



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 5, 2025 | 2:00pm

Board Members Present: Pete Suttmeier, Donna Wadsworth, Seth McGowan, Linda Beers, Tricia Preston, Todd LaPage

Excused: David McNally and Shia Bright

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

Board Chair, Pete Suttmeier called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. after quorum was met.

Executive Session

Linda Beers made the motion to enter Executive Session at 2:01 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. Tricia Preston seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously (6-0-0). Joe Keegan was invited to attend the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Adjourn

Linda Beers made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into Public Session. Tricia Preston seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6-0-0). The Board meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

At 2:15 p.m., Board Chair, Pete Suttmeier reopened the meeting to the public.

Minutes

Seth McGowan made the motion to accept the April 22, 2025, meeting minutes. Linda Beers seconded the motion. April 22, 2025, meeting minutes were unanimously approved (6-0-0).

Interim CFO| Erik Harvey:

Let his report stand.

The Board moved to approve the following resolutions:

Todd LaPage made a motion from the floor that the North Country Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves April 2025 financials, as they were presented in the CFO report. Seth McGowan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

Seth McGowan made a motion that the North Country Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the attached Operating Budget in the amount of \$16,538,783 and Capital Budget in the amount of \$320,000 for the academic year beginning September 1, 2025, and ending August 31, 2026. Todd LaPage seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

Linda Beers made a motion from the floor that the Board of Trustees of North Country Community College hereby approves the NCCCAP multi-year contract with the terms of agreement effective September 1, 2025, through

August 31, 2028. Tricia Preston seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

Seth McGowan made a motion from the floor that the Board of Trustees of North Country Community College hereby approves the NCCCAP Promotions as they were presented allowing the following to move up in rank: Elaine Taylor-Wild, Mindy Fredenberg, Jerrad Dumont, and Kathleen Dowd-Malone. Tricia Preston seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).

Adjourn

Due to the absence of a quorum, Linda Beers proposed to adjourn the meeting and move to hear the college reports. Tricia Preston seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6-0-0). The Board meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

College Senate Chair | Chad LaDue

No report

NCCCAP President | Angela Brice

No report

CSEA President | Dianna Trummer

No report

Board Chair | Pete Suttmeier

Shared New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) has opted not to pursue litigation against the Chancellor's Office currently. While the future of the partnership between SUNY Community Colleges and the Chancellor is uncertain, the Board remains committed in their role to maintain the forward momentum of the college's growing success.

Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs | Sarah Maroun

Adirondack Foundation Grant Opportunity

A grant was awarded to partner with Saranac Lake Central School District (SLCSD) for a College Readiness pilot program. The program is set to offer developmental English and math to SLHS seniors who are not enrolled in the College Bridge Program.

Additionally, this grant also supports applied learning by connecting students with area business to build job skills which have the potential to tie directly into coursework or life beyond school. If these new offerings show strong results, both NCCC and SLCSD will explore ways to sustain them.

Members of the board discussed the long-term benefits of these new initiatives.

Vice President for Marketing and Enrollment Management | Kyle Johnston

SUNY Reconnect Update

The SUNY Reconnect Campaign launched within the last three weeks. Ads for NCCC will begin running on June 16th and are slated to continue through the start of the fall semester. An increase in applications and general inquiries about this new initiative has already begun. The team is working on streamlining the internal processes to support this new demographic of students.

Scholarship Review & Funding Opportunities

SUNY Reconnect funding directed to students prompted a review of our existing scholarship programs, this including the Opportunity Scholarship and "6 on Us". Currently there is \$10K available in scholarship funds. Plans to finalize and launch updates are forthcoming.

New Program Offering

The College is preparing to add a new Cybersecurity program to our offerings. With technology rapidly advancing, this new addition has the potential to boost enrollment.

