SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
ALUMNI ROOM, BROOKHAVEN GYMNASIUM
AMMERMAN CAMPUS, SELDEN, NY
JUNE 18, 2026

The meeting was held on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Alumni room of the Brookhaven Gymnasium, in Selden, NY.

PRESENT:

Shirley Coverdale	Chair
Gemma deLeon-Lopresti	Vice Chair
Priscilla Zarate	Trustee *(via zoom)*
Jerome Bost	Trustee
Michael Arens	Trustee
John Dolan	Trustee
Wayne Horsley	Trustee
Jacqueline Gordon	Trustee
Nathan Ermmarino	Student Trustee
Dr. Edward Bonahue	President
Ashley Pope	General Counsel
Mary Lou Araneo	V.P. for Institutional Advancement
Shady Azzam-Gomez	V.P. for Information Technology Services
Dr. Patty Munsch	V.P. for Student Affairs
Dr. Irene Rios	V.P. for Academic Affairs
Angelica Rivera	V.P. for Human Resources
Sara Gorton	Interim V.P. of Business and Financial Affairs
Kaliah Greene	V.P. for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness
Christina Vargas	A.V.P. for Opportunity & Belonging
Dr. Mary Reese	Interim Executive Dean, Eastern Campus

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The meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 4:00 p.m., with a quorum of six Trustees physically present and Trustee Zarate joining the meeting via Zoom in accordance with Board policy governing attendance via videoconference. (Trustees Arens joined the meeting after it was convened, as noted below).

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Chair Coverdale asked Carol Wickliffe-Campbell, Chief of Staff, and Interim Associate Vice President for Workforce Development, for the recognition of guests. She introduced and welcomed Joe Callari, Ben Zwirn, and Josephine Makowski and Maggie Eng-Salvaggio from the Association of Municipal Employees (AME).

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Chair Coverdale introduced Ben Zwirn who was a registered speaker for public comment. Mr. Zwirn raised several concerns regarding Suffolk County Community College's finances, facilities, staffing, and capital projects. He commented that the College's operating budget presentation to the Education Committee went well. The College achieved a balanced budget without relying on fund balance reserves, which he viewed as a significant positive development. He credited SUNY Reconnect funding and strong state support for improving the College's financial position. Mr. Zwirn noted ongoing confusion between FTE (full-time equivalent) enrollment and headcount enrollment. He explained that the College is no longer funded based on FTEs and benefits from state floor funding. He questioned the way enrollment is reported, pointing out that approximately 5,192 Beacon program students are high school students taking classes in their own schools. He suggested reporting the Beacon program separately because including those students in overall enrollment figures may create a misleading impression of the College's enrollment. Mr. Zwirn also raised concerns about building conditions across multiple campuses, citing complaints about: air conditioning failures, mold issues and poor indoor air quality. He noted that Kreiling Hall developed roof leaks and mold problems despite receiving more than $3M in renovations. He requested that any engineering or environmental reports related to these issues be shared publicly and with employee representatives to address worker health concerns. Mr. Zwirn questioned the College's decision to hire another attorney while many facility maintenance issues remain unresolved. He emphasized the need for more HVAC, maintenance, and facilities personnel rather than expanding legal staffing, citing examples of deferred maintenance issues. He argued that poor facility conditions create a negative image of the College. He is hopeful and welcomes the development of a memorandum of agreement involving public safety officers and indicated that approximately 20 AME positions are being reviewed out of 47 and expressed hope that vacancies would be filled. He stressed the importance of restoring both blue-collar and white-collar staffing levels because those employees maintain campus operations and appearance. He praised the appearance of the Eastern Campus, describing it as clean, attractive, and impressing visitors from the surrounding community and suggested that all campuses should reflect that same high standard. Mr. Zwirn then questioned ongoing change orders and cost increases on capital projects. He specifically cited the STEM building, noting that it opened about three years ago and additional change orders are still being approved. He also raised concerns about the Auto Tech building, stating that the project was significantly reduced in square footage and additional funding had to be secured, including borrowing from the Foundation. He said that these project changes deserve greater scrutiny and public discussion, and he wanted these issues placed on the record so stakeholders could ask questions and hold discussions. He concluded by thanking the board and expressing appreciation for the 13 years he spent serving the College.

