

APPROVED

MORAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE 9000 West College Parkway Palos Hills, IL 60465

The Governing Board of Moraine Valley Community College, District No. 524, Committee of the Whole Meeting was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, in Building D, Board Room D219, 9000 West College Parkway, Palos Hills, Illinois, 60465.

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Beth McElroy Kirkwood asked meeting attendees to rise and join her in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order by Chair Beth McElroy Kirkwood at 5:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Beth McElroy Kirkwood, Chair; Walter Fronczek; Eileen Kerlin Walsh; Patricia Joan Murphy (arrived at 5:06 p.m.); Jaclyn O'Day (arrived at 5:08 p.m.); Diane Shaar; Tracy M. Sullivan; Garrett Weigel, Student Trustee (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)

Absent: None.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

The Board discussed Board Policy 3100, Records Management. Trustee Sullivan asked how the college coordinates its document retention schedule. Kelly Grab, compliance officer, stated that the college has a retention schedule for documents approved by the local records commission. The schedule is published on the employee intranet, so employees know how long to keep records. She noted that the length of time a document is retained depends on its type and said some records are permanent.

The Board discussed Board Policy 3300, Community and Governmental Relations. Trustee Sullivan asked to clarify if the language in this policy allows individuals to address the Board during the audience participation portion of the Board meeting. Dr. Haney said individuals can either bring complaints to

the administration or sign in to participate in the audience during a Board meeting.

The Board discussed Board Policy 5100, Academic Calendar. Trustee Sullivan said she noticed text in this policy did not specifically state that the academic calendar would be posted on the college's website. She said she understands the calendar is essential and suggested that the policy state that it is posted on the college's main website. Trustee Fronczek asked if the winter session should also be included in the policy. Dr. Ryen Nagle, vice president of Academic Affairs, said we could consider adding a winter session, but it technically is part of the spring semester. Dr. Nagle noted that ICCB has many academic calendar rules, but they mainly apply to the fall and spring semesters.

The Board discussed Board Policy 5210, Programs of Study, Degrees, and Certificates. Trustee Sullivan noted that the policy's purpose statement discusses delegating administrative authority to the president and her staff to complete specific tasks. She asked for confirmation that the policy is not operational, but grants the president and their staff the authority to complete operations. Dr. Haney confirmed that the policies give the president and their staff the authority to conduct operations.

The Board discussed Board Policy 5300, Program Review. Trustee Sullivan asked whether program review is reported to the Board or is an operational item. Dr. Haney said program review is an operational item completed by the administration and submitted to ICCB. Trustee O'Day asked Dr. Haney to explain what the program review entails. Dr. Haney explained that the program review is conducted on a five-year cycle, during which the college reviews approximately 20-40 programs each year. Dr. Nagle said the review includes many qualitative and quantitative components, as well as significant data. Trustee O'Day asked if the college ever decides to tweak or sunset a program based on the program review. Dr. Haney said that does happen sometimes and that the college treats the program review as a quality assurance report, determining whether any changes may be needed.

The Board discussed Board Policy 5310, Assessment of Student Learning. Trustee O'Day asked if policy 5310 could be combined with 5300 or if there is a reason they are separated. Dr. Nagle said they are distinctly different processes. Dr. Cherie Meador, dean of Academic Services and Strategic Initiatives, said the assessment process is an internal college process, and we use a platform to collect those plans each year. She explained the program review process includes components and questions for assessment, but it is not

just assessment. Program review is a holistic look at a program's budget, capacity, enrollment, completion rates, and other aspects.

The Board discussed Board policy 5500, Library. Trustee O'Day asked whether the Library can share materials with other libraries and community colleges. Dr. Haney confirmed that the Library can share with other libraries. Trustee O'Day asked if that is addressed in the policy and if it should be included. Dr. Haney said it is not specifically addressed in the policy, but it is covered in the Library's policies.

The Board discussed Board Policy 2800, Policy and Bylaw Development. Trustee O'Day said she appreciated the opportunity to discuss this Board Policy again. She noted that at the last Committee of the Whole Meeting, she suggested creating a mechanism that would allow four Trustees to place an item on the agenda without the agreement of the Board Chair or president. She stated that Congress has similar mechanisms in place. She said she would like to propose the idea again for discussion and noted that she is flexible on the language. Trustee Shaar and Trustee Sullivan said they are in favor of considering the mechanism.

