

REPORT OF MINUTES

BAY de NOC COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL BOARD (RETREAT) MEETING

Terrace Bay Board Room
Escanaba, MI 49829

April 28, 2025

- I Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 3:16 p.m. ET by Chair Nick Chenier.
- II Attendance** Members present: Terri Mileski, Joy Hopkins, Eric Lundin, Nick Chenier
- Wendy Middaugh arrived at 3:23 p.m.
Steve Soderman arrived at 3:28 p.m.
- Member absent: Ben Parmet
- Administration: President Dr. Nerita Hughes; VP of Finance & Operations and Assistant Board Treasurer Lynn Martinson; VP of Academic Affairs & Educational Equity Dr. Amy Reddinger; Faculty Dr. Renee Strom; Academic Affairs Manager Taylor Barron
- Recorder: Joy Hopkins, Board Secretary
- III Agenda** The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- IV Citizen & Comments** There were no citizen introductions or public comment.
- V Declaration of Interest** None
- VI Strategic Discussion** Dr. Hughes delivered the history of community colleges and trends in higher education as foundational information for discussion about the recent Executive Orders from President Trump.
- Dr. Hughes reviewed the College's goals and core outcomes. Discussion was held about persistence rates.

VII Accreditation

VP of Academic Affairs & Educational Equity Dr. Amy Reddinger, Instructor Dr. Renee Strom, and Academic Affairs Manager Taylor Barron entered the meeting at 4:15 p.m. They reviewed the accreditation process with the Higher Learning Commission, the benefits of attending the HLC Assessment Academy, and the Board's role.

Taylor Barron reviewed accreditation for individual academic programs and plans to ensure they align with the HLC accreditation.

VIII Legislative Updates & Impact

Dr. Hughes proposed revisions to language in the strategic plan that maintain fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment to all.

State appropriations are expected to increase 2.4% but the usual variables remain unknown at this time of the budget process.

Robust discussion was held on the effects of legislative concerns about dual enrollment and the nursing programs and opportunities to improve communication.

IX Budget FY26

VP of Finance and Operations Lynn Martinson joined the meeting at 4:38 p.m. She presented budget assumptions and three budget scenarios. Trustees discussed the scenarios and how the proposed tuition rate increases would impact student enrollment.

Discussion was also held about a proposal for a dual enrollment tuition rate and a five-year agreement.

X Economic Impact Report

Dr. Hughes shared the analysis of the economic impact and return on investment of education for Bay College conducted by Lightcast Professional Services. Trustees discussed the importance of sharing this information with stakeholders.

XI Conference ROI

Dr. Hughes discussed the value added and return on investment for attendance at local, state, and national

conferences. The importance of being in the room for discussions on ITEMS funding, uniform capital outlay, the Community College Guarantee, student success effort, dual enrollment, and access, and MI Reconnect extensions cannot be overstated.

XII Athletics

Future discussion will be held about additional opportunities to support Athletics once the Executive Director of the Foundation is on board. The position is yet to be filled.

XIII IM Renewal Millage

Dr. Hughes advised trustees of Administration's efforts to inform the Dickinson County voters about the College and the renewal millage question on the August 5, 2025, ballot presented by the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7 p.m. ET.