Trustees Dolan and Bost engaged in dialogue with Mr. Zwirn to thank him for bringing concerns to light, and expressing a willingness for Board subcommittees to engage in the work of reviewing such concerns to ensure that any issues are addressed. President Bonahue also requested that if Mr. Zwirn knows of any specific instances of personnel working in what they feel are unsafe conditions or active concerns, to please encourage them to report the concerns so that the College can address them.

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Chair Coverdale requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting. Student Trustee Ermmarino so moved, Trustee Dolan seconded. The motion to approve the minutes was approved (8-0).

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Chair Coverdale then introduced Interim Vice President of Business and Financial Affairs, Sara Gorton, to present the College's financial report. Ms. Gorton reported revenue for FY'26 spring full-time tuition is just under budget, about $90K less than 0.5% under budget. Part-time tuition is 4% over budget, and summer tuition is very strong, it is approximately 20% over budget in revenue. Noting that summer registrations are still ongoing. Overall, tuition for all terms for the year is about $205M over budget, about 3%. Total revenue from all sources is projected to exceed the budget by about 2%, approximately $4.3M. Ms. Gorton reviewed the impact of the SUNY Reconnect program on revenue. The program significantly increased part-time enrollment and tuition revenue. Many participants are continuing students rather than new students, and this new program afforded them the opportunity to go to school for free. SUNY Reconnect supports affordability, retention, and persistence. Approximately 14% of participants were new students; 5% were transfer students.

In regard to expenses for FY'26, Ms. Gorton reviewed Personal Services and Employee benefits, those are our largest areas, making up about 89% of out total budget. Personal services, which is full-time and part-time salaries and related expenses, are trending slightly above budget, less than 1%. Employee benefits, however are trending significantly under budget, approximately 4%. Overall College expenditures are projected to be under budget by $1.8M. Because of this, we've adjusted our budget from a projected deficit of $4.5M to a surplus of $1.6M. This includes adjustments for anticipated write-offs at the end of the year. The surplus allows administration to explore opportunities to accelerate deferred purchases, repairs, and equipment replacement before year-end.

For FY'27, Ms. Gorton reported that on June 17, 2026, the College presented the College's requested budget to the Committee for Education, Labor, Consumer Affairs, and Diversity. The resolution was tabled because of another public comment session that is scheduled for Monday, June 22nd in Riverhead. The full Legislature vote is expected on June 23rd, following the committee's review. New York State approved its budget; allocations include over $12M for community colleges, Suffolk has been allocated $928K for the expansion of our high-demand workforce programs and $456,000 in unrestricted funds.

Discussion was had regarding the correlation of the College's marketing impact on revenue, and the possible reasons for the employee benefits coming in under budget.

(Trustee Arens arrived at the meeting at 4:40 p.m. during the financial report.)

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President Bonahue provided a detailed overview of College Resolutions 2026.33 to 2026.42.

With respect to Resolution 2026.42, to address Mr. Zwirn's comments, Dr. Bonahue pointed out that for many years, the College had three attorneys on staff, a General Counsel and 2 deputies. Since 2023, we have had two attorneys on staff. However, the number and complexity of legal tasks we have seen in the past 18 months means that we need to bring our bandwidth in the legal department back to where it was historically was. We currently have the funds to do this, in addition to filling other positions that have been vacant at the College. General Counsel Pope also offered additional background: because the Board has designated hiring authority to the President, the hiring for new positions does not typically require approval by the Board, such as the 20 or so new AME positions which are going to be filled. Because the attorney titles are exempt, and are not in a bargaining unit, in order to create a new title, that does require Board approval. The new attorney position would be at a lower grade on the Exempt Salary schedule than the current Deputy General Counsel position. The intent of taking this extra step to bring this position to the Board for approval, instead of just hiring a second Deputy General Counsel is to offer growth opportunities within the Office of Legal Affairs, and be sensitive to the College's financial position. We have taken on additional responsibilities, including helping out the Beacon and Early College programs with its partnership agreements and reporting responsibilities. We certainly don't want to take resources away from being able to fill any other positions. However, we do provide a very high level of support, and we want to be able to provide good and timely services, and in order for us to do that, we do need another attorney.

