

MINUTES
POLK STATE COLLEGE
District Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, June 23, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.
Polk State Winter Haven Campus, WST 126

Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti called the June 23, 2025, District Board of Trustees meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent:

Special Recognition: Dr. Angela Garcia Falconetti

- a. President Garcia Falconetti briefly recognized Polk State graduate Bailey Campbell, daughter of the late Professor Logan Randolph.
- b. President Garcia Falconetti introduced members of Polk State's Student Activities and Leadership Office and Student Government Association to briefly come to the lectern to state their names and area of study.

Foundation Recognition: Dr. Angela Garcia Falconetti

- a. President Garcia Falconetti introduced Dr. Steve Warner, Vice President for Resource Development and Executive Director of the Polk State College Foundation, and Lanier Cameron, Foundation Scholarship Specialist, to present the Foundation recognition. They presented a \$40,000 check for the Winter Haven Public Safety Scholarship. The fund was established by Homer and Annette Thompson in 2018 to assist public safety officers pursue advanced degrees.

Public Comment:

Chair Ross asked Ms. Melissa LaRock if there were any public comments. Ms. LaRock provided the public comment sign-in sheet to Chair Ross and Attorney Wilson. There were 14 faculty, staff, and community members who addressed the Board. The majority of the comments were in support of the College and its administration. A minority of the comments were at the dissent of the current administration.

Chair Ross initiated Board discussion in response to the public comments. The general consensus was that the recent divisive tenor was not good for the College and its students. There was general agreement to work in concert with each other for the betterment of the College.

Agenda:

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Ms. Bell Barnett, to approve the agenda for June 23, 2025. All members voted affirmatively.

Consent Agenda Items: Ms. Tamara Sakagawa, Ms. Cindy Baker, and Mr. Steve Warner

- a. Polk State College Personnel Actions Report for May 2025 – Ms. Tamara Sakagawa**
- Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- b. Polk State College Collegiate High Schools Personnel Actions Report for May 2025 – Ms. Tamara Sakagawa**
– Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- c. Tangible Personal Property Deletions for June 2025 – Ms. Cindy Baker**
– Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- d. Polk State College Foundation Annual Plan of Work – Ms. Cindy Baker and Mr. Steve Warner**
– Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.

Ms. Barnhart moved, seconded by Ms. Martinez, to approve the consent agenda items for May and June 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. May 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Bell Barnett moved, seconded by Mr. Littleton, to approve the May 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting minutes. All members voted affirmatively.

- b. May 19, 2025, Budget Workshop Minutes**

Mr. Troutman moved, seconded by Ms. Martinez, to approve the May 19, 2025, Budget Workshop minutes. All members voted affirmatively.

- c. June 5, 2025, Special Board Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Barnhart moved, seconded by Ms. Martinez, to approve the June 5, 2025, Special Board Meeting minutes. Five Board members voted to approve the June 5, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes, with one abstention from Ms. Bell Barnett.

President's Report – Dr. Angela Garcia Falconetti

- a. Presentation to Address Questions Raised at the May 19, 2025, DBOT Meeting**

- The Executive Leadership Team provided an in-depth presentation on several key topics regarding the College's continued growth and plans to support increasing enrollment:
 - Results of the Legislative Session - Dr. Angela Garcia Falconetti

- Enrollment Report - Dr. Mary Clark, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, Accreditation and Research
- Student Success - Reggie Webb, Senior Vice President for Student Services and Campus Operations, and Dr. Amy Bratten, Provost for Academic Affairs & Workforce Education
- Polk State JD Alexander Center - Dr. Amy Bratten, Provost for Academic Affairs & Workforce Education
- Executive Office of the Governor Office of Government Efficiency - Dr. Angela Garcia Falconetti
- Finance - Cindy Baker, Vice President for Finance
- Polk State College Foundation - Dr. Steve Warner, Vice President for Resource Development/Executive Director of the Polk State College Foundation
- Human Resources - Tamara Sakagawa, Vice President for Communications & Public Affairs/Chief of Staff
- Participatory Governance - W.A. “Drew” Crawford, Boswell & Dunlap LLP

Attorney’s Report:

a. President’s 2024-2025 Annual Evaluation

- Attorney Don Wilson distributed the President’s 2024-2025 Evaluation Summary for the Board’s review and adoption. He noted the Board generally agreed that President Falconetti had met expectations in all 34 evaluation categories.
- Four of the Trustees determined that President Garcia Falconetti “Achieves Expectations” in each category set forth in the evaluation form.
- One of the Trustees determined that President Garcia Falconetti “Achieves Expectations” in 10 of the categories set forth in the evaluation form, and “Needs Improvement” in 20 areas, as well as 3 areas noting an inability to respond, and 1 area indicating no check-marked response but commenting that one aspect of such item was “adequate” and another aspect “needs improvement.”
- One of the Trustees determined that President Garcia Falconetti “Achieves Expectations” in 28 of the categories set forth in the evaluation form, and “Needs Improvement” in 6 certain areas.
- Attorney Wilson added that if the Board adopts the annual evaluation, the evaluation and the tool used to evaluate the President will then be submitted to the Florida Department of Education’s Division of Florida Colleges to comply with Florida statute.

