

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Minutes of Tuesday, February 3, 2026
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Public Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bergen Community College was held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, in the Technology Building Conference Rooms B and C at Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, New Jersey. Chairperson Dorothy Blakeslee called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m., and the following announcement was made:

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey has been satisfied by an annual notice, including the date, time, and place of this meeting posted in the first-floor main lobby of the Pitkin Education Center of Bergen Community College, e-mailed and published in The Record and The Herald News on December 19, 2025 and filed with the Clerk of the County of Bergen on January 2, 2026.

ROLL CALL

Present

Ms. Dorothy Blakeslee
Mr. Louis DeLisio – participated by phone.
Ms. Michele Dilorgi – arrived at 5:05 p.m.
Mr. Damon Englese– participated by phone.
Mr. Patrick Fletcher
Mr. Howard Haughton
Mr. Mark Longo
Ms. Ana Marti
Dr. Sheetal Ranjan – participated by phone.
Mr. Adam Silverstein

Absent

Ms. Ritzy Moralez-Diaz
Ms. Ourania Rahman, Alumni Trustee

Also Present

Dr. Eric M. Friedman
Mr. Joseph M. DeCotiis, III, Esq., DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole, and Giblin, L.L.P.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Blakeslee led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Black History Month

The annual Black History Month celebration kicked off with an inspiring keynote from Reverend Dr. Lester W. Taylor Jr. of Community Baptist Church of Englewood. Dr. Taylor reflected on the 100-year legacy of Black History Month, first established in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. President Friedman encouraged faculty, staff, and students to take advantage of the many events and activities planned by the Black History Month Committee to mark this annual celebration.

Tough Month of Weather

Dr. Friedman thanked our campus's essential workers for their efforts in navigating an incredibly difficult month of weather. Thank you to the College's public safety, buildings and grounds, and facilities crews who have helped clear snow, salt walkways, and keep our campus safe through a very cold and snowy winter. President Friedman appreciates your contributions and acknowledges your work. He also thanked the County's snow removal team for the extra attention they have been giving our property.

Camera Installation

As the College continues to prioritize and enhance campus safety, the installation of a comprehensive security camera upgrade is underway at the main campus. This project will be conducted in phases, with the Pitkin Education Center work currently underway. Once completed, these new interior cameras will provide the Office of Public Safety with greater visibility and assistance in keeping the very large campus community safe.

Sustainability

President Friedman met with Professors Dan Sheehan and Robert Dill to discuss the reinvigorated sustainability committee.

ACCT/NLS

President Friedman will travel to Washington, along with Board Chairperson Dorothy Blakeslee and Trustee Ana Marti, to participate in the ACCT National Legislative Summit. Each year, Dr. Friedman prioritizes attending this important advocacy event for community colleges. We will have the opportunity to meet with federal elected officials and tell students' stories of being supported and transformed by community college. Events such as this one play a critical role in ensuring Bergen has a voice in legislation that will impact our institution. President Friedman looks forward to addressing key issues, including how the suspension of some grants has negatively affected the College and how the accessibility of Pell grants for workforce and technical education programs can have a positive impact.

Civitas

A very important item on the agenda represents a significant evolutionary step in the utilization of data analytics to serve our students. The board considers for approval the onboarding of the Civitas Learning platform, a digital student service support engine that leverages institutional data, student performance, and artificial intelligence to enhance decision-making. Using predictive analytics, customized dashboards, and institutional modeling, the platform will provide our advisers, counselors, and student support staff with better information and the ability to perform specified interventions that help students remain enrolled and on a path toward completion.

Dr. Friedman is incredibly excited about the platform's potential to help make real progress on these goals.

Commencement

Dr. Friedman was pleased to announce that Commencement 2026 will take place on Friday, May 15, at 10 a.m. at the Prudential Center in Newark. This year's FIFA World Cup at MetLife Stadium necessitated a one-year relocation to an alternate venue. Additional details will come in the coming weeks and months.

Middle States Poster Competition

President Friedman received a special commendation from Heather Perfetti, MSCHE's President, which applauded the College students' participation in the December poster competition at the organization's annual conference. Dr. Friedman was so proud to see the students stand side by side with their peers from some of the best universities in the Northeast. Their research represents a wonderful testament to their aptitude, the dedication of their faculty mentors, and the education they have received at Bergen.

