

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY APRIL 8, 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, April 8, 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 Dr. Kathy Murphy, President, Wallace Community College, Dothan, Alabama, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

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

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. McCartney, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2026, meeting as presented without discussion.

**SECTION VI
(PUBLIC COMMENT)**

None.

.

SECTION VII
COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

None.

SECTION VIII
(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

ENTERPRISE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NAMING OF SNUGGS HALL

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized the President of Enterprise State Community College to rename Snuggs Hall as Matt Rodgers Hall and to add appropriate signage.

Fiscal Consideration: None

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SELF EVALUATION RESOLUTION

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees approved a self-evaluation resolution finding and declaring that they have met and fulfilled their duties and obligations regarding the mission and governance of Alabama's accredited community colleges.

Fiscal Consideration: None

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

BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MAIN CAMPUS DELCHAMPS BUILDING RENOVATION

On motion by Mr. McCartney, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Bishop State Community College to proceed with the project named Main Campus Delchamps Building Renovation (Phase II: Building Renovation Package). Construction contracts for the project shall be executed no later than July 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$25,442,753

WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - SELMA
SELMA CAMPUS LIBRARY RENOVATION

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Wallace Community College Selma to proceed with the project named Selma Campus Library Renovation. Construction contracts for the project shall be executed no later than July 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$3,669,729

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 Beville State Community College to proceed with the project named Jasper Campus HVAC Training Center Addition for Energy Services Infrastructure Training Center (FF&E Purchase and Package C Contract). Construction contracts shall be executed no later than August 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$27,055,130

BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HAMILTON CAMPUS DRAFTING BUILDING AND MAIN BUILDING RENOVATION

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees authorized Beville State Community College to proceed with the project named Hamilton Campus Drafting Building and Main Building Renovation (Bid Package A) and Pre-purchase of Mechanical Equipment. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than July 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$1,733,506

J.F. DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
BUILDING 200 RENOVATION FOR RELOCATION OF HVAC PROGRAM

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized Drake State Community and Technical College to proceed with construction of the project named

Building 200 Renovation for Relocation of HVAC Program. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than July 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$1,046,031

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - HANCEVILLE
HANCEVILLE CAMPUS PRECISION MACHINING

On motion by Mr. McCartney, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees authorized Wallace State Community College to proceed with the construction project named Hanceville Campus Precision Machining. Construction contracts for the project shall be executed no later than July 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$12,174,670

LURLEEN B. WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ANDALUSIA CAMPUS SAINTS VILLAGE PHASE 2 RENOVATION

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Lurleen B. Wallace Community College to proceed with the project named Andalusia Campus Saints Village Phase 2 Renovation. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than July 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$1,044,378

SECTION X
PERSONNEL

Ms. Susan Price, Sr. Deputy for System Development & Strategic Advancement/Chief of Staff, spoke about several personnel changes in the System Office. Ms. Price mentioned that AI has become significant, particularly in the instructional field. To facilitate future developments, Dr. Christy Shepard will join the System Office on April 15th. She has experience in Instructional Technology, Instructional Leadership and Organizational Development. As Dean of Information Systems and Instructional Technology at Northwest-Shoals Community College, Ms. Shepard has led several key initiatives in I.T., Distance Education, and Instructional Technology. She has over 24 years of leadership experience across K-12 and higher education, she is well-suited to help lead the System's work in Instructional AI. She will be working with Instructional, Information Technology, and Human Resources Divisions, ACCA, and the colleges.

Ms. Price further added that Dr. Kenneth Kirkland will be returning to the System Office as Chief Health Officer, working with Dr. Bryant Cline, Director of Health Programs, on developing future healthcare programs. Dr. Kirkland has extensive experience in academics and the healthcare field.

Ms. Price also added that Billy Merrill, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, will become Chief Fiscal Officer and work directly with the colleges in that capacity. Sara Calhoun will focus more on high level initiatives. These personnel changes are intended to align the right people and our priorities and responsibilities in ways that best support our colleges, students and communities.

After an extensive search was conducted for a permanent President at Chattahoochee Valley Community College, Chancellor Baker has recommended Ms. Annette Funderburk, current Interim President. On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees approved Ms. Funderburk as President of Chattahoochee Valley Community College.

Mr. David O'Brien, Sr. Associate Counsel, read a biography of Ms. Funderburk before introducing her to the podium. Ms. Funderburk thanked the Chancellor and Board for her appointment and stated she is deeply honored by their confidence in her leadership. Her vision for Chattahoochee Valley is to continue to be a place for opportunity, innovation -- including AI -- and student success where every student feels supported, every employee feels valued, and the college remains a cornerstone for Economic and Workforce Development in the region.

SECTION XI **CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Neil Scott, Vice Chancellor of Student Success, gave an update on enrollment numbers. Per Dr. Scott, Spring 2026 shows almost 90,000 students enrolled in for-credit courses, a 7% increase over final Spring 2025 headcount. Credit hours also showed a 5.6% increase over final Spring 2025. Summer 2026, as of April 7th, indicates over 20,000 students enrolled in for-credit courses, a 15.9% increase over Summer 2025. Credit hour production shows a 14% increase over Summer 2025.

Dr. Chris Cox, Vice Chancellor of Instruction, Research, and Development, next spoke on the crisis in the healthcare industry labor force. He mentioned that Dr. Bryant Cline, Director of Health Programs, has managed \$50 million over the past four years to grow healthcare programs across Alabama, and the ACCS started over 40 new programs during that time. However, the healthcare industry still has a nursing shortage of 14,000 with 39,000 close to retirement by 2027. Dr. Cox added that Dr. Kenneth Kirkland and Dr. Cline will begin working to provide the best training for healthcare in the country.

Dr. Kirkland spoke on future goals for healthcare education. He stated that our two-year colleges produce 85% of the direct healthcare workforce in Alabama. The ACCS has added several new

health deans at our colleges to help grow capacity. He added that our Nursing Support Technician program was built specifically for hospitals and that the certification test developed by the ACCS will soon be picked up by a national test vendor. He added that 22 states want to adopt our model for that program.

Chancellor Baker asked Dr. Cox if funding is available in the budget for expansion of healthcare programs. Per Dr. Cox, there is approximately \$8 million available. Mr. Alan Bates, Executive Director of External Affairs, added that the House and Senate agreed on an ETF funding increase of \$38 million for the education budget. He added that \$.90 of every dollar will go to the colleges. This will cover expansion and a 2% pay increase for employees. There will be a \$10 million increase for dual enrollment, and a contribution to PEEHIP increases. Per Mr. Bates, the Legislature has also set aside an additional \$65 million “CHEER” fund for higher education, including \$24 million for the ACCS. This is performance-based bonus funding based on achievement of specific goals and objectives.

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, May 13, 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. McCartney, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Chairman

Chancellor