

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
LECTURE HALL, MONTAUKETT LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
EASTERN CAMPUS, RIVERHEAD, NY
MARCH 19, 2026

The meeting was held on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Montaukett Learning Resource Center, in Riverhead, NY.

PRESENT:

Shirley Coverdale	Chair
Gordon Canary	Vice Chair
Gemma deLeon-Lopresti	Trustee
John Dolan	Trustee
Jerome Bost	Trustee (<i>via zoom</i>)
Michael Arens	Trustee
Nathan Ermmarino	Student Trustee
Dr. Edward Bonahue	President
Ashley Pope	General Counsel
Shady Azzam-Gomez	V.P. for Information Technology Services
Dr. Patty Munsch	V.P. for Student 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. Donna Ciampa	Interim Executive Dean, Grant Campus
Dr. Mary Reese	Interim Executive Dean, Eastern Campus

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 4:00 p.m.

Chair Coverdale announced the excusal of the absence of Trustee Pagdanganan for this meeting and two prior regular meetings of the Board of Trustees for good cause in accordance with the Board's Bylaws. She shared that Trustee Pagdanganan was unexpectedly called to attend to conflicting work-related obligations in the evening and that Trustee Pagdanganan extended her sincere apologies, as until earlier this week, she had planned to be in attendance today.

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 Dr. Dennis O'Hara, Superintendent of Islip Union Free School District, and members of the Faculty Association.

Chair Coverdale requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting. Student Trustee Ermmarino so moved, Trustee Dolan seconded. The motion to approve the minutes was approved (6-0-1). (Trustee Bost was not visible via Zoom during the vote on this resolution.)

Chair Coverdale then introduced Interim Vice President of Business and Financial Affairs, Sara Gorton, to present the College's financial report. VP Gorton reported for FY'25. The audit fieldwork has been completed. The draft report has been received and is being reviewed internally, such that it will be presented at the April Board meeting. A representative from Clifton Larson Allen will present the report and answer questions.

For FY'26, Spring registration is complete and the financials are similar to what was reported last month. Full-time revenues are slightly below budget and part-time tuition revenues are over budget by 4.5%. The use of fund balance reserve was estimated to be about \$4.5M for this year. The College has been fortunate again, with increases in enrollment, revenues and cost-saving measures, that the College is coming in well below the estimated use of reserves and looking to possibly increase the fund balance reserves at the end of the year by almost \$500K. The College expects to have the fund balance at over 12% at the end of the year.

For FY'26/27, all departmental budget meetings have been finalized. The budget office is compiling all the information, as well as information regarding enrollment trends. The Governor issued her proposed State budget, which allotted floor funding again for community colleges. Since then, one-house bills have emerged as a result of the Senate and Assembly reviewing the proposed budget. The Senate has approved the floor funding, but they're also suggesting that they add \$9.6M for additional operating services for community colleges. Similarly, the Assembly has approved the floor funding, and would add \$12M for additional operating services for community colleges. These amounts will be similar to the \$8M the College received the last couple of years, where there were specific guidelines on what the funds could be used for. The County Executive's budget call letter was received, the College will be submitting the budget to the County after it's approved by the Board. The County Executive has requested no more than a 2% increase in the College's ask from the County contribution.

President Bonahue then provided an overview of College Resolutions 2026.10 to 2026.15. President Bonahue then introduced Dr. Cheryl Shaffer to give an overview of the goals and major initiatives for the \$5M New York State Health Department grant the College received to support the nursing program. (*See attached slides*)

Chair Coverdale called for approval of College Resolutions No. 2026.10 and 2026.14. Trustee Dolan so moved, Trustee Canary seconded. The motion to approve College Resolutions No. 2026-10 through 2026.14 was approved (7-0).

