

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT #505
(Parkland College)**

**Counties of Champaign, Coles, Dewitt, Douglas, Edgar,
Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, McLean, Moultrie, Piatt, Vermilion, and State of Illinois**

JANUARY 15, 2025

ROLL CALL

The Meeting was called to order by James Voyles, Chair, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in Room U325, 2400 W. Bradley, Champaign, Illinois, and electronically via Teams. At the direction of Chair Voyles, Krystal Garrett, Assistant to the President/Board of Trustees, called the roll of members of the Board. The following Trustees were present: James Ayers, Maureen Banks, Jarrett Clem, Bianca Green, Carolyn Ragsdale, Dana Trimble, Jaden Campbell (Student Trustee), and James Voyles. Also present were President Pamela Lau and representatives of the administration, faculty, staff, and public.

It was moved by Mr. Ayers and seconded by Ms. Ragsdale to allow Trustee Trimble to attend the meeting electronically via Teams due to family illness.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None. ABSENT—None. ABSTAIN—Trimble.

It was moved by Mr. Ayers and seconded by Ms. Ragsdale to allow Trustee Banks to attend the meeting electronically via Teams due to business.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None. ABSENT—None. ABSTAIN—Banks.

CONSENT AGENDA MOTION

Chair Voyles asked if Trustees had any questions regarding items included on the Consent Agenda.

It was moved by Ms. Green and seconded by Mr. Clem to approve the consent agenda that includes all items on the agenda that are preceded by an asterisk.

The consent agenda adopted included approval of the following items:

- Approved the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on December 18, 2024.
- Approved the voucher checks listing thru December 31, 2024, totaling \$2,719,234.64.
- Approved the filing of the following grant applications:
 - Illinois Community College Board (ICCB): FY25 Scaling and Assessing Developmental Education Reform Act Project
 - National Science Foundation (NSF): Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation program (EFRI)—EFRI BEGIN OI: *Neurocomputers Integrating 3D Patterned Neural Organoids and Solid-State Electronics for Biocomputing*
- Approved the recommendation by Legal Counsel that no closed session minutes be released at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Chair opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PCA

Kevin Hastings, President of PCA, stated that there was no report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Pamela Lau reported on the following:

Enrollments - Student Services has worked hard to make up for the potential impact on spring enrollments from the campus closure on January 6 due to weather. This included several departments opening from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 11, to work with late registering students.

Due to the hard work across the campus, enrollments look positive in comparison to spring semester a year ago. As of this morning, we are 5420 in headcount in students signing up for credit-bearing classes, an increase of 6% compared to spring semester a year ago, and 3181 in FTE, an increase of 6.2% compared to a year ago.

Searches – The second search for a new Vice President for Administrative Services/Chief Financial Officer is in full swing under the guidance of Dr. Angela Provard from the Pauly Group. We would like the new VP in place by this summer to have at least a year's overlap with Chris Randles who retires in June 2026. The position advertisement has been posted. Dr. Provard had a good in-person meeting with members of the search committee and Dr. Lau

on January 9. She reported that “some promising individuals” have already reached out to her. Given the reputation of Parkland, she does not think we should have a problem in attracting well-qualified applicants.

The search for the new Executive Director for the Parkland Foundation is also on the way. Tracy Wahlfeldt, our current ED, will retire at the end of April this year. Dr. Stuart and Mr. Ron Bensyl of the Foundation Board are leading this search. The committee is making good progress and plans to have finalists on campus for interviews in the next couple of months.

Updated on the projects continuing and/or beginning in departments across the campus.

1. **Reaching out to former students.** Parkland is exploring a partnership with a company called Re-Up that works on building relationships with past students who have earned credits with us but did not complete a credential with us or at another institution. Dr. Mike Trame and Dean Kristin Smigielski represent Parkland in a statewide effort to work out cost structures and contract provisions. ICCTA, under Mr. Jim Reed's leadership, is at the table with interested colleges. This opens a different avenue for enrollments and empowers us to fulfil our commitment to help students, present and former, find meaningful pathways to better wages, professional preparation, and social mobility through our educational offerings.
2. **Dual Credit.** Last month, Dr. Stuart mentioned that one of the legislative priorities for Illinois community colleges is to strengthen aspects of the Dual Credit Quality Act. These include developing a consistent approach to faculty credentials and ensuring that community colleges have the right of first refusal.

