MINUTES
POLK STATE COLLEGE
District Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, June 29, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.
Polk State Center for Public Safety– Room 267

Chair Ann Barnhart called the June 29, 2026, District Board of Trustees meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ms. Ann Barnhart, Ms. Ashley Bell Barnett, Mr. Kyle Davis, Mr. Steve Lester, Mr. Greg Littleton, Ms. Cindy Hartley Ross, and Mr. Ashley Troutman

Members Absent:

1. **Meeting Called to Order**
   a. **Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

   b. **Special Recognitions**
      1. **Student Spotlight**
         - Dr. Anne Kerr, Interim President, introduced Mr. Evanthony McKenzie, Program Director for the Empower to Employ Program, who introduced Empower to Employ student Autumn Lylia-Augusta Heffner. Ms. Heffner recently participated in the Italy Study Abroad Program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Ms. Ross moved, seconded by Ms. Bell Barnett, to approve the June 29, 2026, agenda. All members voted affirmatively.

3. **Approval of Board Minutes**
   a. **June 3, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Lester moved, seconded by Mr. Littleton, to approve the June 3, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes. All members voted affirmatively.

4. **Unfinished Business**

None

5. **Consent Agenda Items: Information**
   a. **Polk State College Personnel Actions Report for May 2026** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.

   b. **Employment Vacancy Update for June 2026** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.

c. **Tangible Personal Property Deletions for June 2026** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.

d. **Capital Project Status Report for June 2026** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.

6. Consent Agenda Items: Action

a. **Polk State College Collegiate High Schools Salary Schedule Changes for July and Revised Starting Salary Tables for FY 2026-2027** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.

b. **Approval of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP); FY 2027-2028 through FY 2029-2030** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve all consent agenda items under one motion. All members voted affirmatively.

7. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None.

8. Action Items

a. **Finance: Financial Statements for May 2026 – Ms. Cindy Baker**

Ms. Baker presented and recommended for approval the Financial Statements for May 2026.

- For the financial statements as of May 31, 2026, Student Tuition and Fees are approximately 92% of budget at $21,081,000.

- Interest Income year to date totaled $811,000.

- Personnel expenses total $44,569,379 or 78% of budget. Academics continues to monitor enrollment closely, which has resulted in lower personnel costs for the year. The expectation is that the College will remain within budget for the current fiscal year with salaries and benefits.

- Current expenses totaled $18,231,000 or 98% of budget. This has been primarily due to continuing repairs/maintenance throughout the College and contracted services which include continuing services to finalize the Banner implementation for 2026. These costs are expected to decrease for 2026-2027.

- Capital Outlay has exceeded budget due to carryforward PIPELINE grant expenditures which are fully offset by grant revenue, and expenditures related to maintenance of buildings.

Ms. Bell Barnett asked about HEERF funding and Ms. Baker answered that those funds have been completely depleted.

Ms. Bell Barnett moved, seconded by Mr. Lester, to approve the Financial Statements for May 2026. All members voted affirmatively.

b. Student Tuition and Standard Fees, FY 2026-2027 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Littleton, to approve the Student Tuition and Standard Fees, FY 2026-2027 with no change for the next academic year. All members voted affirmatively.

c. Polk State College Operating Budget, FY 2026-2027 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Mr. Lester moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the Polk State College Operating Budget, FY 2026-2027 with a total budget of $77,333,874. All members voted affirmatively.

d. Polk State College Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2026-2027 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Mr. Troutman moved, seconded by Mr. Littleton, to approve the Polk State College Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2026-2027 totaling $2,789,994. All members voted affirmatively.

e. Polk State College Lakeland Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2026-27 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Mr. Troutman moved, seconded by Ms. Bell Barnett, to approve the Polk State College Lakeland Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2026-2027 totaling $2,826,645. All members voted affirmatively.

f. Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2026-2027 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Mr. Troutman moved, seconded by Ms. Bell Barnett, to approve the Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School Operating Budget, FY 2026-2027 totaling $2,691,579. All members voted affirmatively.

g. Polk State College Unexpended Plant Fund Budget, FY 2026-27 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Ms. Bell Barnett asked how this year's budget compared to last year's budget, and Ms. Baker said it is a little less because most of the monies have been expended for the Northeast Ridge Building. Ms. Ross asked to include a column with year-over-year totals for next year's report and ongoing.

Ms. Bell Barnett moved, seconded by Mr. Troutman, to approve the Polk State College Unexpended Plant Fund Budget, FY 2026-2027 with a proposed budget of $16,588,318 and to include a column with year-over-years totals for next year's report and ongoing. All members voted affirmatively.

h. Annual Physical Inventory Report – FY 2026 – Ms. Cindy Baker

Ms. Ross moved, seconded by Ms. Bell Barnett, to approve the Annual Physical Inventory Report, FY 2026. All members voted affirmatively.

At this time, Ms. Barnhart brought forward the topic from the earlier DBOT Budget Workshop to add an item to this agenda for approval.

Attorney Carmichael recommended the statement below to be added to this agenda under Item K.

"The District Board of Trustees is requesting a dedicated work session wherein appropriate College staff will provide details of the budgets, revenue and expenses of the various distinct College campuses.

The purpose of this request being to prepare the Board for a subsequent work session intended to address community partnerships and to enhance revenue and student opportunities outside of existing relationships."

Ms. Ross moved, seconded by Ms. Bell Barnett, to approve the addition of Item K to the June 29, 2026, agenda. All members voted affirmatively.

i. General Education Review Submission to FLDOE – Dean Kim Thomas Manning

Dean Thomas Manning announced that the College's General Education Curriculum has been approved by the State because it is in alignment with state guidelines. In addition, the committee heard and accepted a proposal that was to include Speech Communication (SPC1608) in General Education List B for communications discipline. This will also go to the State for their review.

