DRAFT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Minutes of Tuesday, May 5, 2026
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Public Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bergen Community College was held on Tuesday, May 5, 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 5:00 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
Ms. Michele DiIorgi
Mr. Patrick Fletcher
Mr. Howard Haughton
Mr. Mark Longo – participated by phone.
Ms. Ana Marti
Ms. Ritzy Moralez-Diaz
Dr. Sheetal Ranjan – arrived at 5:06 p.m. due to a previous appointment.

Absent
Mr. Damon Englese
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.

SECRETARY'S REPORT
No report from Secretary Moralez-Diaz.

TREASURER'S REPORT
No report from Treasurer Fletcher.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Bereavement
Dr. Friedman acknowledges the passing of Margaret “Maggie” McCarthy, who worked as an office assistant and so much more at Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands. Maggie began her career at Bergen in 2014. When visiting the Meadowlands location, you were sure to meet Maggie - she was often seated at the welcome desk, offering assistance to all who entered the building.

Dr. Friedman requested a moment of silence in her honor.

Awards Season
As the semester comes to an end, Bergen rolls out the violet carpet to celebrate the achievements of the graduates. With pinning ceremonies, recognition events, and special activities, this is truly “awards season” at Bergen. Dr. Friedman loves speaking at these events and having the opportunity to meet with so many Bergen students.

President Friedman thanked Chair Blakeslee, Trustees Fletcher, Marti, and others for their dedication. Their presence matters to our students.

Commencement
The most prominent date on Bergen's awards season calendar is Commencement 2026, held on Friday, May 15, at 10 a.m., at the Prudential Center.

Dr. Friedman is looking forward to welcoming District 38 Assemblywoman Lisa Swain as the keynote speaker.

At commencement, valedictorian Alexie Kotfisz will share her story about the transformational power of a Bergen education. Dr. Friedman reported that Alexie will transfer to Ramapo University this fall as a STEM Scholar, which will provide her with a full-tuition scholarship.

Enrollment
Enrollment for summer and fall has begun in earnest, with only two weeks until the first slate of summer classes begins on Monday, May 18. Although it is early in the cycle, there is positive growth in both the summer and fall semesters. Please encourage students to enroll early so they have their choice of class sections.

Financial Aid Service
Dr. Friedman welcomed Financial Aid Services (F.A.S.) back to campus as they continue to strengthen the financial aid operations and prepare for an institutional audit of our processes and procedures this fall. This partnership with F.A.S. provides targeted audit readiness support, including file review, quality control, and compliance oversight, helping to ensure our processes are accurate, efficient, and fully aligned with federal and state requirements. Dr. Friedman is fully supportive of Director of Financial Aid, Ebony Williams, and her team as they work in the spirit of “continuous improvement”.

Model United Nations
Congratulations to the Model United Nations Club for earning two major awards at last month’s National Model U.N. Conference in New York City.

Out of 5,000 students from more than 130 countries, Bergen Model U.N. President Hind Fettachi was awarded the “Outstanding Delegate” award. She was the only community college student from New Jersey to win the award. She also led Bergen’s team to the “Outstanding Delegation” award at the conference.

Dr. Friedman congratulated the team and thanked the Bergen Community College Foundation for providing major financial support for the students!

Innovate100
At the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center, Dean of Mathematics, Science, and Technology Dr. Emily Vandalovsky and Dr. Friedman were honored by the Innovation Plus organization and the NJBIA as part of their “Innovate100” celebration. The event recognized the state’s top one hundred innovators in sectors such as education, life sciences, and government for 2026. As innovation represented a cornerstone of our strategic efforts to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Chennelle Brown
Phi Theta Kappa student Chennelle Brown was selected as a 2026 World Impact Scholar and will receive a $2,500 scholarship in recognition of her academic achievements and commitment to service in the community.

Chennelle participated in the Southpole Foundation’s “Home Delivered Meals” initiative with Korean Community Services of New Jersey, a Tenafly-based organization, to address the critical needs of Korean-American senior citizens.

