

ISOTHERMAL

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES JULY 08, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Isothermal Community College met on Tuesday, July 08, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. at Isothermal Community College's Polk Campus in Columbus, NC. The following trustees were present: Bill Miller, Amy Jenkins, James Hutchins, Grady Franklin, Jackie Godlock, Dave Hunt, Tony Helton, Jordan Barnes, Bryson Smith, and Steve Bedford. The following personnel were present from the College: President Margaret Annunziata, DeeDee Barnard, Madeline Smith, Leeann Cline-Burris, Greg Thomas, Mike Gavin, Robby Walters, and Thad Harrill.

Chairman James Hutchins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Oath of Office

Mrs. DeeDee Barnard administered the oath of office to Mr. Steve Bedford, Mr. Bryson Smith, and Mrs. Amy Jenkins.

Ethics Statement

Mrs. Jackie Godlock asked Board members if they knew of any actual conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest which exists concerning any matter coming before the Board of Trustees. No conflicts were noted.

Agenda Confirmation

Chairman Hutchins presented the agenda. Mr. Tony Helton made a motion to amend the agenda to include the consideration of reallocating the Power's Promise fund balance for Workforce Development Scholarships. Mr. Bill Miller seconded the motion. The agenda was approved with the amendment.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Tony Helton gave the nominating committee report. On behalf of the Committee, he nominated the following officers:

Mr. Bill Miller, Chair
Mr. Dave Hunt, Vice Chair
Dr. Seema Daigle, Secretary

Mr. Jordan Barnes made a motion of acclamation to confirm the nominations; Mr. Grady Franklin seconded the motion. The officers for 2025/2026 were unanimously approved. Mr. Hutchins expressed his appreciation to the Board of Trustees and incoming Chairman Bill Miller thanked Mr. Hutchins for his service as chair.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Miller presented the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda contained the minutes from May 20, 2025, Budget Revisions, and the President's Blanket Travel. After no objections, the consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Trustee Items

Chairman Miller gave the Executive Committee report. He presented the 2025-2026 meetings calendar to the Board of Trustees for information.

Chairman Miller announced the following Committee Chairs and requested confirmation from the Trustees:

Finance: Interim Dave Hunt
Facilities: Michael Benfield
Personnel: Jordan Barnes
Programs: Grady Franklin

Mrs. Jackie Godlock made a motion to confirm the Committee Chairs and Mr. Jordan Barnes seconded the motion. Chairman Miller announced that current Committee membership will be the same unless he receives notice from the Board. After discussions, Mr. Franklin called to question the motion. The Committee Chairs were approved.

Chairman Miller requested a Facilities update from Dr. Madeline Smith. She informed the Board that the Library renovation project is underway and on track for completion in March 2026. The renovation includes the office area, auditorium, bathrooms, and front windows. Dr. Annunziata discussed the renovation of creating space for students to have a dedicated area for engagement and collaborative learning.

Dr. Smith announced that the main power relocation discussions with Duke Energy are in the final stages with the design of the site. The Bobby F. England Health and Sciences Center project is on track following some issues with Interscope at the Office of State Construction. The steel installation will start in September.

Dr. Annunziata announced that the Rutherfordton Learning Center (RLC), which was recently purchased by the Town of Rutherfordton has an asbestos issue in the classrooms that was made apparent during the work on the leaking roof. The College has decided to vacate the facility and will terminate the lease after relocating all classes from the facility. Dr. Thomas discussed the work involved in relocating the classes from the RLC. The Board of Trustees discussed encapsulating the asbestos and Dr. Smith announced that the latest damage has complicated the issue. Chairman Miller discussed communications with students, staff, and the community about the relocation. Dr. Thomas announced meetings with affected faculty and staff regarding the class relocations. Dr. Annunziata confirmed that no students and staff were affected by the asbestos and discussed the notifications being sent to all involved. Dr. Annunziata discussed the areas of the relocations in the Administration and Foundation buildings with the Board.

Mr. Dave Hunt gave the Finance Committee report. He reviewed the latest market report from Atlanta Consulting Group regarding the Powers and Furches accounts. In addition, he announced that the Committee discussed adding additional funding to the Powers Promise Scholarship program and working with Atlanta Consulting Group to determine the options available to increase the scholarship fund.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, he made a motion to remain with Truist Banking following an additional bid review and renegotiation of fees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryson Smith. Mr. Hunt discussed the transition and bidding process. The motion was approved.

