



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

March 9, 2026

The regular Board of Trustees meeting for Indian Hills Community College was held on March 9, 2026, in the Perkins Conference Room on the Main Campus, Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa, Iowa. Board President Mr. Richard J. Gaumer called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**Members present:** Mr. Kevin Crall, Mr. Richard J. Gaumer, Mr. Mike Matthes.

**Zoom/Phone:** Ms. Christine Estle, Ms. Katie Nichols, Mr. Riley Sheetz, Mr. Alan Wilson, and Ms. Lori Yates.

**Members absent:** Ms. Beth Danowsky.

**Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Mr. Crall and seconded by Ms. Nichols to approve the board agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 9, 2026, Regular Board meeting were reviewed.

**Motion**

It was moved by Mr. Matthes and seconded by Ms. Yates to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2026, Regular Board meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing on the Proposed Contract, Documents, (plans, specifications, form of contract, and estimated cost) for the Ottumwa Main Campus ATC and Upper Hellyer Parking Lot Project.**

Mr. Gaumer asked for a motion to open the public hearing on the Proposed Contract, Documents, (plans, specifications, form of contract, and estimated cost) for the Ottumwa Main Campus ATC and Upper Hellyer Parking Lot Project.

**Motion**

It was moved by Ms. Estle and seconded by Mr. Crall to open the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gaumer asked Ms. Shelle Harvey if she had received any written objections or protests on the proposed contract, documents, (plans, specifications, form of contract, and estimated cost) for the Ottumwa Main Campus ATC and Upper Hellyer Parking Lot Project. She stated "no." Mr. Gaumer asked if there were any oral objections or comments. There were no comments or discussion, so he asked for a motion and second to close the public hearing.

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**Motion**

It was moved by Mr. Crall and seconded by Ms. Nichols to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Matt Thompson reported that the engineers' estimate for the cost of the project was \$1,738,000.00. A total of seven (7) bids were received, and the low bid came from TK Concrete, Inc. at \$1,380,820.00.

Dr. Thompson's recommendation is to accept the low bid from TK Concrete, Inc. for \$1,380,820.00. The project will begin on May 23, 2026, if approved.

Mr. Gaumer asked for a motion and a second to accept the bid from TK Concrete, Inc. for \$1,380,820.00

**Motion**

It was moved by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Yates to accept the bid from TK Concrete, Inc. for the bid of \$1,380,820.00

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Richard J. Gaumer	Yes
Ms. Lori Yates	Yes
Mr. Alan Wilson	Yes
Ms. Katie Nichols	Yes
Mr. Kevin Crall	Yes
Mr. Mike Matthes	Yes
Ms. Christine Estle	Yes
Mr. Riley Sheetz	Yes

Members absent: Ms. Beth Danowsky.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Monthly Claims**

Board member Mr. Kevin Crall reviewed bills for the month of February on behalf of the board and reported that all questions were answered by appropriate staff members.

**Motion**

It was moved by Mr. Crall and seconded by Mr. Matthes to approve the monthly claims for February. The motion carried unanimously.

**FY26 Financial Report**

Ms. Taren Ferguson, Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, presented the Financial Report. **Revenue** was higher by \$1,530,519. **Tuition & Fees** were higher than the previous year due to increased course fees (\$103,000). **State Support** was higher by \$175,503 due to SGA. **Other Income** was down \$764,457 due to last year having the \$825,000 GAP pay transfer in the first quarter, and lower interest income (\$106,000) and less late charges due to the change in the NPP process (27,000).

**Expenses** were higher by \$1,122,631. **Salaries & Fringe** were up by \$675,406, which is higher than the projected 3% increase, but is due to absorbing health insurance premium costs. **Services** increased by \$345,406. This was mainly due to fees associated with a third party filing the ERC credit, but IHCC paid the auditing invoices in February compared to being paid in May last year (\$90,000). In addition, utility services increased (\$68,000), and an increase for Information Technology subscription renewals (\$120,000). **Supplies** increased \$220,141 due to testing supplies for nursing (\$70,000), increased need/cost of maintenance supplies

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(plumbing), and software/licenses increases for DualEnroll, Touchnet, and other subscriptions.

Fund 2 – Levy accounts are performing as anticipated. IHCC has a plan to spend down the equipment replacement levy, but a large piece of equipment will not be installed until late May or early June.

**Motion**

It was moved by Ms. Yates and seconded by Ms. Estle to approve the FY26 Financial Report. The motion carried unanimously.

**FY27 Certified Budget**

Ms. Taren Ferguson, Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, reported that the Certified Budget sets IHCC's spending authority for fiscal year 2027-2028. Board members received a memo for the FY2027 Certified Budget, Adopted Budget and Certification of Community College Taxes, Long Term Debt, Notice of Public Hearing Budget Estimate, and the Taxable Valuation Comparison.

Ms. Ferguson reported that this year's certified budget looks much different than the last several years. This is due to a significant increase in property valuations. With this increase, each penny we levy is worth more, resulting in a lower levy rate. Valuations have averaged a 3.097% increase the last three years compared to this year's increase of 7.2%. IHCC's will be asking for a spending authority of \$79,910,543 due to various larger projects including the ATC parking lot project, Administration roof, ERC projects, and the completion of the Student Wellness facility.

