



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT VIII
BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, state of Washington, was held on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. Pradnya Desh, chair, presided. This meeting was held in B201 and on Zoom. A telephone line was also available.

MINUTES

Chair Desh called the business session to order at 2:09 PM.

ROLL CALL

A quorum of the Board was present.

Present: Chair Pradnya Desh, Vice Chair Rich Fukutaki, Trustee Richard Leigh, Trustee Greg Dietzel, President David May, Assistant Attorney General Tricia Boerger, and Board Secretary Alicia Keating Polson.

Absent: Trustee Desiré Sotelo

There were 130 guests in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Trustee Leigh made a motion to approve the agenda (September 24, 2025) and minutes (August 20, 2025 and August 21, 2025) Trustee Dietzel seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Joshua Kielen, Director of Veteran's Services, and Adria Harris, Dean of Access & Student Achievement, provided an overview of the Veteran Resource Center.

CONSTITUENT REPORTS

A. Student

The Student report was provided by Alarick Alfredo-Sorto, President of Associated Student Government (ASG.)

- Board of Directors and Senate completed training and ASG has reviewed the purpose and structure of committees, including funds available with past and current expenditures.

- ASG has assessed the history, purpose, and structure of its programs to identify which to continue, expand, reduce, or discontinue and how to allocate funds. Focus areas included: Course Material Voucher Program, Laptop Loan Program, Charging Station Program, and Digital Signage Program.
- Board of Directors has proposed amendments to governing documents to streamline processes and clarify roles and responsibilities.
- ASG is collaborating with external partners on student-centered legislative priorities and is learning from 4-year institutions and organizations to help develop or join initiatives.
- ASG's goal is to complete the student legislative agenda by the 10th week of Fall Quarter and is working with campus partners to develop an effective approach for gathering student input.
- ASG is partnering with groups on campus to host or co-host seven campus-wide events in Fall Quarter as part of efforts to raise student awareness of and engagement with student government.

B. Classified

The Classified report was provided by Valencio Socia, WPEA co-Chief Shop Steward.

- Previously agreed-to, non-economic articles went into effect July 1 via interim agreement and will be incorporated into the CBA, if approved and signed. If ratified, eligible members would receive retroactive compensation for pay increases including those from the missed 3% COLA and changes in job classifications.
- Anxieties around layoffs are rising and the news of the potential dissolution of the School of Business and Technology creates fears of other cuts.
- Construction of the W Building strains available employee parking on that side of campus.
- Classified staff are eager for the return of the cafeteria as the food truck is cashless and many staff lack fully equipped breakrooms or cannot go off-campus during limited breaks.
- The process to print handouts and posters is unclear to some classified staff since the closure of Print Services.

C. College Assembly

The College Assembly report was provided by Michael Broome, Chair of College Assembly.

- Classified Council worked throughout the summer. Two more councils started the year strong by holding retreats with their members.
- College Assembly has four new members and has met twice this year so far.
- The President's Cabinet and College Assembly retreat was held last week. Professor Jason Fuller shared the history of governance at BC. Also discussed was communication between the two groups and when the formal proposal process, a memo, or working directly with a Resource Liaison would be most efficient.
- One of Governance's accomplishments from 24-25 is already impacting students: Faculty Council worked Student Affairs and with College Assembly to craft a welcome letter to be automatically sent to late-enrolled students that includes tips on how to catch up, connect with instructors, as find support from the college.

D. Faculty

The Faculty report was provided by Lindsay Haney, President of the Bellevue College Association of Higher Education (BCAHE.)

- Faculty are concerned about safety, particularly for folks in disciplines under attack in today's climate. BCAHE endorsed a letter to cabinet and Provost Clark held a listening session to hear from faculty and asked for a special meeting of the Labor-Management Committee.
- Opening week did not give ample time to grapple with division challenges. Faculty were disappointed with content re-stated on Friday from Thursday, and strategic planning work taking up time needed for a division day.
- Faculty are concerned by the announcement about the Parent Education program.
- The proposed dissolution of School of Business and Technology raises concerns with faculty.

E. Foundation

The Bellevue College Foundation (BCF) report was provided by Chelle Chase, President of the BCF Board.

- The focus this year includes building a strategic plan to compliment the work of the college.
- The BCF Board includes two new members, from Overlake and Zillow respectively.
- The new Alumni Leadership Council, consisting of both alumni volunteers and BCF Board members, will act as a bridge between the BCF Development Committee and the broader alumni community.
- The search for a permanent Vice President and Executive Director continues and the BCF is delighted to have the support of Dr. de la Torre in an interim role.
- BCF Fundraising activities year-to-date have surpassed the prior year, even without the extraordinary \$1.8M gift to the Daniel and Clare LaFond scholarship endowment.
- Additional grants of note include:
 - \$240,500 Grant for Entrepreneurial Programs from a Foundation who prefers to be anonymous.
 - \$151,000 from Foundry10 for Health Science scholarships, equipment, and programs.
 - \$100,000 United Way Grant for the Benefits Hub.
- A \$50k gift was received from Amazon for unrestricted support and BCF will be working with the business community on new annual sponsorship opportunities.
- KBCS reports a strong fall fund drive and generous response to messaging about the lost CPB federal funding.
- BCF has been busy planning the 60-year anniversary events:
 - Transforming Lives Together Breakfast on Friday, February 6.
 - Diamond Jubilee 60th celebration on Saturday, April 18.
 - W Building Grand Opening at the end of 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Janelle Durham, faculty at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the Parent Education program.