Presentation

President Friedman introduced Dean Emily Vandalovsky, Dean of the Math, Science, and Technology department.

Dean Vandalovsky reported that the Bergen Community College STEM Robotics Team participated in the MCCC VEX-U Push Back Annual Tournament, a VEX-U Qualifier, hosted by Monroe County Community College in Michigan on January 10, 2026. The team competed against several university and international teams across multiple matches and advanced to the quarter finals by the end of the day. Throughout the event, team members connected with students from institutions such as Ohio State University, the University of Michigan, and Tennessee Technology, as well as international teams from Quebec, Canada. At the conclusion of the competition, the Bergen Community College STEM Robotics Team was honored with the Judges' Award. See attached presentation slides.

Dean Vandalovsky introduced the VEX Robotics Team:

Professor Yolanda Sheppard

Students:

Alejandro Olarte -- team leader

Tianamarie Allen

Daniel Jakob

Tyler Rydell

Preston Pearce

Ben Turner

Student, Alejandro Olarte, presented the VEX-U Qualifier award to President Friedman.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT, FINANCE, AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Trustee Fletcher, Chairperson of the Audit, Finance, and Legal Affairs Committee, informed the board members that the Audit, Finance, and Legal Affairs Committee met on January 21, 2026, and will submit resolutions A/F1 through A/F10 for board approval.

On February 3, 2026, Trustee Fletcher attended the Black History Month event and acknowledged Dr. Tomko's meaningful speech.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

No report was given.

PERSONNEL

On behalf of Trustee Morales-Diaz, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, Trustee Englese informed the board that the Personnel Committee met on January 22, 2026, and will be submitting resolutions P1 to P13 for board approval.

SITE AND FACILITIES

Trustee Longo, Chairperson of the Site and Facilities Committee, reported that the Site and Facilities Committee met on January 23, 2026, and will submit resolutions S/F1 through S/F3 for board approval.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ISSUES

No report was given.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

Chairwoman Blakeslee shared a story about a Bergen alumnus. She spoke about how important the STEM program is not only for that individual but also for Bergen Community College.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/BOARD MEMBERS

Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to open the Unfinished Business portion of the meeting.

No board members came forward.

Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to close the Unfinished Business portion of the meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Haughton and seconded by Trustee Longo. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS/BOARD MEMBERS

Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to open the New Business portion of the meeting.

No board members came forward.

Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to close the New Business portion of the meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Fletcher and seconded by Trustee Haughton. All were in favor.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to open to the Public. A motion was made by Trustee Haughton and seconded by Trustee Dilorgi. All were in favor.

No members of the public came forward.

Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to close the public portion of this meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Silverstein and seconded by Trustee Haughton. All were in favor.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2026, board meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Haughton and seconded by Trustee Marti.

Roll Call Vote for approval of the board meeting minutes dated January 6, 2026.

Ms. Dorothy Blakeslee - Yes
Mr. Louis DeLisio – Yes
Ms. Michele Dilorgi - Yes
Mr. Damon Englese – Yes
Mr. Patrick Fletcher - Yes
Mr. Howard Haughton - Yes
Mr. Mark Longo – Yes
Ms. Ana Marti - Yes
Ms. Ritzy Morales-Diaz – Absent
Dr. Sheetal Ranjan – Yes
Mr. Adam Silverstein – Abstained
Ms. Ourania Rahman – Absent

9 Yes, 1 Abstention, and 2 Absences

The motion to approve the board meeting minutes for January 6, 2026, was passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for Tuesday, January 6, 2026. A motion was made by Trustee Haughton and seconded by Trustee Marti. Motion passed for the Consent Agenda.

A/F1 to A/F10
P1 to P13
S/F1 to S/F3

No Resolutions were submitted for Strategic Planning, Issues, and Education and Student Affairs.