Discussion was also had regarding operating budget and capital budget distinctions with respect to facilities maintenance and the College's ongoing infrastructure projects. Discussion was also had regarding possible future presentation of information regarding the College's structure and funding allocations across functional areas.

Chair Coverdale noted that College Resolution No. 2026.33 would be pulled and motioned for a separate vote at the request of Trustee Arens since it involved Stony Brook University and he wished to avoid any potential conflict.

Chair Coverdale called for approval of College Resolutions No. 2026.34 through 2026.42. Student Trustee Ermmarino so moved, and Trustee deLeon-Lopresti seconded. The motion to approve College Resolutions No. 2026.34 through 2026.42 was approved (9-0).

RESOLUTION NO. 2026.34 – Accepting a Grant from American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) for the Engineering for One Planet Mini-Grant Program (EOP-MGP)

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant in the amount of $8,000 from the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) for the Engineering for One Planet Mini Grant Program (EOP-MGP), for the period of April 22, 2026 through January 31, 2027, and

WHEREAS, this project integrates a data-driven Energy Systems laboratory module into ENS 117: Engineering Computations, serving and engaging 25 undergraduate engineering students in hands-on design, deployment, and analysis of real-time energy monitoring system using kilowatt sensors, entry-level microcontrollers, and computational modeling tools to measure classroom electrical power consumption to evaluate how renewable energy systems, such as solar panels, can offset measured energy demand, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a grant in the amount of $8,000 from ASEE's Engineering for One Planet Mini Grant Program, for the period of April 22, 2026 through January 31, 2027, is hereby accepted, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized and empowered to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract with the administering entity, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, and be if further

RESOLVED, that the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 College operating budgets be amended as necessary to reflect the applicable portions of this grant award.

Project Director: Dr. Stephanie Taboada, Assistant Professor, Engineering

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RESOLUTION 2026.35 – Accepting a Grant from the State University of New York (SUNY) for a Project Entitled “AI-Assisted Garment Inspection for Circular Fashion Education”

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant in the amount of $15,000, from the State University of New York (SUNY) for a project entitled “AI-Assisted Garment Inspection for Circular Fashion Education,” for the period of June 12, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and

WHEREAS, the project will enable students to program AI-enabled devices to inspect garments, reduce fashion waste, and understand quality control and decision-making used in manufacturing, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a grant, in the amount of $15,000 from SUNY for a project entitled, “AI-Assisted Garment Inspection for Circular Fashion Education,” for the period of June 12, 2026 through June 30, 2027, is hereby accepted, and that the College President, or his designee, is authorized and empowered to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract, with the administering agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 College operating budgets be amended as necessary to reflect the applicable portions of this grant award.

Project Director: Dr. Stephanie Taboada, Assistant Professor, Engineering

Note: No full-time personnel

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RESOLUTION NO. 2026.36 – Accepting a Grant Subaward Increase from the Research Foundation for the State University of New York, for a Project Entitled “Power Systems Laboratory for Renewable Energy Transmission and Integration”

WHEREAS, the 2025–2026 College operating budget provides $10,000 remaining funds from the Research Foundation for the State University of New York, for a project entitled “Power Systems Laboratory for Renewable Energy Transmission and Integration,” for the period of September 9, 2025 through August 31, 2026 and

WHEREAS, the subaward has been increased by an additional amount of $5,000, bringing the total amount of the grant subaward to $15,000, and

WHEREAS, the additional funding will allow two College faculty to continue to participate in the development of content to train the entering public utilities workforce in the skills necessary to support the expanding sustainable energy grid,

WHERAS, it is necessary to amend the 2025–2026 College operating budget in the amount of $5,000 to provide for the increase of the grant subaward, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, a grant subaward increase in the amount of $5,000 from The Research Foundation for The State University of New York for a project entitled, “Power Systems Laboratory for Renewable Energy

Transmission and Integration," for the period of September 9, 2025 through August 31, 2026, is hereby accepted, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized and empowered to execute any necessary documentation, including a subaward amendment with the administering agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2025–26 College operating budget be amended to reflect this grant sub-award increase.

