

Minutes of the MassBay Community College Board of Trustees Meeting – 8:00 am to 10:00 am Tuesday, March 10, 2026, by Webex

Trustees Present: Ilissa Povich (Chair), Tobey Choate, Alfonso Hidalgo, Matt Kahn, Sandy Lish, Rebecca Negreli, Gary Prado, Pranshu Shah, Lili Silva, and Karen Williams

Trustee Not Present: Reyad Shah

Trustee Hidalgo arrived at 8:10 am, and Trustee Lish arrived at 8:20 am. Trustee Prado departed the meeting at 9:00 am.

Staff Present: Steve Baccari, Comptroller; Alexandra Barone, Director of the Academic Achievement Center; Liz Blumberg, Vice President for Student Development; Liz Borg, Capital Campaign Director; Karen Britton, Executive Director and Liaison to the Board, Office of the President; Lauren Curley, Director of Procurement and Business Operations; Lynne Davis, Dean of Health Sciences; Joe DeLisle, Director of Facilities; Marcus Edward, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Catherine Gildae, Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness; Sue Hamilton, STEM Faculty; Rebecca Heimel, Dean of Teaching and Learning; Courtney Jackson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Nina Keery, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences; Henry Lopez, Director of End User Services; Lisa MacDonald, Associate Dean for Equity Assurance; Sue Maggioni, Assistant Provost; Dan Pace, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources and Payroll; David Podell, President; David Protano, Dean of Automotive Technology and Dean of STEM; Nohn Pham, EDP Systems Analyst; Jeremy Solomon, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Marketing, and Communications; Halye Sugarman, Dean of Business and Professional Studies; Richard Williams, Associate Dean for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Povich called the meeting to order and declared that a quorum was present.

FEBRUARY 17, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Trustee Prado moved to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026, meeting, and Trustee Silva seconded the motion.

The motion passed via the following roll call vote: Trustee Choate – ABSTAINED; Trustee Hidalgo – YES; Trustee Kahn – YES; Trustee Lish - YES; Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES; Trustee Prado – YES; Student Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Williams - YES

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Board Chair

Chair Povich reported that next month's meeting will be in person in Framingham. The Board will have two in-person meetings each year, one in the fall and one in the spring on different campuses. The April 14 meeting will be hybrid for those who cannot attend in person. She indicated it would be nice to see people in person, for those who can make it to Framingham for this meeting,

The Foundation report is now included in the binder rather than having a Foundation Board member come to the meetings. This month's report references two Boston Marathon runners raising money for the Foundation. Trustees are encouraged to support their runs with a donation to the Foundation at the following link:

https://www.givengain.com/project/ava-raising-funds-for-massachusetts-bay-community-college-foundation-115134?blm_aid=0

In addition, the Catholic churches in Wellesley have made the Foundation's Essential Needs Fund the beneficiary of its annual Lenten appeal.

President

President Podell reported the following:

*Lieutenant Governor Driscoll will be this year's Commencement speaker. The Lieutenant Governor is a good friend to MassBay and, in particular, is supportive of the new building, standing behind the sale of the parking lot for housing.

*Chief Phil DiBlasi has left the College, and Joe Bellino has taken over as Interim Chief. Associate Dean MacDonald is chairing the search committee for a new Chief.

*The College recently submitted two grants. The first is an earmark for a Certified Nursing Assistant program through Congresswoman Clark. The second is to the Commonwealth Corporation to support Computer Science and Cybersecurity summer remote paid internships in partnership with the non-profit STEMatch. MassBay has worked with STEMatch for several years, with STEMatch providing paid internships for our students in cybersecurity organizations.

*Last week, President Podell chaired a NECHE visiting team at a community college. It was interesting to be on the other side of a visit, to learn about that particular college and also MassBay, and as a result appreciate MassBay's accomplishments.

Student Trustee

Student Trustee Shah reported the following:

*The International Club recently hosted a Lunch Hour focused on Puerto Rican culture, bringing together approximately 50 students to learn about Puerto Rico's history and traditions, followed by traditional food. The club also continued its activities this week by celebrating International Women's Day, including card-making, giving away goodie bags, and painting tote bags to celebrate the women in their lives.

*MassBay also celebrated the success of its Unified Basketball Team, which recently earned a silver medal. MassBay is currently the only community college with a Unified Basketball Team. The team was recognized during a Wellness Center event honoring Developmental Disability Awareness Month, where athletes and faculty were recognized while students gathered to eat food and play games. Given the program's success, MassBay is now planning to expand unified athletics by introducing Unified Track and Field. The team is also preparing to compete in this year's summer games, which will take place at Harvard University.

*The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) recently visited the Wellesley and Framingham campuses. This organization helps connect bone marrow donors with patients suffering from blood cancers such as leukemia. They encouraged students to register for the donor registry through a simple cheek swab, and many students participated. It was encouraging to see awareness raised around such an important cause.

