

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Minutes of Tuesday, March 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, March 3, 2026, in the Conference Rooms C504 and C505, 1280 Wall Street West, Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071. Chairperson Dorothy Blakeslee called the meeting to order at 5:07 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.

Ms. Arlene Q. Perez, Esq., administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Dorothy Blakeslee and Ms. Ana Marti.

ROLL CALL

Present

Ms. Dorothy Blakeslee
Mr. Louis DeLisio – participated by phone.
Ms. Michele Dilorgi
Mr. Patrick Fletcher
Mr. Howard Haughton
Ms. Ana Marti
Dr. Sheetal Ranjan – participated by phone.

Absent

Ms. Ritzy Morales-Diaz
Mr. Damon Englese
Mr. Mark Longo
Mr. Adam Silverstein
Ms. Ourania Rahman, Alumni Trustee

Also Present

Dr. Eric M. Friedman
Ms. Arlene Q. Perez, Esq., DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole, and Giblin, L.L.P.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Blakeslee led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2026

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Meadowlands

Dr. Friedman congratulated Trustee Blakeslee and Trustee Marti on their reappointment to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Friedman acknowledged the wonderful Lyndhurst Campus and highlighted its transformation. He noted that the campus has evolved into a workforce center that offers students the opportunity to engage in experiential learning that prepares them for in-demand jobs. The College continues to reimagine the conference center and expand on-site hospitality services. President Friedman recognized the dedicated faculty and staff who represent the Lyndhurst location with pride.

Weather, Redux

Last month, Dr. Friedman referenced the "cold, snowy winter" that taxed the dedicated essential workers at Bergen. President Friedman thanked Public Safety, buildings and grounds, and facilities for, once again, weathering the storm to clear the snow, salt the walkways, and keep the College safe.

President Friedman also thanked our county partners for their rapid response in helping the College clear snow from campus parking lots, roads, and sidewalks.

Enrollment

Spring enrollment will finish above last year in headcount. The College is actively enrolling for the short-term spring III semester, which begins March 16. The College has begun preparations to launch registration for the summer and fall semesters on April 1. Please remind students that they receive the best selection of classes the earlier they register.

Book Club Conversations

The launch of the first episode of a new recurring podcast series, "Book Club Conversations that features Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, Andrew Tomko, and President Friedman discussing "The City and Its Uncertain Walls," a novel by Haruki Murakami. Dr. Friedman and Dr. Tomko had a 45-minute conversation in the College's recently renovated digital broadcasting laboratory. The session provided a chance to take a deep dive into a work of literature. Dr. Friedman looks forward to using this new digital technology for future podcasts.

Gilder Lehrman Exhibition

In March, BCC acquired the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's traveling exhibition "Who Can Vote?: A Brief History of Voting Rights in the United States" and installed it in the main campus student center. The Institute plays an important role in providing educational support for more than 36,000 schools nationwide. Once this exhibition closes, we will partner next month for another – this time on immigration. Please take a moment to enjoy the Gilder Lehrman exhibition.

Pizza with the President

On February 26, 2026, President Friedman hosted the recurring "Pizza with the President" meeting and lunch with students. Dr. Friedman appreciated the opportunity to chat with the students. The students inspired him with their commentary and questions.

Heritage Celebrations

As the College closed the annual Black History Month celebration with a banquet on Friday, February 27, 2026, they opened the Women's History Month series of events on March 2, 2026.
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2026

Dr. Friedman would like to thank County Executive Tedesco and Board Chair Blakeslee for offering remarks at both events. This year's Women's History Month celebration highlights women as change agents – specifically in sustainability.

Art Student

Congratulations to student Rhys Pollock, who received the "International Prize – Universal Genius: Tribute to Leonardo da Vinci" award from the National Museum of Science and Technology in Milan, Italy. Pollock's award-winning mixed-media piece draws inspiration from the Japanese television series "Kamen Rider Zetz" in a reimagination of its main character.