Project Director: Dr. Wesley Francillon, Academic Chair and Associate Professor of Engineering

Note: No full-time personnel

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RESOLUTION NO. 2026.37 – Accepting a Grant from the State University of New York (SUNY) for the PRODIG+ CC Fellowship (Promoting Recruitment, Opportunity, Diversity, and Growth Plus Community College)

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant in the amount of $20,000.00 from the State University of New York (SUNY) for the PRODIG + CC Fellowship (Promoting, Recruitment, Opportunity, Diversity, and, Growth Plus Community College), for the period of March 7, 2025 through August 31, 2027, and

WHEREAS, the grant provides funds for the recruitment and placement of a PRODIG+ CC in Business, Professional Programs and Allied Health – Business/Accounting faculty search: Eastern Campus, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a grant in the amount of $20,000 from SUNY for the PRODIG+ CC Fellowship for the period of March 7, 2025 through August 31, 2027, is hereby accepted, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized and empowered to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract with the administering agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 College operating budgets be amended as necessary to reflect the applicable portions of this grant award.

Project Director: Christina Vargas, Associate Vice President for Opportunity and Belonging

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RESOLUTION NO. 2026.38 – Approving Monthly Sponsor Services for Suffolk County Community College

WHEREAS, the State University of New York Regulation No. 602.7 requires Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees to review and approve all Sponsor provided services and their estimated value in advance of the service being rendered, and

WHEREAS, the regulation also requires the approval of the payment of each Sponsor Service satisfactorily performed, and

WHEREAS, health insurance is considered a Sponsor Service, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the health insurance payment to the County of Suffolk in the amount of $3,014,824.81 for the month of May 2026 *(Attachment I)* is hereby approved by the Board of Trustees.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2026.39 – Approving Additional Design Services

WHEREAS, via Resolution No. 2025.45, the Board of Trustees authorized the College President to enter into a contract with BBS Architects, Landscape Architects & Engineers, in an amount not to exceed $162,736 for design services in connection with the construction of an expansion of the existing Workforce Development and Technology Center at the College's Michael J. Grant Campus, following a Request for Proposals (RFP) process in accordance with the College's Procurement Policy, and

WHEREAS, following an evaluation of needs and potential costs for similar design services to expand the workforce development program space on the College's Eastern Campus, it has been determined that utilizing the same design firm for these services would result in cost-savings and efficiency and best meet the needs of the College, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the College President or his designee is authorized to enter into a contract amendment with BBS Architects, Landscape Architects & Engineers, in an amount not to exceed $57,420 for design services in connection with the construction of an expansion of the College's workforce development program space (Welding/CNC Lab) at the Eastern Campus, upon such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the College General Counsel.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2026.40 – Approving a Reduced Fee for the Use of Specified Facilities by Long Island Head Start through June 30, 2027

WHEREAS, Long Island Head Start is a not-for-profit corporation established for the purpose of providing programs for infants, toddlers, and preschool age children to support children's growth and development through a variety of services, including early learning, health and development services, and family well-being services in licensed Head Start centers throughout Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, in or about July 2024, Long Island Head Start's Riverside facility leased from the Town of Southampton was unexpectedly determined to be structurally unsound for occupancy and the operation of the Long Island Head Start's programs and services for children and families located in and around the Town of Southampton and the Town of Riverhead, including children with disabilities and children from families with incomes below the poverty level, and

WHEREAS, by Resolutions 2024.69 and 2025.37, the College previously approved Long Island Head Start's request to utilize kitchen space at the College's Peconic Café on the Eastern Campus for its child meal preparation operations until June 30, 2026, for the purpose of operating the meal services that would have been operated from the Riverside facility during this period, and

WHEREAS, Long Island Head Start has requested to extend its use of this kitchen space through June 30, 2027 while it continues its efforts to find an alternative facility for its meal services previously operated from the Riverside facility, and

