

KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Thursday, March 12, 2026, 4:30 P.M.
Jones County Regional Center

MINUTES

Present: Doug Bannon, Steve Caves, Peggy Doerge, Alan Jensen, Tracy Pearson, Keith Stamp, Joel Thys, Lorraine Williams, and Leslie Wright.

Also Present: Kristie Fisher, President; Casey Dunning, Treasurer; Peg Sprengeler, Secretary; Ted Weiland, KFA Representative.

Chair Pearson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

No public comments.

Chair Pearson announced that the public hearing regarding the issuance and sale of the Industrial New Jobs Training Certificates has been rescheduled to April 9, 2026.

Student Perspectives

This month, the student perspectives were incorporated into the Jones County Regional Center update.

Trustees Caves and Stamp moved and seconded approval of the March 12, 2026, agenda. Motion carried: 9-0

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Kirkwood Report

Justin Hoehn, Director of Media Relations and Communications, provided the Kirkwood report, which included:

- Macy Dusanek, Auto Tech Academy student, has been named March Student of the Month.
- Kirkwood's student chapter of the National Association of Home Builders earned third place at the 2026 NAHB Student Competition during the International Builders' Show in Orlando.
- Kirkwood will host the 2026 Kirkwood Safety Conference on March 26 at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center.
- The Kirkwood Eagles Women's Basketball Team has received an at-large bid for the national tournament and will enter as the sixth seed.
- Twelve Kirkwood Phi Theta Kappa students were recently named to the 2026 All-Iowa Academic Team and were recognized at a ceremony in Des Moines.

Jones County Regional Center

Caitlyn Miller, Director of the Jones County Regional Center, highlighted how the Jones County Regional Center collaborates with area high schools and community stakeholders to expand dual credit and -career focused- learning opportunities for students. These partnerships provide pathways that allow learners to explore their interests, earn meaningful credentials, and confidently prepare for future success.

She also introduced Stella Flynn, a CCHS student whose achievements exemplified the impact of these opportunities, showcasing how dual credit experiences inspired passion, build skills, and open doors to college and career pathways.

The Community's College – The Community's Future: Campaign Update

Jody Pellerin, Vice President of Advancement, provided an update of The Community's College – The Community's Future Major Gifts Campaign. Pellerin reported \$11.06 million of the \$15 million goal has been raised to date. The Foundation will be wrapping up the Quiet Phase of the campaign in March with a plan to launch the public phase of the campaign April 1, 2026. The public launch will include press releases, community solicitations and a campaign landing page on the college website where donors, alumni and friends can learn more about the five campaign funding opportunities.

Financial Report

Treasurer Dunning provided a high-level review of changes to the FY26 projected revenues for operating Fund 1 at the March 2026 Board meeting for the period of July 2025 through January 2026. Through January 2026, credit tuition is projected to exceed budget by \$1.22M. Credit tuition projection has been updated to include revenues of both college credit in high school academies and spring semester regular enrollment. Investment income is projected to exceed budget by \$1.09M due to higher-than-expected interest rates. Overall, actual revenue is projected to exceed budget revenue by \$2.17M.

Overall expenses for operating Fund 1 are projected to remain within budget for FY26. Key expense savings include Salaries and Benefits savings of \$2.59M due to savings from unfilled open positions

Fund 3 is projected to end the year in line with budget. A more refined estimate for the enterprise operations will be presented in the Spring when a larger share of operating revenues has been received at the major enterprises.

Cash balances remain strong with the College having 174 days of unrestricted days reserve at the end of February 2026, when compared to a KPI of 90 days.

Treasurer Dunning provided an overview of property tax levy rates that will be proposed as part of the certified budget process. Total levy rate will be proposed to remain flat with FY26 rates at \$1.43000 per \$1,000 valuation. An overview of the College's surplus levy in Bond and Interest Levy was reviewed. The College will be using a surplus levy of \$.01473 per \$1,000 valuation which is equal to \$515,000 to partially call School Bonds Series 2020C which will provide long-term interest expense savings of \$103,000. Additionally, the College will be using \$1,415,000 of debt service cash on hand to partially call School Bonds Series 2020C which will provide a long-term interest expense savings of \$283,000. The certified budget will be presented for adoption at the April Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trustees Thys and Wright moved and seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion carried: 9-0.