RESOLUTION NO. 2026.10 – Setting Dates, Times and Locations of 2026–2027 Meetings of the Board of Trustees

RESOLVED, that during the academic year 2026–2027, meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held on the following dates:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
September 17, 2026	Board Room, Learning Resource Center Grant Campus, Brentwood, New York	4:00 pm
October 15, 2026	Media Room, Culinary Arts Center Riverhead, New York	4:00 pm
<i>November 12, 2026 Retreat – Board Members Only</i>	<i>Board Room, Learning Resource Center Grant Campus, Brentwood, New York</i>	<i>TBD</i>
December 10, 2026	Board Room, Learning Resource Center Grant Campus, Brentwood, New York	4:00 pm
January 21, 2027	Alumni Room, Brookhaven Gymnasium Ammerman Campus, Selden, New York	4:00 pm
February 18, 2027	Board Room, Learning Resource Center Grant Campus, Brentwood, New York	4:00 pm
March 18, 2027	Lecture Hall, Montaukett Learning Resource Center Eastern Campus, Riverhead, New York	4:00 pm
April 15, 2027	Alumni Room, Brookhaven Gymnasium Ammerman Campus, Selden, New York	4:00 pm
May 13, 2027	Board Room, Learning Resource Center Grant Campus, Brentwood, New York	4:00 pm
June 17, 2027	Lecture Hall, Montaukett Learning Resource Center Eastern Campus, Riverhead, New York	4:00 pm
August 19, 2027 *	Alumni Room, Brookhaven Gymnasium Ammerman Campus, Selden, New York	4:00 pm

1. There is no meeting scheduled for July.

* Subject to change on County Legislative action on the College Budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026.11 – Adopting Class Size Proposal for CUL250

WHEREAS, there are specific class size provisions as set forth in Appendix H of the collective bargaining agreement between the County of Suffolk, Suffolk County Community College and the Faculty Association that charges the Class Size Committee to review and propose class sizes, and

WHEREAS, the Class Size Committee convened, reviewed, and has recommended an increase in the seat limits for the following course, as outlined below:

Course	Current Seat Limit	Revised Seat Limit
CUL250: Culinary Capstone Course	18	30

, and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of the Class Size Committee were submitted to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, who accepted the recommendations, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the class size provisions of Appendix H of the Faculty Association collective bargaining agreement, the recommendations of the Class Size Committee must thereafter be submitted to the College’s Board of Trustees for approval, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Class Size proposals to take effect in Fall 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026.12 – 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 \$3,582,918.88 for the month of February 2026 (*Attachment I*) is hereby approved by the Board of Trustees.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026.13 – Amending the College Budget for a Federal Work Study Program

WHEREAS, the 2025–2026 College operating budget provided \$346,600 in anticipation of an award from the U.S. Department of Education, for a Federal Work Study Program, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the award includes an additional amount of \$132,106, bringing the total amount of the grant award to \$478,706, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2025–2026 College operating budget for said increase in the grant award, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the 2025–2026 College operating budget be amended to reflect an award increase in the amount of \$132,106, from the U.S. Department of Education, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized and empowered to execute any necessary documentation, including an agreement with an administering agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel.

Project Director: Nancy Brewer, College Director of Financial Aid

RESOLUTION NO. 2026.14 – Accepting a Grant Award from the New York State Department of Health for the Healthcare Education and Life-Skills Program (HELP-2025)

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant award in the amount of \$4,984,385 from the New York State Department of Health for the Healthcare Education and Life-Skills Program (HELP-2025), for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030, and

WHEREAS, this program will provide a new life skills curriculum and financial support for nursing students entering the RN, PN, NA and MA programs, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a grant, in the amount of \$4,984,385 from the New York State Department of Health for the Healthcare Education and Life-Skills Program (HELP2025), for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030, 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 the applicable portion of this grant award.

Project Director: Dr. Cheryl Shaffer, College Associate Dean of Nursing

Note: Three grant-funded Full-time positions

Chair Coverdale then called for approval of College Resolution No. 2026.15. Trustee Dolan so moved, Trustee Bost seconded. Trustee Arens abstained from this resolution. The motion to approve College Resolution No. 2026.15 was approved (6-0-1).