Roll Call Vote for approval of the Consent Agenda dated February 3, 2026

Ms. Dorothy Blakeslee - Yes
Mr. Louis DeLisio – Yes
Ms. Michele Dilorgi - Yes
Mr. Damon Englese – Yes
Mr. Patrick Fletcher - Yes
Mr. Howard Haughton - Yes
Mr. Mark Longo – Recused himself on A/F1 and voted yes to all other resolutions.
Ms. Ana Marti - Yes
Ms. Ritzy Morales-Diaz – Absent
Dr. Sheetal Ranjan – Yes
Mr. Adam Silverstein – Recused himself on S/F2 and voted yes to all other resolutions.
Ms. Ourania Rahman - Absent

A/F1 – 9 Yes votes, 1 Recusal, and 2 Absent.

A/F2 to A/F10 – 10 Yes votes and 2 Absent.

P1 to P13 – 10 Yes votes and 2 Absent.

S/F1 and S/F3 – 10 Yes votes and 2 Absent.

S/F2 - 9 Yes votes, 1 Recusal, and 2 Absent.

An executive session meeting was not held.

Approved resolutions:

A/F1 - Approval of Legal Vouchers – DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP.

Approval is hereby granted for payment of the following legal vouchers:

DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin. LLP.

December 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, \$ 36,365.86

A/F2 - To authorize the College to enter into a new one-year agreement for Cisco Flex Enterprise with Aspire Technology Partners LLC.

Approval is hereby granted to enter into a one-year maintenance and support agreement for Cisco Flex Enterprise voice and collaboration services with Aspire Technology Partners LLC through the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA 01-0169) from March 3, 2026, through March 2, 2027, in the amount of \$109,534.90.

A/F3 - To authorize execution of a lease agreement with Devils Arena Entertainment LLC to secure a venue for the College's 2026 commencement ceremony.

Approval is hereby granted to execute a lease agreement with Devils Arena Entertainment LLC for an estimated cost of \$87,500.00 to secure a hosting site for the College's 2026 commencement ceremony to be held on May 15, 2026.

A/F4 - To authorize the purchase of Student Impact Platform with Civitas Learning.

Approval is hereby granted to enter into a three-year agreement from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2029, with Civitas Learning to utilize their Student Impact Platform at a cost of \$78,000 for year one, \$120,000 for year two, and \$120,000 for year 3.

A/F5 - To authorize an amendment to the Division of Continuing Education contract with JK Deluxe for up to \$50,000 in additional Advanced Manufacturing instruction, supplementing the amount previously approved by the Board of Trustees on October 7, 2025.

Approval is hereby granted to amend the existing contract with JK Deluxe for an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the delivery of two (2) additional cohorts of training courses in advanced manufacturing and automation for Bergen Community College.

A/F6 - To authorize Bergen Community College to contract with Entrinsik for 40 months to utilize Enrole, an enrollment management system, to manage and administer continuing education programs.

Approval is hereby granted to enter into a 40-month agreement from July 1, 2026, through October 16, 2029 with Entrinsik for the purchase and implementation of Enrole, an enrollment management system.

A/F7 - To authorize the College to contract with Cenero (a Ricoh Company) through the NASPO Cooperative Agreement to upgrade the audiovisual technology at the Lyndhurst Conference Center

Approval is hereby granted to contract with Cenero through the NASPO cooperative agreement to upgrade the audiovisual technology at the Lyndhurst Conference Center for an estimated amount of \$155,238.

A/F8 - To authorize Bergen Community College to act as the “lead agency” for the NJ County College Joint Purchasing Consortium to renew a three-year agreement with ReadSpeaker for text to speech software licenses on behalf of the participating community colleges.

Approval is hereby granted to Bergen Community College to act as the “lead agency” for the NJ County College Joint Purchasing Consortium to renew a three-year agreement with ReadSpeaker for text to speech software licenses on behalf of the participating community colleges.

A/F9 - To authorize renewal of the agreement between Bergen Community College and Ready Education to continue providing services via the Bergen Community College App and Campus Groups platforms.

Approval is hereby granted to renew the agreement between Bergen Community College and Ready Education for a one-year term (February 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026) in the amount of \$59,736.00.

A/F10 - To authorize continuation of the College’s cyber, privacy, and security liability insurance coverage through Chubb/ACE American Insurance.

Approval is hereby granted for the renewal of the College’s cyber, privacy, and security liability insurance coverage for one year from March 3, 2026, through March 3, 2027, with Chubb/ACE American Insurance through the Otterstedt Insurance Agency at a cost of \$87,746.78.