US-UK Students

Dr. Friedman wished the BCC students and staff traveling to England this weekend a bon voyage as part of the US-UK Partnership Exchange. The students will be traveling to Southport College to meet and visit with their UK student partners as part of this sustainability and green pathways program.

Moment of Silence

It is with great sadness that President Friedman offered his deepest condolences in memory of Office of Specialized Services staff member Tiana Vega, who tragically passed away. Her unborn child, Asani, passed away two days prior. This is truly a devastating loss for our community, deeply affecting our entire Bergen Family. President Friedman requested a moment of silence in honor of Tiana and Asani.

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 February 17, 2026, and submitted resolutions A/F1 through A/F4 for board approval.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

On behalf of Trustee DeLisio, Chairperson of the Education and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Marti informed the board that the Education and Student Affairs Committee met on February 19, 2026, and submitted resolutions ESA1-ESA3 for board approval.

PERSONNEL

On behalf of Trustee Morales-Diaz, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, Trustee DeLisio informed the board that the Personnel Committee met on February 19, 2026, and submitted resolutions P1 to P12 for board approval.

SITE AND FACILITIES

On behalf of Trustee Longo, Chairperson of the Site and Facilities Committee, Trustee Marti reported that the Site and Facilities Committee met on February 20, 2026, and submitted

resolution S/F1 for board approval.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

Chairwoman Blakeslee attended the events regarding the closing of Black History Month and Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2026

the opening of Women's History Month. She shared how wonderful the celebrations were and emphasized the sense of community it brings.

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 Marti. 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 Haughton and seconded by Trustee Marti. All were in favor.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 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 February 3,

2026. Ms. Dorothy Blakeslee - Yes

Mr. Louis DeLisio – Yes

Ms. Michele Dilorgi - Yes

Mr. Damon Englese – Absent
Mr. Patrick Fletcher - Yes
Mr. Howard Haughton - Yes
Mr. Mark Longo – Absent
Ms. Ana Marti - Yes
Ms. Ritzy Morales-Diaz – Absent
Dr. Sheetal Ranjan – Yes
Mr. Adam Silverstein – Absent
Ms. Ourania Rahman – Absent
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2026

7 Yes and 5 Absences

The motion to approve the board meeting minutes for February 3, 2026, was passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for Tuesday, March 3, 2026. A motion was made by Trustee Ranjan and seconded by Trustee Haughton. Motion passed for the Consent Agenda.

A/F1 to A/F4
ESA1 to ESA3
P1 to P12
S/F1

No Resolutions were submitted for Strategic Planning.

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

2026 Ms. Dorothy Blakeslee - Yes
Mr. Louis DeLisio – Yes
Ms. Michele Dilorgi - Yes
Mr. Damon Englese – Absent
Mr. Patrick Fletcher - Yes
Mr. Howard Haughton - Yes
Mr. Mark Longo – Absent
Ms. Ana Marti - Yes
Ms. Ritzy Morales-Diaz – Absent
Dr. Sheetal Ranjan – Yes
Mr. Adam Silverstein – Absent
Ms. Ourania Rahman - Absent

7 Yes and 5 Absent

A/F1 to A/F4
ESA1 to ESA3
P1 to P12
S/F1

An executive session meeting was not held.

Approved resolutions:

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2026

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.

January 1, 2026, to January 31, 2026, \$ 21,270.05

A/F2 - To authorize the purchase of miscellaneous computer hardware, peripherals, software, and data communications products from state contract vendors through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Approval is hereby granted to purchase lifecycle replacement equipment and products for day-to day operational needs, at an estimated amount of \$200,000.00.

A/F3 - To authorize the College to enter into an agreement with Follett Higher Education Group, Inc. for the management and operation of the college bookstore for (3) years, and authorize Dr. Eric M. Friedman, President, or his designee, to execute the required documents.

Approval is hereby granted to enter into an agreement with Follett Higher Education Group for three (3) years for the management and operation of the College's bookstore for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028.

