Haywood Community College
Board Meeting
June 2, 2026
Board of Trustees

The Haywood Community College Board of Trustees held an in-person meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Hemlock Building (Room 1509). The following people were present in person:

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

STAFF: Dr. Shelley White, Christie Medford, Brek Lanning, Sara Phillips, David Onder, Michelle Harris, Matt Collier, Hylah Birenbaum, Ian Cernak, Chris Chandler, Hunter Hughes, Justin Stocker, Laura Mallonee, Lauren Biddix, Linda Lamp

Attorney - Pat Smathers

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 June 2, 2026, Consent Agenda and entertained a motion to approve it as presented. Trustee Brown motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Trustee Larsen seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was duly passed. June 2, 2026, 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 April 30, 2026, and the Board Minutes for May 5, 2026. Consent agenda items are on electronic pages 1-8 of today's packet.

Outgoing Trustee Recognition – Dr. White and Chairman Rathbone recognized the 2026 outgoing Trustees, Tom Olliff and Carol Larsen. They thanked both for their service and dedication to the Board. Trustee Olliff and Larsen expressed their gratitude for the kind words and gift of appreciation.

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

- **Informational Reports –**
    - **New Employee Report—**Dr. White noted that the New Employee Report includes several full-time and part-time employees, which is typical at this time of year. The New Employee Report is on electronic page 9 of today's packet.
    - **New Employee Introductions** – Upon Dr. White's request, HR Director Sara Phillips introduced two new employees and one internal promotion: Laura Mallonee, Financial Aid Specialist; Laurn Biddix, promoted to Accounting I; Linda Lamp, Director of the Small Business Center. 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 as well as upcoming events.
    - **Events/Recognitions**
        - Secretary of State Visit – Dr. White shared that the NC Secretary of State Elaine Marshall is visiting HCC this week for events hosted in partnership with the Small Business Center. Activities include a meeting with local notary publics and an NC Rural RISE Business Roundtable discussion with local businesses.
        - Graduation – Dr. White thanked trustees who attended graduation ceremonies and reported that the college completed its graduation season with two pre-kindergarten graduation ceremonies due to increased participation.
        - NC Community College System Leadership – Dr. White informed the Board that the NCCCS office President, Dr. Jeff Cox, is retiring at the end of June. Dr. Bill Carver has been appointed interim president during the transition process.
        - Propel NC Legislative Initiative – Dr. White updated the Board on the continued implementation of the Propel NC initiative, which focuses on workforce development and high-demand, high-wage career pathways. The College continues to align efforts with the statewide legislative agenda and received enrollment growth funding connected to the initiative.

Report on Buildings and Grounds

- Gen Ed Feasibility Study - Mr. Brek Lanning provided a summary of the Building and Grounds Committee meeting. He reviewed the Gen Ed Feasibility Study, which included the evaluation of the Hickory Building, potential campus sites, cost comparisons between renovation and new construction, accessibility improvements, and possible timelines for future development. Trustees discussed options, parking student experience, campus accessibility, and long-term campus planning considerations. The Board discussed the need for continued evaluation of the project scope, funding opportunities, and next steps for the proposed Gen Ed Building Project. Trustees were encouraged to review the detailed feasibility study materials distributed during the meeting.

Report by Chairman Board of Trustees – Kaleb Rathbone

- **BOT Self Evaluation –** Chairman Rathbone summarized the results of the BOT Self Evaluation, discussed the potential of a Board Retreat to include the history of HCC and information on the NCCCS Office. Each Trustee received a copy of the evaluation.

- **Proposed Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar –** Chairman Rathbone called the Board's attention to page 10 of today's Board packet, which included a copy of the proposed 2026-2027 BOT Calendar of Meetings.

Announcements - Chairman Rathbone brought several announcements to the Board's attention at the bottom of the agenda.

Closed Session - pursuant to North Carolina General Statute G.S. §143-318.11

- (a)(1): to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential.
- (a)(3): to discuss matters protected by attorney-client privilege-Legal and Personnel
- (a)(6): to consider the job performance and fitness of an individual employee

Chairman Rathbone entertained a motion to go into Closed Session for reasons stated above. Trustee Larsen made the motion to go into Closed Session for reasons stated above at 3:45 p.m. Trustee Lunsford seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion duly passed.

The Board returned to Open Session at 4:22 p.m.

Chairman Rathbone turned the floor over to Committee on Personnel Chairman Olliff. Chairman Rathbone expressed how much they are impressed with Dr. White's performance and how fortunate the Board feels to have her leading the College.

Chairman Olliff brought forward a motion for a salary increase for Dr. White with an annual adjustment of no less than 2.5% annual from all sources(State & County Supplement), an annual mileage stipend increased from $1,800 to $2,000 for in-county travel, with a commensurate increase of at least 2.5%, using the same language as the salary increase, add language to her contract that would annually provide an additional one-year term of contract so that she would never have less than a three-year term in front of her on this contract, and finally that the Board would also consider an annual bonus for this year of $5,000. Trustee Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion duly passed.

The Board expressed its gratitude to Dr. White for her steadfast leadership of the College. Dr. White expressed her deepest appreciation for the Board's support, generosity, and for the increase in the terms of her contract.

Having no further Business, Chairman Rathbone entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:27 p.m. Trustee Larsen made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:27 p.m. Trustee Olliff 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
June 2, 2026, Agenda
Ethics Statement
May 5, 2026, Board Minutes
April, 2026 State and County Budget Reports
New Employee Report
Proposed 2026-2027 BOT Calendar of Meetings