Interim Associate Vice President of Student Affairs | Jackie VanBrunt:

Free College for Adult Learners

Working on creating tailored support for onboarding adult students. The focus is to address the unique needs of this demographic to ensure they have the access they need to specific student services. Exploring retention initiatives to help adult learners succeed. Currently collaborating across departments to streamline the transfer process.

Free Staff Training

SUNY is offering free training to staff, encouraging them to participate and learn strategies to better support new and incoming students.

Online ADN Program Success

Recently the new online ADN program initiative achieved 100% retention. A focus group is being created to evaluate the program's success and identify areas for improvement.

President | Joe Keegan:

Appreciation is expressed to members of the Board for their continued support of the College, students, and staff.

Thanks were extended to all who attended Commencement Celebrations. It was another successful year of celebrating our students and their families.

Highlighting Chancellor's Awards in Excellence

Tana Hare – Excellence in Faculty Service

Jimmy Cunningham – Excellence in Teaching

Chad Ladue – Excellence in Professional Service

Board Membership Updates

Two Governor's appointment vacancies remain in Franklin County. The Board discussed ideal criteria and career backgrounds for potential new members.

Gratitude was extended to Todd LaPage for agreeing to serve another term on the Board.

Congratulations to our Student Board Member Shia Bright on her graduation and completion of service to the College. Starting in August, Tom Sloan will join the Board as our newly elected student representative, serving a one-year term.

Budget & Funding

NYS budget passed with the following positive outcomes:

- Strong advocacy from Community Colleges led to securing Floor funding.
- Additional allocations: \$200K and \$75K depending on the plan. These align well with SUNY Reconnect initiative.

Perkins Grant awarded: \$191K to support Nursing and Radiologic Technology programs.

Enrollment & Program Updates

Summer and Fall enrollment trends are strong when compared to this time last year.

Online program retention remains high.

Capital Projects Progress Update

Replaced the boiler in Clermont from oil to cleaner, more energy efficient propane

With exception of the vestibule project, Sparks Athletics Facility has new doors leading into the building from the outside.

Bids are open for both the Sparks Athletics Vestibule upgrade and Clermont Nursing Building Roof improvements.

Upcoming Events

NCCC to host the New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP) Summer Retreat: Saranac Lake Campus June 22–25. Anticipating 22 SUNY Community College Presidents to attend in person with others joining virtually.

NCCC Association Director | Robert Rathbun

No report

NCCC Foundation Director | Erin Walkow:

Opportunity Scholarship Program

Raised: \$42,500 in donations

Pending: \$10,000 request to Lake Placid Education Foundation

Note: Participating in ad-hoc committee to review all Foundation/College scholarships considering SUNY Reconnect program

Recent Grant Awards

Town of North Elba LEAF Fund: \$10,000 for pool maintenance/upgrades, leveraging \$10,000 NY State match

Individual Donor: \$10,000 for nursing faculty professional development (funding two-day retreat)

Adirondack Foundation (Generous Acts Fund): \$7,500 for "JumpStart" summer readiness coursework in Math and English

Pending Grant Applications

Adirondack Garden Club: Funding to fence pollinator garden on the Saranac Lake Campus

Game Cameras: Seeking funds for Bluetooth-enabled, solar-powered cameras for Environmental Science department

Strategic Planning & Events

Institutional Effectiveness Review has been completed with Joe, Tom, and Pete; the Foundation formalized the work it has been doing in the last few years and outlined additional areas where the foundation could support the college.

Old Business

None

New Business

Angela Brice shared the success of the recent Alternative Summer Break, a service-driven experience made possible by SGA fundraising. For one week, four of our NCCC students volunteered at the Best Friends No-Kill Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, UT.

Public Comment

None

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacie G. Hurwitch
Assistant Secretary, NCCC Board of Trustees

Date: August 29th, 2025

Resolution #17: 2024-25

Motion: Seth McGowan

Seconded: Todd LaPage

Action: Approved (6-0-0)

Witness: *Stacie G. Hurwitch, Asst. Secretary to the NCCC Board of Trustees*