A/F4 - To authorize the College's 2026 funding request to the County of Bergen for Chapter 12 capital appropriation.

Approval is hereby granted by the Board of Trustees to submit a Chapter 12 funding request to the County of Bergen for the College's 2026 allocation of \$6,039,920.

E/SA1- To authorize submission of a grant application to the United States Department of State for its Online Professional English Network (OPEN) Program, and to authorize Dr. Eric M. Friedman, President, or his designee, to execute the required documents.

Approval is hereby granted to submit a grant application to the United States Department of State for its Online Professional English Network (OPEN) Program, for a performance period of 6 months and a maximum award of \$55,000 for project development and \$18,000 for project

implementation, and to authorize Dr. Eric M. Friedman, President, or his designee, to execute the required documents.

E/SA2- To authorize the College to accept a \$16,400 grant award from the New Jersey Community College Consortium (NJCCC) for the New Jersey Food Fund Essential Service initiative and to authorize Dr. Eric M. Friedman, President, or his designee, to execute the required documents.

Approval is hereby granted to accept a \$16,400 grant award from the **New Jersey Community College Consortium** for the **New Jersey Food Fund's Essential Service** initiative, and to authorize Dr. Eric M. Friedman, President, or his designee, to execute the required documents.

E/SA3- To accept an award of \$232,500 from the New Jersey Community College Consortium (NJCCC) for NJ Pathways projects, and to authorize Dr. Eric M. Friedman,

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2026

President, or his designee, to execute the required documents.

Approval is hereby granted to accept a **\$232,500** grant award from the **New Jersey Community College Consortium** for participation in Year 4/FY26 of the **New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities** initiative, and to authorize Dr. Eric M. Friedman, President, or his designee, to execute the required documents.

P1 - To approve the specified personnel separations.

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

Name Reason Position/Department/Division/Unit Effective Date

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Mani Memari Resignation Instructional Designer/ Coordinator/Event Planning/External Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning/Academic Affairs/ Professional | Affairs/Professional
02/16/2026 (retroactive) |
| 2. Luz Castillo Resignation Secretary/Business and Social Sciences/Academic Affairs/ Support | 02/25/2026 (retroactive) |
| 3. Jimmy Joy Resignation Public Safety Officer/Safety and Security/Support | 02/26/2026 (retroactive)
03/01/2026 (retroactive) |
| 4. Denise Avrutik Retirement Associate Professor/Dental Hygiene/ Health Professions/Academic Affairs/Faculty | 07/01/2026 |
| 5. Thomas O'Neill Retirement Senior Technical Appointment (board resolution P3, Safety and Security/Support February 3, 2026) | 02/10/2026 (retroactive) |
| 6. Jose Rivera Rescind Public Safety Officer/ | |

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 Salary (pro-rated)</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
	Continuing Education and Workforce Development	Professional \$57,500.00	03/16/2026

1. Stephanie Lee Registration Coordinator/

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:

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2026

Effective Date

Name **Position/Division** **Unit Salary (pro-rated)**

1. Richard Henriquez Custodian/Facilities Support \$42,500.00 03/16/2026 2. Ahmed Ragb

Custodian/Facilities Support \$42,500.00 03/16/2026

P4 - To approve the appointment of the specified Grant-funded 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 Salary (pro-rated)</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
	Technician/Arts and Humanities/ Academic Affairs	Grant \$48,500.00	03/16/2026

1. Aynur Arslan Fashion Lab and Makerspace

P5 - To approve the reappointment of Faculty Third and Fourth Reappointment Approval is hereby granted to reappoint the following individuals for their third reappointment to **Third Reappointment**

the indicated division and rank for the period September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027: **Name Rank Discipline/Department/Division** Tiffany Cuello Siegel Instructor OB/PEDS/ Nursing/

Health Professions

Tyrone DeLeon Instructor Radiography/Health Professions

George Liluashvili Assistant Professor Cyber Security/Information Technology Mathematics, Science

and Technology Sharon Mancini Assistant Professor Mental Health Nursing/ Health Professions
Elizabeth Terhune Associate Instructor Mental Health/Medical Office Assistant Health
Professions

the indicated division and rank for the period September 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027:

