

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

May 20, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER (DETERMINATION OF QUORUM)

Chair Kim called the regular meeting of the District 13 Board of Trustees to order at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 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: Bogi Kim, Chair
Alice Dietz, Vice Chair
Liz Cattin
Mike Karnofski
Marc Silva

COLLEGE PRESIDENT: Kristen Finnel, Interim President

2. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Guests: Angie Rogers, Sam Orth, Tamra Gilchrist, Merry Bond, Keiko Pederson, and Andie Ingram.

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

Virtual Attendees: Minka Atkinson, (2) Anonymous participants, and LCC Chat Moderator/Laura Sampson.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Kim called for a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Silva moved, and Trustee Cattin seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION: By Trustee Silva, seconded by Trustee Cattin

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously

4. CONSENT ITEMS

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

4.a. Minutes of the April 15, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Chair Kim called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Trustees Karnofski and Dietz requested corrections to spelling errors in the April 15, 2026, minutes. Trustee Cattin moved, and Trustee Dietz seconded, to approve the minutes presented with the noted corrections.

MOTION: By Trustee Cattin, seconded by Trustee Dietz

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously

5. COLLEGE INPUT (REPORTS)

5.a. President's Report

Kristen Finnel, Interim President, provided a brief overview. Highlights included:

- Congratulations to LCC's Crystal Apple Award Winners:
 - Dan Ruiz - Higher Education Support Staff of the Year
 - Terri Skeie - Higher Education Faculty of the Year
- Celebrating the growth of the LCC Alumni Association to 1,363 members
- The Foundation received 776 scholarship applications, which will be reviewed from May 4 to May 15. Award distribution will begin in June and continue throughout the summer.

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

- The Early Learning Center received the state's highest level in the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). In recognition of this achievement, the University of Washington selected the center as a model site to highlight and document exemplary practices in action.
- The Outstanding Students Awards event is scheduled for this evening, with 45 awards to be presented.
- LCC is partnering with the Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP) to offer distance pre-licensure nursing education with clinical experiences at critical access hospitals throughout the state.

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

- The 2026 Scholastic Achievement Award winners have been selected:
 - Skyler White for bachelor's degree programs (Organizational Leadership and Technical Management).
 - Gia Han Huynh for academic transfer (Pre-Nursing and impending AS-T in Biological Sciences).
 - Simon Hwang for workforce (Welding).
- LCC celebrated Flare's first birthday yesterday.

- The Senior Success and Rural Roots Outreach initiatives are both going well.

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

- The Workforce Education Center (formerly CVTS) project is progressing well.
- The Baseball Grandstand and Lighting project bid opening was held this morning. Due to cost escalations, additional funding will be required to complete the project.
- The 2026-27 budget is balanced through a variety of cost-saving measures.

5.b. ASLCC Report

Mara Slabu, Executive Director of the Associated Students of LCC, shared a brief overview.

Highlights included:

- An all-campus barbecue is scheduled for May 27, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Multicultural Graduation Night is scheduled for June 17.
- Commencement will be held on June 18. ASLCC will assist with cap and gown distribution.

5.b.i. ASLCC S&A Budget for 2026-27

Mara Slabu, Executive Director of the Associated Students of LCC, presented the 2026-2027 ASLCC Budget proposal of \$850,969. Key funding priorities included investments in direct student support (programming, community development, and resources), expanded co-curricular services, enhanced support for clubs and organizations, and strengthened extracurricular opportunities. All requests were also evaluated with consideration of additional funding sources available to each program, including college operations, foundation support, class fees, and fundraising.

Chair Kim called for a motion. Trustee Karnofski moved, and Trustee Dietz seconded, to approve the proposed ASLCC 2026-27 S&A Budget as presented.

MOTION: By Trustee Karnofski, seconded by Trustee Dietz

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously

5.c. LCCFAHE Report

Lucas Myers, President of the Faculty Association of Higher Education of LCC, shared a brief overview. Highlights included:

- Faculty appreciated the recent shared governance activity and look forward to continued engagement and partnership.
- STEM Advising Night, held on May 13, provided students with guidance, support, and opportunities to connect with faculty regarding educational and career pathways in STEM disciplines.

- The June 3, Spring Arts Festival will include live music, a pottery sale, the release of the *Salal Review*, and additional student-centered arts activities.

5.d. WFSE Report

Tracy Stanley, President of the Washington Federation of State Employees/LCC, was unable to attend but provided a written report for the Board. Highlights included:

- Classified staff are engaged in preparation for commencement, fiscal year-end activities, and efforts to support student success.
- Collective bargaining negotiations are underway.
- Classified staff remain committed to maintaining services despite ongoing challenges, change, and uncertainty.

5.e. Head Start/ECEAP/EHS Written Report, Budget Status, and Program Report

A written report was provided to the Board. Highlights included:

- March Program End-of-Month Report
- March Budget Report
- Community Support

5.f. Annual International Program Report

Director Andie Ingram presented the update on the 2026 International Programs report. The presentation, titled “Numbers and Narratives,” addressed enrollment, budget and program impact, alumni updates, and student study-abroad experiences.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

7. INSTITUTIONAL MONITORING

7. a. Workforce and Economic Development Monitoring Report

Deans of Instruction Tamra Gilchrist and Merry Bond presented Cycle 27 of the Monitoring Report. This item was for discussion only; no action was required. Trustee Karnofski complimented the successful improvement in math.