However, there are ways to strengthen dual credit that do not require legislation. One of the weakest aspects of dual credit in its current form is the fact that students and their families often do not understand that the value of earning college credit early is not just listing college courses on a transcript. The choice of college classes must be made in the context of a structured and guided pathway. Each course should ideally take the student one step closer to an intended credential. Random acts of dual credit are not random acts of kindness. For lower income students, this could eat into future financial aid awards.

To this end, Parkland is in conversation with some local school districts – we are starting with one as a pilot – to help college-ready high school students systematically earn credits toward a credential. We will work with the school district to develop a curricular pathway that will be a combination of (i) dual credit earned in their high school building, (ii) Advanced Placement (AP) proficiency credit, and (iii) credits earned on the Parkland campus. Planned well, the student can graduate high school with a high school diploma in one hand and a Parkland credential in the other. Parkland EDGE is a working title for this initiative: EDGE stands for Earning Dual

Graduation and Education credits. We hope to bring a tuition agreement to you for approval in the coming months.

3. **President's Lunch and Listening Tour.** Every semester, the president hosts a series of President's breakfasts and lunches for faculty and staff. We provide a free meal, and leaders present on various college initiatives so that the college community stays abreast of key happenings across campus. Dr. Lau will kick off this semester's series with the topic: Opportunity and Inclusion. She will summarize college initiatives to reach out to current and prospective students, especially from population sectors who have been traditionally underserved in higher education and/or who are not engaging with Parkland.

As a follow-up, she will embark on a collegewide listening tour. The college is coming to the end of the second year of our strategic plan, and it is important to hear from faculty and staff. Interested individuals are invited to sign up for conversations with Dr. Lau. She will use an approach that Jim Reed has effectively used at trustee retreats – the “Start. Stop. Continue” approach to hear new ideas and encourage feedback.

4. **Black History Month.** As is our tradition, Parkland joins in nationwide celebrations of Black History Month in February. Dr. Marya Burke, one of our Parkland counselors, leads this year's planning of the month-long program. Programming will culminate in a *Brown v. Board of Education* event in collaboration with the University of Illinois. This is the 70th anniversary of that momentous court ruling, tearing down racist barriers that denied full access to education for all. Dr. Lorenzo Baber from UIUC will facilitate a panel. Panelists will share their lived experiences of the impact of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The event is open to the public and is scheduled for Feb. 25 at 5 p.m. in the Parkland cafeteria area. The BHM calendar will be shared, and events will be put on the website once finalized.
5. **Title IX Update.** On January 9, a federal judge ruled that the 2024 changes to Title IX regulations were unconstitutional. Colleges and universities must now revert to Title IX rules that came into effect in 2020 during the previous Trump administration.

Dr. Trame updated that we did not manage any cases under the 2024 regulations, so we do not have to deal with some of those rules. We will have to revert back to the 2020 set of rules, which includes live hearings, signed formal complaints, and the provisions leading up to that. He noted that we did a significant amount of work on the old regulations that can be used going forward, and the 2020 rules had some parenting and pregnancy rules that we will continue to work on to produce more meaningful ways to support students. We will put all the work from the 2024 regulations on the shelf and update the 2020 regulations to ensure that we are compliant in our work. There is a potential appeal to that ruling but it will not be acted upon until after the inauguration and will not likely be picked up again.

Dr. Lau updated on the following upcoming events:

- January 17: Legislative Breakfast, U-140 at 8 a.m. Includes optional tour of the AGCO building.
- February 9 -12: National Legislative Summit, Washington D.C.
- February 19: Pre-BOT annual budget workshop
- February 22: Math Contest Cafeteria, Student Union – Trustees Green and Ayers expressed interest in helping.