P1 - To approve the specified personnel separations.

Approval is hereby granted to accept the separation of the following individuals:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Position/Department/Division/Unit</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
1.	Rashaad Milow	Rescind Appointment (board resolution P5, January 6, 2026)	Custodian/Facilities/Support	01/12/2026 (retroactive)
2.	Carmine Salerno	Retirement	Senior Custodian/Facilities/Support	03/01/2026

P2 - To approve the appointment of the specified Professional personnel.

Approval is hereby granted to approve the appointment of the following individual to the vacant position and annual salary indicated below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Division</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Salary (pro-rated)</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Yanara Burgos	Financial Aid Specialist/Student Affairs	Professional	\$56,470.32	02/16/2026

P3 - To approve the appointments of the specified Support personnel.

Approval is hereby granted for the appointment of the following individuals to the vacant positions and annual salaries indicated below:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Division</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Salary (pro-rated)</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
1.	Mia Nebab-Perez	Administrative Assistant, Bergen for Business/ Continuing Education and Workforce Development	Support	\$42,000.00	03/16/2026
2.	Besjana Adili	Public Safety Officer/ Safety and Security	Support	\$42,500.00	03/16/2026
3.	Jose Rivera	Public Safety Officer/ Safety and Security	Support	\$42,500.00	02/16/2026

P4 - To approve the title change and job description for the specified vacant position.

Approval is hereby granted to approve the title change on the organizational chart for the vacant position listed:

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Department/Division</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	Coordinator / TFT (Temporary Full-Time)	Continuing Education and Workforce Development	Title Change and Job Description

P5 - To approve the appointment of the specified temporary full-time (TFT) personnel.

Approval is hereby granted for the following individuals for the temporary full-time positions and annual salaries indicated below:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Division</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Salary (pro-rated)</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
1.	Roberto Diaz	Coordinator TFT/ Continuing Education and Workforce Development	N/A	\$58,500.00	02/16/2026 – 09/30/2026
2.	Nallivy Osorio	New Jersey Licensed Athletic Trainer TFT/ Student Affairs	N/A	\$58,000.00	02/16/2026 – 05/30/2026

P6 - To approve the appointments of the specified Lecturers for the Spring 2026 Semester.

Approval is hereby granted for the appointment of the following individuals as Lecturers for the Spring 2026 semester at the salary indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Discipline/Division</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Bryanna Astor	Library/Academic Affairs	\$24,234.76
Margarita Lavidés	Biology/Science, Mathematics and Technology	\$24,234.76
Douglas Platt	Mathematics/Science, Mathematics and Technology	\$24,234.76
Shaimaa Sabry	Chemistry/Science, Mathematics and Technology	\$24,234.76

P7 - To rescind the appointment of the specified Lecturer for the Spring 2026 semester.

Approval is hereby granted to rescind the appointment of the following individual as a Lecturer for the Spring 2026 semester:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Discipline/Division</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Drew Onat	Chemistry/Science, Mathematics and Technology	\$24,234.76

P8 - Reappointment Faculty – Fifth Reappointment (with tenure)

Approval is hereby granted to reappoint the following individuals for their fifth year with tenure to the indicated division & rank for the period September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 unless otherwise noted.

Fifth Reappointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Discipline/Division</u>
Diana Constantino Academic Affairs	Assistant Professor	Nursing/Health Professions

P9 - To approve stipends for Nursing Clinical Faculty for the Spring 2026 semester

Approval is hereby granted to approve payment of stipends for the following individuals in the Nursing Clinical Faculty in the amounts indicated for the Spring 2026 semester.

Spring 2026

<u>Name</u> <u>Adjuncts</u>	<u>Semester stipend amount</u>
Brian Garcia **(N)	\$1,718.93
Sherry-Ann Munroe*	\$1,718.93 (additional clinical group 1st rotation)
Kristina Rioux **	\$1,718.93 (new assignment 2nd rotation)
Chun Chung (Jack) Tse (N)	\$1,718.93

* for additional ½ semester clinical

** for ½ semester clinical only

(N) New adjunct clinical faculty

P10- To authorize designer fee stipends to college personnel providing services for the Bergen Community College theatre productions for Spring, 2026.

