

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14, 2026, 10:00 A.M.**

The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees (also referred to herein as the Board) held a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, in the Board Room of the Alabama Community College System building in Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called in accordance with Act No. 2015-125.

PRESIDING: MS. VALERIE GRAY, CHAIR

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gray.

The invocation was delivered by Pastor Dean Finch, Retired, Taylor Road Baptist Church of Montgomery, Alabama, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

Ms. Valerie Gray
Mr. Jeb Shell
Mr. John Mitchell
Mr. Britton Lightsey
Mr. Goodrich Rogers
Mr. Ron Houston
Mr. Llevelyn Rhone
Mr. Tim McCartney
Dr. Yvette Richardson (via phone)

Also present was Mr. Jimmy H. Baker, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. Absent was Governor Kay Ivey.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2025, meeting as presented without discussion.

**SECTION VI
(PUBLIC COMMENT)**

None.

SECTION VII
COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT – LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Cynthia Anthony, President of Lawson State Community College, presented a video spotlighting the college. Dr. Anthony stated that everything they do at Lawson State is about student success. She added that Lawson State is investing in expanded facilities for Health professions, a Rad-Tech partnership with UAB, and expansion of Medical Sonography programs. The college was also recently gifted an ambulance and simulation software and equipment for real-world EMS programs. Lawson is investing \$11 million in renovation to create state-of-the-art Health Professions building. The college is also undergoing major improvements in roofing and HVAC, campus lighting and safety upgrades, and renovated tennis courts. Workforce Development is also undergoing investments in a cyber range, automotive and manufacturing industry partnerships, and, very soon, the college will kick off a Maritime Manufacturing Workforce Pipeline. Dr. Anthony added that the largest group of Adult Education students recently graduated.

Dr. Anthony further stated that the college is also investing in its faculty and staff. The college is a member of the Thurgood Marshall College fund, it is a nationally funded Advising Academy, and, in December 2025, the college launched the Lawson EDGE year-long cohort program to develop emerging and current leaders.

Dr. Anthony next introduced Mr. Hamza Khouly, a former dual-enrollment student who completed his HVAC degree at Lawson State and is now an entrepreneur mentoring the next generation of commercial refrigeration professionals. He is licensed in HVAC, plumbing, and refrigeration in multiple states and operates his own company with sixteen employees. He added that his company is growing fast, simply based on honesty and hard work, and he envisions having a billion dollar company eventually. Mr. Khouly added that without Lawson State and its dedicated staff, he could not be where he is now.

SECTION VIII
(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
APPROVAL FOR NAMING OF THE AUTOMOTIVE BUILDING

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized the President of Drake State Community and Technical College to name the Automotive Building, Building 400, as the Ellenae Fairhurst Automotive Center and to add appropriate signage.

Fiscal Consideration: \$5,000,000 Pledge by E. Hart Fund

CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
APPROVAL FOR NAMING OF THE ALABAMA CENTER FOR THE ARTS PERFORMING
ARTS BUILDING

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized the President of Calhoun Community College to name the Alabama Center for Arts Performing Arts Building in conjunction with Athens State University and to add appropriate signage.

Fiscal Consideration: None

WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - SELMA
INCREASE IN CREDIT HOUR FEE FOR BARNES & NOBLE FIRST DAY COMPLETE

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Wallace Community College – Selma to increase the College’s credit hour fee for textbooks through the Barnes & Noble First Day Complete Program from \$24 per credit hour to \$25 per credit hour beginning Spring Semester 2026 and from \$25 to \$27 beginning Fall Semester 2026.

Fiscal Consideration: None

SECTION IX
(INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ADULT EDUCATION, FACILITIES,
FISCAL, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT)

MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE
INCREASE IN ROOM AND BOARD RATES

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Marion Military Institute to increase the College’s room and board rates from \$4,950 per year to \$5,950 per year, which will take effect Fall Semester 2026.

Fiscal Consideration: Estimated additional annual revenue \$307,500 - \$385,000 (estimate based on average fall enrollment of 320-400 cadets)

DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE IN SYSTEMS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees approved Drake State Community and Technical College’s application for an Associate in Applied Science in Systems Engineering Technology, to be implemented Fall Semester 2026.

Fiscal Consideration:

Sources of Funds Required to Support Program:

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	TOTAL
Faculty		4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	25,200
Library	3,000	2,000						5,000
Total	3,000	6,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	30,200

Sources of Funds Available to Support Program:

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	TOTAL
Tuition & Fees	27,768	27,768	27,768	27,768	32,040	29,904	32,040	205,056
Total	27,768	27,768	27,768	27,768	32,040	29,904	32,040	205,056

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - HANCEVILLE
ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE IN SPEECH & LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
ASSISTANT

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees approved Wallace State Community College – Hanceville’s application for an Associate in Applied Science in Speech & Language Pathologist Assistant, to be implemented Summer Semester 2026.