Marlowe Zoller, staff at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the School of Business & Technology.

Donald Rowe, faculty at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the School of Business & Technology.

Amanda Chamba, alumni, provided public comment on the School of Business & Technology.

Lisa Harris, faculty at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the School of Business & Technology.

Sara Sanders Gardner, staff at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the Parent Education program.

Danielle Jacobson, faculty at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the School of Business & Technology.

Amber Kelly, staff at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the School of Business & Technology.

Corvie Thykkuttathil, staff at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the Parent Education program.

Jennifer Prekeges, faculty at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the strategic plan draft and the School of Business & Technology.

Brianna Rockenstire, staff at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the School of Business & Technology.

Pavy Thao, staff at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the School of Business & Technology.

Kristi Wilson, staff at Bellevue College, provided public comment on the School of Business & Technology.

FIRST READ

A. Revision of Policy 4250: Standards of Ethical Conduct

This ethics policy requires an update to more closely align the policy with the RCW 42.52 Ethics in Public Service Act to ensure employees have a clearer understanding of obligations and prohibitions under this law. The policy also includes clearly defining conflicts of interest and disclosure requirements for outside employment. Since emergence from the Covid pandemic, occasional confusion has surrounded duties and obligations of full-time Bellevue College employees who hold more than one job. This update clarifies those responsibilities and communication requirements.

Changes will bring this policy into alignment with current laws and practices of the office of Human Resources at Bellevue College.

This policy was open for public comment from April 15-May 30, 2025. Ten comments were received and incorporated where applicable.

B. Revision of Policy 6100 and WAC 132H-140: College Property Use

The purpose of defining public and non-public areas in this policy/WAC will clarify access for individuals seeking entrance to areas of campus in relation to the Keep Washington Working Act (Policy 1510, interim). This brings Policy 6100 into alignment with Policy 6120: Use of College Property for Expressive Activity (WAC 132H-142).

The second comment period was held from January 15-March 3, 2025, and a public hearing was held on February 26, 2025. Two individuals attended the hearing. No comments were received. Four written comments were received during the 45-day period and were incorporated where necessary.

INFORMATION

A. Housekeeping and Minor Edits to Policy Library

Bellevue College's policy library is consistently reviewed as part of an ongoing quality review process. Minor, or housekeeping edits, such as corrections of grammatical errors, updated hyperlinks, or updated job titles are often necessary. Housekeeping edits are proposed to College Assembly and President's Cabinet without the full creation, revision, deletion policy and procedure process. This takes place during a ten-day review period wherein Cabinet or Assembly may request a full review.

The following policies are under review as of September 18 for revision on September 28. Future revisions will be shared with the Board as informational items during ten-day review period. Policies with minor or housekeeping edits have been reviewed by the policy contact. Any member of the Board of Trustees may request a full review.

- [1280 Commitment to Sustainability](#): review only (possible addition of resource links)
- [3150P Exceptions to Degree Requirements](#): update offices and titles
- [4700P Employee Development and Training](#): remove 2024-2026 date reference to CBA in Resources section

REPORTS

A. Strategic Planning

Dr. Jess Clark, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Frances Dujon Reynolds, Vice President of Human Resources, provided the strategic planning report:

- Since the August retreat, the Steering Committee has continued engagement sessions with campus and community stakeholders. Faculty reviewed the current draft of the plan during September division retreats, and feedback has also been gathered through a virtual community open house and employee town hall, with additional sessions planned with tribal leaders, nonprofit partners, alumni, and donors.

- The committee is refining the plan, performance measures, and population indicators. Feedback to date has emphasized the importance of safety, operational resources, and efficiency as part of the strategy.
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B. President's Report

David May, President, provided the President's report:

- Bellevue College Foundation continues to do strong work, including a recently realized estate gift that will significantly benefit students.
 - Legislative outreach is underway, with meetings scheduled with all local representatives across the state, supported by Lori Keller.
 - Opening Day was restructured this year to be shorter and more focused, allowing key information to be shared with the campus community.
 - The College continues to face a \$4+ million budget reduction. Work is progressing through contractual discussions with unions, BRAC review, and personnel reductions. Efforts remain focused on open communication throughout the process.
 - Faculty safety concerns were heard and addressed through immediate Cabinet discussions and a requested Labor Management Council meeting. While not all requests were met, several steps were quickly implemented to improve feelings of safety.
 - Construction of the W Building is advancing, with visible progress on the site.
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C. Board Report

There was no Board report.

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

There was no unscheduled business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:10 PM, Chair Desh announced the Board would convene for 40 minutes in executive session under [RCW 42.30.110\(1\)](#) for the following purpose: (g) To review the performance of a public employee; and (i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation. The Board also met in closed session to discuss collective bargaining. Chair Desh announced that no final action would be taken during the executive session.

At 4:50 PM, Chair Desh extended the executive session by 10 minutes.

The executive session ended at 5:00 PM.

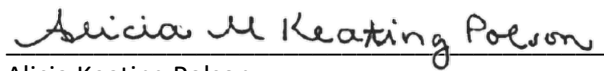
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Desh adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 5:01 PM.



Pradnya Desh
Chair, Board of Trustees
Community College District VIII

ATTEST:



Alicia Keating Polson
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Community College District VIII