- A. Personnel (as attached to these minutes).
- B. Synopsis of Bills
 - 1. Kirkwood Community College pages 1 through 57 for a total of \$5,325,451.71
 - 2. The Hotel at Kirkwood Center pages 1 through 3 for a total of \$276,822.59
- C. Change Orders:
 - 1. Garling Construction, Kirkwood Hall Renovation – \$2,712.83
 - 2. Garling Construction, Kirkwood Hall Renovation – **(\$475.00)**
- D. Board minutes from February 19, 2026
- E. Final approval – Board Policy: 706 – AI Integration and Responsible Use

NEW BUSINESS AGENDA

Administration

Trustees Bannon and Doerge moved and seconded the approval of the Final Industrial New Jobs Training Agreements [260E] with the following:

- Automation Systems and Control, Inc. d/b/a ESCO Group, Marion, 9 new jobs
 - Danisco US d/b/a International Flavors & Fragrances, Inc., Cedar Rapids, 30 new jobs
 - GreatAmerica Financial Services Corporation, Cedar Rapids, 25 new jobs
 - IMON Communications, LLC, Cedar Rapids, 23 new jobs
 - JRS Pharma, LP, Cedar Rapids, 18 new jobs
 - Open Gates Business Development Corporation, Kalona, 8 new jobs
- Motion carried: 9-0.

Trustees Wright and Williams moved and seconded approval of the resolution directing the publication of a notice of intention to issue not to exceed \$8,000,000.00 aggregate principal amount of Industrial New Jobs Training certificates, calling a public hearing on the proposal to issue said certificates, and authorizing preparation of preliminary offering statement on April 9, 2026, at the Kirkwood Community College – B.A. Jensen Board Room. Motion carried: 9-0.

Trustees Williams and Thys moved and seconded approval of the Publication of Advertisement for the FY27 proposed budget and setting the date of April 9, 2026, for the public hearing at Kirkwood Community College - B.A. Jensen Board Room. Motion carried: 9-0.

Trustees Caves and Stamp moved and seconded approval of the Redemption of School Bonds Series 2020C, approving an Escrow Agent Agreement, levying a Tax for Fiscal Year 2027, and authorizing Expenditure of Debt Service Cash on Hand for the Redemption of School Bonds Series 2020C. Motion carried: 9-0.

Trustees Jensen and Thys moved and seconded approval of the Notice of Intent to seek a CMaR (Contractor at Risk) and the approval to issue RFQ (Request For Qualifications) on March 30, 2026, for East Hall improvements. Motion carried: 9-0.

Trustees Wright and Williams moved and seconded the approval and authorization of the execution of a 28E Agreement between the City of Fairfax and Kirkwood Community College for Prairie Installation and Management. Motion carried: 9-0.

Board

No new business for the Board.

DELEGATIONS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

President's Report

- TRIO Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers are in the final year of their five year cycle [ends October 1, 2026]. Federal funding is approved, but the request for proposals has not yet been released. We are grateful to Senator Grassley for recognizing the impact of TRIO programs on the Senate floor and for his continued support of these initiatives that help students pursue education, opportunity, and success. Each grant is just under \$300,000.
- The Finance Committee discussed calling a portion of Hotel debt in April to provide relief for Fund 1.
- The bachelor's degree legislation has passed the house; its status in the Senate remains uncertain. Kirkwood does not meet the eligibility criteria under the current language.
- We continue to monitor legislative activity as we approach the second funnel next week.

- We are working with MIIP [*Metro Interagency Insurance Program*] for the upcoming fiscal year. MIIP is a collaborative group of five education organizations in the area that combine their resources to offer affordable medical and pharmacy insurance to employees and their families.

Secretary's Report

- April 23, 2026: Town Hall Meeting
- April 23, 2026: Spring Board Retreat
- April 23, 2026: Celebration of Success, 6 to 9 p.m. – The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
- Spring County Leadership meetings begin in early April.

Report of Board Members

No reports from the Board.

There being no further business coming before the Board, Trustees Stamp and Williams moved and seconded the meeting be adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried: 9-0

Respectfully submitted by:

Peg Sprengeler, Board Secretary

Approved by Board on April 9, 2026:

Tracy Pearson, Chair

**Board of Trustees' Agenda
March 12, 2026**

Replacements/New Positions

Name	Title	Department	Effective Date	Replaces/New
Rachel Meyer	Grounds Maintenance Worker	Grounds	03/02/2026	Zach Meyer
Leydy Saldana	Custodian	Facilities	02/16/2026	Matthew Rosauer
Olga Baughman	Business Liaison	CE Corporate Training	03/16/2026	NEW
Tony Nicol	Seidler Pathway Navigator	Engagement & Student Support	03/16/2026	NEW

Separation of Employment

Name	Title	Department	Effective Date
Tia Slippy	Interim International Admissions Advisor	Global Learning	02/27/2026