

**DRAFT MINUTES
POLK STATE COLLEGE
District Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, June 3, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.
Polk State Center for Public Safety– Room 267**

Chair Ann Barnhart called the June 3, 2026, District Board of Trustees meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Ms. Ashley Bell Barnett (virtual) and Mr. Greg Littleton

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 Jordan Emro, Program Director for Respiratory Care, who introduced Teshara Johnson-Bonilla, a Respiratory Care student.

2. Foundation Recognition

- Dr. Anne Kerr, Interim President, introduced Dr. Steve Warner, Executive Director of the Polk State College Foundation, to announce the establishment of the Deputy David Michael Goddard Legacy Scholarship in honor of Goddard who was killed in a crash when his Polk County Sheriff's Office patrol car was tragically struck by a pickup truck in 1989. The family's initial investment of \$110,000 will support students in Polk State's Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice programs. Dr. Warner thanked Joanie Malone, the Foundation's Chief Financial Officer, for working with Charles "Chuck" Goddard to set up the scholarship and introduced Georgia Goddard, wife of Chris Goddard, to say a few words.

3. Faculty Spotlight

- Dr. Anne Kerr, Interim President, introduced Professor Diana Cobble. Professor Cobble is the recipient of the inaugural Eagle Faculty Excellence Award – a recognition made possible by the nominations of students. This award was established to celebrate the expertise of faculty, their meaningful work and their consistent commitment to Polk State College. Cobble is a Professor of Liberal Arts who teaches American Sign Language. Professor Cobble spoke about the honor of receiving this award and how much it meant to her that she was nominated by her students. She has been signing since childhood – a passion that blossomed into a

lifelong dedication to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community through advocacy, education, and human connection. She is deeply committed to her students and ensuring that they not only learn how to sign but also understand deaf culture.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Ruffin from the Concerned Citizens Group of Polk County, Inc. addressed the Board and stated that the Concerned Citizens Group has had a long-standing relationship with the former presidents of the College, and they wish to continue meeting quarterly with the new president.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Ross moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the June 3, 2026, agenda. All members voted affirmatively.

3. Approval of Board Minutes

a. April 27, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Troutman moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the April 27, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes. All members voted affirmatively.

4. Unfinished Business

Chair Barnhart mentioned that there are two Unfinished Business items that will be presented under the President's Report.

5. Consent Agenda Items: Information

- a. Polk State College Personnel Actions Report for April 2026** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- b. Polk State College Collegiate High Schools Personnel Actions Report for April 2026** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- c. Employment Vacancy Update for May 2026** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- d. Tangible Personal Property Deletions for June 2026** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- e. Capital Project Status Report for May 2026** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.

6. Consent Agenda Items: Action

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

Mr. Troutman 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 April 2026 – Ms. Cindy Baker

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

- For the financial statements as of April 30, 2026, student tuition and fees are approximately 72% of budget. This puts the College a bit behind schedule, so revenue is being monitored as the summer progresses.
- Interest income for April 2026 totaled \$50,254.02.
- Personnel expenses total \$40,181,624, which is 70% of budget. This budget was based on an expected 10% increase in the cost of health insurance, as well as enrollment of additional family plans for the current fiscal year. The expectation is that the College will remain within budget for the current fiscal year.
- Current expenses total \$16,454,112, or 89% of budget. While the College is ahead of budget, comparatively it is \$1.4 million less than this same time in the prior fiscal year.
- Capital Outlay has exceeded budget due to unbudgeted PIPELINE grant expenditures which are fully offset by grant revenue, and expenditures related to maintenance of buildings.
- The College continues to monitor expenditures as the end of the fiscal year nears.

Ms. Ross moved, seconded by Mr. Troutman, to approve Financial Statements for April 2026. All members voted affirmatively.

b. Consideration of the Polk State College Presidential Search Committee recommendation to appoint Anastasios "Stasi" Kamoutsas as President of Polk State College - Mr. Steve Lester

Mr. Lester, who served as Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, thanked the search committee members for their time and professionalism during the search process. On behalf of the search committee, he recommended the appointment of Anastasios "Stasi" Kamoutsas as the sixth President of Polk State College.

Ms. Barnhart shared that two trustees were unable to attend the meeting, but that both wished to express their support for the recommendation. She invited Ms. Bell Barnett, who was participating in the meeting virtually, to offer remarks. Ms. Barnhart also read a letter of support that was submitted by Mr. Littleton. In addition, she noted that the College had received

numerous letters supporting Mr. Kamoutsas from state college and university leaders, school district leaders, Polk County educators, and executives from the public and private sectors. She read two of these letters into the record. Ms. Barnhart further reported that survey responses from day's Meet and Greet events were overwhelmingly positive.