WHEREAS, the College has determined that its current utilization of the kitchen space is such that the space can continue to be made available for Long Island Head Start's use in exchange for a fair and reasonable consideration, as described herein, provided such use does not cause the College to be in violation of any of its existing contractual obligations, certificates of occupancy, licenses or permits, or otherwise unreasonably disrupt College operations, and

WHEREAS, the College has further determined that continuing to provide use of these facilities to Long Island Head Start is compatible with the College's educational mission as a student-centered college community serving Suffolk County and beyond by providing open access to exceptional educational opportunities and vision to be the education partner of choice for all Suffolk County students, families, communities, and businesses, and

WHEREAS, in support of its mission, the College has an existing partnership with Long Island Head Start to provide clinical training, internships, and practical learning opportunities to the College's students enrolled in relevant programs, including Early Childhood Education and Nursing, at Long Island Head Start's sites throughout Suffolk County, and the Parties desire to maximize opportunities for students of the College and access to families served by Long Island Head Start to learning opportunities offered by the College, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves a reduction to the facilities use fees that would otherwise be charged pursuant to the College's Facilities Use Policy for Long Island Head Start's use of kitchen space at the Peconic Café on the Eastern Campus through June 30, 2027, and authorizes a fee of $500.00/month effective July 1, 2026 for such use, provided all costs reasonably anticipated to be incurred by the College in providing such use are reimbursed by Long Island Head Start, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the College President is hereby authorized and empowered to execute a license agreement with Long Island Head Start, upon such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, for the use of kitchen space on the Eastern Campus, or such other comparable space if deemed necessary and in the best interests of the College.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2026.41 – Approving a Major Change Order and Amendment to the Contract for the Construction of the Renewable Energy and STEM Center on the Michael J. Grant Campus

WHEREAS, V.R.D. Contracting, Inc. was awarded a contract ("Contract") to construct the Renewable Energy and STEM Center on the College's Michael J. Grant Campus, and

WHEREAS, work which was not anticipated under the terms of this contract or shown on the design drawings is required, consisting of exterior door weather stripping; additional door shades; roof anchor posts, and

WHEREAS, at this stage of the construction the College estimates that sufficient contingency funding remains in the project budget for the unanticipated work, and

WHEREAS, including the additional work described herein increases the contract with V.R.D. by more than thirty-five thousand dollars ($35,000.00), thus constituting a major change order as defined in the College's *Procurement Policy*, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such policy, all major change orders require the approval of the Board of Trustees, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a change order in the amount of $35,993.46 to the contract with V.R.D. Contracting, Inc. for additional work to be performed for the construction of the Renewable Energy and STEM Center on the Michael J. Grant Campus, is hereby approved, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the College President is authorized and empowered to execute the necessary documentation, as approved by the College General Counsel, reflecting the change order and the nature of the additional work so authorized.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2026.42 – Creating an Employee Title (College Assistant General Counsel)

WHEREAS, the College is committed to ensuring compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and directives from federal, state, and local authorities, and

WHEREAS, the College's Office of Legal Affairs strives to promote the College's mission by providing comprehensive and efficient services related to all legal matters affecting the College, including providing support and advice to the College's Board of Trustees, President, administration, faculty and staff on a broad range of issues having legal significance through counsel and representation, litigation and risk management, interpretation of and compliance with federal, state, and local laws, formulating and issuing legal opinions and reviewing and/or drafting contracts and policies, and

WHEREAS, to increase capacity within the Office of Legal Affairs in a way that minimizes cost and provides long-term internal growth opportunities, the College General Counsel has recommended creating a lower-level attorney title of College Assistant General Counsel, rather than utilizing the higher-level title of Deputy General Counsel for two attorneys as was the case previously, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the College hereby creates the following new employee title:

Title	Bargaining Unit	Grade
College Assistant General Counsel	Exempt	3

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RESOLVED, that the Exempt Salary and Benefit Plan (Policy 7001) shall be amended to reflect this new title.

