



Minutes of the April 22, 2025 Organizational Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535

An organizational meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 was held on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 in Room 1506 at the Des Plaines campus of Oakton College, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, Illinois.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Toussaint called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m. Trustee Bashiri-Remetio called the roll:

Trustee Marie Lynn Toussaint	Chair	Present
Trustee Martha Burns	Vice Chair	Present
Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Secretary	Present
Trustee Gail Bush		Present
Trustee Benjamin Salzberg		Absent
Trustee William Stafford		Present
Trustee Wendy Yanow		Present
Trustee Franklin Ocaña II	Student Trustee	Absent

Also present in room 1506 at the Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road: Dr. Joianne Smith, President; Chris AbiNader, Student; Steve Butera, Director of Communications and External Relations; Sean Comerford, Digital Media Specialist; Dr. Micah Eimer, Trustee Elect; Johanna Fine, Chief Human Resources Officer; Jake Jeremiah, Dean of Library; Dr. Ashley Knight, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Andrea Lehmacher, Director of Marketing; Ewa Lyczewska, Communications Manager; Michele Roberts, Vice President for Administrative Affairs; Katherine Sawyer, Chief Advancement Officer; Vinita Shah, Media Services Specialist; and Beatriz Sparks, Assistant to the Board of Trustees.

Pledge of Allegiance – Trustee Toussaint led the pledge.

Land Acknowledgment – Trustee Stafford read the Land Acknowledgment.

4/25-1 Resolution Declaring the Results of April 1, 2025 Consolidated General Election, Community College District 535, Office of Trustee

Trustee Toussaint offered:

“WHEREAS, on the 1st day of April 2025, there was held in and for Community College District 535, an election for the purpose of electing three trustees to serve on the Board for one six-year term each;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the county clerk to canvass the election results 21 days following the election;

WHEREAS, the election authority has delivered the official Abstracts of Votes to the local election official for Oakton Community College District 535;

WHEREAS, the Board must meet to declare the results of the election and hold their organizational meeting within the time period of between 21 and 28 days following the election and that the term of the new trustees must commence at the organizational meeting held within 28 days following the election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 535, COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS THAT:

1. The election held on the 1st day of April 2025 was held in all respects as provided by law; and the returns of the election have been duly canvassed by the Cook County Clerk’s office and filed with the Secretary of the Board.

- The Board finds that the following total votes were cast in Oakton Community College District 535 in favor of the following candidates:”

ABSTRACT OF VOTES

“Votes were cast in the non-partisan election held on April 1, 2025, in Cook County, Illinois, to elect three individuals to serve one six-year term each on the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535, and we do hereby proclaim the results of the election as follows:

- Three candidates named to serve two six-year terms received the number of votes ascribed opposite his name:

<u>NAME of CANDIDATE</u>	<u>NUMBER of VOTES</u>
Wendy B. Yanow	31,172
Micah J. Eimer	24,654
Rene Mandin	18,273
Michele Hays	17,079
Marie Lynn Toussaint	27,436
Cheryl Brown	21,661

- We do hereby further certify and proclaim that as a result of the election, Wendy B. Yanow, Micah J. Eimer, and Marie Lynn Toussaint were elected to serve a six-year term each on the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535, County of Cook and State of Illinois.”

Trustee Stafford seconded the motion. Trustee Bashiri-Remetio called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Martha Burns	Aye
Trustee Gail Bush	Aye
Trustee William Stafford	Aye
Trustee Marie Lynn Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Wendy Yanow	Aye

Student Trustee Ocaña favored the resolution.

Trustee Burns administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Eimer, Ms. Toussaint, and Dr. Yanow.

Trustee Toussaint made a motion to adjourn *sine die*, seconded by Trustee Yanow. A voice vote was called and the motion passed unanimously. Trustee Eimer, Trustee Toussaint and Trustee Yanow took their seats at the dais.

Roll Call

Chair Toussaint asked Trustee Bashiri-Remetio to call the roll:

Trustee Toussaint	Chair	Present
Trustee Burns	Vice Chair	Present
Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Secretary	Present
Trustee Eimer		Present
Trustee Salzberg		Absent
Trustee Stafford		Present
Trustee Yanow		Present
Trustee Ocaña	Student Trustee	Present

4/25-2 Recommendation for Seating of Student Member of the Board of Trustees

Trustee Toussaint offered:

SECTION 1: An election for the Student Member of the Board of Trustees was held March 24-31, 2025. The election was conducted in all respects as provided by law and according to Policy 1005. The election was conducted online, using the Simply Voting software purchased by the Student Government Association. Currently enrolled students were provided a ballot via email and Simply Voting provided a secure method to permit students to vote from their computer or mobile device; 138 students cast ballots in the election.

