

**Minutes of the MassBay Community College Board of Trustees Meeting – 8:00 am to 10:00 am  
Tuesday, May 26, 2026, by Webex**

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

Student Trustee Shah arrived at 8:05 pm.

**Staff Present:** Yvonne Anthony, Senior Director of Grants Development; Joe Bellino, Interim Police Chief; Liz Blumberg, Vice President for Student Development; Liz Borg, Special Assistant to the President and Capital Campaign Director; Karen Britton, Executive Director and Liaison to the Board, Office of the President; Colleen Coffey, Executive Director, Corporate Partnerships, Workforce Development, and Community Education; Lynne Davis, Dean of Health Sciences; Mishawn Davis-Eyene, Director of Apprenticeships; Marcus Edward, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Courtney Jackson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Nina Keery, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences; Henry Lopez, Director of End User Services; Mike Lyons, Chief Information Officer; Sue Maggioni, Assistant Provost; Lynne Moore, Chief Unity Officer; Adam Nelson, Assistant Dean of Athletics and Special Assistant to the President for Community Relations; Dan Pace, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources and Payroll; David Podell, President; David Protano, Dean of Automotive Technology and Dean of STEM; Lisa Slavin, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Jeremy Solomon, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Marketing, and Communications; Halye Sugarman, Dean of Business and Professional Studies; and 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.

**APRIL 14, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Trustee Williams moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2026, meeting, 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; Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – ABSTAINED; Trustee Williams - ABSTAINED

**EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

**Board Chair**

Chair Povich reported the following:

\*Trustee Silva’s term on the Board has technically expired, though she has generously agreed to continue serving until her successor is appointed by the Governor. Trustee Negreli has agreed to serve as the next Chair of the Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee, and since May 1 has been serving as that Committee Chair. She will chair the June committee meeting.

\*If any Trustees reach out directly to someone at the College, please copy Chair Povich and President Podell on the messages, as this will make it easier for them to be in the loop. Prior Board chairs have raised this issue, but the Board has had turnover, so it is helpful to raise this again.

\*As their report in the binder shows, there are many great things going on at the Foundation. The Foundation Board is again going to be participating in a bike ride in September to support food

scholarships at MassBay and would welcome additional members on their team. Any Trustee interested is encouraged to contact Michelle Biscotti.

## **President**

President Podell reported the following:

\*The renovation of the auditorium is almost complete. Accessible ramps have been added. The kitchen renovation is also almost complete. It has not been updated since the 1960s and will be much more modern. MassBay is working with a vendor regarding food.

\*Summer enrollment is up 9.2% in FTE and 16.2% in headcount. Growth is mainly due to continuing students.

\*The Wellesley Town Meeting regarding the housing issue took place on May 11. Three options were considered – A) Accept development with the conditions outlined by the Commonwealth, B) Enter into negotiations with the Commonwealth on additional conditions, and retain the option to litigate if necessary, and C) Do not negotiate and proceed to litigation against the Commonwealth. The non-binding vote favored B, which the Wellesley Select Board subsequently followed. The state will now work with the Town to learn its preferences in preparation for issuing an RFP for developers in July. MassBay is embarking on a Facilities Master Plan this summer and will likely be working with Natasha Espada of Studio Enée, an architecture and interior design firm. She worked with the College on the Health Sciences building and will be asking for input from all constituencies.

\*The College is at the end of the semester and academic year. This is a very busy and productive time as well as time for celebration, including the IMPACT Awards, Evening of Excellence, Health Sciences pinnings, and the Automotive celebration. Commencement is on Thursday of this week, with the largest number of students ever graduating. The speaker is Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, who has been a strong supporter of MassBay. Thanks were given to all involved.

## **Student Trustee**

Student Trustee Shah reported that MassBay had many events focused on student engagement, recognition, and wrapping up the semester, as follows:

\*Student Government (SGA) hosted multiple events, including a portable Hot Chocolate Bar on the Framingham campus, which received positive feedback from students and faculty, and was also brought to the Club Fair on the Wellesley campus. SGA also celebrated Mother's Day on the Wellesley and Framingham campuses. Students painted tote bags, made cards, used coloring sheets and stickers, received goodie bags, and participated in raffles. Students could leave notes for their mothers. This was especially meaningful on the Framingham campus, where many of the students are parents. Students appreciated having more engagement opportunities. There was a celebration of Health Science Appreciation Day, when students were given goodie bags with chocolate and a nice note. Another event was Club Bingo, where nine clubs submitted gift baskets, and students played Bingo to win them. There were pizza and drinks as well. It was a fun way to bring students and clubs together.