Approval is hereby granted for designer fee stipends to the following individuals for their work on the Spring, 2026 Bergenstages productions of The Drawer Boy and Hair.

THE DRAWER BOY – October 15, 2025 – March 7, 2026

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Designer Fee Stipend</u>
Graham Frye	Production Designer	\$ 1,900.00
Miru Kim	Lighting Designer	\$ 1,200.00
Stephen Schwartz	Sound Designer	\$ 900.00

HAIR – November 20, 2025 – April 11, 2026

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Designer Fee Stipend</u>
Eireann Ingersoll	Production Designer	\$ 2,050.00
Miru Kim	Lighting Designer	\$ 1,200.00
Dean Mattson	Sound Designer	\$ 900.00
Soraya Marone	Costume Designer	\$ 1,350.00
Jessica Abrams	Musical Director/Pit Musician	\$ 3,800.00
John LaBarbera	Pit Musician	\$ 1,300.00

P11- To authorize stipends to college personnel providing services for film scoring presentations for Sound for Visual Media classes on December 1, 2025 and December 3, 2025 and audio supervision for the musical production Bergen Rocks! At Debonair Music Hall, December 10, 2025.

Approval is hereby granted for stipends to the following individuals for their work on: *Sound for Visual Media* film scoring presentations, December 1, 2025 and December 3, 2025 *Bergen Rocks!* December 10, 2025, Debonair Music Hall, Teaneck, NJ

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
John La Barbera	Film Scoring Workshop Presenter	\$300
Nicholas Gonzalez	Video Supervisor, Bergen Rocks!	\$500

P12- Approve Sabbatical Leave of Absence

Approval is hereby granted for the following Sabbatical Leave of Absence with pay for the period indicated be granted to the faculty members listed below, subject to financial allocations from the State of New Jersey and Bergen County, as indicated in the 2026-2027 proposed College budget:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Period</u>
Joan Dalrymple	Full Professor	Library	Fall 2026

Purpose

To facilitate completion of a doctoral dissertation in Educational Leadership from Rowan University. The fall 2026 semester will be used to finish writing and revising the dissertation .

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Period</u>
David Wang	Associate Professor	Computer Science, Engineering & Information Technology	Fall 2026

Purpose

To research the latest theories on Artificial Intelligence development and their implications for integrating and developing AI into current and future coursework and curricula at the College .

P13- To approve Leave of Absence

Approval is hereby granted to approve the Leave of Absence, without pay, for the following individual from the position listed below, effective dates as indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Division/Bargaining Unit</u>	<u>Effective Dates (retroactive)</u>
1. Alexander Radayev	Business Systems Analyst/ Information Technology/Professional	12/01/2025 – 02/22/2026

S/F1- To authorize the award of Public Bid P-2418 Library Wing Roof Replacement to Mak Group LLC.

Approval is hereby granted to award Public Bid P-2418 Library Wing Roof Replacement to Mak Group LLC in the amount of \$1,367,336.00, which includes the Base bid, \$130,000 allowance, and Alternates 1 for the replacement of sloped insulated skylights.

S/F2- To authorize a professional services contract with RSC Architects to prepare plans and specifications for the renovation and expansion of the College’s existing culinary facilities in the Pitkin Education Center at the Paramus Campus.

Approval is hereby granted to contract with RSC Architects for an estimated amount of \$394,00.00, including direct costs, for the preparation of plans and specifications for the renovation and expansion of the existing culinary facilities in the Pitkin Education Center at the Paramus Campus.

S/F3- To authorize a Shared Service Agreement between the College and the County of Bergen for two seasons of snow and ice removal from October 1, 2025 to April 30, 2027.

Approval is hereby granted to enter into a Shared Service Agreement between the College and the County of Bergen for snow and ice removal services for the two winter seasons from October 1, 2025, to April 30, 2027, at an amount not to exceed \$350,000.

ADJOURNMENT

As no further business was brought before the Board of Trustees, Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to adjourn the board meeting.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Silverstein and seconded by Trustee Longo. All trustees were in favor.

The board meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Thank you,

Trustee Dorothy Blakeslee, Chairperson, Board of Trustees
Bergen Community College