LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

October 5, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
Board Room-Building D, Room D2115

MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order-The Lake County Community College District Board of Trustees special meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Mr. Paul Rupert, at 4:00 p.m.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance-Mr. Rupert lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 Roll Call

At Mr. Rupert's request, roll was taken, and the following Trustees were present:
Mr. Kevin Freese
Mr. Matthew Hebebrand-absent
Ms. Janet Majka
Mr. Tim O'Brien
Mr. Joshua Strickland-absent
Mr. Jack Cornachio
Mrs. Deanna Elsing-absent
Mrs. Nancy Fellows-absent
Mr. Paul Rupert

Also in attendance:
Dr. Steven Hardy, Vice President for Administrative Services & College Treasurer
Ms. Erin Kelly, Associate Assistant Attorney, Ohio Attorney's General Office-virtual
Ms. Heather Steele via MS Teams, External Attorney-virtual

4.0 Executive Session (per external legal counsel)

The Board entered executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3) to confer with legal counsel concerning several disputes involving the College that are the subject of pending court action. The Board entered executive session at 4:02 p.m. The Board concluded executive session at 4:57 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 4:57p.m.

Settlement Authorization

Mr. O'Brien moved that the Board approve the settlement of the following cases on the terms recommended by outside legal counsel:

- Laura Barnard v. Lake County Community College District d/b/a Lakeland Community College, Lake County Court of Common Pleas, Case No. 25CV00508 in the total sum of $300,000.00, less required holdings and deductions, payable to Ms. Barnard and her counsel.
- Tracy Shook v. Lake County Community College District d/b/a Lakeland Community College, Lake County Court of Common Pleas, Case No. 25CV001516, in the total sum of $58,599.95, less required holdings and deductions, payable to Ms. Shook and her counsel.

- Amy Sabath v. Lake County Community College District d/b/a Lakeland Community College, Lake County Court of Common Pleas, Case No. 25CV001142, in the total sum of $45,819.23m, less required holdings and deductions, payable to Ms. Sabath and her counsel.
- Dawn Plante v. Lake County Community College District d/b/a Lakeland Community College, Lake County Court of Common Pleas, Case No. 26CV001299, in the total sum of $89,000.00, less required holdings and deductions, payable to Ms. Plante and her counsel.

Dr. Sunil Ahuja or the Board Chair were authorized to execute a settlement agreement and such related documents as may be necessary to effectuate the settlement in the foregoing cases, subject to final review and approval as to form by legal counsel.
Ms. Majka seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
Mr. Kevin Freese-yes
Mr. Matthew Hebebrand-absent
Ms. Janet Majka-yes
Mr. Tim O'Brien-yes
Mr. Joshua Strickland-absent
Mr. Jack Cornachio-yes
Mrs. Deanna Elsing-absent
Mrs. Nancy Fellows-absent
Mr. Paul Rupert-yes

5.0 Adjournment

Mr. Rupert called for a motion for adjournment. Mr. Freese moved, and Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion, which passed as follows:
Mr. Kevin Freese-yes
Mr. Matthew Hebebrand-absent
Ms. Janet Majka-yes
Mr. Tim O'Brien-yes
Mr. Joshua Strickland-absent
Mr. Jack Cornachio-yes
Mrs. Deanna Elsing-absent
Mrs. Nancy Fellows-absent
Mr. Paul Rupert-yes

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

APPROVED: November 19, 2026

Paul L Rupert
Board Chair

Sunil Ahuja
Board Secretary