APPROVED

Agenda

462nd Meeting of the

Illinois Community College Board

John Wood Community College

Workforce Development Center

Room 112

2710 N 42nd Street

Quincy, IL

September 27, 2024

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

 It is recommended that the following motion be adopted:

The Illinois Community College Board hereby approves the Board minutes of the September 27, 2024, meeting as recorded.

**Item #1 – Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum**

Chair Lopez called the Board meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and asked Ann Knoedler to call roll. The following Board members were present: Maureen Banks, Mara Botman, Craig Bradley, George Evans, Marlon McClinton, Larry Peterson, and Aubrey Hebenstreit, Student Board member, were present. Teresa Garate, Sylvia Jenkins, and An-Me Chung attended virtually and will be voted into the meeting. A quorum was declared.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Chair Lopez asked for each Board member to state for the record, name, location and reason that member is unable to physically attend the board meeting:

An-Me Chung: Chicago, IL due to a work conflict

Teresa Garate: Glenview, IL due to a work conflict

Sylvia Jenkins: Chicago, IL due to work Conflict

Chair Lopez stated that Board members Teresa Garate, Sylvia Jenkins, and An-Me Chung are unable to attend today’s meeting due to work related issues. According to Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act, Teresa Garate, Sylvia Jenkins, and An-Me Chung may participate in today’s meeting virtually and the Board needs a motion to allow them to attend.

Craig Bradley made a motion, which was seconded by Maureen Banks, to allow Board members Teresa Garate, Sylvia Jenkins, and An-Me Chung to participate in today’s Board meeting virtually.

The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote. Student member vote: Yes.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Item #2 - Announcements and Remarks by Dr. Lazaro Lopez, Board Chair**

Chair Lopez welcomed everyone to the September 27th Board meeting. First, Chair Lopez thanked President Renfro for hosting the ICCB today, for the tour of the Workforce Development Center, and for putting the dinner together. These efforts are very much appreciated.

Among other things, the Board will vote to Affirm the Board Goals today and thereby keep the ICCB staff focused on: Equity, Smoothing the Transition for Students into their next step whether that is High School to College, Two Year to Four Year, or to work, and Economic and Workforce Development.

Chair Lopez went on to acknowledge the great conversation that went on during the Board Retreat. Some areas that the Board identified they wanted to learn more about over this next cycle of meetings are student completion and retention, student basic needs, an understanding of AI, and funding. The Board would like to have an opportunity to hear the student perspective in these conversations.

As the Board continues to prioritize equity across the community colleges, Chair Lopez highlighted how the Presidents' Council and the Community College Trustees are actively engaging with key policy issues tied to the Business Enterprise Program (BEP), managed by the Center for Equity and Inclusion. The BEP program is an important initiative designed to ensure that minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses are fairly represented in procurement processes. Additionally, in the context of Equity Plans, the ICCB has collected information and data on the BEP program to support the President’s Council and the Trustees in this effort. Among the many areas under consideration in this effort are areas such as how the certification process might be streamlined, how to expand outreach, and how to provide additional support to BEP vendors.

Finally, it is very likely the IBHE will pull together an accountability committee that involves not only IBHE members, but also members of the ICCB, to consider accountability issues for the entire higher education system. Brian has had some preliminary conversations on this issue. ICCB expects things to solidify fairly shortly.

**Item #2.1 - Affirming the Board Goals for FY2025**

Every year the Board reviews its stated goals and considers what, if any changes are necessary. This typically occurs as a part of the Board Retreat and is voted on in the next regular Board Session. For this meeting, the Goals were considered at the recent retreat on August 29 and are now presented here on the agenda to be voted on. No changes were proposed to the goals. As a reminder, the ICCB goal statement is: The Board hereby supports and affirms the mission of the state’s community college system in providing all Illinois residents with opportunities for economic and personal growth, civic engagement, and cultural awareness. The Board is committed to working with community colleges to ensure racial and ethnic diversity on our campuses and to promote inclusive learning environments. The system’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is essential to students’ personal and professional growth and success academically, social-emotionally, and in the workforce. To meet this responsibility, the Board has committed to the following three goals:

GOAL 1: To support all students with a focus on minority, first-generation, and low-income students across urban, rural, and suburban communities, through the promotion of evidence-based best practices that close equity gaps resulting in system-wide improvement of equity metrics across enrollment, retention, advancement, and completion.