The total proposed levy rate has decreased \$0.12842 (9.9%), moving from \$1.28949 to \$1.16107.

Total proposed spending authority is \$79,910,543, compared to \$83.67 million the prior year. This money consists of the General Fund, Restricted Fund, and Plant Fund. Projects that could potentially be started in 2027 are Administration Roof, Bennett Remodel, and completing the ATC Parking Lot Project.

Property valuations have increased 7.20%, moving from \$7.678 billion to \$8.231 billion.

Ms. Ferguson asked for approval for the filing and publication of the certified budget and to establish a public hearing for April 13, 2026.

**Motion**

It was moved by Ms. Yates and seconded by Ms. Nichols to approve the filing and publication of the certified budget and establish a public hearing for April 13, 2026.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Richard J. Gaumer	Yes
Mr. Alan Wilson	Yes
Mr. Mike Matthes	Yes
Ms. Christine Estle	Yes
Ms. Katie Nichols	Yes
Mr. Riley Sheetz	Yes
Ms. Lori Yates	Yes
Mr. Kevin Crall	Yes

Members absent: Ms. Beth Danowsky.

The motion carried unanimously.

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### **Community Colleges for Iowa Report**

Mr. Kevin Crall presented the Community Colleges for Iowa report. Tuesday, March 3, 2026, was Day on the Hill and Dr. Thompson, Dr. Myers, Mr. Gaumer, and Mr. Crall attended the event. Mr. Crall stated that Dr. Thompson and Dr. Myers did a good job explaining the importance of community colleges and how important 260 programs are to communities.

On Wednesday, March 4, 2026, the Iowa House passed the community college bachelor's degree Bill 56-36. It was asked if startup funds were available for the bachelor's program and the answer is unclear.

Mr. Crall gave each board member a handout of the proposed integration of the Summer Trustees Conference and the Convention & Tradeshow. After a board discussion Mr. Crall reported that he would like to take a vote on the options in April because Community Colleges for Iowa would like a consensus.

Mr. Gaumer stated that Trustees need to think of ways they can help to increase enrollment. In April this will be a topic of discussion.

### **Personnel Report**

Mr. Zeke Flick, Director, Human Resources, presented the Personnel Report. He reported that IHCC has 364 full-time employees and the turnover rate is at 19.3%. He asked if there were any questions.

### **Motion**

It was moved by Ms. Nichols and seconded by Ms. Yates to approve the Personnel Report. The motion carried unanimously.

### **President of the College**

#### **A. Facilities Report**

Mr. Cory Lamb, Chief Operating Officer, presented the facilities report. He reported that the Student Wellness Center is on schedule and the contractors are making good progress.

The CNA lab is going well. The ceilings are in and walls are being painted. The flooring will be installed.

The Radiology lab project will begin in late March and as Ms. Ferguson reported there are a couple of pieces of equipment that will not be delivered until late May or early June, but there are renovations that need to be completed before the equipment is installed.

The Bennett Building remodel is in the early planning stages.

Ms. Yates asked if IHCC has bought the property attached to the college. Dr. Thompson reported that on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, he met with the Boy Scouts of Midwest Iowa. They agreed on everything and Mr. John Webber, attorney, is working on a purchase agreement.

#### **2026 Foundation Events**

Dr. Bianca Myers, Executive Dean, Advancement reported on 2026 Foundation Events.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Celebrity Night event will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, featuring Chad Greenway.

Friday, April 17, 2026, is the Centerville Baseball Reunion with the Alumni Reception being held from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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Saturday, April 18, 2026, is the Pat Daugherty Field ribbon cutting followed by a baseball double header. This event begins at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 30, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. is the retirement party for Ms. Brenda Jensen, Ms. Donna Keesling, Ms. Lori Reeves, Ms. Melissa Neher, and Ms. Mary Beth Breon.

Friday, May 22, 2026, is the Indian Hills Alumni Association at the Iowa Cubs game. The reception is from 6:08 p.m. – 7:08 p.m. and the first pitch is at 7:08 p.m.

Dr. Matt Thompson, President, asked Ms. Kelsi Weeks to tell the board what has been happening in the world of sports.

Ms. Weeks reported that the Men's and Women's Wrestling teams won the national championship this past weekend. Also, the basketball team beat Southeastern and were named region champions. There will be a basketball game on Saturday, March 13, 2026, for the NJCAA North Central District Championship and IHCC will host Dawson. This game begins at 7:00 p.m.

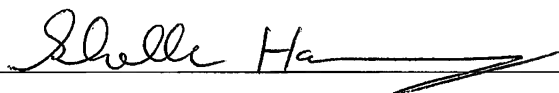
### **Adjournment**

Board member Ms. Yates moved that the meeting be adjourned. Hearing no objections, Mr. Gaumer adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.



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BOARD PRESIDENT



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BOARD SECRETARY