Vice Chair Murphy said she asked her colleagues at ICCTA and ACCT, who are experts and community college Trustees, and received feedback that community college Boards do not run like the federal government. She said she does not believe the mechanism would be healthy for the Board. Vice Chair Murphy noted that Trustees can already discuss adding potential agenda items. She said she conducted thorough research on the topic but ultimately prefers the way the Board currently functions

Chair McElroy Kirkwood asked whether there was a specific incident in which Trustees felt their suggestions were not being considered. Trustee O'Day said she asked several questions before the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 3, 2025, that were unanswered. Trustee Sullivan said she had similar experiences.

Trustee Fronczek said the discussion was not healthy and suggested sticking to the principle of what is being raised in the policy discussion. He asked if it would be possible to discuss proposed policy changes during the miscellaneous section of the meeting agenda. Trustee Sullivan stated that a Trustee would need to approach the college president and the Board Chair to request that an item be added to the agenda of a regular meeting. She said the Board would not

be able to vote on an item discussed during the miscellaneous section of the agenda unless the Board Chair added it as an action item before the meeting.

Leann Crow, college attorney, reminded the Board that the particular policy being discussed specifically related to Board policies. She said it does not apply to any general topic a Trustee would like added to the agenda. She said that if a Board member wants to discuss a policy or policy amendments, they could notify the Board Chair, and when appropriate, the Board Chair would notify the college president.

Trustee Kerlin Walsh asked Vice Chair Murphy to repeat what she learned from other Illinois community colleges and their processes. Vice Chair Murphy said she was informed that the mechanism under discussion is uncommon among other community college boards and that it could lead to issues. She said that was the feedback she received from ACCT, ICCTA, and seasoned community college trustees.

Trustee Kerlin Walsh asked Trustee O'Day whether she was concerned that the Chair would not listen to an idea or suggestion for personal reasons. She asked why she believes the Chair would not entertain a proposal that a Trustee wants to bring before the Board.

Trustee O'Day said there is a policy regarding overly burdensome requests and that reports can be denied by the college. She said there is currently no mechanism to force the college to provide that request or report. Trustee O'Day said this has come up because of personal experiences she has had, but that she did not want to go into detail.

Trustee Kerlin Walsh said the Board needs a concrete example of how a Trustee can be harmed by not having this mechanism in place. She said we need details; otherwise, we should trust the system that has been working for decades.

Trustee O'Day said she has asked the Chair many questions and for some information to prepare for an upcoming closed session, but she has not received an answer. Trustee Kerlin Walsh asked Trustee O'Day what questions she asked.

Trustee Fronczek noted that the examples being discussed were not related to Board policies. Attorney Crow reiterated that the policy under discussion does not cover questions about reports or additional information unless they are

policy-driven. She said it seems the ongoing discussion refers to a separate policy approved at the last Board meeting. She reiterated that Board Policy 2800 addresses how a Trustee can place a Board Policy on the agenda.

Trustee O'Day said she wants to ensure that there is a mechanism in place to enable Trustees to review and revise a policy. She said a policy that was changed one month ago can certainly be changed again three months later.

Trustee Sullivan said she believes that, as professional, confident elected officials, if an agenda item needed to be brought forward, they would find a way to do so. She said the policy states that Board members who wish to discuss policy or amendments shall notify the Board Chair and the college president. She noted that before the ongoing meeting, she sent an email to the Chair and the president outlining the policies she wanted to discuss. Trustee Sullivan said she felt like this portion of the policy was overreaching and noted that she wants to ensure the policy is consistent and clear. Trustee O'Day said she agreed that having to notify the Board Chair or president that you want to speak about a topic during an open meeting is an overreach. She said she supported those changes.

Trustee Sullivan noted that the policy lists the phrase "college policy manual," but the college always refers to it as a "Board policy manual." She asked whether there was a separate policy manual or whether the different names referred to the same manual. Kelly Grab confirmed that there are two names for the same manual. Trustee Sullivan suggested updating the policy to state "Board policy manual" to be consistent. Trustee Kerlin Walsh said the suggested change felt nitpicky because the Board is the college's Board. Trustee Sullivan said she did not believe the suggestion was nitpicky and noted that she wanted to confirm whether the policy referred to a separate manual and ensure there would not be confusion with the line.

Trustee O'Day asked how the Board, as a body engaged in policymaking, enables changes to move forward. Attorney Crow said she believes the Board went through that process leading up to this meeting. She said college administration initially reviewed and revised the policies, and a legal review was completed next. She said a packet containing the updated Board policies was sent to the Board on October 30 to allow time to review them. She noted that the Board is currently reviewing and discussing the policies, which will be placed on the agenda for approval at the regular Board meeting on December 18, 2025.