GOAL 2: To support a seamless transition for students into and through postsecondary education and the workforce by fostering the development of robust career pathways aligned to the needs of business and industry, strong engagement at all levels of the community college system, and with a focus on meeting students where they begin their educational journey, resulting in equitable access and outcomes for all students.

GOAL 3: To contribute to economic and workforce development by supporting the Illinois community college system’s effort to provide high-quality, dynamic workforce training opportunities that build essential skills for high-value work through apprenticeships, work-based learning opportunities, and competency-based instructional models that result in equitable economic mobility through increased credential attainment.

The Board will implement its goals with a focus and commitment to equitable access, opportunities, and outcomes for all students. The Board will promote best practices, enable evidence-based decision-making, and support system-wide continuous improvement.

Marlon McClinton made a motion, which was seconded by George Evans, to approve the following motion:

The Illinois Community College Board hereby approves and affirms the continuation of the existing Board Goals for FY2025.

The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote. Student vote: yes.

**Item #3 - Welcoming Remarks from Dr. Bryan Renfro, President, John Wood Community College**

Dr. Brian Renfro, President of John wood Community College, welcomed everyone to John Wood Community College. He expressed gratefulness for the Board’s support. He welcomed the ICCB staff and thanked them for all the work they do to help serve the students. The role that the Board and staff play is important at the state level and it is great to hear the Board goals that mirror the colleges.

**Item #4 - Board Member Comments**

There were no Board comments

**Item #4.1 - Illinois Board of Higher Education Report**

Dr. Sylvia Jenkins stated the last meeting was held on August 14th at SIU Carbondale. A report was given by the chancellor on the progress of the supporting transport solutions step ahead program and is doing an excellent job of reaching out to community colleges across the state and making those connections. Other reports were given by the Disability Advisory Council and by the federation of independent Illinois colleges and universities. The board also approved some action items.

**Item #4.2 - ICCB's Adequacy and Equity in Community College Funding Work Group**

Mr. George Evans stated the group recently held the second meeting of the Funding Working Group. In this meeting they finalized definitions of adequacy and equity and identified some focus areas for the subcommittees and larger working groups. The working group’s recommendations can be delivered in many forms, including technical and conceptual. Examples of recommendations could include forming a committee to look into a specific topic, rule revisions, etc. During the meeting, the group heard two presentations:

Nate Johnson, who did a lot of work on the research basis for defining “Adequacy” for the Public University Funding Commission. He has previously worked with IBHE on their funding formula. His presentation focused on adequacy in higher education funding, student characteristics of adequate funding, and the correlation between institutional spending and student outcomes.

Nathan Wilson gave a high-level overview of the student landscape of the Illinois community colleges.

The committee also assigned focus areas to the subcommittees, generally putting more operations questions in one and more student equity centered questions in the other.

Finally, some upcoming topics that the working group wants to discuss include: How to incorporate a “hold harmless,” provision into any discussions; the importance of discussions about new revenue, or using the same pot of money; how the concept of a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3, still fits (or not); the idea of general baseline allocations for institutions, members want to look at the baseline allocations of the Evidence Based Funding Formula; account for student outcomes in base operating; the need to prioritize deferred maintenance; and how non-credit and adult education fit into the funding model.

The two subcommittees will also be meeting and taking on the topics that were assigned to them. Topics that were assigned: Recognize fixed costs across institutions regardless of size, tax base, and ability to levy; fund institutions for serving underrepresented populations; fund program improvement, new program creation, etc; ensure students attain credentials of value; identify funding mechanisms beyond the traditional credit hour; invest in strategies that improve student access, affordability, and outcomes; account for students’ basic and educational needs; and fFund high-need, high-cost courses/programs differentially.

The next meeting is November 15th in Schaumburg.

**Item #5 – Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Brian Durham started by stating he attended the presidents retreat which was on the 5th 6th of this past month. He also attended ICCCP and ICCTA meeting on September 13-14th in Springfield. Also held on September 13th the ICCB's Adequacy and Equity in Community College Funding Work Group helf at the ICCB office in Springfield. Dr. Durham also attended the IWIB board meeting on the 19th and toured the rivian plant. He testified at the Chair Ford-Official Hearing on Infrastructure Needs on September 23rd. the West Central Region (WCR) held their Meeting at Black Hawk College, Quad City Campus (Moline). During these meetings, he actually gets an opportunity to talk to trustees that don't always come to the trustees association meetings and had some conversations about the funding work and also about developments in the dual credit.