\*MassBay hosted Impact Awards Night, which recognized students for their leadership and involvement throughout the year. This year's event was more formal, and students were able to bring their families. MassBay also hosted the Evening of Excellence, which recognized students for academic achievement, honor society membership, external opportunities, and excellence in their fields. The STEM Expo was also held, where MassBay students and local high school students presented different STEM and technology projects.

\*The International Club hosted its final Lunch Hour of the semester, focused on Nepal. Students tried Nepali cuisine and learned about the culture. The International Club also had its final meeting, an outdoor

picnic with soccer, drinks, and international board games. The Games Club hosted its SmashBay tournament in the Wellness Center, and the Criminal Minds Club ended the semester with an escape room trip, escaping with ten minutes left.

## **PRELIMINARY ROSTER OF 2026 GRADUATES**

Vice President Jackson presented the preliminary roster of 2026 graduates and reported that 918 students are graduating this year.

**MOTION:** Trustee Choate moved to approve the preliminary roster of 2026 graduates, 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; Trustee Prado – YES; Student Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Williams - YES

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Committee Chair Kahn and President Podell turned the reports over to Vice President Edward.

#### **Finance Items**

Vice President Edward reported the following:

#### **\*FY2026 Budget vs. Actual Comparison Report**

The Budget vs. Actual report through the end of the third quarter shows a positive variance of approximately \$1.38 million. On the revenue side, there is a positive variance of \$899,000. The variance is due to revenues and expenses exceeding projections. Tuition and fees show a positive variance of \$277,000. An enrollment increase of 12% was projected, and MassBay is slightly above that. The yearly budget in non-credit course fees has been exceeded by \$159,000. Contracts, commissions and other revenue exceed the annual budget by \$173,000. On the expense side, there is a positive variance of \$476,000. Based on current trends, unfavorable variances in permanent staff and local fringe payment lines are projected, which will offset savings in other expense categories.

**MOTION:** Trustee Choate moved to approve the FY2026 Budget vs. Actual report, and Trustee Prado 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 Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Williams - YES

#### **\*Investments, Cash, & Student Receivables Summary Reports**

##### **Investments**

The investment balance as of the end of April was \$35.5 million. Investments gained 7% in April. The current investment balance is \$36.2 million, an increase of \$700,000, or 2.1%, in May.

## **Cash**

The cash balance as of the end of April was \$8.4 million, a decrease of \$2.1 million compared to the prior month. The current cash balance is \$7.4 million.

## **Student Accounts Receivable**

The receivable balance as of the end of April was \$5.9 million. Receivables increased by \$959,000 compared to the prior month.

### **\*Cash & Investment Position by Month**

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

### **\*Kitchen Renovation Updates**

As of the end of April, \$3.1 million had been spent. The new completion date is June 6. The project is well within budget.

## **Personnel Items**

### **\*Sabbatical Recommendation**

Vice President Jackson provided a report on sabbaticals, noting that faculty are eligible for sabbaticals every six years.

**MOTION:** Trustee Williams moved to approve the Recommendation of Professor Heather Knuth for Sabbatical, 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 Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Williams - YES

### **\*Tenure Recommendations**

Vice President Jackson reported on tenure. She had presented other candidates and the process at the April meeting and is presenting one additional request today.

**MOTION:** Trustee Choate moved to approve the Recommendation of Professor Adam Munroe for Tenure, and Trustee Hidalgo 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 Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Williams - YES

Associate Vice President Pace reported the following:

### **\*Personnel Actions Report**

There are two new employees, and four employees have transitioned into new roles.

## **\*Recruitment Report**

There are 11 open positions, four faculty and seven staff. The offers for Administrative Assistant for Business and Professional Studies and Senior Special Programs Coordinator are pending. No viable candidates have applied for Campus Police Officer or Emergency Medical Services (EMS) faculty. Several candidates have applied for the Chief of Police position.

## **STUDENT SUCCESS AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Negreli reported that the Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee met on April 21. The committee heard two faculty presentations related to recent sabbatical work and academic innovation. Professor Katie McGrath presented strategies to improve student access, engagement, and success in online literature and film courses, with a focus on making online learning more interactive, meaningful, and accessible for today's students. Discussion also included the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education and the importance of maintaining academic integrity while adapting to new technologies. Professor Kara Lucciola presented on cybercrime, cybersecurity education, cyber law, and the impact of artificial intelligence (AI). The committee reviewed MassBay's growing leadership in cybersecurity education, including workforce demand, cybersecurity grants, and the evolving need for AI and cyber-related curriculum development. The committee also discussed the broader impact of AI on higher education, workplace readiness, and student learning. There was a consensus around the importance of balancing innovation with critical thinking and academic integrity as the college continues developing institution-wide guidance around AI use.