RESOLUTION NO. 2026.15 – Amending the College Operating Budget for a Grant Award Increase from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for Collaborative Research: Integrating Fluorspar Ages and Geophysical Models to Constrain the Timing and Mechanisms of the Collapse of the Cordillera in SW North America

WHEREAS, the 2025–2026 College operating budget includes \$48,722 in remaining funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for Collaborative Research: Integrating Fluorspar Ages and Geophysical Models to Constrain the Timing and Mechanisms of the Collapse of the Cordillera in SW North America, for the period of September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2027, and

WHEREAS, the College has been awarded an additional amount of \$35,655, bringing the total amount of the grant award to \$147,415, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2025–2026 College operating budget in the amount of \$35,655 to provide for the total increase in the grant award, and

WHEREAS, the College will use the additional funding to develop a pathway to expose students to research in the geosciences, building on successful NSF-funded programs at the College called GeoCore and at Stony Brook University called GeoPath, we intend to develop workshops and remote seminars, as well as in-person field and lab experiences for SCCC students, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the 2025–2026 College operating budget be amended to reflect an award increase in the amount of \$35,655, from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for Collaborative Research: Integrating Fluorspar Ages and Geophysical Models to Constrain the Timing and Mechanisms of the Collapse of the Cordillera in SW North America, and that the College President, or his designee, is authorized and empowered to execute any necessary documentation, including a subaward amendment with the administrating agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel.

Project Director: Sean Tvelia, Professor Academic Chair, Physical Sciences

Chair Coverdale called for the Committee reports.

Student Trustee Ermmarino reported for the Student Success Committee. The focus of the meeting was on the Student Tech Centers and their role in student success. The committee was joined by Johanna Boutcher, the College Assistant Director of IT Operations. She discussed the

history of the program, recent improvements, and the focus of the team to meet the needs of students. Services and programs provided include a lifetime access to the Microsoft Office License, the login portal, Wi-Fi access, and the laptop loaner program. Assistance is provided to students ranging from high school students who are taking subject classes to the Reconnect students, and the department sees constant streamlining, with 96% of issues that come to the department being resolved.

Trustee Canary reported for the Governance Committee. The Committee met on March 16th. General Counsel Ashley Pope advised the Committee that the Self-Evaluation survey has been sent to all Trustees via email. Committee Chair Canary informed the group that he did receive the email and was happy to report he was able to answer some questions, save the document and reopen it at a later date. He will remind Trustees at the meeting on March 19th to complete their evaluations ASAP. GC Pope also shared with the Committee feedback she received from a Trustee that the survey in its current format and content may be difficult for newer Trustees to complete, as they may not have sufficient experience on the Board to be able to form an opinion on all topics. One suggestion for the Committee's consideration is that an additional answer option such as "I have not had sufficient opportunity to observe or assess" could be added to future evaluations to address this concern. GC Pope then moved onto the agenda topic of questions regarding Board roles and communications. Discussion was had regarding the role of the Board as a whole, the role of individual Trustees, the role of the President, and the role of the Administration. The Committee reviewed and discussed expectations as set forth by the Bylaws and other College policies. Appropriate guidance and recommendations will be developed and shared with the full Board as a result of the Committee's discussion. There was no new business brought to the Committee's attention. The next Governance Committee meeting will be Monday, April 13th. Agenda items will include: BOT Self-Assessment and Continuation of Policy Updates.

Trustee deLeon-Lopresti reported for the Personnel Committee. The Committee met on March 4th. The Committee reviewed the presidential evaluation process, as well as the Board policy which sets out the evaluation timeline for the Board of Trustees. According to the policy, assessment instruments are distributed to stakeholders in March, with the results being provided to the Personnel Committee in April. The Personnel Committee reviews the evaluation results with the full board during the May meeting, and actions, if any, on the evaluation are to be taken by the full board during the June meeting. The Committee considered aligning the timing of the presidential evaluation process with the timing of the college's budgeting process, which is presented to the Board of Trustees for approval in April. This would require the presidential evaluation process to start during the fall semester, around the month of October, and be completed in February. It was determined that completing the process prior to the annual budget vote was not possible. The evaluation process is intended to reflect on the President's completion of goals set for the full academic year, which would not be achieved if the process commenced at the beginning of the academic year. As such, the Committee does not recommend shifting the process to the fall semester. However, the Committee recognized the importance of ensuring that any contractual adjustments with the fiscal implications in future years take into account the budget process timeline. Trustee Arens thanked Chair deLeon-Lopresti for inviting him to the committee and expressed that he would like to continue serving on the committee if his background and expertise added value. Trustee deLeon-Lopresti welcomed Trustee Arens to the committee and thanked him for providing his valuable input and advice which were incredibly helpful to the committee.

