



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 29, 2025 | 11:00am

Board Members Present: Pete Suttmeier, Donna Wadsworth, Todd LaPage, David McNally, Tricia Preston, and Tommy Sloan

Excused: Seth McGowan and Linda Beers

Others Present: Joe Keegan, Stacie Hurwitch, Sarah Maroun, Erik Harvey, Kyle Johnston, Jackie VanBrunt, Scott Harwood, Chris Knight, Erin Walkow and Chad LaDue. Members of the College community joined as well.

Board Chair, Pete Suttmeier called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. after quorum was met.

Oath of Office

Tommy Sloan was sworn in as a NCCC Board of Trustee member:

- He is a student elected trustee replacing our former Student Trustee Shia Bright who has since graduated.
- Tommy introduced himself to the Board, and members of the college. He was warmly welcomed by all.

Minutes

Seth McGowan made the motion to accept the June 5, 2025, meeting minutes. Todd LaPage seconded the motion. Pete requests an adjustment to his portion of the minutes. Stacie acknowledged the update and will make the change prior to posting. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved (6-0-0).

College Senate Chair | Chad LaDue

Chad shared news and information regarding the second Athletics Hall of Fame weekend. The College is expecting over 350 guests at the Friday night ceremony. He encouraged all to attend the September 12-14th event.

NCCCAP President | Angela Brice

No report

CSEA President | Dianna Trummer

No report

Board Chair | Pete Suttmeier

- The dispute continues over Chancellor King wanting final authority over community college presidential searches, and their compensation.
- If this were to go through, it would allow the Chancellor to operate outside normal state procedures as it is related with SUNY and their community colleges.
- New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) continue to advocate against this change and have engaged in exploring options through legal counsel. Over the summer, Pete attended a listening session on administrator procedures held by NYCCT.
- Pete reported that Chancellor King phoned him recently as part of his check-ins with Board Chairs. During the conversation, Pete mentioned the A2I anniversary, and the Chancellor passed the news along to his Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development, Chris White.

Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs | Sarah Maroun

- Classes have started this week, both faculty and students are off to a good start.
- Sarah noted that NYSED had approved the name change of the AAS Chemical Dependency Counseling program to AAS Addictions Counseling.
- The Direct Support Professionals (DSP) microcredential program lead, Kathleen Dowd-Maloney, provided the Board with updates since the DSP microcredential launch in March 2024. NCCC has partnered with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP).
 - The program offers 3 levels of certification. Current enrollment numbers for the program show:
 - DSP Level 1: 55 Students
 - DSP Level 2: 42 Students
 - DSP Level 3: 20 Students (who now have 21 credits with NCCC)
- Members of the board spoke of the DSP program and its importance in the community. Currently, all the students in the program are employed within agencies that serve individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Spoke of the grant timetable (2028 until 2030)
- Members of the board discussed the work of the AI task force and the guide they developed – will create and lead the process.

The Board moved to approve the following resolutions:

Tricia Preston made a motion that the North Country Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the following faculty/staff for renewal of temporary appointments effective with the 2025/26 academic year: Emma Atkinson, Nursing Clinical Coordinator; Laura Cunningham, Nursing Instructor; Chelsea Drake, Nursing Instructor; Ernest Hough, Humanities/Social Science Instructor; Luke Hudak, Dual Enrollment Initiatives Coordinator; Anne Nelson, Nursing Instructor; Courtney Roy, Nursing Instructor; and Amy Sloan, Nursing Instructor. These positions are currently funded in the 2025/26 operating budget. In accordance with the current NCCCAP agreement Article VII-Appointment and Promotions, these appointments will expire at the conclusion of the 2025/26 academic year and will not be renewed. Todd LaPage seconded the motion. The motion was approved (5-0-1). Note: due to a conflict-of-interest Tommy Sloan elected to abstain from the vote.