PTK volunteers and Chennelle helped pack and deliver meals to Korean senior citizens living in Bergen County. Her work was in response to research showing the community has high levels of social isolation and loneliness.

Thank you, Chennelle, for practicing what Dr. Friedman refers to as an “ethic of care.”

Budget
Bergen had its budget hearing before the County Commissioners and is grateful for the increase in funding and for the ongoing collaboration with the County Government.

Silverstein
President Friedman thanked Vice Chairman Adam Silverstein for his <u>seven</u> years of dedicated service to our Board of Trustees. As he departs the Board, Dr. Friedman recognized Adam’s wise counsel and guidance on many critical and sensitive issues at the College. Dr. Friedman has appreciated his willingness to help navigate difficult situations and serve as a trusted adviser. On behalf of the entire Board, Dr. Friedman thanks Adam and wishes him all the best in his endeavors.

President Friedman welcomed Ebony Williams, Director of Financial Aid, and her team to speak before the Board. Dr. AJ Trump introduced the Financial Aid team and spoke on their incredible work. Then, Ebony discussed their dedication and personally introduced each team member.

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 April 20, 2026, and submitted resolutions A/F1 through A/F11 for board approval.

Trustee Fletcher highlighted Dr. Friedman's comment about having the Board of School Estimate meeting and the importance of the County's support.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
No report was given.

PERSONNEL
Trustee Moralez-Diaz informed the board that the Personnel Committee met on April 20, 2026 and submitted resolutions P1 to P11 for board approval.

SITE AND FACILITIES
Trustee Longo, Chairperson of the Site and Facilities Committee, reported that the Site and Facilities Committee met on April 16, 2026, and submitted resolution SF1 for board approval.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ISSUES
No report was given.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT
Chairwoman Blakeslee reflected on the various ceremonies that happen this time of year and the honor it is to watch students celebrate their accomplishments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/BOARD MEMBERS
Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to open the Unfinished Business portion of the meeting.

Trustee Fletcher emphasized the Board's appreciation for the work of Adam Silverstein.

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

The Student Government Association presented its year-end report. The following members spoke:

Liam Setti, SGA President
Jang Mok, SGA Treasurer
Maliha Syed, Chief Justice
Valery Camero Ochoa, Executive Secretary

SGA reflected on the projects, events, and initiatives from the past school year, which were very successful.

Current SGA President, Liam Setti, thanked Dr. Friedman and the Board of Trustees for their support.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES
Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2026, board meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Haughton and seconded by Trustee Ranjan.

Roll Call Vote for approval of the board meeting minutes dated April 7, 2026.
Ms. Dorothy Blakeslee - Yes
Mr. Louis DeLisio – Yes
Ms. Michele DiIorgi - Yes
Mr. Damon Englese – Absent
Mr. Patrick Fletcher - Yes
Mr. Howard Haughton - Yes
Mr. Mark Longo – Yes
Ms. Ana Marti - Yes
Ms. Ritzy Moralez-Diaz – Yes
Dr. Sheetal Ranjan – Yes
Ms. Ourania Rahman – Absent

9 Yes and 2 Absences
The motion to approve the board meeting minutes for April 7, 2026, was passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairwoman Blakeslee requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for Tuesday, May 5, 2026. A motion was made by Trustee Haughton and seconded by Trustee DeLisio. Motion passed for the Consent Agenda.

A/F1 to A/F11
P1 to P11
SF1

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

Roll Call Vote for approval of the Consent Agenda dated May 5, 2026

Ms. Dorothy Blakeslee - Yes
Mr. Louis DeLisio – Yes
Ms. Michele DiIorgi - Yes
Mr. Damon Englese – Absent
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 Moralez-Diaz – Yes
Dr. Sheetal Ranjan – Yes
Ms. Ourania Rahman - Absent

9 Yes and 1 Absent

A/F2 to A/F11
P1 to P11
SF1

8 Yes, 1 Recusal, and 1 Absent

A/F1

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.

