Lake Land College
Board of Trustees
District No. 517

Regular Board Meeting No. 711
Board and Administration Center, Room 011
Mattoon, IL
March 9, 2026

Minutes

Call to Order.

Chair Wright called the March 9, 2026, regular meeting of the Lake Land College Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 p.m. in room 011 of Board and Administration Center, Mattoon, IL.

Roll Call.

Trustees Physically Present:

Trustees Physically Present: Mr. Thomas Wright, Chair; Mr. Gary Cadwell; Mr. Chuck Deters; Mr. Larry D. Lilly, Secretary; Mr. Scott Montgomery; Ms. Doris Reynolds; Ms. Denise Walk, Vice-Chair; and Student Trustee Jay Bliler.

Trustees Absent: None.

Others Participating via Telephonic or Electronic Means: None.

Others Present:

Dr. Jonathan Bullock, President; Dr. Ikemefuna Nwosu, Vice President for Academic Services; Mr. John Woodruff, Vice President for Business Services; Ms. Jean Anne Highland, Chief of Staff; Ms. Heather Nohren, Vice President for Student Services; Ms. Seirra Laughhunn, Executive Assistant to the President’s Office; and members of the staff.

Approval of Consent Items.

Trustee Cadwell moved and Trustee Reynolds seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

1. Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2026, Regular Meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2026, Closed Session.
3. Approval of Agenda of March 9, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting.
4. Bills for Payment and Travel Expenses, Including Trustee Travel Reimbursement.

   The following is a summary by funds:

Education Fund	$	412,153.00
Building Fund	$	102,886.27
Site & Construction Fund	$	198,235.74
Bond & Interest Fund	$	-
Auxiliary Services Fund	$	100,887.11
Restricted Purposes Fund	$	142,910.42
Working Cash Fund	$	-
Audit Fund	$	-
Liability Insurance Fund	$	28,419.15
Student Accts Receivables	$	1,921,981.57
Total	$	2,907,473.26

   For a summary of trustee travel reimbursement and details of bills refer to [the Board of Trustees web page](#).

5. Destruction of Tape Recording of the September 9, 2024, Closed Session.

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Hearing of Citizens, Faculty, and Staff.

There were no public comments.

Committee Reports.

ICCTA/Legislative.

Trustee Walk said that Senate Bill 4034 and House Bill 5319 return this spring to expand opportunity for Illinois students and strengthen the state's workforce to hopefully allow Community Colleges to offer a limited set of baccalaureate degrees in high-demand fields to create more affordable, accessible pathways to bachelor's degrees for working adults and students tied to a specific location. She said in the governor's state of the state address that education remains a top funding priority tied to the support of workforce development and long-term economic competitiveness.

Resource & Development.

Trustee Reynolds, Committee Chair, said the Committee did not meet, but some items will be discussed later in the agenda.

Finance.

Trustee Lilly, Committee Chair, said the Committee did not meet, but some items will be discussed later in the agenda.

Buildings & Site.

Trustee Cadwell, Committee Chair, said the Committee had not met since the last regular Board meeting.

Foundation.

Trustee Lilly highlighted the following information and said this report was provided by Ms. Christina Donsbach, Executive Director for College Advancement:

- 2026-2027 Scholarship reviews have wrapped up for our first cycle, and awarding is underway. The first round of recipients will be announced soon, and high school seniors will be honored with their awards during their High School award banquets. The second round of applications will reopen on June 1st this summer.
- Thanks to all who participated in our 6th annual Love a Laker giving day! Over $7,100 was raised to support our students! We had great engagement this year, involving in-person participation from students and employees.
- The Foundation kicked off the second year of the Community Partners Program with a breakfast on Feb. 26th. We’re excited to share that 31 business partners have signed on for 2026, raising $102,000 to date.
- We’re looking forward to hosting several upcoming events, including partnering with our LLC SUAA Chapter next month to host a retirement planning seminar on April 8th, along with our 1st alumni/donor social of the year to celebrate the college’s 60th anniversary on April 20th.

- Finally, March kicks off our Employee Giving Campaign, where we will be acknowledging those who participate and sharing opportunities for more to get involved.

Student Report.