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Chair Coverdale called for approval of College Resolution No. 2026.33. Trustee Dolan so moved, and Student Trustee Ermmarino seconded; Trustee Arens abstained. The motion to approve College Resolution 2026.33 was approved. (8-0-1).

RESOLUTION NO. 2026.33 – Accepting a Grant Subaward from Stony Brook University (SBU) to Carry Out a Program Entitled "Empire AI Initiative"

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant subaward in the amount of $11,000 from Stony Brook University (SBU) to carry out a program entitled "Empire AI Initiative," for the period of March 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the program will provide funds to recruit, advise and place twenty students from interdisciplinary programs in research labs at Stony Brook University for a paid internship of AI research in their field, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a grant subaward, in the amount of $11,000 from Stony Brook University (SBU), to carry out a program entitled "Empire AI Initiative," for the period of March 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, is hereby accepted, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized and empowered to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract, with the administering agency in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2025–2026 College operating budget be amended to reflect this grant subaward.

Project Director: Dr. Fara Afshar, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Ammerman Campus

Note: No full-time personnel

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Chair Coverdale called for the Committee reports.

Trustee Bost reported for the Student Success Committee. The committee met on June 5th. VP Munch provided context for the selection of topics for the committee to give the new members a better understanding of what the committee works on and projects moving forward. They outlined topics of interest for future meetings such as: Campus Activity, Public Safety, SUNY Academic Momentum, SUNY Transfer Initiative, SUNY ASAP, Financial Aid, public safety, and mental health.

Trustee Arens reported for the Governance Committee. The Committee discussed the Board of Trustees' self-evaluation. They expressed the need for more regular involvement in the College's accreditation process. Dr. Bonahue explained that the activities are cyclical with the Middle States Accreditation review cycle occurring about every 8 to 10 years. There is an annual submission of data that gets uploaded each year, and occasional information requests or changes that require additional reporting, but the full reaccreditation review happens on the longer cycle. The committee discussed establishing parameters for collective bargaining in the evaluation. GC Pope described the current approach to collective bargaining and explained that while the Board does not typically place a representative from the board on negotiating teams, the Board is consulted and provides strategic and financial direction throughout the negotiation process, with the opportunity to receive updates and provide input. The College works with the County's Office of Labor Relations throughout the contract negotiation. The committee also discussed opportunities for improving trustee onboarding and orientation process. It was suggested that having cabinet members give 10-minute overviews of their roles to new trustees. Discussion was had about the trustees participating in trustee development and educational opportunities from ACCT and NYCCT and opportunities to maximize Board attendance and participation at College events and activities, such as Foundation events. It was suggested that Outlook invitations with event details could be sent from the Board calendar. A conversation was also had about creating formal agenda for use during executive sessions to help ensure all items are addressed and facilitate efficient discussion while being sensitive to time constraints. The next Governance meeting is on August 17th.

Trustee deLeon-Lopresti reported for the Personnel Committee. The committee met on June 11th. The committee reviewed the Presidential evaluation survey results they received from Scantron. The results were subsequently sent to all the trustees. Executive session discussions, and feedback process will continue through August where they will have an opportunity to discuss it and agree on feedback that will be provided to Dr. Bonahue.

Trustee Zarate reported for the Advocacy Committee. The Committee met on June 8th. The committee discussed plans for recruiting and hiring a new Director of Governmental/Legislative Affairs. In addition to providing a strong link to governmental communications and constituent services, the committee believes the position should focus on strengthening the College's visibility through a legislative breakfast, engaging external stakeholders, and supporting public relations and strategic communications. The revised position description will be circulated throughout the committee. Currently, the College intends to post the position for open recruitment. As a matter of general advocacy, President Bonahue also recommended that all trustees, not only those of us in the committee, but all members of the Board, take careful note of updates from the New York Community College Trustees, which provides a centralized point for advocacy for trustees across the SUNY system. The committee also discussed how the College can better leverage students as our strongest advocates. The more elected officials hear from the College's students and their stories, the more likely Suffolk County Community College will remain at the forefront of their minds when discussing higher education priorities, funding opportunities, and policies that impact students and the institution. The Committee discussed potential participation in the annual Somos Conference in Albany during the legislative session each spring. The conference could be a great experience for students to meet statewide leaders and learn about state-level political advocacy. The committee also discussed the pros and cons of reviewing the current use of facilities policy, which the Board instituted to provide fair access to use college facilities in a consistent way. The trustees sometimes hear from community groups and non-organizations that need access to space at a low cost. However, community access must be weighed against the College's need to utilize space that best serves the institution's needs, including revenue-generating purposes. VP Munch will provide the committee with current rate information and points of contact for groups interested in hosting events for prospective students at the College.