*Several student clubs have been creating spaces for students to connect outside of classes. The Psychology and Sociology Club recently hosted a painting and board games event, and students have been showing growing interest in newer activities, such as the Chess Club.

*The Computer Science Club is planning to attend a three-day hackathon hosted by Yale University, where students will represent MassBay and gain experience collaborating with students from other colleges.

*It has been encouraging to see strong student participation through cultural events, club activities, and opportunities for academic and professional development.

It was noted that the College will send Trustees the weekly newsletter that is emailed to students that includes upcoming events. Trustees are also welcome to come to campus at an international lunch hour and also to a Student Government Association (SGA) meeting.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

***Finance and Administration Committee**

Committee Chair Matt Kahn reported that all is going well with MassBay's finances.

Finance Items

Vice President Edward reported that associates from Prime Buchholtz attended last week's Finance and Administration Committee meeting. Prime Buchholtz is doing a good job at managing the College's investments. MassBay's investment portfolio temporarily surpassed the \$35 million market value milestone in February, reflecting continued growth. Based on long-term capital market assumptions, investments are expected to generate approximately 6.9% annualized nominal returns over a ten-to-fifteen year period. The return since inception is 16.5%. As of January 31, the investment allocation remains within established policy ranges, reflecting Prime Buchholz's disciplined adherence to the Board of Trustees' guidelines. The current policy calls for 65% invested in public equity, 10% in flexible capital, 10% in real assets, and 15% in fixed income. Each allocation can vary plus or minus 5%. The portfolio maintains strong liquidity, with approximately 83% available daily liquidity, 8% monthly liquidity, and 9% quarterly liquidity supporting operational flexibility and spending needs.

The National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) and Commonfund conducted a national study of endowments, including MassBay's, in FY2025. The College's investment performance compares favorably to similarly sized endowments of \$25 million to \$50 million. The average spending rate was 4.9% compared to MassBay's of 3.5%. The College's draw for fiscal year 2026 is \$829,000.

Investments, Cash, and Student Accounts Receivable Comparison

Investments

The investment balance as of the end of January was \$34.4 million. Investments gained 2.8% in the month of January. The investment balance as of the end of February was \$35 million. Investments gained 2% in the month of February. The current investment balance is \$33.8 million, a decrease of \$1.2 million, or 3.1%, in the month of March thus far.

Cash

The cash balance as of the end of January was \$8.1 million, an increase of \$211,000 compared to the prior month. The cash balance as of the end of February was \$10.3 million, an increase of \$2.1 million compared to the prior month. The current cash balance is \$13.8 million. The cash balance is high due to \$4.5 million in federal aid, with \$1.8 million set to be refunded to students.

Student Accounts Receivable

The receivable balance as of the end of January was \$11.6 million. Receivables increased by \$32,000 compared to the prior month. It was noted that a comparison to the S&P 500 is on page 12 of the binder and that Prime Buchholz compares itself to the Dow Policy Index for its strategies. It was also noted that MassBay took in \$4.5 million of aid and returned \$1.8 million to students, which is typical. A full report was presented at last week's Finance and Administration meeting.

Cash and Investment Position by Month

The chart shows the cash and investment balances over the last five years.

Kitchen Renovation

The binder contains an updated timeline for the kitchen renovation. The updated completion date is April 28, and \$906,000 has been spent thus far as of the end of January. The project is within budget.

Personnel Items

Assistant Vice President Pace reported the following:

-Personnel Actions

One new employee has been hired in the Payroll division of Human Resources.

-Recruitment

There are seven open positions, four faculty and three staff. Searches for all seven positions are in process. A new offer was made to the candidate who had declined the Computer Science faculty position due to visa issues. The College is now working with an immigration lawyer on the candidate's visa and is hopeful the process will go smoothly. If that effort is not successful, the job will be re-posted.

***Presidential Evaluation**

Committee Chair Lish reported that the Presidential Evaluation Committee had its first meeting a few weeks ago. She is pleased that Trustee Hidalgo has joined the committee. She is also happy that Chair Emerita Schmalensee is serving and providing support, which gives the process continuity and allows the Committee to continue to benefit from Chair Emerita Schmalensee's expertise in survey design and analysis. The committee has reviewed last year's survey and is close to finalizing this year's, based on criteria from the state. As always, the survey will be distributed to various internal and external constituencies. In addition, President Podell will provide his self-evaluation, which is a good way to learn about all that is happening at MassBay, and Associate Dean Gildae will provide the requested data. Everything will be combined into a letter with President Podell's salary increase recommendation, to be voted on by the Board. Committee Chair Lish encouraged Trustees to look for the survey, which is mandatory for them to complete.

PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER A PARCEL OF LAND

President Podell reported that MassBay was approached by a neighbor who is selling her house and whose driveway, created decades ago, falls on college property. He showed the driveway on a map.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:1a9fbd07-c277-474a-87f0-23fc6d1ff729>. It is a very small piece

of land. She cannot sell her house if MassBay does not agree to transfer to her this piece of the driveway. The neighbor has agreed to pay market value for the transferred property to start a scholarship fund for MassBay students. The matter was approved by the Legislature because it is state land, and it is now being brought to the Trustees. This will have no effect on the housing project, and no other houses are affected. The scholarship fund will be housed in the Foundation.

