

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT #528**

March 18, 2025  
Committee of the Whole



MCC Board Room A217  
8900 U.S. Highway 14  
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Morton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Morton asked Secretary Kueffner to take a roll call.

**Trustees Present**

Dale Morton  
Alyssa Kueffner  
Adonia Fulk  
Molly Walsh  
Tom Allen  
Elizabeth Speros  
Suzanne Hoban  
Tess Reinhard

**Also Present**

Dr. Clinton Gabbard - College President  
Ken Florey - Legal Counsel

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Agenda was accepted as presented.

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

Motion: Move that the Board of Trustees approves the minutes from Committee of the Whole Meeting, February 18, 2025. Trustee Allen motioned; seconded by Trustee Kueffner. Trustee Speros abstained. Motion approved.

**5. OPEN FOR RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

No public comments.

**6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: DR. CLINTON GABBARD**

**Renovation Updates for This Week**

Dr. Gabbard updated the Board on the renovation projects around campus.

**Update on Engagement, Belonging, and Inclusion Activities**

Dr. Gabbard updated the Board on Engagement, Belonging and Inclusion activities at MCC.

**Successful Open House for SIU Public Safety Management Degree Program**

The University Center at MCC hosted an SIU Public Safety Management Open House on Thursday, March 13. Over 40 individuals attended to learn more about the program. A total of 22 inquiry cards were collected, and the University Center team will be following up with these individuals this week. Images from the event were shared with the Board.

**Career Quest Recap**

MCC welcomed over 1,400 eighth graders from middle schools in McHenry County to our Career Quest event on Friday, March 14. This immersive experience is designed to help students explore various career pathways and prepare for high school. During the event, students visited the Career Quest Zone to meet with representatives from MCC's academic programs and industry professionals. Participating schools included:

Clay Academy; Creekside Middle School; Fox River Grove; Hannah Beardsley Middle School; Lundahl Middle School; Nippersink Middle School; Northwood Middle School; Riley Middle School; Prairie Grove School District 46; and Harvard Junior High School.

### **Expanding STEM Opportunities through Strategic Partnerships**

McHenry County College (MCC) was honored to host two significant Science Olympiad tournaments this year: the LISI Invitational Science Olympiad Tournament on February 15, 2025, and the Illinois Science Olympiad Regional Tournament on March 8, 2025. These events welcomed a combined total of approximately 700 young scientists and engineers from across northern Illinois, offering them an immersive, hands-on learning experience beyond competition. Through the strategic partnership between MCC, the Griffin Museum of Science & Industry (MSI), the Liebman Institute for Science Innovation (LISI), and Illinois Science Olympiad, students engaged in dynamic, real-world STEM applications during their time on campus. Between competitions, students explored the newly opened MCC Makerspace & FabLab, where they worked with 3D printers, vinyl cutters, laser cutters, and embroidery machines to bring their creative visions to life. The FabLab was filled with energy throughout both events, as students returned between rounds to continue their projects.

A key highlight of this collaboration was the MSI "Grid" system, a modular learning tool that enables students to earn karate-style "belts" as they master various FabLab technologies. This system fosters continuity in learning, allowing students to pick up where they left off between tournaments. One particularly enthusiastic participant, having started his Grid journey during the LISI Invitational, arrived at 8:00 AM on Regional day, eager to advance his skills. Throughout the day, he independently operated two machines simultaneously, crafting original designs that he proudly took home.

Beyond individual achievement, the collaborative nature of the FabLab environment became evident. Students not only worked on their own projects but mentored and assisted one another, fostering a true spirit of innovation and peer-to-peer learning. The presence of MSI representatives, including Liz Bundick and Patrick McCarthy (who traveled from the city specifically for the Regional event), further enriched the experience, connecting students with industry professionals and real-world STEM applications. This partnership exemplifies the power of experiential learning, demonstrating MCC's commitment to STEM education and workforce development. By leveraging the expertise and resources of MSI, LISI, and Illinois Science Olympiad, we are providing young learners with early exposure to cutting-edge technologies, industry connections, and the confidence to innovate. The success of these tournaments highlights the transformative potential of the MCC Makerspace & FabLab, solidifying it as a hub for collaborative, hands-on STEM education in our community.

### **Upcoming Events**

Dr. Gabbard shared upcoming campus events with the Board of Trustees.

#### **7. PRESENTATION: MCC INSTITUTIONAL LIAISONS**

Dr. Amy Carzoli, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Services and Ms. Sonia Reising, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs presented on MCC Institutional Liaisons.

#### **8. PRELIMINARY FEBRUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Mr. Tenuta provided a recap of the February financial statements. Ms. Tenuta also shared a handout with all the projects on Fund 3. He shared information about non-mandatory transfers to be brought to the Board next week for a vote. Questions and discussion followed.

#### **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SUMMARY COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHERS**

Trustee Allen was glad that the SIU event was a success and hopefully it fills up quickly. He looks forward to the MCC night attendance as he enjoys the event.

Trustee Reinhard enjoyed the presentation on MCC Institutional Liaisons. She thanked the staff on all the work they are doing on this. She would like information on federal government changes for all future meetings. Dr. Gabbard recommended that we bring the Board any changes that affect the College. Since information is changing so quickly, it was decided that when we receive information from our attorneys it will be shared with the Trustees when relevant.

Chair Hoban thought the keynote speaker at the Thursday night event was exceptional. She also attended the E2E event, and a planetarium show and enjoyed both. She went to Tartan Bistro for dinner with family members and thought it was amazing.

Trustee Speros enjoyed the presentation on MCC Institutional Liaisons, she thought the level of collaboration and care was clearly shown. It is very important to so many students to have all of these partnerships. She would like a presentation on AI and Dr. Gabbard responded that faculty has been working on some things and we can bring an update at a future meeting. She also informed the Board that University at MCC students are looking to do some volunteer work at the pantry and she will be their team lead. She was very excited to work with these students.

Student Trustee Fulk enjoyed the presentation on MCC Institutional Liaisons and thought the centralized student support email is a great idea.

Trustee Walsh attended the scholarship breakfast, and it was a great event. She really appreciates the work that our Friends of MCC Foundation does. There was a 10,000 scholarship for MCC students to attend the University Center at MCC, she was impressed with it. The student panel was very entertaining.

Trustee Kueffner thought it was awesome to see the STEM competition and them being at CATI. To have these students in the room with tables and tools is very impactful. She will be going to a show at the Planetarium and is very excited. The presentation was great. She commented on the possibility of Community Colleges having baccalaureate degrees and how it is great that we are already doing it as a partnership at University Center at MCC. We're offering something very valuable to the community.

Vice Chair Morton shared the story of an MCC student that walks to school every day for over 3 miles. It shows the dedication of our students. He has connected her to MCC resources to see how they can assist to make her commute easier.

10. CLOSED SESSION – there was no closed session called.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:33 PM, hearing no further business Trustee Allen motioned to adjourn, seconded by Chair Hoban. All were in favor.

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Denisa J. Shallo, Recording Secretary

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Alyssa Kueffner, Board Secretary