She noted that she will represent Parkland at the following events:

- **MLK Countywide Celebration:** Sunday, January 19 at the Krannert Great Hall.
- **AACC Workforce Development Institute:** Dr. Stuart and Dr. Lau will attend AACC's WDI in San Diego, CA from January 27 – 31. It is important that we keep abreast of developments and innovations in the workforce development arena not only as we wrestle with the coming demographic cliff in college enrollments but also as we press on to fulfill our mission of reaching all possible students.
- **CCID/Community Colleges for International Development:** Dr. Lau is on the CCID board, which meets in Washington DC after the National Legislative Summit concludes. ACCT is invited to speak to the CCID board on its interest in international partnerships.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Stephanie Stuart, Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and Workforce Innovation, provided a legislative update. A handout was provided.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUESTS

Stephanie Stuart reviewed the requests made under the FOIA during the month and the disposition of the requests.

<u>Requestor</u>	<u>Information Requested</u>
Jeremie Mbuta	Police Report
Sheri Reid	Purchasing Records
Kitlynn Stinson	Public Safety Report

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Chris Randles reported that the financial statements for December reflect the results of operations of the College for the first six months of fiscal year 2025. The revised budget estimates indicate that expenses will exceed revenues by \$3,803,648.

- The key factors for the College's operating results in FY2025 will be tuition & fee revenues (enrollment), CPPRT revenues, and self-funded health claims' expenses and planned fund balance spending.
- The FY2025 audited beginning operating fund balance is \$44.2M. This amount is 62% of current budgeted operating expenditures.
- The FY2025 final budget projected a \$3,660,338 deficit.
- The FY2025 College tentative budget was lodged in July.
- The FY2025 College final budget was presented in September.
- The FY2024 College audit was presented in October.
- The TY2024 tax levy estimated amounts necessary were presented in October.
- The TY2024 final tax levy was presented in November.
- The annual budget workshop will be held in February.

Mr. Randles stated that we will review the year to date at the upcoming Budget Workshop, including spring enrollment, revenues, and property tax EAV. He noted that we have not raised tuition for the past 4-5 years, but there is a possibility they will recommend an increase this year based off the upcoming costs with union contracts, deficits to spend down the fund balance, and rising healthcare costs. He noted that the CFOs have done a survey and all who have responded stated they are raising tuition. Strategic decisions will need to be made about bonds and such moving forward.

EXEMPT PURCHASE – CLUB EUROPA

Based on responses to a community survey, Parkland College Community Education is planning a 12-night customized Journey to Rome, Assisi, and Tuscany area for 20-29 travelers in Fall 2025. It includes superior tourist or moderate first-class hotels, meals, deluxe motorcoach services, airport transfers, licensed local guides, river cruises, local taxes, and gratuities for local guides and coach drivers.

Parkland College Community Education works with Club Europa, a tour designer and operator specializing in customized group travel to purchase group travel tours for community members including transportation, accommodations, private and public tours, guides, gratuity, and some meals. Club Europa, a leader in international travel to and through Europe, was founded in 1959 and boasts fifty percent European senior staff with travel experience. Their on-site staff of tour directors, local guides, assistants, and chauffeurs are carefully chosen and trained by Club Europa, guaranteeing the highest quality professional service.

Community Education has developed a reputable and long-standing partnership with Club Europa. They are knowledgeable about our audience, experts in European travel, and have designed high-quality European tours for our community for more than 15 years. Community Education regularly evaluates the program and services and has continued to partner with Club Europa because their programs and services meet or exceed our customers' expectations.

This purchase relates to the following strategic goal:

Goal C: Enrich the Community: Parkland College will work collaboratively to enrich the District 505 community.

3. Provide and develop relevant credit and non-credit lifelong learning opportunities for District 505, with a particular focus on engaging with historically underserved communities.

5. Maintain an open door for the community to visit campus and engage in enriching programs, events, and experiences.

Dr. Stuart updated that no operating dollars are used for this. We front the cost, which gets reimbursed from the fees that are paid, and there is typically a waitlist. They have an informational session where people can sign up and a Parkland employee goes on the trip as well.