Mr. Kamoutsas was asked to say a few words. He stated how grateful he is for the overwhelming support from the District Board of Trustees, Presidential Search Committee and College community. He is committed to building on Polk State's strong foundation and ensuring that we continue to meet the growing workforce demands of Polk County. Polk State is a top economic engine for this community and will provide the highest level of academics and services that fulfill the College's mission and uphold Polk State's vision of serving as the top choice for higher education and workforce training in the State of Florida.

Following Mr. Kamoutsas' remarks, Mr. Davis moved, and Mr. Troutman seconded, the approval of the appointment of Mr. Anastasios "Stasi" Kamoutsas as President of Polk State College. All members present voted affirmatively.

9. Board Chair Remarks

10. President's Report

- **Business from the April DBOT meeting:** Dr. Kerr asked Mr. Marty Gang, Vice President for Institutional Technology and Chief Information Officer, to provide a status update on initiatives supporting compliance with the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA). Mr. Gang's update to ensure compliance with GLBA and state requirements outlined the following items that the Information Technology team has done:
 - Created four Statements of Work (SOW) to move compliance forward. Each SOW is designed to move the College forward and improve cybersecurity.
 - Hired a consultant who specializes in technical compliance who is actively improving cybersecurity and compliance.
 - Actively seeking professional solutions to complete the other three SOWs in the next few months.
- **Business from the April DBOT meeting:** Dr. Kerr asked Dr. Steve Warner, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, to provide a summary of the final fundraising results and key outcomes of the 2026 Night of Legacy event. Dr. Warner announced that they had 69 sponsors totaling \$242,000 in sponsorships. The auction brought in \$13,850 and the raffle brought in \$10,000. The total revenue was \$275,000, while the expenses to put on such an elaborate event were \$200,000. The overall net is \$75,000.
- Dr. Kerr announced that Polk State College is launching its inaugural Presidential Ambassador Program. This premier student leadership initiative is designed to prepare outstanding students to represent the College at presidential events, Board functions, donor engagements, community events, and other signature College activities. Dr. Kerr thanked Ms. Cate Igo, Director of Academic Success Programs, for leading this initiative. The inaugural cohort was selected from more than 30 nominations submitted by faculty, staff, and administrators across the College. Ranging in age from 17 to 56,

the 12 nominees have an average GPA of 3.7 and include representatives from the collegiate high schools, workforce education, and Associate in Arts and bachelor's degree programs.

- Dr. Kerr provided a brief update on the legislation by stating that the appropriations are looking favorable and will be announced by the end of June.

11. Attorney's Report

Attorney David Carmichael had nothing to report at this time.

12. Information Items

a. Spring 2027 Study Away Experience - Dr. Amy Bratten

Dr. Bratten explained that a Study Away Experience is different from Study Abroad in that it's an education experience within the country. In this case, the trip will be to New York City Carnegie Hall, March 31, 2027 – April 4, 2027. Music Professors Michelle Manzi and Tom Witek will be the faculty sponsors. The costs include student fees of \$3,300 per performer or \$2,500 per non-performer. The Music Department has allocated funds towards this trip.

13. Collegiate High School Report

a. Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School 2026 Recruitment/Enrollment Plan – Ms. Angie Ambrose

Ms. Angie Ambrose, Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School Guidance Counselor, presented and reviewed the Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School 2026 Recruitment/Enrollment Plan for the Board's Information.

15. Board Member Final Remarks

Ms. Ross congratulated Mr. Kamoutsas on his appointment.

Mr. Davis thanked the speakers from today's meeting. He stated that hearing from Teshara and Professor Cobble confirms that the College is doing great things.

Mr. Troutman agreed with Mr. Davis and said that we will continue to make Polk State College the best choice in Polk County.

Mr. Lester expressed his appreciation for the legacy scholarship that the Goddard family created. He also thanked Brande Smith with DownsAaron for her leadership during the Presidential Search and congratulated Mr. Kamoutsas on his appointment.

Ms. Bell Barnett congratulated Mr. Kamoutsas on his appointment and welcomed him to Polk State College.

Ms. Barnhart reminded the members that the next Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 29, 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 5:10 p.m.

Ann Barnhart 6/29/2026
Ms. Ann Barnhart Date
DBOT Chair

Anne B Kerr 6/29/2026
Dr. Anne B. Kerr Date
Interim President