Student Trustee Bliler reported that since the Board's last meeting, the students have been very active and busy in the previous weeks and are looking forward to an active remainder of the Spring Semester. He said the Student Government Association (SGA) has convened three times and in his last report, he shared that the Make a Difference Campaign was being brought back this semester. He said he was pleased to report that the form is now live in the LakerHub and that students are now able to access the form to recognize faculty and staff who contribute to student success beyond the standard call. The form is linked in the application to graduate, and SGA hopes many students will complete the form and share their stories of our dedicated community here at Lake Land. He said other topics of discussion included promotion of the Noel-Levitz Survey and preparations for the Club Lunch on April 1. Mr. Bliler said the SGA also hosted discussions on the Student Fitness Center and discussed arrangements for the Student Recognition Banquet on April 29. The Sophomore Delegate and Student Trustee election applications are open, and voting will take place March 25-26 for these roles. He said SGA also hosted Dr. Nwosu and had a very insightful and productive conversation. Dr. Bullock and Vice President Nohren also spoke to SGA about the tuition increase that is coming up later in the agenda tonight. On March 4, the SGA hosted leadership training with Mr. Tim Duffy focused on personalities and conflict resolution and this training was open to all students.

Mr. Bliler said the Student Activity Board, (SAB) has had another successful series of events. These events have included a spa day event, a documentary screening titled "Death and Taxes," and hosting Mr. Tim Duffy for student body leadership training. He said these events have been engaging for students, and we thank the SAB for their work in increasing student involvement.

Mr. Bliler said the Navigator News continues their splendid work with the most recent publication of the March issue. He said the 55th Lake Land College Agriculture Banquet was held, welcoming students and their families from across the division as well as community leaders and college staff. The banquet proved a wonderful evening of recognizing all of the students of the division who have made many notable accomplishments.

Mr. Bliler recognized the Environmental Club. He said this club helps to make students and staff aware of ways to help the planet in innovative and logical ways and last week, the Environmental Club hosted a bake sale to support their club and its inherent environmental stewardship efforts. We thank the Environmental Club this month for their contributions to the campus community and the planet through their efforts.

He welcomed any questions the Board may have and thanked them for their continued support and investment in the Lake Land College student body.

President's Report.

Dr. Bullock gave the following updates:

- The College received no payments from the Illinois Department of Corrections in February toward the FY 2026 balance. A total of $650,391 remains outstanding for DOC.
- We received no payments in February from the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. A balance of $74,564 remains outstanding.
- In February, the College received no payments from the State of Illinois for FY 2026 credit hour reimbursement, equalization or CTE. The College received a performance funding payment of $44,259. A total of $4.7 million remains outstanding from the State of Illinois.
- The College received $4,583 in property tax payments in February.

Business - Non-action Items.

Updates for the Dental Hygiene Program.

Ms. Elizabeth Hartrich, Director of the Dental Hygiene Program, along with three instructors, presented the Focus on Advancing Student Success, sharing updates on the Dental Hygiene Program.

Monthly Data Point Discussion – Enrollment goals for Fall 2026 Semester.

Ms. Lisa Cole, Director of Data Analytics, presented the monthly data point discussion on enrollment goals for the Fall 2026 semester.

Consideration of Board Meeting Software and Automation.

Ms. Jean Anne Highland, Chief of Staff, presented on why the Administration would like to begin utilizing a new board meeting software and automation tool with the company Boardable.

Calendar of Events.

Trustees reviewed a calendar of upcoming events. Dr. Bullock reminded the Board about the Spring Employee Recognition in the Field House on Wednesday, March 25, College Commencement Ceremony on May 15, 2026, and the May 20, 2026, Board Retreat at 1 p.m., with lunch at noon and guest, ICCTA Facilitator Mr. Jim Reed, who will be in attendance.

Action Items

Approval of Proposed Resolution No. 0326-007 - Approving Participation in the Coles County Enterprise Zone. The Resolution may be viewed via the

Board of Trustees web page at: https://www.lakelandcollege.edu/about-us/board-of-trustees/agendas-board-books-minutes/ .

Dr. Bullock presented to the Board a request to approve the College's participation and support for an extended Coles County Enterprise Zone to provide more economic development opportunities and a plan to include new housing. Dr. Ronda Sauget, President and CEO of Coles Together, attended the meeting as an audience member and spoke to the importance of the enterprise zone for Coles County.

Trustee Deters moved and Trustee Walk seconded to approve as presented Resolution No. 0326-007 – Resolution for Approving Participation in the Coles County Enterprise Zone. [A full and complete copy of the Resolution is attached to and part of these minutes.]

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Approval of Tuition and Fees Rates for Summer 2026, Fall 2026 and Spring 2027.

Trustees reviewed a recommendation from Dr. Bullock and the Cabinet for proposed tuition and fees rates for the Summer 2026, Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 terms. Dr. Bullock highlighted that the proposed tuition and fees rates will still ensure a student enrolled at Lake Land College has access to a high-quality education yet with one of the most affordable educational institutions in the state.

Dr. Bullock said this includes increasing the in-district tuition by $5.00 to $124.00 per credit hour and increasing the service (including textbook rental) fee by $1.50 to $30.50 per credit hour. President Bullock said this increase will fund a newly established Academic Equipment fund to support the replacement of academic equipment. He said they also recommend reducing the recreation fee from $2.00 per credit hour to $.50 per credit hour and reallocating the $1.50 to the Service Fee.

Trustee Walk moved and Trustee Reynolds seconded to approve as presented the proposed recommendation to increase tuition by $5/credit hour, activity fees would remain at $4/credit hour, the recreational fee would be reduced to $.50/credit hour and service fee increase to $30.50/credit hour with the reallocation of $1.50/credit hour from the recreational fee for the upcoming Summer 2026, Fall 2026, and Spring 2027 terms.

There was no further discussion.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Approval of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 07.28.01 – *Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures*.

Trustees reviewed a memo from Ms. Heather Nohren, Vice President for Student Services, regarding the Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures that were reviewed to ensure continued compliance with federal and state requirements, alignment with current best practices, and clarity for students and employees regarding student conduct expectations and disciplinary processes.

Dr. Bullock said this was presented as first reading during the February 2026 regular Board meeting and there had been no requested changes since that time.

Trustee Deters moved and Trustee Montgomery seconded to approve as presented revisions to Board Policy 07.28.01 - *Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures*, which strengthens procedural fairness, improves transparency and ensures consistent application of disciplinary processes.

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Approval of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 10.34 – *Travel*.

Trustees reviewed a memo from Mr. John Woodruff, Vice President for Business Services, regarding recently clarifying and updating the credit card acknowledgement and travel guidelines documents. He said in doing so, we saw an opportunity to address Board Policy 10.34 – *Travel* by proposing cleaning up some of the language to drive organizational efficiency and add language to strengthen a few pieces of the policy.

Dr. Bullock said this was presented as first reading during the February 2026 regular Board meeting and there had been no requested changes since that time.

Trustee Walk moved and Trustee Montgomery seconded to approve as presented recommended updates to Board Policy 10.34 – *Travel.*

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Acceptance of Grant(s).

Trustees heard a request from Ms. Highland, on behalf of Ms. Beth Craig, Grants Writer and Coordinator, for the Board to accept a one-year National Rifle Association (NRA) Foundation Ammunition Grant. She said the purpose of the NRA Foundation grant funding is to promote, advance and encourage firearms, shooting sports and hunting safety. Ms. Highland said this grant is not a monetary amount. It is a donation of 46 flats (460 boxes) of ammunition, which is equal to the value of $4,512. She said the NRA will send the ammunition to a local Federal Firearms License (FFL) ammunition dealer and then the College will pick up the donation.

Trustee Montgomery moved and Trustee Walk seconded to approve as presented a 1 year, $4,512 valued ammunition grant of 46 flats (460 boxes) of ammunition from the National Rifle Association Foundation Ammunition grant.

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Acceptance of January 2026 Financial Statements.

Trustees reviewed the January 2026 Financial Statements and a memorandum from Mr. Woodruff that highlighted the Financial Statements and significant variances. Mr. Woodruff said some of the significant variances are timing related and should normalize by year's end.

Trustee Lilly moved and Trustee Deters seconded to approve, as presented, the January 2026, fiscal year 2026 Financial Statements.

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Approval of Academic Calendars.

Trustees heard a presentation from Ms. Nohren, on behalf of the Academic and Enrollment Calendar Committee, for the Board to approve the academic calendars for 2028-2029.

She reported that the recommended calendars comply with requirements established in Board Policies 06.03 *Academic Calendar* and 05.20 *Holidays and Summer Work Week* and satisfy the requirements of the Illinois Community College Board and the collective bargaining agreement between the Lake Land College Faculty Association and the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Walk moved and Trustee Montgomery seconded to approve as presented the calendar for academic year 2028-2029.

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Approval of Faculty Tenure Recommendations.

Trustees received a recommendation from Dr. Bullock and Dr. Ike Nwosu, Vice President for Academic Services, that the Board grant tenure to eight full-time faculty members: Andrew Cougill, Librarian; James Crowder, Welding Instructor; Kurt Hoene, Business Construction Technology Instructor; Christian Kessler, Agronomy Instructor/Farm Manager; Jessie Palmer, Physical Therapist Assistant Instructor; Constance Rickey, Nursing Instructor; Richard Sumitro, Mathematics Instructor; and Sarah Wright, Business Instructor. Trustees reviewed the tenure recommendation documentation for each faculty member.

Trustee Walk moved and Trustee Reynolds seconded to approve as presented the granting of tenure effective with the beginning of the fall 2026 semester, to eight full-time faculty members including: Andrew Cougill, Librarian; James Crowder, Welding Instructor; Kurt Hoene, Business Construction Technology Instructor; Christian Kessler, Agronomy Instructor/Farm Manager; Jessie Palmer, Physical Therapist Assistant Instructor; Constance Rickey, Nursing Instructor; Richard Sumitro, Mathematics Instructor; and Sarah Wright, Business Instructor. Trustees reviewed the tenure review documentation for each faculty member.

Approval of Reemployment of Tenured and Non-Tenured Faculty Members.

Trustees heard a recommendation from Dr. Bullock that the Board approve the reemployment of tenured and non-tenured faculty members for the 2026/27 academic year.

Trustee Deters moved and Trustee Montgomery seconded to approve as presented the reappointment of tenured and non-tenured faculty members for the 2026/27 academic year.

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Approval of Renewal for Property, Casualty and Liability Insurance.

Trustees heard a recommendation from Mr. Woodruff for the Board to approve the property, casualty and liability insurance bid submitted by Employers Mutual Casualty (EMC), in the amount of $387,736 plus a 5% contingency for the coverage period April 15, 2026, through April 15, 2027. He said Dimond Brothers Insurance, the College's property and casualty insurance consultant, solicited bids from several providers, with only two companies choosing to submit a bid: our current carrier, EMC (Employers Mutual Casualty), and ICRMT (Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust).

Trustees learned the total premium paid for the property and casualty coverage for the period April 15, 2025, to April 15, 2026, was $317,435. Mr. Woodruff informed Trustees that the main driver of the premium increase is the rates charged for Buildings and that the other seven product categories remained relatively flat. Trustees learned the current quotes reflect building value at $233 million to $242 million, depending on the carrier.

Mr. Woodruff said to meet the previously requested $50 million in earthquake coverage by the Board of Trustees, the College will once again need to acquire a second policy. He said that will be through EQ One again this year and handled under a separate motion.

Mr. Woodruff said as the College conducts operations during the fiscal year, there will be property increases/decreases to the policy, which may drive additional premiums. He said in the March 2025 Board meeting, the Board approved an insurance premium of $303,447. As a result of changes, the actual cost is currently $317,000. Mr. Woodruff said to remain fully transparent with the Board, the Administration believes it is prudent to request a 5% contingency to cover these changes. He gave the example of the Administration anticipating the need to add the Athletic Center to the policy before next year's renewal.

Motion #1:
Trustee Walk moved and Trustee Deters seconded to retroactively approve the revised premium cost of $317,000, which is an increase of $13,553 previously approved by the Board during the March 2025 Board of Trustees meeting. The current agreement is with Employers Mutual Casualty (EMC) of Des Moines, Iowa. The increase is due to property increases and decreases resulting from normal operations.

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Motion #2:
Trustee Lilly moved and Trustee Montgomery seconded to approve as presented the bid from Employers Mutual Casualty (EMC) of Des Moines, Iowa, as our Property and Casualty insurance provider for the upcoming year (policy runs April 15, 2026 – April 15, 2027), at a cost not to exceed $407,000, which is the quote of $387,736 plus a 5% contingency.

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Motion #3:
Trustee Lilly moved and Trustee Deters seconded to approve as presented the bid from EQ One of Los Angeles, California, for $25 million of additional earthquake coverage at a total cost of $51,093. The policy term is April 15, 2026 – April 15, 2027.

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: Trustee Montgomery. He stated that he voted no in an attempt to save the College money.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Approval of Recipients for Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Award.

Trustees heard a recommendation from Dr. Nwosu to award the 2026 Lake Land College Full-Time Faculty Award to Michael Beavers, Applied Engineering Technology Instructor. Dr. Nwosu's memo highlighted the basis for this nomination, including how Mr. Beavers has consistently demonstrated leadership and innovation in both traditional and online education. Dr. Nwosu said Mr. Beavers was one of the earliest instructors at Lake Land College to develop online courses in the late 1990s, he played a pivotal role in pioneering our institution's digital learning initiatives. His active participation in the Online Learning Committee underscored his commitment to advancing this field. He said Mr. Beavers was the first faculty member at our college to passionately advocate for andragogy, introducing Malcolm Knowles's scholarship and illustrating how adult-centered learning strategies can transform education. Dr. Nwosu said his dedication to these practices continues to influence our college today.

Trustees learned that upon Board approval for this award, Mr. Beavers will be honored as part of the May 2026 Commencement ceremony and the College will submit to ICCTA a nomination in consideration of their state-level, full-time faculty award category.

Trustee Reynolds moved and Trustee Cadwell seconded to approve the naming of Mr. Michael Beavers for the Lake Land College Full -Time Faculty Award and for submission to the 2026 ICCTA Outstanding Full - Time Faculty Award Nomination.

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Acceptance of Gift-in-Kind Donations(s) from the Lake Land College Foundation.

Trustees heard a recommendation from Dr. Bullock for the Board to accept medical supplies from Sarah Bush Lincoln valued at $2,500 for the Surgical Technician Program and a mobile toolbox with a workbench from Darrell Fox valued at $600.00, for the Industrial Maintenance program, coordinated by Kris Kersy, Industrial Maintenance Instructor & Coordinator.

The Foundation approved these gift-in-kind donations and respectfully requested that the Board of Trustees move to accept the equipment donations from the Lake Land College Foundation.

Trustee Walk moved and Trustee Reynolds seconded to approve the acceptance of the medical supplies valued at $2,500 and mobile toolbox with workbench valued at $600 from the Lake Land College Foundation to Lake Land College.

There was no further discussion.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Closed Session.

7:18 p.m. – Trustee Walk moved and Trustee Reynolds seconded to convene to closed session, pursuant to Chapter 5 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes Section 120/2(c)(1), to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the College.

There was no further discussion.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Return to Open Session - Roll Call

7:23 p.m.

Trustees Physically Present: Mr. Gary Cadwell, Mr. Chuck Deters, Mr. Larry D. Lilly; Mr. Scott Montgomery, Ms. Doris Reynolds, Ms. Denise Walk, Vice-Chair, Mr. Thomas Wright, Chair and Student Trustee Bliler.

Trustees Absent: None.

Others Participating via Telephonic or Electronic Means: None.

Approval of the Human Resources Report.

Trustees reviewed the Human Resources Report. Dr. Bullock requested that the Board approve the Report as presented, and he highlighted some of the recommended personnel changes.

Trustee Reynolds motioned and Trustee Walk seconded to approve the Human Resources Report as presented.

There was no further discussion.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Trustees Cadwell, Deters, Lilly, Montgomery, Reynolds, Walk and Wright.
No: None.
Advisory Vote: Student Trustee Bliler voted yes.
Absent: None.
Motion carried.

Other Business. (Non-action)

There was no additional discussion.

Adjournment.

Trustee Deters moved and Trustee Reynolds seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

There was no further discussion.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approved by:

/s/ Tom Wright	/s/ Larry D. Lilly
Board Chair	Board Secretary

*Note – See Board of Trustees web page for any referenced attachments to these minutes.
https://www.lakelandcollege.edu/col/board_minutes/