On September 25th at South Suburban College, Dr. Durham participated on a panel for the IL Community College Funding Report Event with the partnership for college completion that relates to the funding report that was about Community College being underfunded and about potential solutions.

Dr. Durham concluded his report by mentioning that during the Board Retreat, the Board members listed a few topics they would like to discuss during the upcoming regularly scheduled board meetings: Student completion and retention; Long term investment funding for the colleges; Student basic needs; How does IL compare to what other states are doing; and better understand how AI is used. The staff will be a little more strategic and plan the upcoming board meetings around these various pieces. They will also ask colleges to share some of their best practices to share with the Board.

**Item #6 - Advisory Organizations**

**Item #6.1 - Illinois Council of Community College Presidents**

Dr. Renfro read dr. cornilles notes. The Presidents are committed to working collectively with the ICCB Executive Director and staff Association as well as with affiliated bodies of the ICCCP such as the Chief Academic Officers (CAO)Chief Student Service Officers (CSSO), and Chief Financial Officers (CFO) in order to ensure alignment of focus and voice when it comes to our work. Additionally, The Presidents Council is committed to working with our colleagues at the University and k-12 levels in order to further a culture of learning and workforce development in the state.

In order to begin organizing our work and establishing a cohesive agenda for the next several years, the ICCCP held a very successful President’s retreat at Allerton Park on September 3-4, 2024.

During the retreat, the Presidents discussed a number of issues to guide the work of our group for the next several years to come. As a result of the conversations that took place, some of the areas of focus for further conversation included:

* Maintaining local control, through means like raising the bid threshold for minor capital project improvements from $50,000 to $100,000 while also annually adjusting the bid threshold based on CPI.
* Supporting the work of the Adequacy and Equity in Community College Funding Work Group while also expanding and consistently funding noncredit, technical, and innovative approaches in workforce education.
* Reducing expenses for community colleges by eliminating duplicative ICCB and IBHE reports, eliminating or funding unfunded mandates, and eliminating the requirement to use Capital Development Board for major capital projects
* Developing a common course number system for Illinois Community Colleges’ curriculum to streamline curriculum development and reduce transfer confusion
* As well as, making Illinois Community Colleges the first-choice workforce provider for all State of Illinois agencies.

The retreat agenda also included round table conversations to enhance the alignment of our work across the state. The round table conversations allowed attendees to discuss various aspects of the following, in small group dialogue:

* + Purpose, Structure and Finance of ICCCP
	+ Threats to Higher Education – Based on follow up to Dr. Levine’s presentation to the ICCCP from last spring
	+ Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Risk Management
	+ Dual Credit
	+ Work Related to k-12, Universities and Workforce Centers
	+ Strategic Enrollment Management
	+ AI, Innovation and Technology (including statewide technology infrastructure)
	+ Implementation of CRM for Case Management
	+ Competency-Based Education

Additionally, the group as a whole had conversations related to how we collectively talk with one voice in order to strengthen our legislative strategy. Starting with retaining a set of legislative guiding principles that have been and will continue to be at the core of our legislative agenda, those principles are:

* Funding for community college operations
* The evidenced-based impact of community colleges
* Funding and distribution for capital construction projects
* Equity in higher education
* And, protecting local control

And finally, the group discussed the development of a charge to direct the scope of work directed by the Presidents council to Chief Academic Officers (CAO), Chief Student Service Officers (CSSO), Chief Financial Officers (CFO), Chief Information Officers (CIO), the Illinois Community Colleges Marketing Collaborative (ICCMC) and Government Relation/Legislative Affairs Officers (GRLAO) groups in order to ensure alignment of our work and efforts.

**Item #6.2 - Illinois Community College System Foundation**

Dr. Barry Hancock New college system foundation just added a new Starship of blessings scholarship for teacher education. He mention the foundation is continually updating the building in Springfield and they recently completed their work with painting throughout the building. Next they will do environmental testing to make sure they know what's in good shape. They recently had the fire department in to tour the building and approved the signage. The foundation continues to hand out scholarships. He concluded his report by stating the csuse of the sewer smell was finally discovered and fixed.