7. b. 2026-27 College Priorities Draft

Vice President Wendy Hall presented the 2026-27 College Priorities draft to the Board for review and discussion only. The Board will take action on this item at the June Board meeting.

7. c. Quarterly Budget Status Report

Vice President Nolan Wheeler presented the college’s Financial Review. This item was for discussion only; no action was required.

Financial Position: Funds Equity Summary - March 31, 2026

The LCC Funds Equity Summary reflects the fund balances at period's end based upon the net activity for the first nine months of FY 2026. The local discretionary fund balance in Fund 148 (\$7.6MM) provides a solid foundation for the college's operating needs. The fund balance in Fund 148 includes the Board's contingency reserve of \$3.7MM.

Historically, fund revenue lags behind expenditures throughout the fiscal year due to the reimbursable nature of higher education, particularly in Financial Aid (Fund 846) and Grants (Fund 145), which rely on monthly reimbursements. We continue our work in Enterprise Services, Fund 569 (food services), and Fund 524 (bookstore) to improve their financial position, and we are seeing positive gains in those areas.

Results of Operations: Operating Revenue & Expenditure Activity

At the three-quarter point in the fiscal year, overall YTD operating revenues are \$31.6MM fiscal year-to-date. Annualized State FTE enrollments are currently running 6.9% higher than the prior year. Revenue modeling for the current fiscal year is forecasting tuition collections higher than the FY 2026 budgeted amount. We will continue to monitor revenue collections throughout the years and adjust spending as needed.

As we look at expenditures at the three-quarter point in the fiscal year, we are running YTD at 86.87% of budgeted totals or \$31.9MM. The net \$370k deficit at this point in the year reflects unbudgeted expenditures incurred since December 2025. As we anticipate statewide budget reductions for FY27, we will continue to closely monitor expenditures and manage our resources as effectively as possible moving forward in FY 2026.

8. BOARD BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS

8.a. Resolution 93: Budget Adjustment for Women's Softball Facility Project (ACTION)

In October 2023, the board adopted Resolution 88, authorizing budget adjustments for several athletic facilities projects, including the Baseball Field, Women's Soccer Facilities, and Women's Softball Facilities. Vice President Wheeler explained that the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) requires a revised resolution to separate the Women's Softball Facilities Project from the original project authorization. No additional funding was requested.

Chair Kim called for a motion. Trustee Silva moved, and Trustee Karnofski seconded, to approve Resolution 93: Budget Adjustment for Women's Softball Facilities Project.

MOTION: By Trustee Silva, seconded by Trustee Karnofski

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously.

8.b. Presidential Search

At the Board’s request during the April meeting, Samantha Orth, Director of Human Resources, presented information on presidential search options and associated processes. The presentation included insights and feedback from recent presidential searches, as well as a discussion of several WACTC colleges currently led by interim presidents that may be conducting searches in the near future.

The Board discussed previous presidential search processes conducted both through search firms and internally, considering the advantages and challenges of each approach. Discussion also emphasized the importance of developing and communicating a clear onboarding and transition plan to support leadership continuity and minimize uncertainty throughout the process.

Following the discussion, Trustee Dietz moved to initiate the presidential search in July 2027, with the goal of appointing a president who would begin service in July 2028. Trustee Karnofski seconded the motion.

MOTION: By Trustee Dietz, seconded by Trustee Karnofski

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously.

The Board will consider a contract extension for Interim President Finnel at its June 10, 2026, meeting. Further discussion of presidential search options and processes is scheduled for the Board workshop on July 2, 2026.

9. POLICY GOVERNANCE (ACTION)

9.a. Policy 4.03 -Compensation and Benefits

Chair Kim called for a motion. Trustee Karnofski moved, and Trustee Silva seconded, to approve Board Policy 4.03 as presented.

MOTION: By Trustee Karnofski, seconded by Trustee Silva

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:39 p.m., Chair Kim called for an Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency or the Board is likely to become a party. The Executive Session was anticipated to end at 5:50 p.m.

11. ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:50 p.m., Chair Kim reopened the public meeting.

12. RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken during the Executive Session.

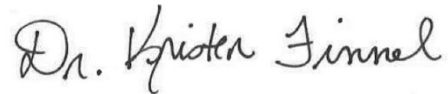
13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Kim called for a motion to adjourn at 5:51 p.m. Trustee Karnofski moved to adjourn the meeting, and Trustee Silva seconded the motion.

MOTION: By Trustee Karnofski, seconded by Trustee Silva

OUTCOME: The motion carried unanimously.

On June 10, 2026, the Board of Trustees of Community College District 13 approved the minutes of the May 20, 2026, regular meeting.



Kristen Finnel, Interim Secretary to the Board