awareness and community resources, and they partnered with campus and community organizations to support mental health awareness and student engagement initiatives. Other programming initiatives included social and community-building, fundraising events:

- PTK Drag Bingo
- Fashion Is the Monster fashion show
- Fast Friends social event
- Homecoming activities and student outreach

The chapter expanded student participation through recruitment efforts, leadership development, and increased campus visibility. They noted that PTK fundraising efforts helped support student travel to conferences and chapter programming. They stated that Bristol's chapter continued to strengthen long-term sustainability through officer mentoring, organizational planning, and leadership continuity.

President Harris thanked student Munroe-Meyers and Professor McGuire for their service and commitment to PTK. He then invited Sandra Bartolo, the college's Comptroller, to provide the Financial Update in the absence of VP Kenyon.

Comptroller Bartolo shared the college remains on track to exceed our budgeted surplus for Fiscal Year 2026. We budgeted \$1.2M and are on track to have a surplus of approximately \$3.7M. She noted that enrollment for the summer is currently trending at 15% above last year and for the portion of the summer semester that impacts FY26 we budgeted 6% so trending well above budget.

She shared that after a very rough stock market performance in March, April has rebounded nicely although we seem to remain in a period of volatility. The College's investment account is currently showing an unrealized gain for FY26 of \$2M, which is well above the adjusted budget amount of \$1,000,000.

Comptroller Bartolo stated that on April 15th the House budget was released noting the major differences between the House budget and the budget the Governor released in January are Free Community College which was reduced by \$10M in the House and the SUCCESS grant which was increased \$4M in the House budget. Our state appropriation remained level as did most of the state grants.

She noted that since the last financial report, the BRIGHT Act was approved in the Senate and included a \$20,000,000 renovation to the Commonwealth College Building (G-Building). We now must wait for the Conference Committee to finalize the funding levels for FY27.

Comptroller Bartolo shared there were Mass Reconnect funds that VP Kenyon reported in January that were due to the College but not funded. She stated that we just received these funds of approximately \$400K so that receivable is now collected.

She shared the federal government shutdown has not impacted the college finances or operations, but noted we continue to monitor the situation.

She also reminded Trustees that the board recently approved \$200K for the college to improve our camera system and that project is scheduled with the vendor for the month of June. She also shared the college just finished a grant funded solar parking lot and walkway lighting project, and we are using the same vendor to install poles on campus for the cameras. In addition, she stated that we are preparing for a state funded paving project for a new roadway and walkways that we are scheduling around commencement and other year-end events.

President Harris thanked Comptroller Bartolo for the financial update and turned the meeting back over to Chair Medeiros.

Chair Medeiros invited Trustee Wasilowski to provide the Student Trustee report.

5. **Student Trustee Report – Trustee Jamie Wasilowski**

Student Trustee Wasilowski shared the positive direction the part-time Dean's List initiative is making. He shared the initiative is under final review through VPs Kate O'Hara and Andrew Fisher with the intention of significant measurable progress taking place in the month of May.

Trustee Wasilowski also reminded the board the importance of immediate access to basic needs or housing insecurity. He shared that many programs are in place at Bristol that aim to alleviate burdens impacting student persistence and achievement. He noted that despite the various resources, a significant barrier is faster access. Students wait days, weeks, or sometimes once a month (Mobile Food Market) to receive basic needs assistance through Bristol Community College. Trustee Wasilowski shared he proposed to the board consideration of more immediate accessible solutions to reduce basic-needs insecurity for students.

Board Chair Medeiros thanked Student Trustee Wasilowski for his report, and invited Trustee Karam to provide the Facilities Committee report.

6. **Report of the Facilities Committee – Trustee Jeff Karam**

Trustee Karam stated the Facilities Committee met on April 6, 2026. He provided the following updates:

- **Taunton Center:** The college has secured a one-year extension at the current Taunton site, which allows us to continue operating as we have for the short term. This will allow us to stay through the spring semester 2027. He reported that the second RFP process did not produce any viable bidders, so the search continues. He said the college is still exploring several options including a smaller 13,500 sq. ft. site that could work with lower renovation costs. This is a former Walgreens location on Route 44. He stated a more promising option is with Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical High School. They have informed us that they would like to continue conversations about the college using two of three buildings on their campus. They will not be prepared to decide until late 2026 or early 2027. They are hoping to vacate the buildings at that time once they have occupancy in their new high school facility.

