KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Thursday, May 14, 2026, 4:30 P.M.
B.A. Jensen Board Room

MINUTES

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

Absent: Lorraine Williams

Also Present: Kristie Fisher, President; Casey Dunning, Treasurer; Peg Sprengeler, Secretary; Chad Little, KFA Representative; Tim Oswald, Piper Sandler.

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

No public comments.

Chair Pearson declared the public hearing open at 4:31 p.m., regarding the amended budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and noted that approval of the amended FY26 budget would occur under New Business later in the meeting. Hearing no questions or comments, Trustees Thys and Caves moved and seconded to close the public hearing at 4:31 p.m. Motion carried: 8-0.

Recognition – Coach Kim Muhl

Tracy Pearson, Board Chair, honored Coach Kim Muhl during the May 14, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting in recognition of his retirement, outstanding success, and dedicated service to Kirkwood. Coach Muhl was acknowledged for his distinguished career and the lasting impact he has made on student-athletes and the institution. Chair Pearson offered a heartfelt tribute highlighting his leadership, commitment, and contributions to Kirkwood's athletic programs.

Student Perspectives

Melissa Payne, Vice President-Student Services, introduced recent graduate Gracyn Kane. Gracyn is a Liberal Arts student from Coggon, Iowa who shared a story of involvement and success at Kirkwood. She shared how her engagement with activities and support services have contributed to her future goals. Gracyn graduated last weekend and will be serving as a Peer Orientation Leader this summer.

Trustees Doerge and Wright moved and seconded approval of the May 14, 2026, agenda. Motion carried: 8-0

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Kirkwood Report

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

- Summer Franck, apparel Merchandising and Design student, has been named May Student of the Month.
- The college recently announced the addition of the Business Analytics Technician program, along with the National Academy of Sports Medicine Certified Personal Trainer credential within the Exercise Science program.
- Kirkwood Dean of Global Learning, Dawn Wood, has been recognized with the 2026 Peter A. Wollitzer Advocacy Award.
- Kirkwood recently announced the hiring of Nate Oakland as the next head coach of the women's basketball program.

- This past weekend, 776 graduates participated in Commencement, celebrating this milestone alongside more than 7,000 family members and friends in attendance.

Legislative Update

Jasmine Almoayyed, Vice President-Government & Community Relations, provided an update on the high-level projected impacts of this session's legislative changes on future budgets. The presentation specifically highlighted the impact of property tax changes on fixed-rate levies, the 260E New Jobs Training Program, Accelerated Career Education (ACE) infrastructure funding, and Adult Basic Education.

A comprehensive legislative report is being compiled by Community Colleges for Iowa and will be published in the coming weeks. Once available, this report will be shared with the Board, along with Kirkwood-specific context and analysis for each legislative change.

Kirkwood Strategic Plan, Academic Year 2026-2029

Megan Thole, Senior Director-Institutional Effectiveness, provided an overview of Kirkwood's Strategic Plan for Academic Year 2026-2029. In May 2025, the Board approved the college's updated mission statement and core values as part of Kirkwood's ongoing strategic planning process and commitment to institutional effectiveness. Building on that foundation, the proposed Strategic Focus Areas for the college's next strategic plan were reviewed during the informational session, along with the college's institutional key performance indicators [KPIs]. Collectively, these priorities reflect the college's long-term vision, strategic direction, and continued commitment to student and institutional success.

Financial Report

Treasurer Dunning provided a high-level review of changes to the FY26 projected revenues for operating Fund 1 at the May 2026 Board meeting for the period of July 2025 through March 2026. Through January 2026, credit tuition is projected to exceed budget by $1.44M. Investment income is projected to exceed budget by $1.11M due to higher-than-expected interest rates. Overall, actual revenue is projected to exceed budget revenue by $2.72M.

Overall expenses for operating Fund 1 are projected to remain within budget for FY26. Key expense savings include Salaries and Benefits savings of $2.52M due to savings from unfilled open positions. Operating Expenses are projected to end the year within budget in aggregate. Overspends in categories are adequately covered through savings in other categories. Overall Operating Expenses are projected to provide savings of $820K compared to budget.

Fund 1 net income is projected to be $3.75M due to the combination of better-than-exchange revenues and savings in payroll and operating expenses. Fund 3 net income is projected to end the year in line with budget.

Cash balances remain strong with the College having 182 days of unrestricted days reserve at the end of April 2026, when compared to a KPI of 90 days.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trustees Jensen and Wright moved and seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion carried: 7-0. Trustee Thys abstained from voting.

A. Personnel (as attached to these minutes).
B. Synopsis of Bills
    1. Kirkwood Community College pages 1 through 70 for a total of $14,421,674.43
    2. The Hotel at Kirkwood Center pages 1 through 5 for a total of $413,572.32
C. Board minutes from April 9, 2026
D. Approval – Final Reading – Board Policy Review
    1. Board Policy 307: Use of College Facilities Policy
    2. Board Policy 308: Use of College Equipment Policy
    3. Board Policy 744: Investment Policy

NEW BUSINESS AGENDA

Administration

Trustees Stamp and Jensen moved and seconded the approval of the strategic plan focus areas for the college's next institutional strategic plan, as presented. Motion carried: 8-0.

Trustees Wright and Bannon moved and seconded the approval of the FY2026 Budget Amendment. The amendment increases the expense budget for the College's General Funds by $4M and Plant Funds by $3M. Motion carried: 8-0

Trustees Stamp and Doerge moved and seconded approval of directing the sale and authorizing the issuance of $5,525,000.00 taxable Industrial New Jobs Training Certificates. This measure provides for the securing of such certificates for the purpose of carrying out New Jobs Training Programs. Motion carried: 8-0.