**Item #6.3 – Student Advisory Council**

Ms. Aubrey Hebenstreit state the council elected the executive team which includes representation from the city colleges of Chicago, heartland Community College, Triton college and Illinois Central College. The council approved the group's meeting calendar which includes 4 in person and three virtual meetings. Some of the topics that were discussed was mental health, self-care opportunities, making sure students are staying active, the need for peer support and getting students involved with each other again, basic needs which includes food insecurities that students are facing, transportation troubles for certain students, housing troubles and trying to make rent more affordable, how to help transfer students, and how to promote scholarships and ways to help non traditional students.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

At this time, the Board took a break at 10:37 a.m. and returned at 10:50 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Item #7 - Committee Reports**

**Item #7.1 - Academic, Workforce, and Student Support**

The committee met on the morning of June 7th at 8:00a with Marlon McClinton, Maureen Banks, Craig Bradley and Aubrey Hebenstreit in attendance. The committee discussed the following: Workforce Education: Career & Technical Education, Rev Up Round 3 and Taking Back the Trades; Workforce: Innovative Bridge and Transition Grant, Non-credit Workforce Training Initiative, and Industrial Training and Assessment Centers – Department of Energy. Adult Education: Adult Education Week and Adult Education Competition; Academic Affairs: Mental Health Grant and New Unit Summary; Strategic Initiatives: OER Summit; and Partnership Presentation that will be given during the Board meeting. The last order of business for the Committee was the Election of the AWS Workforce Education Chairperson, who is Mara Botman.

**Item #7.1a - Illinois Community College Board Partnerships**

The Illinois College Community College Board works with a variety of state agencies, community organizations, community college system and external associations, as well as philanthropic organizations. At the March 2024 board meeting, staff discussed partnerships with other state agencies. Staff provided an oral presentation on community organizations and philanthropic partnerships. The purpose of this brief presentation is to summarize the collaborative efforts that are necessary to fulfill the mission and the goals of the community college system, as well as to ensure state and federal, and legislative mandates, policies and rules are followed.

**Item #7.2 - Finance, Budgeting, Accountability and External Affairs**

The committee met on the morning of June 7th at 8:00a with Larry Peterson and Mara Botman in attendance. The following items were discussed: Marketing & Communications Update; Adequacy and Equity in Community College Funding Work Group; Update on U.S. Census Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) Initiative; Overview of Certificate of Eligibility for Special Tax Levy; and Discussion of FY 26 Budget Priorities.

**Item #8 - Recognition of the Illinois Community Colleges**

Maureen Banks made a motion, which was seconded by Craig Bradley to approve the following item:

**Item #8.1 - Kankakee Community College, IL Eastern Community College, and Joliet Junior**

**College, Highland Community College**

The Illinois Community College Board hereby grants a status of “recognition continued” to the following districts:

Highland Community College, District 519

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, District 529

Joliet Junior College, District 525

Kankakee Community College, District 520

The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote. Student vote: yes.

**Item #9 - New Units**

Mara Botman made a motion, which was seconded by George Evans, to approve the following motion:

**Item #9.1 -** **Harper College, Heartland Community College, Olive-Harvey College, Wilbur**

**Wright College, and Southwestern Illinois College**

The Illinois Community College Board hereby approves the following new units of instruction for the community colleges listed below:

**PERMANENT PROGRAM APPROVAL**

**Harper College**

* Psychiatric Technician Certificate (37 credit hours)

**Heartland Community College**

* Associate in General Studies (A.G.S.) degree (60 credit hours)

**Olive-Harvey College**

* Barbering Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree (65 credit hours)
* Barbering Certificate (50 credit hours)

**Southwestern Illinois College**

* Civil Engineering Technology A.A.S. degree (60 credit hours)

**Wilbur Wright College**

* Cloud Computing Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree (60 credit hours)
* Cloud Computing Advanced Certificate (30 credit hours)

The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote. Student vote: yes.

**Item #10 - Adoption of Minutes**

Craig Bradley made a motion, which was seconded by Mara Botman, to approve the following motion:

**Item #10.1 - Minutes of the June 2, 2024 Board Meeting**

The Illinois Community College Board hereby approves the Board minutes of the June 7, 2024, meeting as recorded.