Tricia Preston made a motion that the North Country Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the temporary appointment of Anita Baitinger, to the full-time, nine month (164-day), exempt appointment as Nursing Instructor for the 2025/26 academic year, at an annual salary of \$52,545. This position is currently funded in the 2025/26 operating budget. In accordance with the current NCCCAP agreement Article VII-Appointment and Promotions, this appointment will expire at the conclusion of the 2025/26 academic year and will not be renewed. David McNally seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

David McNally made a motion that the North Country Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the North Country Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the temporary appointment of Bretta LaFlame, to the full-time, nine-month (164-day), exempt appointment as Science Instructor for the 2025/26 academic year, at an annual salary of \$51,109. This position is currently funded in the 2025/26 operating budget. In accordance with the current NCCCAP agreement Article VII-Appointment and Promotions, this appointment will expire at the conclusion of the 2025/26 academic year and will not be renewed. Tricia Preston seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

Tricia Preston made a motion that the North Country Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the temporary appointment of Christine Newcomb, to the full-time, nine-month (164-day), exempt appointment as Human Services Instructor for the 2025/26 academic year, at an annual salary of \$49,673. This position is currently funded in the 2025/26 operating budget. In accordance with the current NCCCAP agreement Article VII-Appointment and Promotions, this appointment will expire at the conclusion of the 2025/26 academic year and will not be renewed. Todd LaPage seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

David McNally made a motion that the North Country Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves

Lauren Tender (Heath), to the full-time, nine-month (164-day), exempt initial term appointment as Nursing Instructor for the 2025/26 academic year, at an annual salary of \$58,288. This position is currently funded in the 2025/26 operating budget. Tricia Preston seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

Vice President for Marketing and Enrollment Management | Kyle Johnston

- Thanks to new funding initiatives, the summer has been busy running both planned and unplanned campaigns.
- The program SUNY Reconnect has been confirmed to run the course of this academic year with eligible program opportunities subject to change. Data outcomes of the program are anticipated within the next couple of weeks and will be shared as they become available.
- New grants have been allocated for student supports, and marketing resources are in place for this fall.
- SUNY has new funding available but has pivoted the process and now requires a report containing proposals and action plans for grants to be approved.
- Preparations for marketing the college for Fall of 2026 are complete. Admissions team will begin their rotations on the road in the next two weeks.
- Members of the board discussed the status of enrollment numbers in the College Bridge Program with BOCES. Kyle shared some districts are covering students to participate in the program. This opportunity has the potential to increase the number of enrollments.

Interim Associate Vice President of Student Affairs | Jackie VanBrunt:

- Thanks to efforts of the coaching staff, there are over 80 students in athletics this year.
- The residence halls are full and have a wait list.
- This weekend, our soccer teams will take the field for the first time of the semester.
- Hall of Fame weekend schedule of events was shared with the Board. Chad shared additional event information.
- The new approach for Student Orientation this year has shown positive results. Sessions held in July and August were well attended. The students were engaged and offered great feedback. The reports from Faculty and staff were also encouraging.
- Angela Brice is creating a program for SGA students to participate in a Leadership Academy. This is a pilot program and if successful, it will be opened to other student groups in Spring 2026.
- Members of the board discussed outreach potential for student athlete alumni. Jackie shared a new alumni database that is being created and highlighted some difficulties with tracking alumni.
- Members of the board discussed the positive impact of the grant used for the Swimming Program. Over 200 youths have received swimming lessons in 2024-2025. In addition, the grant has also allowed the college to offer Lifeguard certification courses. Both are opportunities in providing exposure for the college and supporting our local communities.

Interim CFO | Erik Harvey:

- Shared the college has had a great summer and enrollment is up. He noted that the budget deficit has decreased to \$78,000, due to the shift the college has taken in new programs and the support of grant money to alleviate expenses.
- Updated the board on the Student Information System (SIS) Upgrade. He highlighted this is additional work for our staff on top of daily duties. Erik voiced appreciation of staff for their engagement and support. He shared current delays are due to the vendor; they anticipate majority of their work on the project will be from September to December.
- Noted the 14% increase through Utica National, the college's Insurance Agent for property and liability. This insurance plan does not cover cyber or workers compensation. May need to consider exploring other options. He shared this is an issued with the industry and the College.
- Shared update with current investments with Wells Fargo. Due to high risk, they no longer service municipal accounts. This change does not affect NCCC Foundation investments. There are no options to reinvest now,

but there is potential for recommendations in the Spring. Erik will continue to explore options and share opportunities as they become available.