Trustees Caves and Jensen moved and seconded the acceptance of the proposal and directed the sale of Industrial New Jobs Training Certificates in the aggregate principal amount of $5,525,000.00. Motion carried: 8-0

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

1. Fosters Kraus Mechanical Group, Inc., Hiawatha, IA

Motion carried: 8-0.

Trustees Thys and Wright moved and seconded the approval of Larson Construction Company, Inc., as the Construction Manager at Risk for the interior remodel of Kirkwood East Hall, with a fee of 4.5% for overhead and profit and a $5,000 preconstruction fee. Motion carried: 8-0.

Board

No new business for the board.

Closed Session

In order to discuss the annual performance and employment contract of President Fisher, Trustee Jensen made a motion at 5:56 p.m. to move that the Board enter into closed session according to Iowa Code 21.5.i., to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered, when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation, and the individual requested a closed session. Trustee Thys seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes – Thys, Caves, Bannon, Wright, Stamp, Jensen, Pearson and Doerge. Nays – None. Motion carried: 8-0.

Trustee Wright made a motion at 6:20 p.m. to end the closed session and return to open session. Trustee Doerge seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes – Jensen, Bannon, Caves, Pearson, Stamp, Wright, Thys, and Doerge. Nays – None. Motion carried: 8-0.

DELEGATIONS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

President's Report

- Kirkwood's commencement was held on Saturday, May 9th, at the Alliant Energy PowerHouse. The event celebrated one of the largest graduating classes in recent history with 776 students crossing the

stage. President Fisher expressed her sincere appreciation to all who attended and helped make the day such a meaningful celebration for our graduates and their families.
- Casey Dunning and President Fisher participated in the Iowa State Board of Education's Budget approval process.
- Earlier this week, Kirkwood met with the Cedar Rapids Community School District for a K-12 Partnership Information and Planning Retreat.
- The Kirkwood Eagles Athletic teams continue to achieve success at a high level. The softball team will travel to Spartanburg, SC to participate in the 2026 NJCAA Division II Softball World Series. The baseball team is awaiting notification on a potential at-large bid to the NJCAA Division II World Series, and the golf team will travel to Plymouth, IN to compete in the NJCAA Division II Men's Golf Championships with hopes of earning a national title.

Secretary's Report
- Summer hours begin this week through July 31, 2026. The college will operate on a four-day workweek with four, nine-hour workdays, and offices will be closed on Fridays.
- Reminder, the HSED graduation ceremony is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2026, at The Hotel at Kirkwood, Ballroom.
- The summer Trustee Conference is July 8-9, 2026, at Iowa Valley Community College District.
- The 2026 ACCT Leadership Congress will be held in Chicago, IL, October 21-24, 2026.

Report of Board Members

There being no further business coming before the Board, Trustees Stamp and Wright moved and seconded the meeting be adjourned at 6:21 p.m. Motion carried: 8-0

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Peg Sprengeler, Board Secretary

Approved by Board on June 18, 2026:

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Tracy Pearson, Chair

Board of Trustees' Agenda
May 14, 2026

Replacements/New Positions

Name	Title	Department	Effective Date	Replaces/New
Michael Fall	Building Coordinator	Facilities	04/27/2026	NEW
Tiffany Reaves	Associate Dean	Health Programs	04/27/2026	Laura Green
Kimberly Rimmer	Instructor	Health Programs	08/03/2026	Laurie Simmons
Gretchen Price	Director of Instructional Excellence	AISD	05/11/2026	Dianne Gregory
Nolan Wangsness*	Lead Custodian	Facilities	05/04/2026	NEW
Nathan Oakland	Head Women's Basketball Coach	Athletics	05/11/2026	Kim Muhl

*Internal Promotion

Separation of Employment

Name	Title	Department	Effective Date
Kristie Leeman	Student Services Advisor	Student Services	05/01/2026
Ramona Kline	Department Assistant	Global Learning	05/28/2026
Silvia Lemmons	Learning Experience Designer	Learning & Development	05/08/2026
Antonio Rios	Communications Officer	Facilities	05/01/2026
Jonathan Dayton	Workforce Career Consultant	Skills to Employment	06/30/2026

Change in Status

Name	Title	Department	Effective Date	Status Change	Replaces
Kai Plews	Instructor	Arts & Humanities	08/03/2026	Temp to Regular Status	Christine Flavin
Thomas Javorski	Instructor	Arts & Humanities	08/03/2026	Temp to Regular Status	Lynn Zeman
Bradyn Hall	Instructor	Industrial Tech	08/03/2026	Temp to Regular Status	David Bullwinkle

Summer Contract Extensions

Consideration of a one-time extension of the following faculty member's 2025/2026 contract for the days indicated:

Name	Days	Name	Days	Name	Days
Tara Allen	14	Richard Heath	29	Danny Plunkett	29
Michael Barshis	7	Claudio Hidalgo	29	Jeremy Ralph	7
Ambre Bernards	29	David Horsfield	29	Jeff Sadler	29
April Bohnenkamp	29	Sophie Joly	29	Todd Saville	14
Natalia Cherjovsky	29	David Keller	29	Renee Schlueter	14
John Dawson	29	Greg Krawiec	29	Christine Shea-Hunt	29
Dane Dermody	29	Randy Langel	14	Edward Skaggs	29
Austin Flugum	29	David McMahon	14	Greta Songe	14
Sondra Gates	29	Jillissa Moorman	29	RaeAnn Swanson-Evans	29
Susan Harthun	29	Olga Petrova	29		