Trustee O'Day asked Attorney Crow whether the Committee of the Whole meetings affect policy changes. Attorney Crow said the Board has an opportunity to discuss the policies at the Committee of the Whole Meeting. Then, Trustees can vote on the policies during a regular meeting. Trustee O'Day asked to clarify whether the purpose of the meetings is not to make changes, but instead to discuss the policies before voting on them. Attorney Crow said yes, the Board is discussing any potential changes before the policies are brought up at the December meeting. Trustee O'Day asked why the Committee of the Whole meetings are necessary if they do not actually shape any of our policies.

Trustee Kerlin Walsh said she has been on this Board for the last couple of years. She said they have praised how wonderful this Board is and the long history of success of this college due to the Board. She said the Trustees have gone to conferences together across the country and have seen other colleges with unhealthy Boards and hidden agendas. She said he does not believe there is a hidden agenda on behalf of the Board Chair, the college president, or the Trustees. She said it feels like the third hour of everyone's time has been wasted. She asked Trustee O'Day whether there is a secret agenda she believes she is fighting against, and, if so, to let them know what it is. Trustee Kerlin Walsh said this may be just a personality conflict and that the Board cannot continue to waste the precious time of college employees. She said the discussion during the meeting is not what they were elected to do, not what the president, vice presidents, and union leaders are giving up their time to do. She said that if there was a policy the Board disagreed with and they could see how it would affect the students, then let's say what it is and why. Trustee Kerlin Walsh said she has not heard anything substantive, and if anything needs to be said, it should be said now.

Trustee O'Day said she believes the Board has an ineffective Board Chair. She said she has tried to address issues before meetings to maximize time, but she has been met with deaf ears. She said the Board is wasting people's time because issues are not being addressed behind closed doors, only to surface during open sessions. She said the Board is having this conversation because the Board Chair refused to have it behind closed doors. Trustee O'Day asked that her response be noted in the meeting record.

Trustee Sullivan said the Committee of the Whole is for Trustees to share their feedback on policies. She said she does not believe it is a waste of time. Trustee Kerlin Walsh said the Board has not progressed on Board Policy 2800 after three meetings. She said she has not heard any different arguments. Trustee

Sullivan clarified that this is the first read for the updates to articles 3 and 5, which will go to the December meeting for approval.

Chair McElroy Kirkwood said policy 2800 has been under discussion for about six or seven months. Chair McElroy Kirkwood said that Dr. Haney responds to all correspondence sent within 24-48 hours. She said Dr. Haney has a busy schedule as a college president, and demanding immediate answers to questions is not feasible. She said Dr. Haney is one of the top presidents in Illinois and has an excellent reputation. She said sending emails and demanding an immediate response is unacceptable and disrespectful to Dr. Haney. Chair McElroy Kirkwood said she has the emails if anyone wants to see them. She said the email Trustee O'Day is referring to was sent at 1 a.m. and had 16 different questions. Chair McElroy Kirkwood said that was unacceptable. She noted that Dr. Haney did respond to Trustee O'Day's email. Trustee O'Day said she did not receive answers to her questions. She said that in the future, Chair McElroy Kirkwood or President Haney can always call her.

Trustee O'Day said the Board is not progressing on the policy review because none of her questions about how the process works have been answered, as they are not laid out in policy. She said the Illinois law states that the Board writes policies, but according to Chair McElroy Kirkwood, the staff writes them, and the Board either can vote "yes" or "no" on them. Chair McElroy Kirkwood stated that Trustees do not write policies. Chair McElroy Kirkwood asked Dr. Haney, Attorney Crow, and Kelly Grab if Trustees write policies. They all stated that Trustees do not write Board policies. Trustee O'Day said they should go down to Springfield and have them change the wording in the law. Chair McElroy Kirkwood noted that Dr. Mary Spilde also stated that Trustees do not write policies during a previous Board retreat.

Trustee Sullivan asked if the intent is for the Board to take the policies before them to the December meeting for a vote. Chair McElroy Kirkwood said yes. Trustee Sullivan asked that the policies be sent to them along with the agenda. She said it is important to her that the Board work as a team to advance the college's mission and that she wants to make sure that is what they are doing.

Trustee Kerlin Walsh said the Board needs to focus on keeping the students at the center of their mind because the conversation that took place during the meeting is a long way from focusing on the students.

V. **TRUSTEE DISCUSSION**

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.