WOR-WIC
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Russell W. Blake

Dr. Charles Dolan

Kimberly C. Gillis

Martin T. Neat

Anna G. Newton

Lorraine Purnell-Ayres

Bill Turner

PRESIDENT

Deborah Casey, Ph.D.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2026
12:30 p.m., MTC 102/Boardroom

The Board of Trustees of Wor-Wic Community College held a regular meeting on October 8, 2026. Board Chair Anna Newton presided.

PRESIDENT
Dr. Deborah Casey

TRUSTEES
Chair Anna Newton
Vice Chair Bill Turner
Mr. Russell Blake
Dr. Charles Dolan
Mrs. Kim Gillis
Mr. Marty Neat
Ms. Lorraine Purnell-Ayres

VICE PRESIDENTS
Mrs. Karen Berkheimer
Dr. Michael Hutmaker
Dr. Deirdra Johnson
Mrs. Jennifer Sandt
Dr. Karie Solembrino

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Ms. Stefanie Rider - absent

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
Mr. Ayman Idress

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
Ms. Katrina Terrell

PRESIDENT, WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LIAISON
Mr. Chip Bertino

WICOMICO COUNTY EXECUTIVE, LIAISON
Ms. Julie Giordano

ATTENDEES
Daron Mulligan
Megan Smith
Stacey Reid
Burak Kilicarslan
James Close
Dr. Nadeem Ahmad
Ryan Taylor
James Maybury

ROLL CALL
Ms. Katrina Terrell took roll and recorded minutes.

Chair, Mrs. Anna Newton called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Burak Kilicarslan – STEM Student gave presentation on AI Chest X-Ray Research Pilot.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was made to approve September 10, 2026, meeting minutes by Mr. Marty Neat and seconded by Mrs. Kim Gillis. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION
PKS Auditing Firm Ryan Taylor and James Maybury presented FY 2026 College audit. The college received an unmodified audit, the highest-level opinion that CPAs can provide.

STUDENT SUCCESS REFORMS
Student Success Reform 1: Transfer*
Ms. Daron Mulligan provided an overview of the Summer School Program with Le Havre, highlighting the value of international educational opportunities in helping students understand how their education and future careers fit within a global context. She emphasized the importance of providing Wor-Wic students with experiences similar to those available at larger universities.

Ms. Mulligan shared that participating in an international setting alongside students from 12 other countries helped Wor-Wic students recognize the value of their perspectives and understand that their voices are equally important in the global community. Of the 13 countries represented Wor-Wic was the only college from the United States. She expressed hope that Wor-Wic will continue to expand international opportunities that broaden students' worldviews and strengthen their connection to the global community.

Ms. Mulligan thanked Dr. Casey for supporting the initiative. She also emphasized the importance of helping students earn valuable, industry-recognized credentials before transferring to continue their education, noting the continued connection between workforce preparation and transfer pathways.

Student Success Reform 2: Dual Enrollment
Student Success Reform 3: Workforce Pathways
Student Success Reform 4: Shortened Academic Terms

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Dr. Casey presented Wor-Wic's Call to Action, as requested by the Secretary of Education, Linda McMahon. Wor-Wic's message will be posted on the College's website.

Dr. Casey advised that the TidalHealth Board meeting is scheduled for the 12th, requiring Dr. Dolan and Dr. Casey to be in attendance. A request was made to consider rescheduling the Wor-Wic Board meeting from the 12th to the 13th to accommodate their attendance. The proposed meeting time is 1:00–3:00 p.m., with a virtual participation option. All trustees agreed to new time and date.

Dr. Casey reported that the College received a $312,000 Rural Health Transformation Grant to support the development of a Center for Workforce and Apprenticeship focused on the healthcare sector. The College hopes to secure additional funding to expand the initiative to include apprenticeship opportunities across other industries.

Plans include hiring a director and a career employment specialist to work with employers to develop apprenticeship programs and coordinate the curriculum to align with workforce needs.