Maggie Eng-Salvaggio, College Gifts Coordinator of the Foundation reported for the Foundation. The Foundation continues to raise funds in support of the Education Without Limits campaign. Recently, they added a new endowed scholarship to the portfolio in which special consideration will be given to a student diagnosed with special needs who may be struggling academically. The scholarship was created in memory of a woman who worked with this population in a local school district. Last Thursday, the Foundation celebrated Long Island's Advanced Manufacturing Industry and the 20th Anniversary of the College's own Advanced Manufacturing program at the Salute to Excellence Gala. She thanked faculty, staff, and Trustees for their support. All gala proceeds will benefit the Advanced Manufacturing program. The Foundation's next event will be the Golf Classic, on June 8th at West Hampton Country Club.

Student Trustee Ermmarino reported for the Association. The Bonadio Group joined the meeting to discuss the audit report. It's primarily completed, and it's been sent to the Quality Managing Group for final review. The cash balance has been decreased by nearly \$150,000 due to expenses over revenues as the Association continues to spend down the accumulated net asset balance, and the remaining fund balance is just under \$2.4M. Overall, it's been a clean audit with no findings.

Student Trustee Ermmarino reported as Student Trustee. He met with Professor Cofone and discussed the current state of the Honors Program. The Ammerman Campus has been very robust with the course offerings; however, the Grant and Eastern Campus have drastically less offerings, which doesn't reflect the population of students that are on these campuses. One of the main obstacles facing the current program on those campuses is that in order to have courses offered, you need enough students to be enrolling in these classes. In order to solve this, and grow these programs you need to start at the high school level. One of the main issues that has also faced the Grant campuses is that they've had dissolution of staff members, they've had less resources and faculty members to really work in these programs and manage all these classes. Lastly, he reported that the Ammerman Campus SGA has reopened the resolution to discuss having peace officers—armed, actual peace officers—on the campuses to improve security in light of recent security concerns, which would be affecting all three campuses.

Chair Coverdale moved to the Chair's report. Chair Coverdale acknowledge that it is Women's History Month. She thanked all of the women who are in leadership roles of the College, noting they lead with dedication and distinction, and on behalf of the trustees she acknowledged and affirmed the importance of their roles to the College.

Chair Coverdale moved to the President's report. President Bonahue reported on the following:

Enrollment Update:

The College continues to trend a modest growth throughout the Spring, and is achieving the goal of 2% enrollment growth. The final micro-mester begins on March 27th, and the College will do its best to serve every student looking for a seat. A modest enrollment growth continues in the summer. The College is cautiously optimistic that it has now operationally balanced the budget, and the College may not need to draw on reserves at all this year. Looking ahead to FY' 26/27, since the last Board meeting, the Suffolk County Division of Budget has issued its call letter

advising that the College may apply for expanded support of up to 2% from the County. At the state level, both the Assembly and Senate One-House bills include potential operational aid for community colleges. The College hopes it could be applied to unrestricted base funding; however, SUNY's most recent support has generally come in the form of help for specific initiatives. Internally, President Bonahue has met with each cabinet member and received all requests for new and expanded budget allocations. If the College maintains a balanced budget, it may be able to add a few mission-critical positions.

Other Items:

Since the last meeting, the Ammerman campus experienced an intruder who robbed an evening custodian. The employee is okay and has returned to work. He thanked the Public Safety Officers who responded immediately and helped the victim of the crime. The day after the event, the College took immediately took steps to confirm and tighten up the evening lockup procedures for office buildings. Public Safety Officers have now shifted a few things in their patrol function to have as much public visibility as possible, especially around opening and closing times. He confirmed he has received the proposal that the College consider instituting sworn peace officers, and they are looking closely at that.

