



**Haywood Community College**  
*Board Meeting*  
*October 7, 2025*  
*Board of Trustees*

The Haywood Community College Board of Trustees held an in-person and electronic meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Hemlock Building Board Room (Room 1509). The following people were present in person or electronically:

**TRUSTEES:** Ed Brown, Larry Caudill, Bill Hollingsed, Angela Lunsford, Tammy McDowell, Tom Olliff, Jon Overbay, Kaleb Rathbone, John Wadsworth, Danny Wingate

**STAFF:** Dr. Shelley White, Wendy Hines, Christie Medford, Brek Lanning, Sara Phillips, David Onder, Michelle Harris, Matt Collier, Hylah Birenbaum, Jeff Haynes

**SGA President** – Elijah Jarvis

**Attorney** - Pat Smathers

Live-stream audio for the October 7, 2025, Board Meeting was available on HCC's YouTube Channel.

**Call to Order**—Chairman Rathbone called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He requested a roll call, determined that a quorum was present, and followed with a moment of silence.

**Ethics** – Chairman Rathbone called the Board's attention to the **Ethics Statement** on the screen and asked if there were any conflicts of interest. No conflicts were noted. The Ethics Statement is on electronic page 2 of today's packet.

**Consent Agenda Approval**—Chairman Rathbone presented the October 7, 2025, Consent Agenda and entertained a motion to approve it as presented. Trustee Brown motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Trustee McDowell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was duly passed. The October 7, 2025, Agenda and Consent Agenda are on electronic page 1 of today's packet. The Consent Agenda includes state and county budget reports for the period ending August 31, 2025, the Board Minutes for September 2, 2025, and Policy 3.1.3- Employee Classifications. Consent agenda items are on electronic pages 1-12 of today's packet.

**SGA Report** – SGA President Elijah Jarvis presented a recap of the recent and upcoming events, noting that students participated in Wellness Wednesday. The first SGA meeting was held, and

SGA is working to increase attendance. The Cosmetology Club and the Wildlife Society are raising money for upcoming trips/events, and they are hosting a raffle. SGA President Jarvis also noted other events, such as Suicide Prevention Day, Four-Week Focus, Constitution Day, and Bobcat Bites.

**President's Report** - Dr. White informed the Board of several items:

○ **Informational Reports** –

- **New Employee Report**—Dr. White noted that the New Employee Report contains three full-time employees and numerous part-time employees, which is typical at this time of year. The New Employee Report is on electronic pages 13-14 of today's packet.
- **New Employee Introductions** – Upon Dr. White's request, HR Director Sara Phillips introduced three new employees: Dena Biddia, Financial Aid Specialist; Vanessa Hall, Success Coach; and Amanda Long, High School Career Coach. Each provided summaries of their background and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work at HCC.
- **College Updates** – Dr. White highlighted events from the previous month -

○ **Events/Recognitions**

- Dahlia Ridge Trail Run was held on September 14.
- HCC celebrated our 60th Anniversary on September 18 with strong participation from trustees, alumni, retirees, employees, students, and the community.
- Waynesville Rotary Centennial Peace Pole dedication was held on September 19 at the top of Freedlander Drive. Dr. White recognized Brek Lanning and his team for the design and installation. Many Rotarians, College and Community members were present.
- National Hunting and Fishing Day was hosted on Campus on September 27, and the Manufacturing Day was hosted at the Regional High Tech Center with NCWorks and the Chamber of Commerce on October 4.
- Dr. White attended the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual John G. Palmer Intercollegiate Woodsman's Meet at the Cradle of Forestry on October 5. She noted that partnerships enabled the event to go on despite federal closures impacting parks.

○ **External Partnerships & Representation**

- Dr. White, along with Dr. Gossett from A-B Tech, presented on serving adult learners at the NCCCAEA State Conference, which was held in Cherokee. They also presented at the WCCLA to participants from seven Western Colleges on the importance of values in leadership.
- Dr. White, along with members of the Chamber of Commerce, met with the British Consulate on an economic development visit to Canton.
- October 5-6, Dr. White, Dr. Hines, and Michelle Harris attended an event in Greensboro held by the John M. Belk Endowment called Building Bridges. This is an annual event for all recipients of the endowment's grant funding, which focuses on deepening partnerships and collaboration.