VP Araneo reported for the Foundation. VP Araneo reported the Foundations annual golf outing was a success with 112 participants and 35 dinner guests. She thanked all those present who supported the event and participated. All goals were met and 10 sponsors helped underwrite the costs. The Foundation is happy to report a new donor established annual awards for students in: Mathematics, Physics and Accounting. New memorial hardship fund was established to support students facing financial emergencies. VP Araneo also took the opportunity to address a statement made by Ben Zwirn during his public comment. To clarify, the Foundation money supporting the automotive center development was not taken from scholarship funds.

Student Trustee Ermmarino was recognized for his outstanding service and leadership during his term as Student Trustee. The Board commended him for representing student interests and his engagement in Board discussions. Student Trustee Ermmarino announced he would be transferring to Stony Brook University following graduation.

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Chair Coverdale moved to the Chair's report. Chair Coverdale commented that as a native New Yorker she was a Knicks Fan and wanted to say Go Knicks! Acknowledging their championship win after 53 years. She thanked and commended Dr. Irene Rios for her exemplary and essential service to the College and wished her the best in her retirement. She commented on the importance of Juneteenth and noted the origins of the holiday relate to a two-and-a-half-year delay of people's freedom where 250,000 enslaved people were informed of their status two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been in effect Because it was hard to enforce it in the South, it took General Granger and Union troops, to go into Galveston, Texas to read general article number 3, to ensure that these people knew that they were indeed free. She added that we should not take our liberty, nor our freedom for granted, ever.

Chair Coverdale then asked Trustee Bost as Chair of the Nominating Committee to present the slate of officers for the Board's review and approval. Trustee Bost reported that as Chair of the Nominations Committee, he reached out and spoke to every trustee on the Board, and following those discussions there was unanimous support for the proposed slate of the Executive Committee of the Board. The proposed slate of officers is as follows: Shirley Coverdale as Chairwoman, Gemma deLeon-Lopresti for Vice Chair, Kevin O'Connor as second Vice Chair and Priscilla Zarate for Secretary.

Trustee Bost requested a motion to approve the Slate of Officers for the 2026-2027 Academic Year. Trustee Bost so moved, Trustee Dolan seconded. The motion to approve the Slate of Officers for the 2026-2027 was approved. (9-0).

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Chair Coverdale moved to the President's report. President Bonahue first acknowledged the recurring HVAC and air-conditioning issues Mr. Zwirn had commented on and announced he has scheduled a meeting of all of our campus and central facilities leaders to develop broader, long-term and comprehensive solutions.

President Bonahue reported on the following:

Budget Update:

He and VP Gorton presented the College's operating budget at the Education, Labor, Consumer Affairs, and Diversity Committee. There was a positive discussion regarding financial and enrollment projections. State funding increases will support additional faculty and staff hires. Currently there are 47 active recruitment searches underway. Administration continues to monitor potential future increases in EMHP health insurance costs.

Enrollment Update:

President Bonahue reviewed the enrollment handout. Current enrollment trends remain positive. Summer headcount is up approximately 2% over last year. FTE enrollment is up 5%, and the College exceeded its 3% growth target in FTE enrollment for the summer. President Bonahue is working on a concise summary of how the various kinds of enrollment are measured and the way each kind of enrollment impacts revenues to share with the Board in August.