MOTION: Trustee Williams moved to approve the transfer to Kimberlee A. Dow of 23 Oakland Circle, Wellesley, a parcel of land of approximately 3,500 square feet upon which the driveway for 23 Oakland Circle sits, a part of the College's 40 Oakland Street property, for which Ms. Dow will convey the fair market value of the parcel, determined by an appraisal and approved by the Commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and the Inspector General, to a Massachusetts Bay Community College Oakland Circle Scholarship Trust, which shall be used for student scholarships, and Trustee Choate seconded the motion.

The motion passed via the following roll call vote: Trustee Choate – YES; Trustee Hidalgo – YES; Trustee Kahn – YES; Trustee Lish - YES; Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES; Trustee Prado – YES; Student Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Williams - YES

SPECIAL REPORT

Auditorium and Kitchen Renovations

Director DeLisle gave a presentation on the renovations presently underway in the kitchen and auditorium. The Powerpoint is attached.

The kitchen dated back to the 1960s. The renovation of it is expected to be finished at the end of April, pushed up one month because all of the electric items had to be replaced. This will be a LEED space.

The auditorium is not ADA compliant, and as a result, the entire space needs to be renovated. There will be ADA seating in the back and also spread out throughout, including the addition of larger chairs and ramps to make the stage accessible. The auditorium will also be painted, and new lights and a new stage floor will be added. This project is also within budget.

ENROLLMENT

President Podell provided the enrollment report on behalf of Vice President Slavin, who is currently attending a conference focused on best practices for emerging Hispanic-serving institutions. The spring semester is underway, with spring break scheduled for next week. Summer course registration opened on March 2, and while it is still early, enrollment has opened strong, up today 15% in FTE and 17% in headcount compared to this time last year. Fall course registration begins on April 6. Current students are scheduling advising appointments with their academic advisors and success coaches. Admissions staff continue to process applications, while also participating in spring college fairs and high school visits. A breakfast for high school counselors is taking place on March 27 in Wellesley. This visit provides an important opportunity for key school-based partners to learn more about the College, tour its state-of-the-art labs, and see firsthand the value a MassBay education offers students. The annual Spring Open House will take place on May 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the Wellesley campus. This event serves both admitted and prospective students and is consistently well attended. Its success is due to the strong participation of students, staff, and faculty who make themselves available to meet with families, answer questions, and showcase the campus. As of today, just under 200 families have registered, and anywhere between 500-600 total attendees are expected.

DASHBOARD

Associate Dean Gildae reported the following regarding the latest dashboard:

Admissions

Figure 1.7 indicates that among Fall 2025 applicants who did not enroll at MassBay, the majority (58%) did not enroll at any institution. An additional 15% enrolled at another institution during the fall semester.

Enrollment

Figure 2.8 shows an increase in the percentage of first-time, full-time degree- or certificate-seeking students receiving state, federal, or institutional aid, rising from 60% in academic year 2023–2024 to 85% in academic year 2024–2025. This increase reflects the implementation of free community college. In addition, the share of students receiving Pell Grants increased from 42% to 51% over the same period. At the same time, the percentage of students borrowing federal student loans continued to decline, also consistent with the impact of free community college.

Outcomes

Figure 4.4 demonstrates improved successful outcomes at the three-year mark for both full-time and part-time students. Associate degree completion increased to 27% for full-time students and to 13% for part-time students. The big jump in part-time and full-time students reflects the impact of the SUCCESS program, which is a separate line item in the state budget. Funding for this program has not increased (despite increases in enrollment), and the Massachusetts community colleges are lobbying to increase it.

It was noted that Figure 3.1 is the fall to spring retention rate, showing students who are enrolled or have completed their courses. Figure 3.2 is calculated the same way.

It was also noted that the reasons for students choosing other programs than MassBay's could be related to geography or acceptances at other colleges.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Capital Campaign Director Borg reported that the campaign team is busy planning two MassBay awareness events for strong prospects, one in May and one in June. Over 50 people are expected to attend both events, which will be hosted by two well-positioned campaign volunteers. The team is continuing to meet with prospective steering committee and advisory committee members and building networks in the cybersecurity, athletics, and health and wellness industries.

COMMUNICATIONS

Reports from Public Safety

Vice President Edward reported that the December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026, Clery and National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Reports show all zeros.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Trustee Choate moved to adjourn the meeting, and Trustee Williams seconded the motion.

The motion passed via the following roll call vote: Trustee Choate – YES; Trustee Hidalgo – YES; Trustee Kahn – YES; Trustee Lish - YES; Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES; Student Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Williams - YES

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 am.



4/14/26



4/14/26

David Podell, President
MassBay Community College

Date

Ilissa Povich, Chair
MassBay Board of Trustees

Date