Mr. Hunt informed the Trustees that the College has a balance of \$66,662.08 remaining in the Powers Promise Scholarship fund after disbursements for FY2024-25. This is primarily due to the additional scholarship/aid allocations from state and national funding sources. To expand the opportunities for students seeking short-term

work-force credentials that are not eligible for state or federal financial aid, Mr. Hunt made a motion to allow the College to use this balance for workforce scholarships. Mr. Tony Helton seconded the motion. The Board discussed how students are eligible for the scholarships for tuition and fees in Continuing Education. Dr. Annunziata reviewed the process of Continuing Education staff working with the Financial Aid staff in Curriculum to award this scholarship for workforce programs. In addition, she announced that this scholarship will be a last dollar scholarship. The Board discussed the differences in tuition payment and other fee deadlines with Continuing Education compared to Curriculum. Dr. Annunziata discussed the flexibility in the schedules with Continuing Education. Dr. Annunziata requested clarification on the motion and asked will it include the President having discretion for future years to allocate the balance or left over funds to workforce scholarships for tuition. Mr. Hunt amended his motion to include authorizing the President to reallocate future fund balances from the Powers Promise to workforce development programs. Mr. Bryson Smith seconded the amended motion. After discussion, the motion was called to question by Mrs. Amy Jenkins, the motion was approved to give authorization to the President to reallocate remaining Powers Promise fund balances to short term workforce scholarships for tuition only.

Mr. Jordan Barnes announced no formal report from the Personnel Committee since the last meeting and update to Dr. Annunziata's contract in May 2025.

Mr. Grady Franklin announced no report from the Program's Committee.

President's Report

Dr. Annunziata expressed her appreciation to the Board of Trustees for their support with the Rutherford County School Board's consideration of closing Rutherford Early College (REaCH). She discussed the students and staff that spoke on behalf of REaCH and the Rutherford County Schools Board's unanimous vote against closure of the school. In addition, she informed the Board of the value of the Early College model and that Isothermal has been in partnership with Rutherford County Schools and Polk County Schools to provide this opportunity to the communities of both counties.

Dr. Annunziata shared the Employment Changes from the first two quarters of the year 2025.

Dr. Annunziata presented the Gifts and Donations for information.

Dr. Annunziata announced that the Dr. Bobby F. England Health & Sciences Center groundbreaking will be held on July 14, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Annunziata informed the Board of Trustees that the College was operating without a budget from the state. She discussed departments having a working budget based on 90% of the 2024/2025 budget. Representative Paul Scott, who was in attendance, announced that a resolution to the budget process was not likely in the near future. He announced that committees are working to pass mini budgets.

Dr. Annunziata announced that the proposed funding cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), that provides funding to NPR, PBS, and their member stations will impact WNCW. Since WNCW is an NPR member and broadcasts their news reports, they may lose up to \$150,000 in funding. Dr. Annunziata informed the Board of Trustees that the radio station and Dr. Smith are working to identify resources to offset the loss in funding. She announced that the WNCW members have been responding positively to assist WNCW with the funding shortfall.

Dr. Annunziata announced that Isothermal continues to be recognized for the work that is happening across the College. Isothermal has been selected to participate in the Aspen Institute's College Excellence - Unlocking

Opportunity program that offers professional development to enhance Isothermal's programs in assisting students to connect with careers.

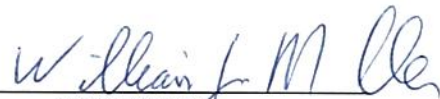
Dr. Annunziata informed the Board that Meta made an investment in the Techspire Camp which is a technology camp for rising 9-12 graders.

Dr. Annunziata announced that Isothermal is launching the Isothermal Works program, a workforce development initiative with support from the NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation. This program will provide students with work-based learning experiences in Rutherford and Polk Counties.

In 2023, Isothermal received some threatening calls regarding the Paint the Campus Blue event that was scheduled as a community event. Dr. Annunziata informed the Board of Trustees that the individual charged with making the threats plead guilty after day two of the trial and received thirty days in jail and thirty months of probation. In addition, the individual was directed to pay \$3200 in restitution to Isothermal.

Mr. Dave Hunt made a motion to approve the closed session minutes from the May 20, 2025 meeting. Mrs. Amy Jenkins seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

The meeting adjourned.



CHAIRMAN
MR. BILL MILLER

PARLIAMENTARIAN/SECRETARY
DR. SEEMA DAIGLE