March 1, 2026, to March 31, 2026, $ 23,247.00

A/F2 - To authorize the annual renewal of the licensing for the College's ManageEngine ServiceDesk Plus and DataSecurity Plus systems through Zoho Corporation.
Approval is hereby granted to renew the licensing for the College's ManageEngine ServiceDesk Plus and DataSecurity Plus systems for a one-year term (June 3, 2026, through June 2, 2027) through Zoho Corporation, at a cost of $38,399.

A/F3 - To authorize the renewal of the College's virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO) services for one year through CyberSecOp.
Approval is hereby granted to renew the College's virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO) services through CyberSecOp for a one-year term (June 26, 2026, through June 25, 2027), at a cost of $91,375 on Naspo ValuePoint Cooperative Master Blanket Purchase Order # 19-COMP-00601 (Master Agreement # AR2472).

A/F4 - To authorize the annual renewal of the College's Microsoft Campus agreement for volume licensing of various Microsoft software through SHI International Corporation.
Approval is hereby granted to to renew the College's annual Microsoft Campus Licensing agreement for a one-year term (June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027), through SHI International Corporation on EdgeMarket Cooperative Contract 269EMCPS-19-001 for Microsoft Licensing at a cost of $185,500.38.

A/F5 - To authorize the Division of Continuing Education to contract with BSM Consultants LLC to Provide STEM Enrichment Programs for Children in Fiscal Year 2027.
Approval is hereby granted to contract with BSM Consultants LLC to provide up to twenty (20) STEM enrichment courses for children on campus in Fiscal Year 2027 for an estimated amount of $50,000.

A/F6 - To authorize the Division of Continuing Education to contract with Mad Science Programs for Kids to provide STEM Enrichment Programs for Children in Fiscal Year 2027
Approval is hereby granted to contract with Mad Science Programs for Kids to provide up to ten (10) STEM enrichment courses for children on in Fiscal Year 2027 for an estimated amount of $80,000.

A/F7 - To authorize the Division of Continuing Education to contract with Super Science Programs for Kids to Provide STEM Enrichment Programs for children for Fiscal Year 2027.
Approval is hereby granted to contract with Super Science Programs for Kids to provide up to thirty (30) STEM enrichment courses in Fiscal Year 2027 for children on campus at an estimated cost of $70,000.

A/F8 - To authorize the Division of Continuing Education to contract with Black Rocket Productions to Provide Digital Arts and Enrichment Programs for Children in Fiscal Year 2027.
Approval is hereby granted to contract with Black Rocket Productions for an estimated amount of $150,000 to provide up to forty-eight (48) digital arts and enrichment courses for children on campus in Fiscal Year 2027.

A/F9- To authorize the Division of Continuing Education to contract with JK Deluxe to deliver Advanced Manufacturing instruction for Fiscal Year 2027.
Approval is hereby granted to contract with JK Deluxe to deliver four (4) cohorts of training courses in advanced manufacturing and automation to adult students in Fiscal Year 2027 on Bergen's campus for an estimated amount of $90,000.00.

A/F10 - To authorize payment to the County of Bergen for Property Insurance Coverage, Excess Workers' Compensation Coverage, Liability Claim Fund, Workers' Compensation Fund, Educator's Legal Liability, and Third-Party Claim Administration Fee related to the College's participation in the Bergen County Insurance Fund.
Approval is hereby granted for payment to the County of Bergen for Property Insurance Coverage; Excess Workers' Compensation Coverage; Liability Claim Fund; Workers' Compensation Fund; Educator's Legal Liability insurances for the coverage period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at an estimated cost of $1,225,225.

A/F11 - To approve the new per credit tuition and fee schedule with a 4.5% increment for fiscal year 2027 (July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027).
Approval is hereby granted for the new tuition and fee schedule of rates for fiscal year 2027.