Academic Affairs:

The College received feedback from SUNY on its Academic Momentum Plan. SUNY is asking for a little more detail about which strategies the College believes are most likely to move the needle in terms of student success. He thanked Dr. Munch and Dr. Rios for looking over SUNY's feedback and working with all of the committee chairs on next steps. In the wake of the Foundation Gala celebrating advanced manufacturing, the College is also taking some steps to highlight the success and expansion of two other programs, programs that have expanded with support from the capacity building funds from SUNY Reconnect. The next week, on March 11th, the College invited community leaders to a showcase presentation regarding how the HVAC program collaborates with Johnson Controls, and on April 3rd, it has invited County elected officials to visit the Cyber Range in the cybersecurity program at the Ammerman campus for demonstrations of how students practice, and in cybersecurity. how they learn to identify and neutralize cyber threats.

Administrative Matters:

President Bonahue noted that at most of the recent Board meetings, he has reflected that the Beacon program has been a prominent issue inside the College. At the meeting last month, he shared that he was planning to visit with the Islip School District to talk about the possibility of scaling up collaboration on dual enrollment. That meeting has produced a flashpoint in which hard conversations inside the College have escalated. He expressed how deeply he values the faculty and their commitment to academic excellence, their perspective on academic integrity, not only in the Beacon program, but in every part of the College. He noted the program is popular with families, school districts and even public officials, all of whom have cited goals of access, affordability for families, and the mission of community service. At the same time, many faculty have continued to have questions about the program, and have expressed concern that the program lacks sufficient academic oversight. He acknowledged that in trying to steer a middle path between community leaders and public stakeholders calling on the College to quickly expand programming, and on the other hand, internal stakeholders who are questioning the overall

academic integrity of the program, the College has not communicated clearly. It has not produced a clear strategy or standards that everyone understands, even if they continue working toward what hopefully will be an eventual agreement. He stated that articulating the strategy needs to begin with him, because it's his responsibility to ensure there's a consistent understanding of the vision for the Beacon program and to bridge the College's strategic goals as endorsed by the Board with procedures that the faculty can be confident in. Looking ahead, his priority task will be to create a transparent and public plan that faculty, administration, the Beacon office, Board members and school district partners can look to and understand. The program has been managed the same way for years, but it has not produced enough transparency, and a new approach is needed. He understands that the manner and speed at which the current situation has unfolded has disappointed many, and there has been erosion of trust. He plans to work hard daily, to regain and restore that trust. The President's Cabinet is working to arrange open listening sessions on the Beacon program at each campus. He has also convened a special meeting for the Cabinet with the President's Council for this upcoming Monday. He acknowledged more conversation is needed before changes are made to the existing program parameters, and those conversations must be informed by the concerns of the faculty. Despite the challenges of this moment, he feels there are so many positive things moving the College forward, in enrollment growth, student success, workforce development, strategic finance and facilities planning. Despite the current concerns, his goal going forward is to ensure that the Beacon program is understood to be an important part of institutional success. He looks forward to hearing from the Faculty Association and others on this issue, not only this evening, but in the days ahead, and looks forward to working with all of the stakeholders, including the Board, on next steps.

Chair Coverdale called for Roundtable.

Trustee Canary said he thinks the College needs to develop some programs that are going to acknowledge a very important event in July, the Nation's 250th birthday. He has already had some conversation with VP Munsch, and discussed a few ideas. He believes it's important for the College to be involved and offer some programs. President Bonahue acknowledge his request and said he knew that Suffolk County has an office devoted to this, it's being led by Kristin MacKay, and he will make outreach to Ms. MacKay and see how that College can get involved.