The returns of the election have been duly canvassed by the Judges of Election. The student meets all qualifications for Trustees as specified in Policy 1004.

SECTION 2: The Board of Trustees declares that Chris AbiNader received 95 votes (77.9%) for the office of Student Member of the Board of Trustees. His opponent Akash Patel receiving 27 (22.1%) with 16 (11.6%) abstaining votes cast, thereby declaring Chris AbiNader the successful candidate to serve as the Student Trustee with a term commencing on April 22, 2025 and concluding at the Board of Trustees meeting in April 2026.

SECTION 3: This resolution shall be effective from and after its passage as provided by law.”

Trustee Stafford seconded the motion. Trustee Bashiri-Remetio called the roll.

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Eimer	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion passed.

Trustee Stafford made a motion to adjourn *sine die*, seconded by Trustee Yanow. A voice vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously. Student Trustee Chris AbiNader took a seat at the dais.

Roll Call

Chair Toussaint asked Trustee Bashiri-Remetio to call the roll:

Trustee Toussaint	Chair	Present
Trustee Burns	Vice Chair	Present
Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Secretary	Present
Trustee Eimer		Present
Trustee Salzberg		Absent
Trustee Stafford		Present
Trustee Yanow		Present
Trustee AbiNader	Student Trustee	Present

4/25-3 Resolution Organizing the Board of Trustees for the Term Commencing April 22, 2025

Trustee Toussaint offered:

“WHEREAS, pursuant to College policy and in accordance with the Illinois Public Community College Act, as amended (110 ILCS 805/3-8), the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 elects its officers comprise of a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, from its membership, and appoints a Treasurer, not a member of the Board, at its annual organizational meeting held in April.”

Nomination of Officers:

Chair Toussaint asked for nominations.

Trustee Toussaint nominated Trustee Burns for Chair; Trustee Yanow seconded the nomination. The Chair asked for a roll call to vote in favor of accepting the nomination of Trustee Burns as the Chair of the Board. Trustee Bashiri-Remetio made the roll call, which passed unanimously.

Trustee Stafford nominated Trustee Bashiri-Remetio for Vice Chair; Trustee Toussaint seconded the nomination. The Chair asked for a roll call to vote in favor of accepting the nomination of Trustee Bashiri-Remetio as the Vice Chair of the Board. Trustee Bashiri-Remetio made the roll call, which passed unanimously.

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio nominated Trustee Stafford for Secretary; Trustee Burns seconded the nomination. The Chair asked for a roll call to vote in favor of accepting the nomination of Trustee

Stafford as Secretary of the Board. Trustee Bashiri-Remetio called the roll, which passed unanimously.

Trustee Toussaint continued:

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 535, COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS THAT:

1. The Board is hereby organized for the term commencing April 22, 2025.
2. The time and place for regular meetings of the Board for the calendar year 2026 shall be fixed as follows:

January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 26, June 30, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15.

Beginning at 6 p.m., in the Boardroom (1506) at Oakton College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, Illinois (unless otherwise indicated).
3. Proper notice and agenda will be posted as required by law.
4. All Board rules, policies, and procedures in effect during the previous year shall remain in effect.
5. Ms. Michele Roberts is hereby appointed Treasurer to serve at the pleasure of the Board for no additional compensation, provided that before entering upon his duties, the Treasurer shall execute and deliver to the Board a bond, as required by the Illinois Public Community College Act.”

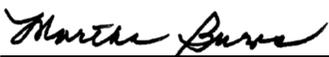
Trustee Stafford seconded the motion. Trustee Bashiri-Remetio made the roll call:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Eimer	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

Motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

Adjournment

The Board will go into Executive Session, and begin the regular meeting at 6 p.m. Trustee Burns made the motion, seconded by Trustee Yanow. A voice vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



 Martha Burns, Chair



 William Stafford, Secretary

Minutes recorded by:
Beatriz Sparks
4/2025