HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting – October 27, 2025

Chairman Reardon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in RMCC 282/283.

Trustees Attending: Mr. Ackerman; Dr. Ainsworth; Mrs. Crandall; Mr. Drumm; Mr. Gregory; Ms. Prymas; Mr. Reardon; Mr. Stalteri; Miss Stromecki

In Attendance: Dr. Grates Day; Mr. Dutcher; Mr. Laino; Mr. Noori; Mr. Oriolo; Ms. Ruffing

Also Present: Cynthia Gabriel; Robert Gassmann; John McLean; Matthew Powers; Jeffrey Steele

Mr. Noori led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA
Chairman Reardon presented the following consent agenda items for Board approval:

a. Minutes – September 29, 2025 Regular Meeting
b. Financial Statement as of September 30, 2025

Mr. Laino reviewed the Financial Statement.

Ms. Prymas moved that the consent agenda items for the October 27, 2025 regular meeting be approved.
Mrs. Crandall seconded the motion.
Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Academic Senate Report:

Cynthia Gabriel, Secretary of the Academic Senate, reported on the microcredential proposal, which is currently under review. Ms. Gabriel also made the following statement:

As representatives of the Senate, we stand in solidarity with Dr. Grates Day, as we collectively navigate any future challenges and we continue to support your efforts to sustain this institution, through your community visibility, bridge building conversations and vision for our future as Herkimer County Community College. As always, we remain "Herkimer Proud" and maintain our mission of being "meaningful by design."

Mr. Steele gave a Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) plenary summary, including an update on the SUNY Reconnect program; next year's budget, which will probably be challenging; and partnering with NYCCAP to push for equity in community colleges.

President's Update:

The Enrollment Report was reviewed.

Dr. Grates Day reported that SUNY has launched a multi-year Academic Momentum Campaign to increase undergraduate retention and completion rates across the system. Each campus is being asked to contribute proportionally to system goals through the development of individual action plans tied to campus-specific targets. Campus leadership are to review their campus information internally and confirm campus commitment to work toward these targets or propose alternative targets with back up data and a rationale. Campuses will then detail how they will work toward agreed upon targets through the creation of an action plan to be submitted to SUNY. The information is based on six metrics: 1) 100% Graduation Rate; 2) 150% Graduation Rate; 3) Fall-to-Fall Retention Rate; 4) 30+ Credits Earned in the First Year; 5) Gateway Course Completion (English and Math); and 6) FAFSA Completion.

Next year is the College's 60th anniversary. A committee has been formed and is developing ideas, including 60 acts of service.

Dr. Grates Day recently attended the Genesis Group's Regional Education Summit with area college presidents and school superintendents. The New York State Portrait of a Graduate, recently adopted by the Board of Regents, provides a unifying vision of what it means to be a graduate in New York State and describes the essential skills and dispositions that all students should develop to be successful in college, careers, and civic life. The current 2028 high school graduates will be the first class affected by this. Regents test scores will be taken away, which will be a challenge for the College.

A Middle States analysis of the College's data suggests concerns specific to the institution's financial health. Additional information will be provided to Middle States to demonstrate the College's financial soundness. This includes plans for financial development adequate to support educational purposes and programs.

Mr. Laino reported on the Director of Campus Safety position.

Academic Affairs:

Resolution 25-2: Emeritus Status for Professor Dr. Karen Jones was presented.

Provost Oriolo shared Dr. Jones' 23-year history with the College.

Dr. Ainsworth moved to approve Resolution 25-2, as presented.
Ms. Prymas seconded the motion.
Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Student Trustee Report:

Miss Stromecki reported that SGA office hours have been a great success. She received feedback and a few concerns regarding some minor maintenance issues and the lack of a shuttle service to the community. More than 50 signatures were received from students who indicated that they would take advantage of a shuttle service. Notes of praise for specific faculty and staff were distributed by SGA, who is making its presence known on campus. Three members will be attending the SUNY Student Assembly fall conference in Syracuse on November 15th

AUXILIARY REPORTS

Housing:

Mr. Laino reported that Housing numbers are holding at 304 students. The Housing Board is considering starting some engineering for the Reservoir Run roofs, as well as looking to take down Building #3 of College Hill and the condemned barn by the softball field.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Laino reported on the fund balance. Medical claims are still being received for the prior fiscal year, which cannot be closed until all claims are in. Mr. Laino reviewed the cost of claims over the past several years.

Mr. Dutcher reported that soccer nationals start on November 10th with dinner. Women's soccer will begin playing on November 11th, and the men on November 12th. The champion game will be played on November 16th. The College will be hosting 20 games.

Mr. Drumm reported that Mr. Testa has resigned from the Board of Trustees, effective October 23, 2025. The Governor's Office has been made aware.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Drumm moved, at 6:28 p.m., that the board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss, under provisions of Section 105f of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.
Dr. Ainsworth seconded the motion.
Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Drumm moved that the board reconvene.
Mr. Gregory seconded the motion.
Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Drumm moved to adjourn the meeting.
Ms. Prymas seconded the motion.
Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

slh