Opportunity for Public Comments on Matters Pertaining to the College:

Dr. Dante Morelli, President of the Faculty Association:

Dr. Morelli thanked Chair Coverdale for affording him the time to speak to the Board of Trustees. He introduced himself and said he has the proud honor and pleasure of serving the members of the Faculty Association as their President. He stated that the Faculty Association is a 1,300-plus member union, 70% of which are adjunct faculty, who contribute a lot to the academic journey and success of the students at this institution. They are proud of the work that they do, and are proud to do that work. Faculty work collaboratively and in solidarity with the Guild of Administrative Officers. He thanked Sean Tvelia, President of the Guild, for being present in support, as well as friends from AME. Faculty also do this work collaboratively with the administration of the college. They're proud of the work and labor that they all collaboratively do together. Recently, there were some events, specifically a program that was announced and advertised that they feel was a

threat and an attack on their labor. There was a letter sent out from the Superintendent of Islip Public Schools, advertising to parents in the district that their child can simultaneously earn an Associate's degree through Suffolk County Community College while they're earning their high school diploma. His members were irate with this, brought this to their attention, and they met with the President and College administration. They were told that that Islip Public Schools led a little too much with this and did not understand what the perspective was, or what the ultimate goal was, and it should not have been advertised in such a manner. On March 6th, the College community received a memo from Dr. Bonahue stating that what was advertised to the community members of the Islip Public School District was not really what was to be disclosed and or what was agreed upon between the College and Islip Public Schools. On March 10th, the Board of Education met at Islip Public Schools, where he and Dr. Courtney Brewer, EVP of the Faculty Association, were in attendance. They sat through a 90-minute presentation that advertised and showed a timeline, costs by semester and a starting point of trying to get young people involved in the college process between the summer of 8th and 9th grade. He stated this is academically unsound, and is academically inappropriate. He left the room angry, because his members were irate. He started receiving text messages and phone calls asking, what this was about a degree program being offered while a student is still completing high school courses and earning a high school diploma. They were told that Islip Public Schools took down all information on their communication platforms, as well as their website, that this would not be advertised. However, a member of the Faculty Association who has a child in the district sent him an advertisement for the presentation, "Earn an Associate's Degree from Suffolk Community College in high school". A problem he said because "Suffolk Community" is not the correct name, the correct name for the institution is Suffolk County Community College. He thanked the Legislature for all of their incredible investment and commitment year after year after year. He reminded the Board of Trustees that their commitment and the oath they took is to the mission of the institution, its vision, and its values. He reminded the trustees that at the October 21st, 2003 meeting, a policy was passed for enrolling students at Suffolk County Community College whose high school class has not yet graduated. This document outlines particular age restrictions on college courses and what is appropriate and what is not. He thanked the trustees who have come forward to have conversations with him to understand the issues of what's going on and why this matters. He said he was going to leave on a note of collaboration with how he began his remarks. He asked the Board to challenge the College on this matter, noting that 95% of the Beacon students in Suffolk County never come to the College. Has the College missed an enrollment and recruitment opportunity? For decades, students in Suffolk County have been taking the Beacon courses, and going onto other places. Why can they not come here to finish their degree. The College has an incredible Honors program where students go onto Ivy League institutions. He and his members have worked really hard for years to get rid of that perception and dispel the myth of the 13th grade. He asked the Board to strongly reconsider what was communicated, the pilot program that is out there, stating they all have been misled by what they were told what it was going to be, then not going to be, and then what it's now supposed to be. He asked them to please pull the plug on this program, as it is not academically sound, and is not academically appropriate.

Chair Coverdale thanked on behalf of the entire board Dr. Morelli for his time and for speaking up on behalf of the Faculty Association. She added they appreciate their observations and comments, and they hear their concerns. The Board of Trustees embraces the principles of shared governance, not only with the Faculty Association, but with all its labor partners. It is her strong personal belief that the College is always strongest when it moves forward together, and not divided. She thanked all of the Faculty Association members present at the meeting. She

reiterated that the Board of Trustees takes these concerns seriously and will be having more conversation amongst themselves and with Dr. Bonahue about the important matters mentioned.

Chair Coverdale requested a motion to enter in Executive Session to discuss pending litigations/claims, the employment history of a particular person and to seek/receive legal advice, which is made confidential by law. Student Trustee Ermmarino so moved, Trustee Canary seconded. The motion to enter into Executive Session was approved unanimously (7-0).

Chair Coverdale requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Student Trustee Ermmarino so moved, Trustee Canary seconded. The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously (7-0). The meeting adjourned to executive session at approximately 4:52 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is April 16, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the Alumni Room of the Brookhaven Gymnasium on the Ammerman Campus, Selden, New York.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin O'Connor
Secretary