



November 18, 2025 - Regular Meeting

Board of Trustees of Community College District 532

Grayslake Campus – Conference Center, Room A013, 19351 W. Washington, Grayslake, Illinois

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Trustees Present at roll call: Ms. Dawn Abernathy, Ms. Allena Barbato, Ms. Jan Gibson, Dr. William Griffin, Ms. Amanda Howland, Mr. Paul Virgilio, and Student Trustee Ms. Andrea Gomez

Trustees Absent at roll call: Ms. Celeste Flores

Others Present: Dr. Lori Suddick, President; James Beckom, Director Business Services and Finance; Sue Fay, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Angela Frazier, Vice President of Student Development; Dr. Derrick Harden, Vice President of Strategic Advancement; Dr. Kristen Jones, Vice President of Education; Dr. Ali O'Brien, Vice President of Community and Workforce Partnerships; Allison Porterfield-Woods, Chief Information Officer; Carol Dikelsky, Director of Communications and Engagement; Laura Laba, Executive Assistant to the President/Recording Secretary; Catie Locallo, Legal Counsel, Robbins Schwartz; and other guests.

Chair Howland welcomed everyone and noted there will be no closed session at this meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Trustee Gibson. Seconded by Trustee Griffin.

Roll call:

Student Advisory Vote: Aye

Ayes: Virgilio, Abernathy, Barbato, Gibson, Griffin, Howland

Motion passed.

3. Receipt of Notices, Communications, Hearings, and Petitions

Chair Howland announced the public comment portion of the meeting and noted no requests were received by the President's Office. She then asked if any individuals in the room wished to address the Board. Hearing no requests, Chair Howland moved to the next agenda item.

4. Reports

Board Liaison Reports

University Center of Lake County (UCLC) – Trustee Gibson

- Four \$5,000 scholarships were awarded to students enrolled in a mental health degree. Eight \$2,000 scholarships and two \$1,000 scholarships were also awarded to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a degree program with a partner university. 85% of the students are CLC alums or currently work at CLC.
- Informational sessions were held in October and November for Legal Studies and Human Services bachelor's degrees from Dominican University, the accelerated bachelor degree of Interdisciplinary Studies from Governors State University, and the RN to BSN Bachelors of Science degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.
- The 3rd Annual Internship and Career Expo was held on November 11.

- A partnership with ISAC provides office hours each month to assist with FAFSA or financial help students may need.

Foundation – Trustee Virgilio

- The Foundation created a greeting card in celebration of National Philanthropy Day. The card will be shared with donors, partners and prospects. The card celebrates the collective impact the CLC Foundation and donor community achieves together. All trustees are encouraged to support students through the CLC Foundation.
- The Foundation is awaiting the outcome of a major endowment proposal, stay tuned.
- The next Foundation Board of Directors meeting is Thursday, November 20 at the Advanced Technology Center.

ICCTA– Trustee Abernathy

- Takeaways from the Governance Leadership Institute (GLI) session were to implement a mentor program for new trustees to be paired with an experienced trustee and the importance of Board and CEO evaluations.

Discussion: Question was raised regarding CLC CEO evaluation and when it is completed each year. Response from Chair: CEO evaluation was to be done in August, but with three new trustees the evaluation will be deferred. Since consideration on a contract renewal or an increase in pay is not occurring, a review is not needed immediately. The Board Chair is working with Legal Counsel and ACCT to prepare for an evaluation next year.

Discussion: ICCTA Roundtable hot topic was on Artificial intelligence. Twenty-three community colleges were represented at GLI. Information about trustee roles and becoming an effective board was shared, including supporting your president. Boards need to know their skills and deficits as a group and ensure that students are at the center of discussions.

ACCT – Chair Howland

- ACCT will come to Chicago in January to begin planning for next year’s Leadership Congress.
- ICCTA Board meeting – discussion about what to showcase when Illinois hosts the next ACCT Leadership Congress. New logo and branding for ICCTA.
- National Leadership Summit is in February. It is recommended that student trustees are involved in the legislative conference.

