

**LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

March 18, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER (DETERMINATION OF QUORUM)

Chair Silva called the regular meeting of the District 13 Board of Trustees to order at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, in the Heritage Room 100 in the Administration Building of Lower Columbia College. The LCC Board of Trustees meeting was also offered virtually via Zoom. When the meeting was called to order, the following individuals were present, ensuring a quorum.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Marc Silva, Chair
Bogi Kim, Vice Chair
Liz Cattin (virtual)
Alice Dietz
Mike Karnofski

COLLEGE PRESIDENT: Kristen Finnel, Interim President (virtual)

2. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Guests: Sarah Willoughby, Sam Orth, Mindy Leasure, Ashleigh Kruckenberg, Kaysen Kruckenberg, Adrienne Godschalx, Michaela Jackson, Henry Brewster, Merry Bond, Monica Fleisher, Nonnie Weaver, David McCarthy, Emme McCarthy, Amber Lemiere, Madison Bertscha, Morgan Stierman, and Cassie Rosales.

Others in Attendance: Nolan Wheeler, Wendy Hall, Stefanie Gilberti, Mara Slabu, Tracy Stanley, LCC Heritage Room/Thomas Herold, and Tracy Powell.

Virtual Attendees: Kim Witherspoon (AAG), April Tovar, Minka Atkinson, Jessica Harris, Kendra Sprague, Anonymous, Founder’s Room Viewing Party, DT, Sheila Timm, Anon, Susan Marie, Iphone, Shalaina Williams/LCC Chat Moderator.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Silva called for a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Karnofski moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Dietz.

MOTION: By Trustee Karnofski, seconded by Trustee Dietz

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously

4. CONSENT ITEMS

The following consent items were offered for the Board's consideration.

4.a. Minutes of the February 18, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

4.b. HS/EHS/ECEAP Program Goals - Year 3

4.c. Head Start Non-Competing Continuation Funding Application & Budget AND Change in Scope Amendment to add a Home-Based Head Start Program Option, FY26 \$5,229,316

4.d. HS/EHS/ECEAP Departmental Procedures: Enrollment and Selection

Chair Silva called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Dietz moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kim.

MOTION: By Trustee Dietz, seconded by Trustee Kim

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously

5. COLLEGE INPUT (REPORTS)

5.a. President's Report

Stefanie Gilberti, acting Vice President of Instruction, provided a brief overview. Highlights included:

- Head Start nutrition services will be supplemented through a \$38,000 donation from PeaceHealth.
- A new full-time faculty member in Substance Use Disorder Studies has been hired for fall 2026.
- A generous contribution to the LCC Foundation will support the purchase of a kiln for the Ceramics area.
- The annual Faculty Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the STC conference rooms.

Wendy Hall, Vice President of ECR and Student Access, provided a brief overview. Highlights included:

- Invitations to the All-Washington Academic Team Ceremony were distributed. Trustees Silva and Kim have indicated their intent to attend.
- LCC Commencement invitations for June 18, 2026, were distributed.
- LCC fact cards were distributed.
- Enrollment report: With spring quarter enrollments remaining strong, the College is currently up approximately 10% in state FTE and 11% in total FTE year-to-date.

Nolan Wheeler, Vice President of Administration, provided a brief overview. Highlights included:

- CVTS Building update: Washington Way and 15th Avenue are now open to traffic.
- Baseball Grandstand/Lights project update: The final design has been submitted to the City of Longview for permit review. Bid advertisement is anticipated on April 8, with bid opening scheduled for May 6, 2026.
- Financial Statement Audit is complete; the final report will be presented at the April 15, 2026, Board meeting.
- The men's and women's basketball teams competed in the final four of the NWAC championships last weekend. The women tied for third place, and the men placed second.

Mara Slabu, Executive Director of the Associated Students of LCC, shared a brief overview. Some of the highlights included:

- Approximately 100 attendees attended the Masquerade Ball on March 6, 2026. ASLCC collaborated with the Jazz Band, Red Devil Cafe, henna and caricature artists, and a DJ.
- Upcoming initiatives include Spring Quarter Welcome Week events, budget development, an all-campus barbecue, and a Feel-Good Festival, which supports Pride, mental health, wellness, and identity.

Faculty Association of Higher Education of LCC:

- No report was provided.