Trustee Silva was recognized for her leadership as Chair of the committee.

## **PRESIDENTIAL EVALUATION**

Committee Chair Lish reported the Presidential Evaluation Committee has received President Podell's self-evaluation and updates on the strategic plan. The Committee is ready to review the survey results. A vote on President Podell's increase will take place at the September meeting. Trustee Emerita Schmalensee was acknowledged for all of her work on the survey. Chair Povich reported that she has read President Podell's self-evaluation. It is a very informative document about all that has been accomplished at the College.

## **SPECIAL REPORT**

### **Corporate Partnerships, Workforce Development & Community Education and Apprenticeship Pathways**

President Podell reported that community colleges pay attention to preparation for careers, with increasing focus on a model of apprenticeships to fill workforce gaps and also allow for advancement, which is good for both employers and employees. Two organizations, Accelerate the Future and the Smith Family Foundation, created a grant opportunity for community colleges to begin apprenticeship programs. MassBay was one of four colleges selected for the grant. Today's presenters have accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time, to the point of being asked to train others. He then introduced Colleen Coffey, Executive Director, Corporate Partnerships, Workforce Development, and Community Education, and Mishawn Davis-Eyene, Director of Apprenticeships, who presented on Corporate Partnerships, Workforce Development & Community Education and Apprenticeship Pathways (attached), including the following:

\*Introduction to Corporate Partnerships, Workforce Development, and Community Education: The 15 community colleges meet monthly.

\*Non-credit Enrollment: From 2023 to 2025, the number of students has increased 365%, up from 435 to 2021.

\*Non-credit Programming: There are eight non-credit programs. Examples are Automotive, Behavioral Health, IT, Business and Organization, and Green Energies HVAC. MassBay has the only English Language Learner (ELL) program that gives students a pathway to move into certificate programs.

\*Non-credit Funding: Sources of funding are from revenue including Business Contracts, Credit Card Swipes, and Sponsorships (checks) and Grants from Foundations and the Federal and State governments.

\*2023-2025 enrollment numbers for seven of the eight programs were provided, as were demographics on gender, citizenship, and race.

\*2023-2026 Enrollment, demographic, and household income data for the Behavioral Health Technology program were provided.

\*Apprenticeship Degree Pathway: Apprenticeships allow students to learn as they work. The pathways build access between non-credit and credit through articulation agreements and reverse articulation agreements ensuring access to education for all. We now offer apprenticeships in Behavioral Health (credit and non-credit) and Medical Assisting (non-credit), which includes 3000 hours of work and 150 hours of related technical instruction. The Behavioral Health Apprenticeship Certificate numbers for 2025 and 2026 were provided. There has been great success with the Behavioral Health programs. The Medical Assisting program is starting this summer.

\*Future growth consists of Apprenticeships, Pre-Apprenticeships, Deaconess, Martha's Vineyard Expansion, and SNAP Employment and Training

It was noted that these program are open to international students, depending on a student's circumstances, and pre-apprenticeships are open to all students. Other sponsors are welcome. Regarding Behavioral Health, classes are taken in the fall and spring semesters, and a practicum is completed in the summer. Time is spent in classroom and on the job, and mentoring is involved as well. Trustee Negreli will connect with MassBay on opportunities after the meeting. We have developed a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program in Martha's Vinyard, following Governor Healey's focus on low income areas. Trustee Lish suggested turning the presentation into one page document to share with employers and also connecting with Secretary Jones for visibility.

## **ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Vice President Slavin reported the following:

Summer Session begins today. MassBay is currently up 16.2% in FTE and up 9.2% in headcount compared to last year. Summer Session II begins on July 6, and continued enrollment activity throughout the coming weeks is expected. Fall enrollment is also off to an excellent start. Although it is still early in the cycle, fall enrollment is currently up 26% in FTE and up 28% in headcount compared to this time last year. Most of this early enrollment is from returning students, which reflects the hard work of the advising team in helping students prepare to register. New students are enrolling as they attend their Ready to Register sessions. Admissions applications for fall 2026 are comparable to last year at this time.

On May 2, MassBay hosted its annual Spring Open House in Wellesley. This event required much planning and coordination and represented a college-wide effort. A special thank-you was given to