Administration recommended purchasing the group tour service from Club Europa, Urbana, IL, for a total cost not to exceed \$145,000. Items are exempt from formal bid requirements per the Illinois Public Community College Purchasing Act section 805/3-27.1 (a) contracts for the services of individuals possessing a high degree of professional skill where the ability or fitness of the individual plays an important part. Board authorization is requested since the cost exceeds \$20,000. Funds are available from the FY2026 Community Education budget for this purchase.

It was moved by Mr. Clem and seconded by Ms. Ragsdale to approve the purchase of group tour services from Club Europa, Urbana, IL, for a total cost not to exceed \$145,000.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None. ABSENT—None.

BOARD APPROVAL - PHS – REPLACE P-WING BOILER

At the September 2024 Board of Trustees meeting, Protection, Health, and Safety funds were approved to replace the boiler in the P-Wing/Gymnasium. The boiler is original to the building and is at the end of its useful life. Maintenance and repairs have become increasingly frequent and costly. The boiler will be replaced with a modern, high-efficiency condensing boiler, which will provide the gymnasium with reliable heating well into the future.

A legal bid notice was placed in the News-Gazette for general contractors to replace the P-Wing boiler and upgrade the domestic hot water system. The bid was also posted in the Eastern Engineering Plan Room, a repository for contractors accessing bid notices when searching for work.

This purchase relates to the following strategic goals:

Goal E: Secure our Future: Parkland College will strive for sustainable fiscal vitality emphasizing a continued investment in the human, technological, physical, and virtual assets of the college.

4. Maintain sustainable resources and maximize efficiency to support the learning mission of the college.

Bids for this project were received from three contractors. The bids are as follows:

1. Davis-Houk Mechanical Inc.	Urbana, IL	\$ 388,800
2. A&R Mechanical Contractors Inc.	Urbana, IL	\$ 412,162
3. United Mechanical Group Inc.	Champaign, IL	\$ 421,534

Administration recommended accepting the bid for the P-Wing boiler replacement from Davis-Houk Mechanical Inc., Urbana, IL, for a total cost of \$388,800. Board authorization is requested since the cost exceeds \$20,000. PHS funds are available for this project.

It was moved by Ms. Ragsdale and seconded by Mr. Ayers to approve the bid for P-Wing boiler replacement from Davis-Houk Mechanical Inc., Urbana, IL, for a total cost of \$388,800.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None. ABSENT—None.

RESOLUTION APPROVING DOUGLAS COUNTY PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT

A global leader in biofermentation is seeking a suitable location to build a \$750 million corn wet milling and biofermentation manufacturing plant to produce amino acids for livestock feed. The main processing plant would be supported by auxiliary unit operations such as grain handling, combined power & heat, water treatment, wastewater treatment, and finished product operations including loading, packaging, and warehousing. The company intends to buy and process locally grown corn and projects employing 240 individuals at the plant.

Douglas County EDC has been actively working with the State of Illinois DCEO to attract this company to develop this manufacturing facility on a Brownfield property in their County.

Douglas County's EDC proposed property assessment agreement presents an economic incentive to the manufacturer in their site selection. The Agreement establishes a value of the Subject Property for purposes of calculating real estate taxes under this Agreement. A Market Value Estimate for the Subject Property was commissioned by the Douglas County Supervisor of Assessments and conducted by Vanguard Appraisals in 2024 (the "Market Value Estimate"). The Agreement, if approved by all involved units of local government, runs from Tax Year 2025 through Tax Year 2057.

Brian Moody, Executive Director, Douglas County EDC was in attendance to present details on the Property Assessment Agreement and answer questions.

Mr. Randles explained that the Board has approved enterprise zones in the past, noting that we normally follow other taxing bodies since we are one of the smaller taxing bodies. Historically, enterprise zone requests were for areas that were being developed. This particular site is a Brownfield site in a rural area. The idea is to incentivize businesses with tax breaks so that they come and grow the area. A handout was provided that shows the assumptions for Parkland based off the Douglas County Tax Extension Plan and what it looks like for the life of the 30-year agreement.