Ms. Bell Barnett asked if this was a course that was part of the core curriculum back in the 2000s, but Dean Thomas Manning did not know the answer to that question but said it may have been. This course will be a general elective.

Mr. Troutman asked for an update on a Black history course that was discussed last year with a group of concerned citizens in the community. Dean Thomas Manning respectfully stated that the course Mr. Troutman was referring to is not a Black history course. It's a humanities course that is called African American Studies and is not a part of the general education core. It went before the General Education Committee which looks for how general the objectives are for that course. This course did not meet the definition of general, but it can be reviewed again by the committee. In closing, Dean Thomas Manning added that all general education courses are reviewed annually by the General Education Committee.

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the General Education Review Submission to the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE). All members voted affirmatively.

j. Rule 2.29 Interim Procedures – Dr. Anne Kerr

Mr. Lester moved, seconded by Mr. Littleton, to approve Rule 2.29 Interim Procedures. All members voted affirmatively.

k. Request for a Dedicated Work Session on College Budgets, Revenue and Expenses

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Ms. Ross, to approve the Request for a Dedicated Work Session on College Budgets, Revenue and Expenses. All members voted affirmatively.

9. Board Chair Remarks

a. **President Kamoutsas Contract**

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Mr. Lester, to approve President Anastasios "Stasi" Kamoutsas' contract for 2026-2027. All members voted affirmatively.

10. President's Report

- Dr. Kerr mentioned how she has enjoyed her time at Polk State College and working with faculty, staff and students. She congratulated President Kamoutsas on his presidency.
- Dr. Kerr announced that the Governor signed the 2026-2027 State budget which maintained the College's operating budget and included a $7.5 million appropriation for the Haines City-Davenport Campus. She thanked everyone who lobbied because the College would not be in this position without their support.
- Dr. Kerr reported that MK Consulting has completed Phase 1 gap analysis on College rules and procedures. Now it will be up to President Kamoutsas to decide how to carry the project forward.
- In closing, Dr. Kerr shared her thoughts on this being one of the most competitive times in the nation's history for higher education. It requires a level of commitment from all staff and faculty to be on board to help the students who come through the College's doors in a myriad of ways. It requires a level of mentorship, guidance and advice like it has never been seen before. It is also a time of intense competition like has never been seen. Students have more options now. She asked that the College consider this going forward and include it in the strategic plan.

11. Attorney's Report

Attorney David Carmichael had nothing to report at this time.

12. Informational Items

None

13. Collegiate High School Report

a. Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School 2026 Recruitment/Enrollment Plan – Ms. Tania Chandler

Ms. Tania Chandler, Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School Assistant Principal, presented and reviewed the Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High

School 2026 Recruitment/Enrollment Plan for the Board's Information.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Kerr introduced Dean Kim Thomas Manning who introduced Dr. Lance "LJ" Russum as a Professor of Humanities and Faculty Liaison to veteran students. He also leads the College's Purple Star Campus designation and initiative. Dr. Russum thanked the Board for the opportunity he was given as part of the Study Abroad Program when he first started at Polk State College. He said that gave him his greatest academic opportunity ever.

Dr. Russum has proactively collaborated with administration to lead the College through maintaining the Purple Star designation showing the focus on veteran student success as they navigate the shift from the military to the classroom. Now that there are processes in place, they need other departments to assist (i.e. mentoring internships). A training manual has been created identifying staff members from every department that can be designated to help veteran students and their families. They want to expand that to mentoring some faculty members. Dr. Russum asked for continued support of the Purple Star initiative.

15. Board Member Final Remarks

Mr. Littleton thanked Dr. Kerr for her leadership and welcomed President Kamoutsas to Polk State College.

Ms. Bell Barnett echoed Mr. Littleton's remarks for Dr. Kerr and commented on her aura that brings peace. She thanked the Board for a robust conversation during the Budget Workshop and to Ms. Baker for the budget information during the workshop.

Mr. Lester acknowledged Professor Russum's good work. He thanked Dr. Kerr for stepping in at a time that was really needed and to all the Polk State staff who have endured this past year. He also shared his sentiments regarding President Kamoutsas and to Ms. Barnhart for her leadership as Chair.

Ms. Ross suggested that the College reach out to Alexandra de Roos, a native resident of Winter Haven, who was just crowned Miss Florida 2026 and congratulate her. She thanked Dr. Kerr for her direction and intentional guidance from her experience. She welcomed President Kamoutsas to Polk State College and to the Polk community.

Mr. Davis mentioned that he has completed six months on this Board and Dr. Kerr taught him a lot about leadership, community involvement, and leading a team. He also welcomed President Kamoutsas.

Mr. Troutman thanked Dr. Kerr for her leadership. He acknowledged Ms. Barnhart's leadership as Chair in one of the toughest years. He appreciates her professionalism and intensity that is needed at times. He is looking forward to the future with President Kamoutsas and continuing to guide this institution forward.

Ms. Barnhart shared a reflection of the intensity of directionally focused presidents on student success and student achievement. She looks forward to President Kamoutsas' leadership to continue that momentum forward and take it to the next highest level with her colleagues and College leadership.

She reminded the members that the next Board meeting will be held on Monday, August 24, at 4:00 p.m. There will also be a Budget Workshop at 3:00 p.m. Both the meeting and workshop will be held at the Center for Public Safety – CPS 267.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:51 p.m.

Ann Barnhart 8/24/2026

Ms. Ann Barnhart Date
DBOT Chair

8/24/2026

Anastasios Kamoutsas Date
President