Approval is hereby granted to reappoint the following individuals for their fourth reappointment to

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2026

Fourth Reappointment

Name Rank Discipline/Department/Division Marites Alconis Assistant Professor Medical
Surgical Nursing/ Health Professions

Jorge Cardenas Assistant Professor Physical Sciences/Chemistry Mathematics, Science and
Technology

Joana Constantino Assistant Professor Medical Surgical Nursing/ Health
Professions

Victor Conversano Assistant Professor Criminal Justice/
Criminal Justice and Legal Studies/
Business and Social Sciences

Goran Dojcinoski Assistant Professor College Level Mathematics/Mathematics Mathematics,
Science and Technology

Jake Dynes Assistant Professor Developmental Mathematics/Mathematics Mathematics, Science
and Technology

Irene Erazo Assistant Professor Respiratory/Health Professions Jessica Gorham Associate
Instructor Diagnostic Medical Sonography/ Health Professions

Jaehyum Julie Lee-Hong Assistant Professor Psychology/Social Sciences/ Business, and
Social Sciences

Nicole Humphreys Assistant Professor Veterinary Technology/Health Professions Leonard Allen
Smith Assistant Professor Business/ Business and Social Sciences

P6 - To approve the title change for the specified vacant positions.

Approval is hereby granted for the title changes on the organizational chart for the vacant
positions listed:

Title Action Unit 1. Cataloging Assistant Title Change and Job Description Support

2. Senior Library Assistant Title Change Support **P7 - To approve the promotion of**

the specified Confidential personnel.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2026

Approval is hereby granted for the promotion of the following individual to the position and annual salary indicated below:

Name Position/Division Unit Salary
(prorated)
Effective Date

Marketing/External
Affairs
Confidential \$115,000.00 03/16/2026

1. Kristy Italiano Senior Director of

P8 - To approve the promotion of the specified Professional personnel. Approval is hereby granted for the promotion of the following individual to the position and annual salary indicated below:

Name Position/Division Unit Salary
(prorated)
Effective Date

Success Systems
Analyst/Student Affairs
Professional \$68,387.13 03/16/2026

1. Gabriela Kosek Enrollment and Student

P9 - To approve the salary increase of Confidential Personnel.

Approval is hereby granted for a three point four five percent (3.45%) increase to the base salaries of all confidential personnel for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

P10- To approve a monthly stipend

Approval is hereby granted for a monthly stipend for the following individuals for assuming additional responsibilities:

Name Position/Division Unit
Amount Effective Date (retroactive)

Monthly
Confidential \$1,200.00 01/16/2026

1. Sarah Riker Associate Director of Human Resources/Human Resources

Confidential \$750.00 02/16/2026

2. Reginald Grant Senior Payroll Generalist/
Human Resources

P11- To authorize stipends to college personnel providing services for the Bergen

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2026

Community College musical production of *Hair*.

Approval is hereby granted for stipends to the following individuals for their work on the Bergenstages production of *Hair* in the Anna Maria Ciccone Theatre.

HAIR – November 20, 2025 – April 11, 2026

Name Position Stipend

Rod Shepard Pit Musician/Bass \$1,300.00

P12- Confer Professor Emeritus Status

Approval is hereby granted by the Board of Trustees confer Professor Emeritus status to the following individual:

Name Discipline/Department

Dr. Sarah Markgraf Communications/Humanities

S/F1- To authorize entering into a Shared Service Agreement between Bergen Community College (the "College") and the County of Bergen (the "County") for landscaping services.

Approval is hereby granted to enter into a Shared Service Agreement between Bergen Community College and the County of Bergen for landscaping services in the amount of \$469,200.00 from March 12, 2026, to March 11, 2028.

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 Trustee Haughton and seconded by Trustee Ranjan. All trustees were in favor.

The board meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Thank you,

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