Academic Affairs:

President Bonahue acknowledged the retirement of Dr. Irene Rios and announced the promotion of Dr. Lauren Tacke-Cushing to Vice President for Academic Affairs effective July 6, 2026. He continues to meet with Governance leaders to continue the conversations from the spring regarding high school dual enrollment. He reaffirmed that expanding high school dual enrollment, Beacon programs, and Early College initiatives remains a key long-term strategic goal for the College and emphasized the importance of being transparent about this strategy so that the college community clearly understands its direction and priorities. While demand for these programs remains important, he noted that the overall number of high school students is not growing, which means the College must take a more proactive approach to recruitment. Statewide data shows that Suffolk has relatively low participation in dual enrollment programs, with high school students representing approximately 24% of total headcount. In contrast, 4 community colleges have more than 60% of their enrollment comprised of dual enrollment students.

Student Affairs:

President Bonahue highlighted the College's ongoing commitment to addressing students' basic needs and reducing barriers that can prevent them from staying enrolled and succeeding. He emphasized that the College has taken an intentional approach to connecting students with support services through a centralized webpage on the student portal, where students can access information about emergency loans, hardship grants, food pantries, mental health services, transportation assistance, and other resources. He noted the success of the college's laptop loaner program, which provided laptops to 175 students across all three campuses during the past year. Approximately 150 laptops were borrowed, and all but nine were returned, demonstrating strong student responsibility and the program's value. President Bonahue also shared data illustrating the significant need for student support services. The College's three campus food pantries helped through more than 4,600 visits, serving over 1,100 households. The College Foundation awarded more than $10,000 in hardship funding to help students remove barriers to College, and 110 transportation vouchers were distributed to assist students with bus fare to help them get to classes. He concluded by noting that these programs demonstrate both the substantial challenges many students face and the positive impact that targeted support can have on student success. He expressed gratitude to the College Foundation, its donors, and a new hardship fund donor for helping provide these critical resources.

Calendar Events:

- President Bonahue highlighted the historical importance of Juneteenth and encouraged reflection on its significance and noted the Grant Campus had a celebration earlier in the day.

- With no July meeting he plans to meet with the Trustee individually throughout the summer.

Trustee Zarate asked whether the College has seen increased use of its food pantries in recent years, particularly considering rising inflation and changes to government assistance programs such as SNAP benefits.

VP Munsch reported that food pantry usage is trending upward, especially during academic terms. She noted that each campus serves a different population and surrounding community, and that two of the College's food pantries are grant-funded and open to both students and community members, contributing to overall demand. The College sees its highest levels of food pantry use during the fall months of October, November, and December, while usage typically declines during the summer. College staff work closely with faculty association and guild partners, members of the college community, and grant-funded programs to ensure that food pantries remain well stocked and able to meet the needs of both students and residents.

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Chair Coverdale called for Roundtable:

Trustee deLeon-Lopresti expressed sincere appreciation for Chair Coverdale's leadership following her re-election as Board Chair. She praised her years of service, highlighting her wisdom, steady demeanor, and calm approach to leadership. She noted that Chair Coverdale's values closely align with those of the institution and that she exemplifies the college's mission and culture.

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Opportunity for Public Comments on Matters Pertaining to the College:

Chair Coverdale introduced Tiffany Naber, former student who was a registered speaker for public comment. Ms. Naber raised concerns about conditions in the College's food pantries, stating that she observed expired food items remaining on shelves Ms. Naber also spoke about personal circumstances, including a recent car accident and emotional distress related to her expulsion from the College. She stated that she was expelled shortly before graduation and was unable to participate in commencement. She indicated that she has submitted an appeal through college channels and requested that her appeal receive further review. Additionally, she expressed concerns regarding the handling of her case and requested the appointment of new individuals to handle the review of her appeal, asserting a conflict of interest.

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Chair Coverdale requested a motion to enter in Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person, the proposed lease or license of real property, and to seek/receive legal advice, which is made confidential by law. Student Trustee Ermmarino so moved, Trustee Dolan seconded. The motion to enter Executive Session was approved unanimously (9-0).

Chair Coverdale requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Student Trustee Ermmarino so moved, Trustee Arens seconded. The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously (9-0). The meeting adjourned to executive session at approximately 5:47 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,
Kevin O’Connor
Secretary