

**EAST CENTRAL COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Monday, November 3, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board President Ann Hartley. Other Board members present at the meeting were Joseph Stroetker, Eric Park, Cookie Hays, Audrey Freitag, and J.T. Hardy. Also present were President of the College Jon Bauer; Administrators –Vice President of Academic Affairs Robyn Walter, Vice President of External Relations Joel Doepker, Vice President of Student Development Sarah Leassner, and Vice President of Finance & Administration Chris Hoelzer; Faculty – Faculty Association President Tracy Mowery and ECC-NEA President Reg Brigham; Other Staff – Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Research Bethany Lohden, Classified Staff Association President Denise Walker, Professional Staff Association President Todd Tracy, Dean of Health Sciences Nancy Mitchell, Human Resources Director Carrie Myers, Communications & Marketing Director Gregg Jones, Foundation Director Bridgette Kelch, and Executive Assistant to the President Stacy Langan.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Public Relations Director Gregg Jones recognized Chris Parker from the *Missourian*, ECC Student Government Association Vice President Sarah Scharfenberg, Washington School of Practical Nursing Director Chris Redd, and community member Dean Grosse.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Each item on the consent agenda shall be deemed to have been duly approved with the same validity as if each action were separately moved, seconded, and adopted.

**Motion:** To **approve** the agenda for the November 3, 2025, meeting of the Board of Trustees.

*Motion by Eric Park; Seconded by Cookie Hays; Carried unanimously.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Board approved the minutes of the October 13, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

**TREASURER’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORT:** Vice President Hoelzer reviewed the financial statements as of September 30, 2025, noting increases in insurance, salaries, and contract services compared to the prior year. He reported a net operating loss at this point in the fiscal year, which is not unusual due to the timing of property tax revenue.

**Motion:** To **approve** the treasurer’s report, the financial report, and the payment of bills subject to the annual audit.

*Motion by Eric Park; Seconded by Joseph Stroeker; Carried unanimously.*

**BOARD ELECTION FILING DATES:** President Bauer noted that the Board is required to set the election filing dates as prescribed by the state. There are open seats in Subdistricts 1 and 2. Because the College will be closed for part of the filing period, the Franklin County Clerk will receive candidate filings.

**Motion:** To **set the dates** for filing for the April 7, 2026, Board of Trustees’ election to open at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, and to close at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, with filing to occur at the Franklin County Clerk’s office, 400 East Locust, Union, MO.

*Motion by J.T. Hardy; Seconded by Audrey Freitag; Carried unanimously.*

**BOARD POLICIES & PROCEDURES CHAPTER 3 REVISIONS:** President Bauer noted that these revisions were introduced last month for first read, and there have been no changes since that time. These revisions apply to student policies. Each of the five chapters undergoes a comprehensive review every two and one-half to three years. Chapter Five is currently being reviewed by the Shared Governance Council, and the Chapter Four review committee has begun its work. The purpose of the policy reviews is to ensure that policies are current, clear, and concise, and to incorporate updates required by changes in state and federal law.

**Motion:** To **approve** revisions to Chapter 3 of Board Policies and Procedures as outlined in the document attached to the agenda.

*Motion by Cookie Hays; Seconded by Eric Park; Carried unanimously.*

**WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL NURSING:** President Bauer noted that this item was first introduced to the Board several months ago. The recommendation is for the Board to approve the transfer of sponsorship of the Washington School of Practical Nursing program to East Central College. Approval of sponsorship is the initial step that authorizes ECC to move forward. Lease negotiations with the School District of Washington (SDOW) are underway and will be brought to the Board next month. If the Board approves sponsorship today, the SDOW Board will consider the item in two weeks, and the lease agreement will return to the ECC Board for action in December. The lease will be for two years, with the first year discounted by half to account for program start-up costs.

Once ECC assumes sponsorship, the program name will change from Washington School of Practical Nursing to the East Central College Nursing Program, reflecting the transition. Vice President Walter noted that the program has historically been sponsored by SDOW and that the transition aligns with both ECC and SDOW's strategic priorities. This move will expand student access to financial aid and social support services, continue to meet local workforce needs for Licensed Practical Nurses, and further strengthen ECC's LPN to RN Bridge program. The longstanding partnership with the current program has been positive, and the transition will enhance the depth of ECC's nursing offerings.

Vice President Walter reviewed the projected timeline. The first class under ECC sponsorship is expected to begin on August 1, 2026. The two-year lease at Four Rivers Career Center (FRCC) includes a plan for ECC to purchase selected clinical lab equipment at a depreciated rate. ECC will use its existing, approved curriculum, requiring only notification to accrediting bodies that the program will operate at a new location. The FRCC curriculum is similar and will require only minor alignment adjustments.

Current program employees have been informed of the transition. Hiring will follow ECC Board policy, and current faculty are encouraged to apply for available positions. Program fees will align with ECC's existing nursing program. The financial impact statement is included in the Board packet. The pro forma does not include state or local revenue, and enrollment is conservatively estimated, particularly in the first one to two years. A slight positive margin is anticipated based on current estimates. The lease will be full service, and utilities will not be billed separately.

State aid is based on full-time equivalent enrollment and may increase in future years as enrollment stabilizes. The current program director is retiring, and teams from both ECC and SDOW have met extensively to plan the transition. The program is currently approved for 36 students and typically enrolls 25 to 30. Prerequisites are required prior to program entry at ECC, which may affect initial

headcount. Tuition rates for the new program will match ECC's nursing program in Rolla, with a slightly different fee structure that is expected to be modestly lower than what students currently pay through SDOW.

