Haywood Community College
Board Meeting
October 6, 2026
Board of Trustees

The Haywood Community College Board of Trustees held an in-person meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Hemlock Building (Room 1509). The following people were present in person:

TRUSTEES: Ed Brown, Larry Caudill, Terryll Evans, Bill Hollingsed, Angela Lunsford, Tammy McDowell, Al Mina, Jon Overbay, Scott Page, Kaleb Rathbone, Danny Wingate

STAFF: Dr. Shelley White, Dr. Wendy Hines, Christie Medford, Brek Lanning, Sara Phillips, Michelle Harris, Hylah Birenbaum, Chris Chandler, Justin Stocker

SGA President – Hutch Hutcherson
Attorney – Pat Smathers

Call to Order—Chair Tammy McDowell called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She requested a roll call, confirmed a quorum, and led a moment of silence.

Ethics – Chair McDowell directed the Board's attention to the Ethics Statement on the screen and asked whether anyone had a conflict of interest. No conflicts were noted. The Ethics Statement is on electronic page 2 of today's packet.

Consent Agenda Approval—Chair McDowell presented the October 6, 2026, Consent Agenda and entertained a motion to approve it as presented. Trustee Hollingsed motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Trustee Rathbone seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was duly passed. October 6, 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 August 31, 2026, and the Board Minutes for September 1, 2026. Consent agenda items are on electronic pages 1-9 of today's packet.

SGA Report – SGA President Hutch Hutcherson provided a summary of the SGA Report. Highlights included Week of Welcome, SGA Meetings, Wellness Wednesday, Suicide Prevention Day, Constitution Day, and Mental Health First Aid Training.

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

- **New Employee Report—** Dr. White directed trustees to the new employee information included in the Board materials and recognized an existing employee who had recently been promoted to Senior Network Engineer. Justin Stocker shared his history with HCC, beginning as a student in 2008 and later progressing from a work-study position to part-time and full-time employment within the College's Information Technology department.
  Dr. White noted that the College would introduce additional new employees at a future meeting and that the larger number of part-time employees reflected normal beginning-of-semester staffing needs for classrooms, laboratories, and other instructional support positions. The New Employee Report is on electronic pages 10-11 of today's packet.
- **FY 2026-2027 Institutional Budget Report** – Dr. White asked Christie Medford to outline the FY 2026-2027 Institutional Budget. Mrs. Medford presented the College's institutional budget for Board approval and reviewed changes resulting from implementation of the North Carolina Community College System's Propel NC funding model. Propel NC replaces the previous tier-based funding structure with a workforce-focused model that directs additional resources to high-demand, high-wage programs, including healthcare, advanced manufacturing, engineering, information technology, public safety, and skilled trades. Under the new model, HCC received about $330,000 in additional state funding, a 5.6 percent increase over what the College would have received under the previous funding structure. The College's state allocation totaled approximately $13.08 million, including formula funding, carryforward funds, and categorical allocations. The formula allotment was approximately $12.1 million. Haywood County funding included approximately $4.55 million for operating expenses and $750,000 for capital expenses. Following discussion, Chair McDowell entertained a motion to approve the FY 2026-2027 Institutional Budget as presented. Trustee Lunsford made the motion to approve the FY 2026-2027 Institutional Budget as presented. Trustee Caudill seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion duly passed. The FY 2026-2027 Institutional Budget is located on electronic page 12 of today's packet.
- **Policy 3.2.21** – Parental Leave **–** Sara Phillips presented a temporary amendment to the College's Paid Parental Leave policy. The amendment increases paid parental leave from eight weeks to 12 weeks and applies to both birth and non-birth parents. Administration explained that the temporary amendment was necessary to bring the College's policy into compliance while awaiting final policy language and updated guidance. The change became effective October 1, 2026. The Board was also introduced to a revised policy format that will provide greater consistency, including definitions and scheduled policy review requirements. Dr. White noted that the broader policy review initiative also supports accreditation requirements. Following discussion, Chair McDowell entertained a motion to approve the temporary Parental Leave Policy 3.2.21 as presented. Trustee Overbay made a motion to approve the temporary Parental Leave Policy 3.2.21 as presented. Trustee Wingate seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion duly passed. Policy 3.2.21 is located on electronic pages 13-19 of today's packet.
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- **College Updates –** Dr. White highlighted events from the previous month as well as upcoming events.

- **John G. Palmer Woodsmen's Meet -** Dr. White reported on the 36th Annual John G. Palmer Intercollegiate Woodsmen's Meet, held on the HCC campus in conjunction with National Hunting and Fishing Day during the final weekend of September. Visiting teams included Penn State, West Virginia, Montgomery Community College, and NC State. Dr. White thanked trustees and employees who assisted with the event.
- **Good Jobs National Summit** - Dr. White also reported that HCC co-hosted the Good Jobs National Summit with the Town of Canton. About 85 individuals from across the county attended the three-day event to learn about workforce and economic recovery efforts involving 11 community colleges in Western North Carolina. The summit raised approximately $3 million for the Good Jobs Training Fund. HCC received a $287,000 Good Jobs grant to support its CDL truck driver training program. The funding will allow the College to employ a full-time instructor and expand the program to daytime and evening training, increasing student capacity. Dr. White recognized Dr. Wendy Hines, Dean Jodi Wijewickrama, Dean Doug Birchfield, and others involved in the grant project.
- **Aspiring Presidents Institute -** Dr. White reported on her involvement in planning the Aspiring Presidents Institute at the Belk Center for Community College Leadership at NC State and congratulated Dr. Wendy Hines on being selected for and successfully completing the program. Dr. Hines thanked Dr. White for her nomination and support and briefly discussed the leadership development experience.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Committee Chair Wingate asked Brek Lanning to provide a report on the CORE Project. Mr. Lanning reviewed the condition of the approximately 36,000-square-foot Hickory Building, noting accessibility limitations and significant HVAC, plumbing, moisture, and other building-system issues. Annual facilities assessments indicate that the cost of addressing accumulated deferred maintenance is approaching the building's replacement value.

College representatives met with Haywood County leadership to discuss financing options. County representatives indicated that a project with a maximum financing level of $50 million appeared feasible based upon conservative projections. The proposed resolution establishes a project ceiling not to exceed $50 million; it does not establish the final project cost, building site, building program, designer, contractor, or construction delivery method.

If approved, the next step would be a joint work session with the Haywood County Board of Commissioners on October 27, 2026. Following County approval, the College would proceed through the required State Board 3-1 approval process and subsequent design, pricing, and financing processes. Administration estimated an approximately 39-month best-case project timeline.

Following the Committee's recommendation, the Board considered the requested action to adopt the resolution requesting that Haywood County fund and finance the Core Center for General Education and Infrastructure Modernization Project at a cost not to exceed $50 million. Coming from the Committee does not require a second. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Report by Board of Trustees Chair – Tammy McDowell

Announcements – Chair McDowell 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)(5): to discuss matters related to(i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease

Chair McDowell entertained a motion to go into closed session for reasons stated above at 3:47 p.m. Trustee Hollingsed made a motion to go into closed session for reasons stated above. Trustee Wingate seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion duly passed. The Board went into Closed Session at 3:47 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 3:58 p.m.

Having no further Business, Chair McDowell entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:58 p.m. Trustee Brown made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:58 p.m. Trustee Lunsford seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion duly passed. The Board Meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

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

Documents Included in the Packet
October 6, 2026, Agenda
Ethics Statement
September 1, 2026, Board Minutes
August 31, 2026, State and County Budget Reports
FY 2026-2027 Institutional Budget
Policy 3.2.21 – Parental Leave
New Employee Report