Dr. Casey noted that apprenticeships provide an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with employers while creating pathways for increased wages. She referenced approximately $42,000 as a living wage on the Eastern Shore and emphasized the importance of encouraging employers to recognize and reward employees as they develop additional skills and competencies.

The college was notified on October 1st that it would no longer receive Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) funding. As a result, students will no longer receive financial assistance for childcare through the program.

The College currently employs two part-time staff members who support the initiative and requested permission to continue their employment through December. Efforts have been made to appeal the funding decision through legislative representatives, and both U.S. Senators have expressed a willingness to assist.

It was noted that approximately 250 schools received CCAMPIS funding during the previous funding cycle, compared to only 40 schools in the current cycle. Despite efforts to appeal the decision, the College will need to release both part-time employees due to the loss of funding.

Dr. Casey provided an update on her recent community engagement activities. She reported speaking at two Rotary Club meetings and is scheduled to speak at the Presidents' Chamber meeting next week. She also attended an event at NASA, where the speaker was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates who spoke on higher education, aerospace, and the state's commitment to economic growth.

Dr. Casey also shared that Dave Pierce has retired, and a new individual has assumed his position. She noted that Mr. Pierce was asked to remain on the College's Foundation Board, and he agreed to continue serving. His continued involvement will help support efforts to strengthen and expand STEM initiatives.

The board was advised that a discussion was held regarding the EIN number associated with MHEC.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Treasurer's Report
Mrs. Jen Sandt presented Treasurer's report through August 31, 2026. No questions from board members.

10 Year Capital Improvement Plan
Mrs. Jen Sandt presented the college's 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2027-2036.

Sole Source Purchase: Ocelot Chatbot
Mrs. Jen Sandt stated that the information technology department is requesting a 3-year renewal contract with Ocelot for chatbot knowledgebase and live chat platform which has been upgraded.

PURCHASES GREATER THAN $50,000
Mrs. Jen Sandt presented purchases over $50,000 that were not required to be formally bid.

STANDING REPORTS

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Dr. Michael Hutmaker shared the enrollment report as of September 30, 2026. An update was provided on the improvements to the Dual Enrollment program numbers. Also noting, open house is scheduled for next Wednesday and will be open to all interested individuals.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEMS REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

1. Treasurer's Report
2. FY 2026 College Audit as Presented by PKS
3. 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan
4. Sole Source Purchase – Ocelot Chatbot

Mrs. Kim Gillis made a motion to approve the board action items, with Mr. Russell Blake seconding the motion. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved all meeting action items.

TRUSTEES ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Chip Bertino advised this was his final meeting after 12 years of service. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve and noted the strong commitment demonstrated by those around the table. He wished the College continued success. Chip was thanked for his service and contributions to the College.

A full update regarding the golf course will be provided in December. It was noted that the summer was reported to have been healthy.

The Board was reminded of the October 27 donor event in Ocean City. An invitation was provided and a list of invitees will be shared, and all Board members were encouraged to attend.

The November meeting request will be updated accordingly.

Charles, Bill, Deb, and Katrina will attend the ACCT Conference in Chicago. Andy Booth will be acknowledged during the conference. Deb, Charles, and Bill will provide a presentation to fellow trustees highlighting the College's global initiatives and related opportunities.

An update was shared regarding the relationship with Allbright, which helped secure the application opportunity. The associated expenses were largely covered, with the students responsible only for airfare. The opportunity was also advertised to the full press list.

30% of students transfer to Salisbury University (SU). However, among students transferring through general education and interdisciplinary pathways, completion rates remain low.

Discussion emphasized the importance of strengthening pathways that lead to meaningful employment and sustainable wages. Priorities include expanding access to valuable credentials, aligning academic programs with career opportunities, and ensuring that the College's programs contribute to workforce development and the overall vibrancy of the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bill Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:22PM and was seconded by Mr. Russ Blake. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Casey, Ph. D
Board of Trustees Secretary-Treasurer

Accepted

Anna Newton, Board Chair