Category	Current Rate (Per Credit)	New Rate (Per Credit)
Tuition-in-County	$162.15	$169.45
Out-of-County	$333.05	$348.05
Out-of-State	$350.35	$366.10
Registration Fee	$16.80	$17.55
Technology Fee	$15.75	$16.45
Security Fee	$2.20	$2.30
General Fee	$29.30	$30.60

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.	Victor Castronova	Retirement	Coordinator, Printing and Copying Services/Purchasing and Services/ Professional	08/01/2026
2.	Michael Hyjeck	Termination	Managing Director, Physical Plant and Grounds/Facilities/Confidential	04/06/2026 (retroactive)
3.	Steve Fischer	Retirement	Professor/Academic Affairs/Faculty	07/01/2026
4.	Kathleen Pignatelli	Retirement	Professor/Academic Affairs/Faculty	07/01/2026

P2 - To approve the appointments of the specified Support personnel.
Approval is hereby granted the appointment of the following individuals to the vacant position and annual salaries indicated below:

	Name	Position/Division	Unit	Salary (pro-rated)	Effective Date
1.	Jennifer Kerr	Cataloging Assistant/Library/ Academic Affairs	Support	$48,000.00	05/18/2026
2.	Christine Locarno	Senior Library Assistant/Library Academic Affairs	Support	$45,000.00	05/18/2026
3.	Joan Kalisch	Secretary/Office of Specialized Services/Academic Affairs	Support	$42,500.00	06/01/2026
4.	Mario Mata	Public Safety Officer/ Safety and Security	Support	$42,500.00	05/18/2026
5.	Mark Sawyer, Jr.	Public Safety Officer/ Safety and Security	Support	$42,500.00	05/18/2026

P3 - To approve the reappointment of the specified Technical/Professional Assistants personnel.

Approval is hereby granted for the following individuals be reappointed to the positions indicated for the academic year, commencing July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027 (One-year contract):

Name	Title	Discipline/Division
Laura Baron	Technical Assistant I	STEM Tutorial Supervisor/Cerullo Learning Assistance Center
Melissa Flores	Professional Assistant	Transfer Evaluator/Enrollment Services
Tia Garrison	Technical Assistant III	Hotel, Restaurant Management/Business and Social Sciences
Yumi Pak	Technical Assistant II	Library Services/Academic Affairs
Lynette Quinones	Professional Assistant	Nursing/Health Professions

Approval is hereby granted to the following individuals be reappointed to the positions indicated for the academic year, commencing July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028 (Two-year contract):

Name	Title	Discipline/Division
Cliff Cargill	Technical Assistant I	Physical Sciences/Science, Math and Technology
Christopher Cioppa	Professional Assistant	Wellness and Exercise Science/Health Professions
Barbara DeStefano	Technical Assistant I	Biology and Horticulture/Science, Math and Technology
John Findura	Professional Assistant	Writing Tutorial Supervisor/Cerullo Learning Assistance Center
Michele Kenyon	Technical Assistant I	Dental Hygiene/Health Professions
Mary Ann Kho	Professional Assistant	Media Technology/Information Technology
Peter Kolankowski	Professional Assistant	Media Technology/Information Technology
Juan Leon	Technical Assistant II	Visual Arts/Arts and Humanities
Mike Martinez	Professional Assistant	Enrollment Services/Student Affairs
Robert Papp	Professional Assistant	Media Technology/Information Technology
Sharon Sawey	Professional Assistant	Biology and Horticulture/Science, Math and Technology
Madhvi Shah	Professional Assistant	Mathematics Tutorial Supervisor/Cerullo Learning Assistance Center
Yolanda Sheppard	Professional Assistant	Library Services/Academic Affairs
Sherry Wilson	Professional Assistant	Hotel Restaurant Management/Business and Social Sciences

P4 - To approve the promotion of the specified Faculty personnel.
Approval is hereby granted to the individuals listed below be promoted effective September 1, 2026, to the ranks indicated in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Trustees and the BCCFA.