Fiscal Consideration:

Sources of Funds Required to Support Program:

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	TOTAL
Faculty	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$745,000
Equipment	\$25,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$31,000
Total	\$130,000	\$106,000	\$106,000	\$106,000	\$106,000	\$111,000	\$111,000	\$776,000

Sources of Funds Available to Support Program:

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	TOTAL
External Funding	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$175,000
Tuition & Fees	\$87,984	\$87,984	\$87,984	\$87,984	\$103,311	\$103,311	\$103,311	\$661,869
Total	\$112,984	\$112,984	\$112,984	\$112,984	128,311	128,311	128,311	\$836,869

LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADDITION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees approved an additional instructional site for Lawson State Community College.

Fiscal Consideration: The operation of this site proposed herein is within the budget of the college.

BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JASPER CAMPUS HVAC TRAINING CENTER ADDITION FOR ENERGY SERVICES
INFRASTRUCTURE TRAINING CENTER

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees authorized Bevill State Community College to proceed with the project named Jasper Campus HVAC Training Center Addition for Energy Services Infrastructure Training Center (Pre-Purchase of MEP). Construction contracts shall be executed no later than April 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Pre-Purchase of MEP: \$1,295,743

NORTHEAST ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NEW SOCCER FIELD AND WALKING TRACK REPAIRS

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Northeast Alabama Community College to proceed with the project named New Soccer Field and Walking Track Repairs (Approval of Change Orders).

Fiscal Consideration: Change Orders 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 - \$139,652

REID STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LIBRARY ADDITION OF OFFICES AND STORAGE IMPROVEMENTS

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized Reid State Community College to proceed with the project named Library Addition of Offices and Storage Improvements. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than April 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$754,142

LURLEEN B. WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ANDALUSIA CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FLAG FOOTBALL FIELD

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Lurleen B. Wallace Community College to proceed with the project named Andalusia Campus Construction of New Flag Football Field (Change Orders #3 and #4). Construction contracts shall be executed no later than April 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Change Order #3 - \$70,537.58 / Change Order #4 - \$9,368.51

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - SELMA
DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees accepted the actual costs and funding sources for the authorized George Corley Wallace State Community College Selma project named Drainage Improvements at Selma Campus.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$1,493,235

ENTERPRISE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ENTERPRISE CAMPUS PURCHASE OF C&T WHOLESALE AND DIEFENDERFER
PROPERTY

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Enterprise State Community College to proceed with the project named Enterprise Campus Purchase of C&T Wholesale and Diefenderfer Property. This authorization replaces the Board of Trustees approval of April 9, 2025.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$224,802.44

SECTION X
PERSONNEL

None.

SECTION XI
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Per Chancellor Baker, the budget hearings will take place in the Legislature on February 2, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Statehouse.

Dr. Chris Cox, Deputy Chancellor of Instruction, Research, and Development, spoke on Workforce Pell grants. Per Dr. Cox, due to new federal requirements, a new system will need to be developed for students to gain access to these funds. This is expected to be completed by June 2026. Dr. Cox added that he had the opportunity to represent the ACCS in Washington D.C. in December. He stated that most of the comments he heard from Washington regarding Alabama were positive and that Alabama is better aligned than any other state in the U.S. regarding Career Technical Education and Workforce Development.

Dr. Neil Scott, Vice Chancellor for Student Success, presented enrollment numbers. Per Dr. Scott, Spring 2026 currently shows an 8.2% increase over Spring 2025 in enrolled students. This is a 6,718 increase in headcount, with all 24 colleges showing an increase. Credit hours also show a 7.1% increase over Spring 2025, with 23 colleges showing an increase.

Dr. Scott added that 2025 represents a national peak in high school graduates, with a gradual decline expected through 2041. This has been referred to as an "Enrollment Cliff." Regarding the ACCS, enrollment has actually grown 5% since 2021 for students over age 20. In addition, 77% of ACCS' non-dually enrolled students enroll more than a year after high school graduation. Dr. Scott believes that our Adult Education, Workforce Training, and Skills for Success programs, in addition to retention and persistence of current students, will help offset the decline. He added that the southeast is expected to see growth in high school graduates through 2037, while other demographic areas are decreasing. Additionally, 42.5% of Alabama public school students do not enroll in higher education immediately after graduation. This provides a large opportunity for the ACCS.

Ms. Taylor Hilyer, Director of Student Life, briefly spoke on Workforce Pell changes. Per Ms. Hilyer, the changes involve specific programs that are 150-600 clock hours and run between 8-15 weeks. This will require creative thinking with industry partners and coordination among all departments and personnel. Per Ms. Hilyer, Alabama is positioned to be a national leader in Pell due to strong Career Technical Education and Workforce programs already in place, and partnerships with business and industry. Workforce Pell will require the development of new programs that meet federal requirements and credits will be required to articulate.

SECTION XII
COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

SECTION XIII
(DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING)

The next Board meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, in the Board Room of the Alabama Community College System. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Shell, the Board meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Chairman

Chancellor