**Item #10.2 - Minutes of the June 2, 2024 Executive Session**

The Illinois Community College Board hereby approves the Executive Session minutes of the June 7, 2024 meeting as recorded.

**Item #10.3 - Minutes of the August 29, 2024 Board Retreat**

The Illinois Community College Board hereby approves the Board minutes of the August 29, 2024, meeting as recorded.

The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote. Student vote: yes.

**Item #11 - Consent Agenda**

George Evans made a motion, which was seconded by Marlon McClinton, to approve the following items:

**Item #11.1 - Certification on Eligibility for Special Tax Levy**

The Illinois Community College Board hereby authorizes the Executive Director to issue the annual certificates of eligibility for additional taxing authority to the community college districts meeting the following statutory criteria:

1. Received an equalization grant in fiscal year 2024 and/or received an equalization grant in fiscal year 2025; and

2. Had combined educational and operations and maintenance purposes tax rates less than 28.79 cents per $100 of equalized assessed valuation.

**Item #11.2 - Authorization to Enter into Contracts for Office Operations**

The Illinois Community College Board approves the following Fiscal Year 2025 contractual agreements:



The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote. Student vote: yes.

**Item #12 - Information Items**

There was no discussion.

**Item #12.1 - Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Financial Statements**

**Item #12.2 - Basic Certificate Program Approval approved on behalf of the Board by the**

**Executive Director**

**Item #13 - Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Item #14 - Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Item #15 - Executive Session**

Mara Botman made a motion, which was seconded by Maureen Banks, to approve the following motion:

I move to enter Executive Session for the purpose of **Employment/Appointment Matters and Review of Executive Session Minutes** which qualify as acceptable exceptions under Section 2(c) of the Open Meetings Act to hold a closed session.

A voice vote was taken with the following results:

Maureen Banks Yea Sylvia Jenkins Yea

Mara Botman Yea Marlon McClinton Yea

George Evans Yea Larry Peterson Yea

Craig Bradley Yea Aubrey Hebenstreit Yea

An-Me Chung Yea Lazaro Lopez Yea

 Teresa Garate Yea

The motion was approved. Student vote: yes. The Board entered executive session at 11:33 a.m.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

George Evans made a motion, which was seconded by Maureen Banks, to reconvene Public Session at 12:08 p.m.

A voice vote was taken with the following results:

Maureen Banks Yea Sylvia Jenkins Yea

Mara Botman Yea Marlon McClinton Yea

George Evans Yea Larry Peterson Yea

Craig Bradley Yea Aubrey Hebenstreit Yea

An-Me Chung Yea Lazaro Lopez Yea

 Teresa Garate Yea

The motion was approved. Student vote: yes.

**Item #16 - Executive Session Recommendations**

There were no recommendations.

 **Item #16.1 - Employment/Appointment Matters**

**Item #16.2 - Review of Executive Session Minutes**

**Item #17 - Approval of Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes**

Maureen Banks made a motion, which was seconded by Craig Bradley, to approve the following motion:

The Illinois Community College Board hereby determines the Executive Session Minutes held on September 16, 2005; September 21, 2005; September 15, 2006; November 17, 2006; January 22, 2007; February 26, 2007; March 26, 2007; June 8, 2007; May 19, 2008; September 19, 2008; March 26, 2010; June 4, 2010; January 28, 2011; March 18, 2011; June 3, 2011; September 16, 2011; January 27, 2012; November 16, 2012; January 25, 2013; February 6, 2013; March 22, 2013; September 20, 2013; June 6, 2014; September 18, 2015; November 20, 2015; January 22, 2016; June 3, 2016; March 17, 2017; June 2, 2017; June 1, 2018; August 28, 2018; October 2, 2018; November 30, 2018; March 15, 2019; June 7, 2019; June 12, 2020; September 11, 2020; December 4, 2020; June 4, 2021; August 19, 2021; December 3, 2021; March 25, 2022; March 24, 2023; June 2, 2023; February 2, 2024; and March 22, 2024 are to remain confidential. All other Executive Session Minutes are available for public inspection.

The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote. Student vote: yes.

**Item #18 - Adjournment**

Larry Peterson made a motion, which was seconded by Craig Bradley, to adjourn the Board meeting at 12:09 p.m.

The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote.