



Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee

Board of Trustees

Massachusetts Bay Community College

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

by WebEx

MINUTES

Trustees Present: Alfonso Hidalgo; Mahanaz Jatoi; Rebecca Negreli; Ilissa Povich; Reyad Shah

Trustees Not Present: Sandy Lish, Lili Silva, Committee Chair

Guests Present: Maria Guimaraes, Radiologic Technology student; Chantel Jordan, Assistant Director of Athletics; Jen McAndrew, STEM Tech Program Manager; Adam Nelson, Assistant Dean of Athletics

Trustee Jatoi joined the meeting at 8:10 am, and Trustee Hidalgo joined at 9:07 am.

Staff Members Present: Karen Britton, Executive Director and Board Liaison; Liz Blumberg, Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students; Lynne Davis, Dean of Health Sciences; Catherine Gildae, Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness; Courtney Jackson, Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost; Nina Keery, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences; Henry Lopez, Director of End User Services; Mike Lyons, Chief Information Officer; Angela MacDonald, Interim Assistant Dean of Nursing; Sue Maggioni, Assistant Provost; David Podell, President; David Protano, Dean of Automotive Technology and Interim Dean of STEM; Lisa Slavin, Vice President of Enrollment Management; Halye Sugarman, Dean of Business and Professional Studies; Venusa Toomey, Assistant Dean of Health Sciences and Framingham Administrator; Richard Williams, Dean for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Trustee Negreli called the meeting to order and declared that a quorum was present. She welcomed new Trustee Shah to the committee.

September 30, 2025, Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Trustee Hidalgo moved to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2025, meeting, and Trustee Povich seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Trustee Hidalgo – YES; Trustee Jatoi – YES; Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES; Trustee Shah – ABSTAINED.

Vice President Jackson introduced the two speakers.

Athletics

Assistant Dean Nelson introduced Chantel Jordan, Assistant Director of Athletics, and Maria Guimaraes, a student who

works in the Recreation and Wellness Center. There are a total of 11 coaches and six student employees in the Center, which provides a welcoming community and experiences for students. Assistant Dean Nelson gave a presentation on Recreation and Wellness Center, including the following:

Athletics

MassBay offers the following athletic programs:

- *Women's Volleyball – Some players came to MassBay with experience, and the team's growth has occurred with great coaches. The players must carry a course load of 12 credits.
- *Men's Soccer
- *Women's Cross Country
- *Men's Basketball
- *Unified Sports – MassBay was the first community college to start this type of program, which is in its third year. It has had incredible growth, drawing many athletes and connecting with many partners.
- *Esports – This program involves computer gaming and includes seven varsity teams, four of which made the playoffs, and an Esports lab. Chantel Jordan is the NJCAA Region XXI E-Sports Committee Chair.
- *Women's Golf and Men's Golf
- *Basketball, Soccer, and Volleyball - A challenge for these programs is that all games and most practices must be held elsewhere.

Wellness

Laura McEvoy was hired as Wellness Coordinator to build a Wellness program. She has developed the following:

- *One-on-one Wellness Coaching, which has included helping a student learn to ride a bicycle
- *Weekly Programming, including a Beer Goggles event to teach about the dangers of driving under the influence
- *Classroom Visits
- *Meditation Room
- *Wellness Club

Recreation and Wellness Center

MassBay has been very supportive of the Recreation and Wellness Center, maximizing its impact. In particular, Assistant Dean Nelson recognized the support from Vice President Blumberg, Vice President Edward, and Director DeLisle. The Center now has three full-time staff each with offices and 80-100 check-ins every day. Open to all MassBay students, faculty, and staff, the Recreation and Wellness Center offers:

- *Free Weights, Resistance Machines, Cardio Equipment
- *Basketball/Volleyball Court
- *Varsity Team Practices
- *Unified Sports Practices
- *Wellness Programming
- *Club Activities
- *College-Wide Programming

Fall Highlights

- *Women's Volleyball – The team is performing very well, and many alumnae are still involved.
- *Esports – The program is very popular. On a recent evening, most seats in the lab were full up to 8:00 pm.
- *MassBay is close to being a Special Olympics college. There will be scrimmage at the January 30 game against Holyoke Community College. Dave Lee is the coach.

Assistant Dean Nelson then turned over the presentation to Ms. Guimaraes, a sophomore from Holliston who works in the Center and is the Women's Volleyball Captain. Ms. Guimaraes reported that MassBay has helped her find a community and connections with students and faculty. She assists with all teams and has met a variety of students. Volleyball has given her a sense of family and helped her learn to stay calm under pressure, gain confidence, and balance/prioritize classes and work. The College has taught her many life lessons.

Trustee Negreli congratulated Assistant Dean Nelson and his team. President Podell indicated that the quality of MassBay's athletics program is incredible with such little space. His priority is to have more space in the new building, taking into account the needs of students. It was noted that, with the Golf Team not having any home games, Women's Flag Football may take its place, given the field is regulation-size. Chair Povich praised the presentation and noted the well-rounded offerings that provide students a home at the College.

STEM Tech Academy Program with Natick High School

STEM Tech Program Manager Jennifer McAndrew provided an overview of the STEM Tech Academy Program. The program was funded with a \$1million, three-year grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education for a program to support underrepresented students in STEM. The program provides dual enrollment STEM college classes and enhanced student support. The curriculum and program design was planned by Professors Marina Bograd and Judy Elliston focusing on Engineering and Life Sciences, with courses taught at Natick High School during junior and senior years and one at MassBay during senior year. The STEM Tech Academy involves additional MassBay staff, in particular STEM Starter Academy and STEM Tech Director Valerie Kapilow and Vice President Lisa Slavin as Principal Investigator. MassBay students serve as "near peer mentors" to STEM Tech Academy participants.

The program's initial recruitment and program launch included outreach at Wilson and Kennedy Middle Schools, Natick community organizations, and Natick Public School, interviewing eligible 8th graders and their parents, welcoming the first STEM Tech Scholars in spring 2024 with two field trips, and a STEM Scholar Orientation in in Fall 2024. MassBay students served as near peer mentors to provide embedded student support and enrichment programs. The near peer mentors provided support in executive functioning, study and learning skills, online learning, and time-management during the common directed study block at Natick High School.

Early college offers many advantages, including earning dual credit for high school electives and college courses which can transfer, with the potential to earn up to 23 college credits, saving students both money and time. The program included field trips to ABI-LAB and Natick Soldier Systems Center. The grant afforded equipment purchases for Natick High School and MassBay, such as 3D printers, robotic arms, scanners, and computers.

Trustee Negreli complimented the program and asked if there were plans to expand to other districts. STEM Tech Program Manager McAndrew explained that additional cohorts in Natick were being considered, but state funding was cut. She is thinking of other ways to engage high school students and additional partners. Trustee Negreli has a connection whose name and organization she will forward. Chair Povich stated how much she learned from the presentation. President Podell reported that this program was part of a state grant received in 2022 for funding towards early college and STEM to draw in students to STEM. The confidence in MassBay is strong. He expressed gratitude to STEM Program Manager McAndrew and Professor Marina Bograd, who was also a big part of this initiative.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Trustee Povich motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Trustee Shah seconded.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Trustee Hidalgo – YES; Trustee Jatoi – YES; Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES; Trustee Shah – YES.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 am.



4/21/26

Lili Silva, Committee Chair Date