President Bauer emphasized that this sponsorship and transition represent a collaborative effort and will benefit both the community and ECC students.

**Motion:** To **approve** the transfer of the sponsorship of the Washington School of Practical Nursing from the School District of Washington to East Central College, effective Fall 2026, to be offered through the Health Sciences Department.

*Motion by Joseph Stroetker; Seconded by J.T. Hardy; Carried unanimously.*

**ROLLA PROJECT UPDATE:** President Bauer provided an update on the Rolla renovation project. The early bid package for demolition and abatement has been completed, and the punch list and inspection were conducted this past Friday. The Board also approved the general construction contract, and the notice to proceed was issued last week. A kickoff meeting has been held with the contractor. Planning is underway for the move from the two leased locations into the renovated building. While this will be one institutional move, programs currently located across two sites will transition at different times as space becomes available. The goal is to open the facility to students in 2027. The project remains on schedule, and the team is confident in the timeline. This is a major renovation; however, typical delays associated with weather or new construction are not expected. Negotiations continue with the General Services Administration (GSA) on behalf of the federal agencies housed in the building. Many of those employees are working remotely during the renovation period. A lease agreement is anticipated soon. President Bauer emphasized that the project is possible through state and federal funding, and the College will continue leasing the two existing facilities until the renovation is complete.

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Board President Ann Harlley had no report.

**REPORTS:**

**A. FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPORT:** Association President Tracy Mowery reported that faculty recently participated in Falcon Fest at both campuses with "Stump the Faculty" and are planning a fundraiser for the Faculty Association Student Scholarship. Faculty took part in the Prepare for Takeoff event with Missouri S&T, sharing degree pathways and providing hands-on demonstrations. Dr. Nanette Sayles was awarded CAHIMM Fellowship status, recognizing significant professional impact in Health Information Management. Dr. Elizabeth Flotte attended the Assessment Institute in Indianapolis in her role as co-chair of the Instructional Assessment Committee. Beth Martin, advisor for the Art Club, is coordinating new opportunities for student involvement through a partnership with the City of Union Parks and Recreation. Jennifer Higerd attended the National Association of Schools of Art and Design conference for accreditation and leadership updates. Several faculty members are serving on the statewide Transfer Bill Taskforce related to the Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act. Allied Health faculty hosted Health Explorations Day in Rolla, welcoming 135 students, and will welcome more than 120 students for the Union campus event on November 4.

**B. ECC-NEA:** Dr. Reg Brigham, ECC-NEA President, had no report.

**C. PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT:** PSA President Todd Tracy reported that ECC's Adult Education and Literacy program received the Outstanding Performance Award from DESE for the 2024–2025 school year. ECC was one of only six programs statewide to meet or exceed all five federal performance measures. In addition, four AEL students were the first in Missouri to earn DESE Substitute Teacher certification through the new statewide process. He also noted that PSA has approved a new Values Recognition Award to honor a member who exemplifies

one of the College's six core values. A nomination committee is being formed, and the first award will be presented at the end of the Spring 2026 semester.

- D. CLASSIFIED STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT:** CSA President Denise Walker reported that CSA will have the final total from the October Denim Day charity collection by the next Board meeting. The CSA Spotlight Award voting is underway, and the Fall 2025 recipient will be announced later this week by email and at the next Board meeting. The CSA Christmas Outreach Committee has partnered with Grace's Place in Union to support three children this holiday season.
- E. STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT:** SGA Vice President Sarah Scharfenberg reported on recent student activities. Falcon Fest included 13 student booths, five community booths, and nine faculty booths, with approximately 200 participants, as well as a great pumpkin roll and pumpkin carving contest. SGA also hosted a costume contest on October 29. The next SGA meeting is scheduled for November 16, and the group plans to conclude its donation drive in recognition of the month of thanks.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Bauer reported that East Central College has been invited to apply for the Aspen Prize, marking the first time the College has received this invitation. This recognition reflects work already accomplished and performance across key areas, including degree completion, transfer, student outcomes, teaching and learning, and access. A team attended a webinar last week and is preparing the required data submission, which is due next week. Following the data submission, the team will develop the narrative that explains the outcomes and the work behind them. The Aspen process includes several stages, with approximately 1,000 community colleges considered nationwide. The top 25 institutions will be announced in April, and the top 10 finalists will be named in June 2026, followed by additional data review and site visits. President Bauer emphasized that this acknowledgment is a significant reflection of the dedication of faculty, staff, administration, and students.

President Bauer also reported on the conclusion of fall athletics. In Women's Soccer, Claire Turgeon was named Second Team All-Region. In Men's Soccer, Frank Barraza was named First Team All-Region, and Ignacio Padilla was named Second Team All-Region. Volleyball concluded its season with three First Team All-Region and three Second Team All-Region selections, and Lexi Filkins broke a 15-year record for digs. She is now ranked second nationally among all NJCAA DII players.

The baseball field turf replacement project is nearly complete, with final field elements being installed. Campus paving approved last month is also nearing completion, with striping to be finished this week, and both entrances to campus are now open.

Almost 100 students will be inducted into Phi Theta Kappa at the upcoming ceremony.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:** To **adjourn** the November 3, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:38 p.m.

*Motion by J.T. Hardy; Seconded by Cookie Hays; Carried unanimously.*