- Members of the board briefly spoke of the SIS update and the available resources to make it happen.

The Board moved to approve the following resolution:

Tricia Preston made a motion from the floor that the North Country Community College Board of Trustees hereby approve the financial statements for May 2025, June 2025, and July 2025, as they were presented in the CFO report. Todd LaPage seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

President | Joe Keegan:

- Appreciation is expressed to members of the Board for their continued support of the College, students, faculty and staff.
- Extended a warm welcome to our new board member Tommy Sloan.
- Thanks, extended to Trustee Todd LaPage for volunteering for a 7-year reappointment by Franklin County.
- Reported updates on Essex and Franklin board members will be retiring.
- Supported the reports from the team who noted a good start to the semester. Highlighting the success of the college is always a collective effort.
- Briefly commented on the improvement of the budget deficit.
- Expressed thanks to our supporting counties and their non-renewable financial contribution for 2025-2026. Counties are hesitant to commit longer due to the concern with the anticipated cuts from the government to support Medicaid.
- Shared proposed federal budget is threatening to cut Pell which will have a direct impact to students and colleges.

The Board moved to approve the following resolution:

Tricia Preston made a motion that North Country Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves that the North Country Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves Kevin Symonds, Programmer/Analyst, for renewal of a temporary appointment effective with the 2025/26 fiscal year. This position is currently funded in the 2025/26 operating budget. In accordance with the current NCCCAP agreement Article VII-Appointment and Promotions, these appointments will expire at the conclusion of the 2025/26 academic year and will not be renewed. Tommy Sloan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

- Joe presented to the board about the college's collaboration with Achieving the Dream (ATD). Members of the core team will attend the upcoming Data & Analytics Summit in September. The college will welcome our ATD Coaches in November who will help lead a Capacity Café (much like the style of a World Café). ATD will guide the college to create goals and make decisions based on data, rather than assumptions.

NCCC Association Director | Robert Rathbun

No report

NCCC Foundation Director | Erin Walkow:

- Attended several events on behalf of the Foundation: Adirondack Health Foundation Gala, Lake Placid Center for the Arts, Sinfonietta, and Pendragon.
- Shared appreciation for Joe and Sarah representing the College at the Adirondack Community Foundation's Garden Party.
- Over the summer, Erin met with several individual donors.
- In addition to the Opportunity Scholarship, the Foundation awarded \$55K to 56 of the 90 student applicants from annual and endowed scholarships.
- Highlighted recent gifts to the Foundation:
 - \$1,200 from Adirondack Garden Club for pollinator garden fencing (Environmental Science).
 - \$20,000 split between Opportunity Scholarship and Faculty Professional Development.

- \$10,000 from Lake Placid Education Foundation for Opportunity Scholarship.
- \$62,500 total raised for 2025–2026 Opportunity Scholarship, exceeding the original goal.
- \$10,000 unrestricted stock gift.
- Renewed \$100,000 unrestricted donation, earmarked for capital improvements to qualify for NYS matching funds.
- Members of the Board discussed the opportunities given to scholarship applicants.

Old Business

None

New Business

- Stacie shared with the board a potential 2025-2026 meeting schedule. The board discussed and will finalize the schedule soon.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

Tricia Preston made the motion to enter Executive Session at 12:29 p.m. in relation to collective bargaining negotiations conducted pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law; and the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. David McNally seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously (6-0-0). Joe Keegan was invited to attend the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

Adjourn

Tricia Preston made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into Public Session. David McNally seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6-0-0). The Board meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacie G. Hurwitch
Assistant Secretary, NCCC Board of Trustees

Date: October 28, 2025
Resolution: 2025-2026 | #1
Motion: Linda Beers
Seconded: Seth McGowan
Action: Pending (8-0-0)
Witness: Stacie G. Hurwitch, Asst. Secretary to the NCCC Board of Trustees