4.2 Student Trustee Report – Student Trustee Andrea Gomez

- Hosted the Illinois Community College Board, Student Advisory Committee at the College of Lake County. Guest speaker was Dr. Lorenzo Baber, Office of Community College Leadership Research and Leadership from the University of Urbana-Champaign. Roundtable topics included current events and the impact on campuses and advocacy topics to bring forward to legislators on Advocacy Day.
- Attended the Student Government (SGA) meeting, students voiced their questions and concerns on how the College’s Police Department is involved in current events, supporting students and the effects on our campus.

4.3 President’s Report – Dr. Lori Suddick

- Congratulations offered to all of the faculty and staff for the achievements rolling on the screen.
- Fall 2025 enrollment holding at 4% increase for college-level enrollment; Spring 2026 early enrollment is underway.

- College level enrollment is above prior year with overall credit hours up 15% and college-level credit hours up 17% over prior year.
- Full-time student headcount is up 9%.

4.3.1 Sports Complex and Roundabout – Lori Suddick

As executive sponsor, Dr. Suddick introduced members of the project team including Mahsa Karamy, James Beckom, Ali O'Brien (partner liaison), Jamie Boller, Brad Unger, Greg Singleton, and Angela Frazier.

Project update provided in follow-up to the Board's 2025 February Financial Planning Retreat. The FY26 Capital Projects plan (approved in June 2025) has five active projects and two pending projects from the Master Plan 2020.

- Master Plan 2020 was implemented the year after the Strategic Plan 2024 was launched and designed using standard student-centered principles.
- Mortenson Q3 Cost Index was referenced and included in the materials provided in the Board Update. The information offers insights to a prior question about the reason that project costs have gone up. As noted in the report, increased costs are related to the impact of volatile global supply chain, increased costs of construction materials and supplies, as well as shortages in the labor market and the impact of historically high Consumer Price Index on labor costs.
- An overview of completed Master Plan 2020 Current and Near-Term deferred maintenance projects and strategic capital projects was provided for perspective on the large amount of work and progress in facilities improvements that has occurred since 2019. This work was achieved with limited new debt and by leveraging existing resources, grants, and donor funding.
- The Board's 2026 February Financial Planning Retreat will revisit the financing strategy for completion of Master Plan 2020 Phase 0 projects, including Urban Farm Center and Sports Complex.
- Two projects of focus today are provided ahead of the January Board agenda items. Projects are separate, but given location of each, they are being carried out as one broad project.

Roundabout - \$4.3M – purpose to improve traffic flow and safety relative to traffic volume currently and future volume with the addition of the Sports Complex.

- Recommended following Traffic Study in January 2020
- Original funding: initial placeholder \$1.3M from FY22 Surplus
- Traffic Impact Assessment done in October 2024
- Adjusted funding: Board authorized \$3M in January 2025
- Addresses traffic flow and safety

Sports Complex - \$17M – purpose to provide premier outdoor sports complex for Lancer Athletics program with collegiate-level baseball and softball fields.

- Outdated outdoor athletic facilities (not representative of collegiate quality)
- Original scope: baseball, softball, tennis and soccer
- Adjusted scope: baseball, softball, and building (adjusted due to significant cost increase post-pandemic)
- Original funding: 2021 Bond \$9.5M
- Adjusted funding: Guidance on options Board February 2025; February 2026 will finalize gap funding \$7.5M

Jamie Boller shared a map of where the roundabout and sports complex will be constructed and the layout of the fields and sports building. The current timeline includes bids due December 8, 2025, and contract approvals will come forward to Board in January 2026. Construction will begin in April 2026 for both projects. The Roundabout will be completed in June 2026, and the Sports Complex will be completed in January 2027.