Full Professor

Name	**Department-Division/Discipline**
Lisa Mayer	Business and Social Sciences/Criminal Justice/Legal Studies
Tomira Rozar	Health Professions/ Dental Hygiene

Associate Professor

Name	**Department-Division/Discipline**
Daniel Salerno	Humanities/English/Composition and Literature
Leah Carmona	Humanities/English/ESL
Joanne Piccininni	Health Professions/Paramedic Science
John Bandman	Business and Social Sciences/ Hotel & Restaurant Management

P5 - To approve the promotion of specified personnel.
Approval is hereby granted for the promotion of the following individuals to the position and annual salaries indicated below:

	Name	**Position/Division**	**Unit**	**Salary (prorated)**	**Effective Date**
1.	Jennifer Nicodemo	Assistant Vice President, Capital Projects/Facilities	Executive	$135,000.00	05/06/2026
2.	Joanna Camino	Senior Financial Aid Specialist/ Student Affairs	Professional	$63,557.78	06/01/2026

P6 - To approve the title change for the specified vacant position.
Approval is hereby granted for the title change on the organizational chart for the vacant positions listed:

	Title	**Action**	**Unit**
1.	Associate Director of Financial Aid	Title Change	Confidential

P7 - To approve adding the vacant positions to the organizational chart.
Approval is hereby granted for the following vacant positions to be added to the College's organizational chart:

	Title	Department/Division	Unit
1.	Assistant Vice President of Capital Projects	Facilities Planning and Operations/Facilities	Executive
2.	Mental Health Support Specialist	Student Support Services/ Student Affairs	Professional
3.	Success Coordinator	Center for Student Success/ Student Affairs	Confidential

P8 - To approve the change from temporary Full-time (TFT) to Full-Time, Professional staff.
Approval is hereby granted for the following change for the specified individual:

Name	Position/Division	Unit	Effective Date
Donna Puleo	College Nurse/Health Services/ Student Affairs	Professional	05/18/2026

P9 - To approve a monthly stipend.
Approval is hereby granted for stipends to the following individual for assuming additional grant responsibilities.

	Name	Position/Division	Unit	Monthly Amount	Effective Date (retroactive)
1.	Edward Sanchez	Project Manager, NJ Pathways Microbusiness and Hydroponics/ Grant Administration	Grant	$500.00	05/01/2026 -04/30/2027
2.	Edward Sanchez	Project Manager, NextGen/ Grant Administration	Grant	$1,000.00	07/01/2026 -06/30/2027

P10- To approve the appointment of the specified personnel to a stipend position.
Approval is hereby granted for the appointment of the following individual to a budgeted stipend position at the amount indicated:

	Name	Position	Stipend	Effective Dates (pro-rated)
1.	Thomas Derr	Head Coach	$5,000	05/16/26

P11- To deobligate the following vacant positions.
Approval is hereby granted to remove the following vacant, non-funded positions from the organizational chart.

Position Title	Department/Division	Unit	Effective Date
Director of Bergen for Business	Continuing Education and Workforce Development	Executive	05/06/2026
Director of Capital Projects	Facilities	Executive	05/06/2026
Coordinator, Printing and Copying Services	Purchasing and Services	Professional	08/02/2026
Managing Director, Physical Plant and Grounds	Facilities	Executive	05/06/2026

SF1- To authorize Change Order #1 to Public Bid P-2411 for Pitkin Education Center Emergency Generator. Trico Electric LLC contract scope of work to upgrade two emergency generators and related infrastructure from 150-amp capacity to 400-amp capacity.
Approval is hereby granted to authorize issuing a Change Order #1 to Public Bid P-2411 in an amount not to exceed $170,774.00 to Trico Electric LLC to upgrade two emergency generators and related infrastructure from 150-amp capacity to 400-amp capacity.

Original Contract Amount	-	$ 1,552,270.00
Change Order #1	-	$ 170,774.00
Revised Contract Amount	-	$ 1,723,044.00

Percentage Increase over Original Contract Amount 11.0%

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

The board meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Thank you,

Trustee Ritzy Moralez-Diaz, Secretary
Bergen Community College