

MINUTES
POLK STATE COLLEGE
District Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.
Polk State Winter Haven Campus, WST 126

Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti called the January 27, 2025, District Board of Trustees meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ms. Ashley Bell Barnett, Ms. Ann Barnhart, Mr. Greg Littleton, and Ms. Cindy Hartley Ross

Members Absent: Ms. Teresa Martinez and Mr. Ashley Troutman

Special Recognition: Dr. Angela Garcia Falconetti

President Garcia Falconetti introduced Niqui Pringle-Brown, Professor of Education; Erin Martinez, Director of Grants Development & Administration; Yvonne Velez, Director, Internships & Experiential Learning; and Dr. Amy Bratten, Provost, Academic Affairs & Workforce Education to discuss their efforts in securing a \$1.09 million grant through the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grow Your Own Teacher Grant (PCOG GYO) to develop a teacher apprenticeship program between Polk State and the Polk County Public Schools system.

Agenda:

Ms. Bell Barnett moved, seconded by Ms. Barnhart, to approve the agenda for January 27, 2025. All members voted affirmatively.

Consent Agenda Items: Ms. Cindy Baker and Ms. Stacey Cary

- a. **Tangible Personal Property Deletions for January 2025** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- b. **Polk State College Personnel Actions Report for November and December 2024** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- c. **Polk State College Collegiate High Schools Personnel Actions Report for November and December 2024** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- d. **Polk State College Salary Schedule Changes for January 2025** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.

Ms. Barnhart moved, seconded by Ms. Bell Barnett, to approve the consent agenda items for November and December 2024 and January 2025. All members voted affirmatively.

Those items included under the Consent section are self-explanatory and are not expected to require discussion before action. Items will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by any Board member on any item, the item should be identified and removed from the Consent agenda for separate action.

Approval of Board Minutes

a. November 18, 2024, Regular Board Minutes

Ms. Bell Barnett moved, seconded by Mr. Littleton, to approve the November 18, 2024, Regular Board minutes. All members voted affirmatively.

President's Report – Dr. Angela Garcia Falconetti

- a. President Garcia Falconetti highlighted select items from the Positively Polk State Report
- b. Polk State Aerospace Program Update – Presented by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs & Workforce Education Dr. Amy Bratten and Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Bert Rivera-Marchand
- c. Polk State College Foundation Update – Presented by Vice President for Resource Development and Executive Director of the Polk State College Foundation Dr. Steve Warner. Trustee Bell Barnett suggested having a member of the DBOT to periodically attend Foundation Board meetings to provide additional support for the Foundation's fundraising efforts.
- d. *Polk State Newsroom* Press Release “Polk State College to host ribbon cutting for newly renovated Winter Haven Fine Arts Building”
- e. *ABC Action News* online article “Polk State Haines City-Davenport campus growing healthcare workforce”
- f. *Polk Newsroom* article “Polk State College breaks ground on Haines City-Davenport Campus”
- g. *The Ledger* article “Polk State College celebrates move toward fall 2026 opening of campus in Haines City”
- h. *Central Florida Health News* article “Polk State College Breaks Ground on Haines City-Davenport Campus”
- i. *Winter Haven Sun* article “Eagles SOAR northeast as Polk State College breaks ground on eighth Polk location”
- j. *Polk Newsroom* article “LEGOLAND Florida invests in Building Higher Prepaid Scholarship Program”
- k. *Polk Newsroom* article “Polk State College celebrates 60 years of excellence”
- l. *Tampa Business Journal* 2024-25 Book of Lists, “Colleges and Universities Ranked by Total Enrollment”
- m. *Polk Newsroom* article “Polk State Music student says College taught him fundamentals to turn passion into a career”
- n. *Polk State Newsroom* article “Polk State's Physical Therapist Assistant Program celebrates 100% licensure pass rates”

Attorney's Report:

Attorney Wilson received the final deed for the easement donation to the Florida Department of Transportation of a seven-foot-wide right-of-way for sidewalk along Highway 27 and requested Board Chair Ross to sign the final deed after today's meeting.

Business Services Action Items:

None.

Business Services Informational Items: Ms. Cindy Baker and Mr. Reggie Webb

- a. **Investment Interest Comparisons through December 2024** – Ms. Baker presented and reviewed the College’s Investment Interest Comparisons through December 2024 for the Board’s information. No Board action required.
- b. **Financial Statements for November and December 2024** – Ms. Baker presented and reviewed the Financial Statements for December 2024 for the Board’s information. No Board action required.
- c. **Capital Project Status Report for January 2025** – Mr. George Urbano on behalf of Mr. Webb presented and reviewed the Capital Project Status Report for January 2025 for the Board’s information. No Board action required.

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:

None.

Academic & Student Services Action Items:

None.

Academic and Student Services Informational Items: Dr. Amy Bratten

- a. **Additional 2025 and Spring 2026 Education Abroad Experiences** – Dr. Bratten presented and reviewed additional 2025 and Spring 2026 Education Abroad Experiences for the Board’s information. No Board action required.

Collegiate High School Report:

- a. **Polk State Lakeland Collegiate High School Accountability Plan Performance Targets and AY 2023-2024 Performance – Mr. Rick Jeffries**

Mr. Rick Jeffries presented and reviewed the Polk State Lakeland Collegiate High School Accountability Plan Performance Targets and AY 2023-2024 Performance for the Board’s information. No Board action required. Chair Ross suggested that the collegiate high schools share student “success stories” during future meetings.

First Reading Board Rules (No action required):

None.

Second Reading Board Rules (Final Approval):


None.

Board Discussion:

The next District Board of Trustees meeting will occur on Monday, February 24, 2025, on the Polk State Lakeland Campus in LTB 1100 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:10 p.m.

 2/24/2025
Ms. Cindy Hartley Ross Date
DBOT Chair

 2/24/2025
Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti Date
President