Communication and planning are occurring in many ways, including Chat with Lori, all-member communications, physical signage, Pace Bus rerouting, CLC Police, Grayslake Fire Department, University Center, Tech Campus, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and IDOT.

Discussion: Parking was reduced but not by a significant amount, have worked with Stormwater to resolve flooding issues. Recruitment of athletes out of district and where they are housed. Response: Athletes generally rent apartments and the costs associated of doing so is personal responsibility.

5. Consent Agenda

No items required discussion. No items were removed.

Chair Howland asked for a motion to approve all items in Section 5 Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve Section 5 Consent Agenda by Trustee Griffin. Seconded by Trustee Barbato.

Roll call:

Student Advisory Vote: Aye

Ayes: Virgilio, Abernathy, Barbato, Gibson, Griffin, Howland

Motion passed.

6. Presentment of Board Policies and Objectives – None

7. New Business

7.1 Policy 131 – Trustee Emeritus – Revised – Second Reading

Motion to approve Agenda Item 7.1 by Trustee Griffin. Seconded by Trustee Gibson.

Discussion: Information was shared about the history of the emeritus title. Typically was provided to professors. An ICCTA panel discussion was referenced noting that no other colleges had an emeritus policy. An ACCT representative on the panel was lukewarm regarding the emeritus status. Arbitrary for anything under 18 years. It was reinforced that each college does a different thing. It was noted that there is a lack a clear understanding of how the current policy was developed and what is meant by good standing. The only criteria is 18 years of service. Additional wording was proposed that rather than ICCTA and ACCT lifetime membership, that a \$1,500 donation be made in the trustee's name to the Foundation. A perspective was shared that no trustee should serve on any board for 18 years and a belief that one term is enough. Support for current language to be maintained.

Roll call:

Student Advisory Vote: Abstain

Ayes: Howland, Abernathy, Gibson, Griffin

Nays: Virgilio, Barbato

Motion passed.

7.2 Policy 930 – Post Retirement Incentive – Non-bargaining Unit Employees – Revised – Second Reading

Motion to approve Agenda Item 7.2 by Trustee Barbato. Seconded by Trustee Gibson.

Roll call:

Student Advisory Vote: Aye

Ayes: Virgilio, Abernathy, Barbato, Gibson, Griffin, Howland

Motion passed.

7.3 Policy 932 – SURS Annuitant Return to Work and Employment Policy – Revised – Second Reading

Motion to approve Agenda Item 7.3 by Trustee Griffin. Seconded by Trustee Abernathy.

Roll call:

Student Advisory Vote: Aye

Ayes: Virgilio, Abernathy, Barbato, Gibson, Griffin, Howland

Motion passed.

7.4 Policy Estimating Amounts Necessary to be Levied for the Year 2025

Motion to approve Agenda Item 7.4 by Trustee Barbato. Seconded by Trustee Abernathy.

Discussion: Annual process includes Finance evaluating an early look on levy and preparing an estimate for the Board in November. The item returns in December for Board approval. An explanation on tax levy limits and a review of the Tax Rate Summary (handout) was provided by James Beckom, noting the difference between 2025 and 2024 estimated rates based on the home value.

Roll call:

Student Advisory Vote: Aye

Ayes: Virgilio, Abernathy, Barbato, Gibson, Griffin, Howland

Motion passed.

8. Executive Session (Closed Meeting) – None

9. Other Matters for Information or Discussion

Video spotlighting a graduate of the automotive technology program who benefited from CLC's participation in the Illinois Green Energy Network (IGEN) grant program for EV technology.

10. Adjournment

Chair Howland called for adjournment at 7:08 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Trustee Abernathy. Seconded by Student Trustee Gomez.

Roll call:

Student Advisory Vote: Aye

Ayes: Virgilio, Abernathy, Barbato, Gibson, Griffin, Howland

Motion passed.

Amanda D. Howland, Chair

Allena Barbato, Secretary