Tracy Stanley, President of the Washington Federation of State Employees/LCC, shared a brief overview. Some of the highlights included:

- The classified staff bargaining team has begun preparations for contract negotiations. The first meeting with management is scheduled for April 23, 2026.
- Classified staff are actively engaged in end-of-winter-quarter responsibilities, including finals week, preparation for spring break projects, and readiness for the start of spring quarter.
- While staff continue to fulfill their duties, many questions remain about the college's future and its leadership.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

An opportunity for public comment was provided; none was received.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

8. ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

9. RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

10. BOARD BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Agenda Revision: At 4:12 p.m., Trustee Silva recommended moving item 10.b. “Election of Board Officers for 2026-28”, ahead of Item 10.a. “Probationary Review/Tenure Consideration”, to allow additional time for faculty and guests to arrive for tenure consideration.

10.b. Election of Board Officers for 2026-28

In accordance with Board policy, which designates the election of officers as the final item of business at the March meeting and specifies that newly elected officers assume their roles at the adjournment of that meeting, the following action was considered.

At the February 18, 2026, Board Workshop, Bogyong Kim was nominated as incoming Board Chair, and Alice Dietz was nominated as incoming Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Trustee Karnofski, seconded by Trustee Dietz, that, based on the nominations from the February 18, 2026, Board Workshop, Bogyong Kim be elected as Board Chair for a two-year term, with duties commencing upon adjournment of the March 18, 2026, meeting.

MOTION: By Trustee Karnofski, seconded by Trustee Dietz

OUTCOME: **The motion carried unanimously.**

A motion was made by Trustee Karnofski, seconded by Trustee Kim, that, based on nominations from the February 18, 2026, Board Workshop, Alice Dietz be elected as Vice Chair for a two-year term, with duties commencing upon adjournment of the March 18, 2026, meeting.

MOTION: By Trustee Karnofski, seconded by Trustee Kim

OUTCOME: **The motion carried unanimously.**

10.a. Probationary Review/Tenure Consideration

At 4:15 p.m., Chair Silva called for a 15-minute recess to allow additional time for faculty and guests to arrive for the tenure review.

At 4:30 p.m., Chair Silva extended the recess for an additional 15-minutes.

At 4:45 p.m., Chair Silva reconvened the public meeting.

Chair Silva noted that this agenda item represents the annual review of probationary faculty, including the recommendations of the Probationary Review Committees. This year, four tenure-track faculty members are under consideration for tenure, and the Board must take action to grant or deny tenure. An additional twelve faculty members remain in the probationary process. Should the Board choose not to renew the probationary status of any first or second-year faculty member, such action must be taken in public session.

Chair Silva called for a motion. A motion was made by Trustee Dietz, and seconded by Trustee Kim, that the Board of Trustees, having given reasonable consideration to the recommendations of the Probationary Review Committee, do hereby grant tenure to Adrienne Godschalx, effective at the start of Fall Quarter 2026.

MOTION: By Trustee Dietz, seconded by Trustee Kim

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Kim, and seconded by Trustee Dietz, that the Board of Trustees, having given reasonable consideration to the recommendations of the Probationary Review Committee, do hereby grant tenure to Ashleigh Kruckenberg, effective at the start of Fall Quarter 2026.

MOTION: By Trustee Kim, seconded by Trustee Dietz

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Karnofski, and seconded by Trustee Kim, that the Board of Trustees, having given reasonable consideration to the recommendations of the Probationary Review Committee, do hereby grant tenure to Emme McCarthy, effective at the start of Fall Quarter 2026.

MOTION: By Trustee Karnofski, seconded by Trustee Kim

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Dietz, and seconded by Trustee Karnofski, that the Board of Trustees, having given reasonable consideration to the recommendations of the Probationary Review Committee, do hereby grant tenure to Morgan Stierman, effective at the start of Fall Quarter 2026.

MOTION: By Trustee Dietz, seconded by Trustee Karnofski

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Silva called for a motion to adjourn at 4:47 p.m. Trustee Karnofski moved to adjourn the meeting, and Trustee Dietz seconded the motion.

MOTION: By Trustee Karnofski, seconded by Trustee Dietz

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously.

On April 15, 2026, the Board of Trustees of Community College District 13 approved the minutes of the March 18, 2026, regular meeting.

Dr. Kristen Finnel

Kristen Finnel, Interim Secretary to the Board