- Dr. White, along with other community leaders, met with the President of Martin Marietta, which is the company that acquired Premier Magnesia/Giles Chemical. Members of local company leadership were also present and discussed the opportunity to partner on education.
- Wednesday – Dr. White is facilitating a session at an event held by our Western NC Council of Governments and the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. This event is titled 'One Year Later: Partnerships and Successes in WNC.'
- Dr. White noted that next week she will be presenting in Hickory at the NCRural Economic Conference with Mayor Zeb Smathers and Haywood Chamber President David Francis on Economic Development in Canton
- **Innovative Middle School/Early College Expansion** – Dr. White provided an update on the Innovative Middle School/Early College Expansion. She noted that Principal Lori Fox is meeting with our Executive Team monthly regarding the progress on the Early College renovations and the development of the Innovative Middle School, which is now named “Haywood Innovative” (recently approved by the Haywood County School Board). Haywood County Schools is working on the state application for the new school, and Principal Fox is planning to hire an assistant principal in early 2026.
- **Facilities Update** –
  - **Workforce Outdoor Training Site** – Mr. Lanning reported that the pavilion foundation is installed, site grading and aggregate base are ongoing, excavation continues, and the site is still awaiting Duke Energy pole relocation. Targeting pad completion and paving will proceed as weather allows. The contractor is optimistic for a February completion. The CDL Training is operating on the gravel lot and can transition seamlessly.
  - **RBAC Renovation Project (Phase 1)** - Mr. Lanning reported that the demolition is complete, rough framing is underway in the PLC Lab, welding lab, and offices. There are some welding lab revisions, fire alarm reconfiguration, and major electrical installation to go. The project remains on track for completion in Summer 2026.
  - **Nance Family Property Donation** – Mr. Lanning noted that the appraisal is in progress with Hominy Valley appraisal and is moving toward the closing. Mr. Smathers reported that the Nance family is in town for October to finalize the transaction.
  - **Completed/Active Small Projects** – Mr. Lanning reported steady progress across active and recently completed projects. Storm-drain repairs related to Hurricane Helene are complete, and FEMA reimbursement has been received. The 60th anniversary sculpture bases are finished, and the artworks are installed. Siding replacement at the Automotive Building is 90% complete, with a full repaint to follow. The stormwater catchment pond at the Sycamore (Creative Arts) Building has been redesigned, enhancing both its function and appearance. The Boardroom A/C unit has been replaced, and the Balsam Building HVAC project is 90%

complete, pending completion of the ductwork. The Peace Pole installation is complete. In addition, Little Diversified received the **Louis I. Kahn Citation** for the Juniper Building design.

- **Performance Measures & Student Success Data** – Mr. Onder reviewed the statewide Performance Measures with a brief explanation of the differences in categories and descriptions. He noted that the numbers reflected are for previous cohorts. Mr. Onder also noted that HCC’s Student Success Council reviews the metrics and aligns our measures toward student success with the Strategic Plan’s goals, outcomes, and targets. He also provided the Student Data Indicator with outcomes and targets. The Board briefly discussed. Following the discussion, Dr. White asked Mr. Onder to report the amount of funding received for the Performance Measures outcome. The Board discussed what those funds have been used for in the past.
- **Accreditation Update** – Mr. Onder reported that legislation was recently passed, which rescinded Session Law 2025-92; Section 2.11(b) G.S. 115D-21.2 Accreditation – that rescinded the previous restrictions on seeking consecutive accreditation with the same accreditor. In simplified terms, we are no longer required to change accrediting bodies. Following the discussion, Chairman Rathbone entertained a motion to take the staff’s recommendation and remain with SACSCOC as our accrediting body. Trustee Brown made the motion to take the staff’s recommendation and remain with SACSCOC as our accrediting body. Trustee Hollingsed seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion duly passed.

### **Report by Chairman of the Board of Trustees – Kaleb Rathbone**

**SEI Evaluations and Biennial Evaluations** – Chairman Rathbone reported on the recent SEI Evaluations and biennial evaluations that had been received from the NC Ethics Commission. The following letters were received: Angela Lunsford, William Hollingsed, Danny Wingate, Gorham Bradley, Tammy McDowell, and Kaleb Rathbone.

Chairman Rathbone brought to the Board’s attention several announcements at the bottom of the agenda.

He noted that several Trustees had attended the NCACCT Leadership Seminar in Greensboro with Dr. White in September. He asked each attendee to provide a brief recap of their takeaways from the conference. Chairman Rathbone reminded the Board that the November Board Meeting will be held at the West Waynesville location to showcase the EMS and Paramedic programs. A tour of the programs will begin at 2:00 p.m., and the Board Meeting will start at 3:00 p.m.

Having no further Business, Chairman Rathbone entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee McDowell made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:09 p.m. Trustee Wingate seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion duly passed.

Respectfully Submitted

*Tammy R. Goodson*

Tammy R. Goodson, Recording Secretary,  
Executive Assistant to the President,  
Ethics Liaison

**Documents Included in the Packet**

October 7, 2025 BOT Agenda

September 2, 2025 BOT Minutes

State and County Budget Reports

NC Ethics Statement

New Employee Report

Policy 3.1.3 – Employee Classification

Performance Measures Report

Accreditation Report