Mr. Moody noted that there were a lot of questions about the site after LyondellBasell left, so he was pleased when they were told about the prospect of the Fufeng wet-milling plant. He noted that this will be Fufeng's first U.S. site. They have five facilities in China and are currently constructing one in Europe. Fufeng USA, a subsidiary of the Fufeng group, has been headquartered in Oakbrook, Illinois since around 2020.

Douglas County EDC has been working with them for about 3-4 months to discuss site selection and to research what would be needed to build on a former industrial site. This corn wet-milling and bio fermentation company would produce amino acids for livestock feed, employ about 240 people and 30-40 in permanent contract maintenance positions, take about 3 years to build, require 800-1000 workers to build it, and has an estimated total investment of about \$750-800M. He added that this is a publicly traded company that is listed on the Hong Kong Exchange and is not affiliated with any government or political party.

He noted that the company has met with Douglas County stakeholders, the Parkland team for workforce development standpoint, and the other taxing bodies. The agreements to date have had four taxing bodies that have passed it and one taxing body that has tabled it for the time being. EDC feels the project is a strong fit for the area and an excellent opportunity to turn this former industrial site to productive use. He noted that it is important to them to establish consistency with the EAV value, so they came up with a voluntary 30-year agreement of 25%, compared to the typical 33.3%. The state is behind the project and has supported them throughout the discussion. He added that the enterprise zone is already established but this is not an automatic deal for someone else.

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The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss factors such as permits and reaching out to local trades and labor unions when it is time to build. They also discussed the agricultural impact to the area. Mr. Moody stated that this provides opportunities to have another market for farmers to contract locally through. Fufeng will use about 15% of the volume of corn produced in Douglas County and the adjacent counties. In addition, Fufeng's wet corn milling processes are not as sensitive to the dryness content, which opens up some flexibility. He noted that it will have some impact to the roads, and they will work with IDOT to get the necessary improvements.

Trustees also discussed the concerns of this being a Chinese owned company, what their byproducts will be, it being a Brownfield site, the previous site attempt in another state, the sensitivity of the project, and the company's response to using Parkland for workforce training. Mr. Moody added that Lyndell had a very extensive monitoring system on site, and the Illinois EPA considers this site to be industrial clean and all necessary mitigation has been completed or ongoing. Dr. Lau noted that they met with the CEO and discussed the training possibilities from Parkland, which included developing curriculum based on their needs, their apprenticeship approach, and the timeline to collaborate with them on their workforce needs. Trustees Ragsdale requested more time to review. Chair Voyles noted that he is from Tuscola and realized the impact from the loss of Lyndell, and the surprise to the community that someone would want to establish in that area. He also noted that there is more grain grown in the 50 mile radius of that area, so it is an obvious place for this company versus shipping and processing grain from China. In addition, Parkland has associations from China, and this would simply be another. He expressed concern about the message it sends by postponing this vote. Trustees discussed giving more time for everyone to consider and to see what the IL Department of Commerce says in their report. Mr. Moody stated that he is not sure if/when that report will be complete but expects that would be one of the final checks before a decision gets made.

It was moved by Ms. Ragsdale and seconded by Mr. Ayers to postpone the vote on the property assessment until the February meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, and Campbell (Advisory Vote). NAYS—Voyles. ABSENT—None.

POLICY MANUAL UPDATES (LODGED)

The Parkland College Association (PCA) and Administration have completed the latest review of the Policy and Procedures Manual. The recommended changes are being lodged and will be presented as a consent motion for approval at the February meeting.

- 3.49 Academic Calendar
- 8.33 Determination of Student Location

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Voyles states that the Board would not be going into Closed Session.

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PERSONNEL REPORT

It was moved by Ms. Green and seconded by Mr. Clem to approve the Personnel Report for January 2025.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None. ABSENT—None.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Green inquired about the dates of Parkland's spring break and wanted to ensure that it aligned with the U of I dates.

Student Trustee Campbell noted that he had a recent meeting with Senator Paul Faraci, who had a lot of great things to say about Parkland, its administration, and the work that everyone does here.

Chair Voyles noted that he will be absent for the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Ayers and seconded by Mr. Clem for adjournment.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None. ABSENT—None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

James Voyles, Chair

Maureen Banks, Secretary