Community College System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees
April 16, 2026
Lakes Region Community College

Present: Chair Donnalee M. Lozeau, Trustee Richard Ackerman, Trustee Alan Beaulieu, Trustee Katharine Bogle Shields, Trustee Will Cunningham, Trustee Christopher Dodge, Trustee Joel Dolan, Trustee Pharra Duguay, Trustee Tiffany Eddy, Trustee Kaylee Felix, Trustee Gregory C. Eastman, Trustee Geoffrey Kennedy, Trustee Matt Mayberry, Trustee Edwin O. Smith, Trustee Alison Stebbins, Trustee John T. Stevens, Trustee Dennis Tappin, Trustee Nick Toumpas, Chancellor Mark Rubinstein, Vice Chancellor Charles Lloyd Director Stephen Appleby, Director Joseph Doiron, Legal Coordinator Sarah Morrisey, President Paul Beaudin (MCC), President Patrick Cate (LRCC), President James Keane (NCC), President Cheryl Lesser (GBCC), President Sarmad Saman (WMCC), President Patrick Tompkins (NHTI), President Alfred Williams IV (RVCC)

Regrets: Trustee Sharon D. Harris, Policy and Legislative Assistant John Callaghan

Meeting Minutes:

Chair Lozeau called the meeting to order at 10:02am and welcomed everyone. Chair Lozeau provided an overview of recent Board appointments approved by the New Hampshire Executive Committee. Christy Johnson was appointed to a Labor representative vacancy, Timothy Powers to an Education representative vacancy, and Michele Halligan-Foley to the High School Vocational Director representative seat. Two vacancies remain: one Labor and one Community Service. Trustees were encouraged to submit recommendations for consideration.

Topic: Consent Agenda

> **Vote:** Trustee Mayberry motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Trustee Shields seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Topic: Campus Presentation
Discussion: The Board received a campus presentation from LRCC highlighting its Fire Science program, including a demonstration and concurrent advisory board engagement. This presentation reflected the college's continued alignment with workforce needs and industry partnerships.

Topic: Committee Summaries
Student Success: Trustees engaged in a broader discussion on the Board's role in academic program approval, consistency of data reporting to the Committee, Early College initiatives, financial aid integrity efforts, and longer-range academic planning considerations.

> **Vote:** Trustee Dodge motioned to approve the new Business Administration Finance Program at Nashua Community College; Trustee Eddy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Audit Committee: Directors Bishop and Hartshorn provided an update on systemwide risk assessment activities, cybersecurity and fraud mitigation efforts, and evolving federal financial

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aid safeguards, including identity verification processes. Trustees discussed increasing fraud activity affecting higher education institutions nationally, institutional responsibilities for investigation, and the use of new software and federal tools to mitigate risk. The Committee also noted that the current audit engagement is entering its final year and that a request for proposals will be issued for future auditing services.

Assets and Resources: Trustees received updates on facilities assessments, capital project prioritization, and campus infrastructure challenges. Discussion included long-term planning for facilities and engineering services as well as emerging conversations around land use, real estate strategy, and potential housing initiatives. Trustees agreed that real estate planning should remain an ongoing topic for the Committee.

> **Vote:** Trustee Eddy motioned to endorse the business platform transformation proposal, and to encourage continued forward progress with consistent reports back to the Assets and Resources Committee with a commitment to let the committee know if the initiative is slowing down. Trustee Smith seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee: Committee Chair Toumpas led a preliminary discussion regarding a potential tuition increase in the range of 3–3.5 percent for FY 2027. While no action was taken, Trustees emphasized the importance of further analysis related to student impact, financial aid considerations, and state budget uncertainties prior to any future decision.

> **Vote:** Trustee Stebbins motioned to approve the proposed FY 2027 fee schedule as presented. Trustee Mayberry seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.
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> **Vote:** Chair Lozeau motioned to approve moving the CCSNH investment portfolio from Fidelity Investments retail platform to their Institutional platform. Trustee Mayberry seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Governance Committee: Chair Lozeau provided updates on Trustee recruitment and onboarding, Board self-assessment activities, and recent reappointments. These efforts are part of a continued focus on Board effectiveness, continuity, and accountability.

Topic: Chancellor's Update

Discussion: Board formally acknowledged President Alfred following his announcement of retirement, expressing appreciation for his leadership and years of service. Remarks from Trustees and student leadership recognized his contributions to the system and to students. The Board then received an update on Rural Healthcare Transformation initiatives, emphasizing the importance of leveraging existing infrastructure, strengthening workforce development pathways, and ensuring sustainability beyond initial funding periods.

The Board also engaged in an in-depth discussion on advancing systemwide collaboration, often referred to as system-ness. Trustees and leadership reflected on the roles and responsibilities of the System Office, colleges, and the Board, stressing the need for alignment, transparency, and candid dialogue. Trustees noted the importance of shared understanding, thoughtful planning, and consideration of return on investment—both financial and non-financial—as strategic initiatives move forward.

Topic: Other Business

Discussion: Trustees were reminded to notify staff of their planned attendance at upcoming campus commencement ceremonies to ensure appropriate Board representation. Updates were also shared regarding the Chancellor search process, recognition of April being Community College Month, and upcoming institutional milestones. Trustee Felix marked the conclusion of her term and was formally thanked for her leadership and service to the Board.

Chair Lozeau adjourned the meeting at 1:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hayley Hawksley
Administrative Assistant