

Meeting Minutes

Montcalm Community College Board of Trustees
September 9, 2025, Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Montcalm Community College Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairperson Kurt Peterson at The Forager, in Howard City, Michigan.

Trustees present: Robert Byram, Trustee
Dr. Esther Combs, Trustee
Carol Deuling-Ravell, Vice Chairperson
Joyce Kitchenmaster, Secretary
Kurt Peterson, Chairperson
Robert Marston, Trustee
Joshua Stump, Treasurer

Trustees absent: None

Others present: Dr. Bradley J. Barrick, MCC President
Ryan Biller, Superintendent of Tri County Area Schools
Kristin Conley, Ferris State University doctoral student
Michael Falcon, Howard City Village Manager
Charlotte Greene, Early College student
Jamie Hansen-Hopkins, Montcalm Heritage Village Committee Vice President
Lisa Lund, Executive Director of the MCC Foundation
Kimberly Murphy, MCC nursing student
Dayna Neff, Executive Director of the Montcalm Economic Alliance
Shannon Neumann-Kilduff, Montcalm Heritage Village Committee President
Francisco Ramirez, MCC Dean of Student & Enrollment Services
Cory Smith, Daily News Senior Staff Writer
Shelly Springborn, Assistant Board Secretary
Connie Stewart, Senior Vice President and COO
Shannon Tripp, Associate Superintendent of CTE/Early College
Kevin Wagenmaker, Vice President for Academic Affairs

The Trustees reviewed minutes from their August 12, 2025, regular meeting. Mr. Peterson said the minutes stand approved as read.

The Trustees reviewed financial reports. Mr. Peterson said the financial report stands approved as presented.

The Howard City community leaders introduced themselves and discussed with the Trustees their area interests and initiatives.

Howard City Village Manager Mike Falcon thanked the board for coming to Howard City. He talked about growth in area, new businesses, renovation of the train depot into a community space, and paving of the White Pine Trail. He asked if there are future opportunities to bring MCC classes back to the Howard City area.

Montcalm Economic Alliance Executive Director complimented MCC as being one of the organization's vision partners and talked about initiatives she is focusing on.

Tri County Area Schools Superintendent Ryan Biller provided an update about upgrades being made to the stadium facility as well as the new elementary school that was constructed three years ago. He said these projects are creating opportunities for students. He also said he appreciates the partnership with MCC in bringing dual enrollment to the Tri County school district. A current initiative is an attempt to build out an alternative education program.

Dean for Student and Enrollment Services Francisco Ramirez introduced MCC nursing student Kimberly Murphy, who shared her story as the student leader of the nursing cohort. Ms. Murphy departed the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Shannon Neumann-Kilduff and Jamie Hansen-Hopkins provided a 2025 Montcalm Heritage Festival report. They departed the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Shannon Tripp and Charlotte Greene provided an Early College update. Mrs. Tripp reported that during the 13 years of the program, students have earned 185 associate degrees, eight one-year certificates and 18 other program certificates. Ms. Greene talked about her experience as an Early College student and how it has helped her both academically and professionally.

Dr. Barrick shared his president's report, including an enrollment update and the submission of former Board Chairperson Karen Carbonelli for recognition during the "In Memory" presentation at the upcoming ACCT Conference.

Dr. Barrick expressed his appreciation for having community members in attendance and thanked them for sharing their comments with the Board. Guests were invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting or given the opportunity to leave. Mr. Biller, Mr. Falcon, Ms. Neff, Ms. Greene and Mrs. Tripp departed the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

The Trustees briefly reviewed the draft Community College Local Strategic Value for state appropriations under Section 230(2) of the State School Aid Act (MCL.338.1830), with Vice President Wagenmaker providing a brief overview of the report.

Chairman Kurt Peterson reappointed Joyce Kitchenmaster to the Audit Committee, with her term expiring Oct. 11, 2028.

The Board approved a motion to enter closed session at 6:59 p.m. for the purpose of discussing presidential compensation. Roll call:

Chairperson Kurt Peterson: yes
Vice Chairperson Carol Dueling-Ravell: yes
Secretary Joyce Kitchenmaster: yes
Treasurer Josh Stump: yes
Trustee Bob Byram: yes

Trustee Esther Combs: yes

Trustee Bob Marston: yes

The Board approved a motion to enter open session at 7:56 p.m. Roll call:

Chairperson Kurt Peterson: yes

Vice Chairperson Carol Dueling-Ravell: yes

Secretary Joyce Kitchenmaster: yes

Treasurer Josh Stump: yes

Trustee Bob Byram: yes

Trustee Esther Combs: yes

Trustee Bob Marston: yes

Motion by Mr. Marston to adopt the presidential compensation package as presented. Second by Mrs. Deuling-Ravell. Unanimous approval.

The Board reviewed upcoming dates.

Mr. Marston moved that the meeting adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Mrs. Deuling-Ravell supported the motion, which carried unanimously.