Ms. Bell Barnett moved, seconded by Ms. Barnhart, to approve the President’s 2024-2025 Annual Evaluation. All members voted affirmatively.

Trustee Bell Barnett recommended that the evaluation metric be changed for the upcoming year to more effectively evaluate the President. It was agreed that the evaluation instrument needed to be updated and improved.

Discussion was had regarding Attorney Wilson gathering sample evaluations from across the Florida College System for comparison and reference.

b. President's 2025-2026 Annual Contract

Copies of the President's employment contract for 2025-2026 were provided to the Board members by Attorney Don Wilson. He reminded the Board that their positive annual evaluation of President Garcia Falconetti approved during today's meeting, automatically extends the contract for an additional year. He explained that the contract was substantially in the same form as the prior year's contract. The salary will remain unchanged.

Ms. Barnhart moved, seconded by Ms. Martinez, to approve 5-1 the President's 2025-2026 Annual Contract, with one abstention from Ms. Bell Barnett.

Business Services Action Items:

a. Student Tuition and Standard Fees, FY 2025-26 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Ms. Martinez, to approve the Student Tuition and Standard Fees, FY 2025-26. All members voted affirmatively.

b. Operating Budget, FY 2025-26 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Ms. Barnhart, to approve the Operating Budget, FY 2025-26. All members voted affirmatively.

c. Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2025-26 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Ms. Barnhart moved, seconded by Mr. Littleton, to approve the Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2025-26. All members voted affirmatively.

d. Polk State Lakeland Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2025-26 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Ms. Barnhart moved, seconded by Ms. Martinez, to approve the Polk State Lakeland Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2025-26. All members voted affirmatively.

e. Polk State Gateway to College Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2025-26 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Ms. Barnhart, to approve the Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2025-26. All members voted affirmatively.

f. Polk State College Unexpended Plant Fund Budget, FY 2025-26 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Ms. Barnhart moved, seconded by Mr. Troutman, to approve the Polk State College Unexpended Plant Fund Budget, FY 2025-26. All members voted affirmatively.

g. Annual Physical Inventory Report – Ms. Tamara Sakagawa

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Mr. Troutman, to approve the Annual Physical Inventory Report. All members voted affirmatively.

h. Polk State College Salary Schedule Changes for June 2025 and FY 2025-26 Salary Schedule – Ms. Tamara Sakagawa

Ms. Barnhart moved, seconded by Ms. Martinez, to approve the Polk State College Salary Schedule Changes for June 2025 and FY 2025-26 Salary Schedule. All members voted affirmatively.

i. Polk State College Collegiate High Schools Salary Schedule Changes for June 2025 and FY 2025-26 Salary Schedule – Ms. Tamara Sakagawa

Ms. Barnhart moved, seconded by Ms. Bell Barnett, to approve the Polk State College Collegiate High Schools Salary Schedule Changes for June 2025 and FY 2025-26 Salary Schedule. All members voted affirmatively.

j. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), FY 2026-27 through FY 2028-29 – Mr. Reggie Webb

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Ms. Barnhart, to approve the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), FY 2026-27 through FY 2028-29. All members voted affirmatively.

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

- a. Investment Interest Comparisons through May 2025** – Ms. Baker presented and reviewed the College's Investment Interest Comparisons through May 2025 for the Board's information. No Board action required.

- b. Financial Statements for May 2025** – Ms. Baker presented and reviewed the Financial Statements for May 2025 for the Board’s information. No Board action required.
- c. College-Wide Comprehensive Safety Inspection, Fiscal Year 2024-2025** - Mr. Webb presented and reviewed the College-Wide Comprehensive Safety Inspection, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Board’s information. No Board action required.
- d. Capital Project Status Report for June 2025** – Mr. Webb presented and reviewed the Capital Project Status Report for June 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:

None.

Collegiate High School Report:

- a. Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School 2025 Recruitment and Enrollment Plan – Dr. Meesha Downing-Townsend**

Dr. Meesha Downing-Townsend presented and reviewed the Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School 2025 Recruitment and Enrollment Plan for the Board’s information. No Board action required.

First Reading Board Rules (No action required):

None.

Second Reading Board Rules (Final Approval):

None.

Board Discussion:

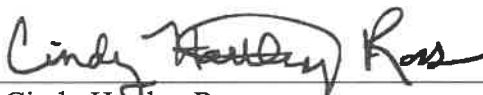
Throughout the course of the meeting, the Board requested feedback on the following items:

- Graduation and attrition rates presentation
- How many students have been recovered by the College since COVID
- Population and demographic information for the counties of our peer institutions
- Dual enrollment workshop
- Creation of a JDA Advisory Committee
- Provide an updated list of consultant contracts since 2020 and include actual expended on each contract; conflict of interest “policy” and return on investment
- Provide regular enrollment/state reporting updates

- Organizational chart
- How many position vacancies?
- Appointment of a DBOT member to the Foundation Board
- Modify presidential evaluation tool for the upcoming year and bring template samples from other Florida College System institutions to the Board
- Bring MK Consulting contract back to DBOT
- Governance workshop
- Carter campaign contract and presentation
- June 5 Special DBOT meeting – definition of an emergency and the seven-day rule

Adjournment:

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

 8/25/25

Ms. Cindy Hatley Ross Date
DBOT Chair

 8/25/25

Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti Date
President