He noted the Bristol-Plymouth highlights an existing science lab and that the buildings are outfitted as high school classrooms so buildout cost would be lower than other options available. Trustee Karam noted that we now have about 14 months to secure and transition to a long-term location. College administration will continue to seek viable options in the event Bristol-Plymouth does not work out.

- **New Bedford – Purchase Street Campus:** The Facilities Committee discussed the upcoming lease renewal at our New Bedford campus located at 800 Purchase St. Our lease expires in October 2026. The Foundation is the lessee from STORE Capital and the college subleases through DCAMM from the Foundation. The Foundation is very supportive of us continuing the same relationship. He noted that the college reported that they are in discussions with the owner and we have four, five-year options to renew that include a 1.5% annual escalation. Management is attempting to have that escalator

reduced by committing to a ten-year lease. Trustee Karam shared we are currently paying about \$16 per square foot. The purchase price for the building is \$9M with the city assessment of about \$5.5M. He said he wanted to remind the board that UMass Dartmouth subleases the lower level for about \$20 per square foot. And finally, Trustee Karam shared there is an on-site café that continues to be a strong amenity to the campus and a good tenant.

- **Deferred Maintenance – FY26 (\$1M Additional Funding):** Trustee Karam shared the college was awarded an additional \$1M from DCAMM for deferred maintenance that must be spent by June 30, 2026. Given the time constraints the college will spend most of it on paving roadways and sidewalks. He noted that college will also be doing a fire line repair. This work will be phased around commencement
- **Deferred Maintenance – FY28 (\$1.4M Fair Share Funding):** Trustee Karam also noted that the College also received \$1.4M for deferred maintenance in late March from the Fair Share funding. This funding is more flexible and is available to spend through 2028. He shared that these funds are currently planned to be used for roof repairs, window replacements, HVAC work and flooring.
- **Additional improvements:** Trustee Karam shared that management updated the Facilities Committee on a few other projects including the board funded security camera project. The college awarded the bid and the work will be starting in May. Using rebates and state funding the college is replacing many of the older parking lot lights with solar lighting. They will also be doing some of the walkway lighting.
- **Campus Master Plan:** Trustee Karam stated the Facilities Committee approved the college moving forward at a pace they deemed appropriate with a College Master Plan. The cost is expected to be about \$390,000. He shared the last plan was completed about 20 years ago. He shared the Committee deliberated the expense and timing as this is a costly project. He noted the college wants to be in the best position possible when the Bright Act funding is made available. The plan will help the college determine what the highest priority projects should be for the next ten years or so. Trustee Karam shared the college will not proceed with Campus Master Plan until we have a little more information on the Bright Act which should be included in the Senate budget and ultimately the Conference Committee’s budget which will not be available until June. Trustee Karam stated there is potential for the Bright Act to include funding for the Campus Master Plan.

Chair Medeiros thanked Trustee Karam for the Facilities Committee report and asked if there were any questions or follow-up needed.

7. **Old Business**

Hearing none, Chair Medeiros asked if there was any Old Business to come before the Board of Trustees this evening.

8. **New Business**

Hearing no items for Old Business, Chair Medeiros asked if there was any New Business to come before the board?  
Hearing none, Chair Medeiros made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

9. **Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 p.m. was seconded by Trustee Karam. Chair Medeiros asked Board Liaison Poudrier-Aaronson to proceed with a roll-call vote.

Renee Clark	Yes
Pamela Gauvin	Yes ( <i>virtual</i> )
Maria Gonzalez	Yes
Jeffrey Karam	Yes
Antonio (Tony) Lima	Yes

Steven Martins	Yes
Todd McGhee	Yes ( <i>virtual</i> )
John Morris (Alumni Trustee)	
Lynn Motta	Yes
Jamie Wasilowski	Yes
Chair Joan Medeiros	Yes

Upon completion of the roll-call vote, the motion to adjourn the board meeting at 4:38 p.m. was approved unanimously.

NOTE: The Joint Board Meeting was scheduled to begin after the Board of Trustees meeting.