

TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

650 College Blvd., Ontario, OR 97914

Laura Moore Cunningham Science Center, Hanigan Board Room (115A)

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Board of Education members in attendance (quorum present):

Vice Chair Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Torie Ramirez, Dr. Lindsay Norman, Ken Hart, and Suzi Ireland (absent: Stephen Crow)

Staff, representatives, and guests in attendance via Zoom or in person:

President Dr. Dana Young, Vice President Travis McFetridge, Vice President Darin Bell, Vice President Sandy Porter, Cathy Yasuda, Bernie Weldon, Riley Helmick, Eric Holbrook, Laura Faulk, Emily Christopherson, Justin Emerson, Delila Garza, Leslie Esquivel, Ruth Garcia, Brenda Vega Vega, Jaime Gonzalez, Stephanie Oester, Diane Hage, and Anne Marie Kelso

1. CALL TO ORDER

Because Chair Stephen Crow was unable to attend the meeting, Vice Chair Betty Carter presided. Vice Chair Carter opened the meeting and led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the mission and vision statements.

2. AGENDA REVIEW/CHANGES

MOTION: Board Member Suzi Ireland made a motion to move the executive session scheduled for today to next month when Chair Crow returns. Board Member Findley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Suzi Ireland, Dr. Lindsay Norman, Torie Ramirez, Ken Hart, Roger Findley and Betty Carter. The motion passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Men's and Women's Basketball Team Introduction

Coach Riley Helmick stated that this was one of best seasons in team history. The team went 9-5 in the East Region, (the number 4 seed) and they beat Walla Walla, who ended up winning the NWAC tournament. The average GPA of the team players was 3.7, with four players earning a 4.0 and every player achieved no less than a 3.25.

This is the third year in a row the Chukars went to the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) championships. Coach Helmick shared the following accolades with the Board:

- The team was tied for first in NWAC in assists per game and they were first in steals per game.
- Several individuals also earned awards as follows:
 - Ava Cuff was named to the East Region 2nd Team for the second year in a row
 - Grace Hogan broke the single season record for most assists
 - Grace Hogan was also second in the NWAC for assists

Coach Eric Holbrook stated the team finished with a record of 13-1 in the NWAC conference. Coach Holbrook shared the following awards:

- Jeremiah Williams was named the East Region Player of the Year
- Eddie Rodriguez was Second Team All-Conference
- Eddie Rodriguez was first in the NWAC in three-pointers made
- Alan Nziza was the second leading scorer and also named to the Second Team All-Conference.
- Jouk Mayan was named to the All-Defensive Team

b. New Employee Introductions

Employees introduced this month were Public Information Officer Justin Emerson, Leslie Esquivel who moved to the Reengagement Coordinator position, HEP Recruiter Ruth Garcia, CAMP advisor Jaime Gonzalez and advisor Diane Hage.

5. COLLEGE BUSINESS

a. 2026-27 Tuition Increase (2nd reading)

Vice President Darin Bell provided updated information on the tuition increases being instituted by other community colleges in Oregon. Most are in the \$3-\$5 range. Our proposal is a \$3 increase which will move tuition from \$120 per credit to \$123. There is no fee increase requested. The considerations for the tuition increase included the benefits of regular small increases versus one large increase and obtaining student approval for the increase.

Board Member Norman asked how many out of state students attend TVCC. Vice President McFetridge stated it is an even split. Board Member Findley noted he likes to compare the TVCC welding program with the CWI welding program. Last year CWI was a little cheaper, but they raised their tuition by \$17 per credit and we only raised tuition by \$3 per credit so now TVCC is a little cheaper.

MOTION: Board Member Norman moved to increase tuition by \$3 per credit, Board Member Ireland seconded the motion. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Suzi Ireland, Ken Hart, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Torie Ramirez, and Dr. Lindsay Norman. The motion passed unanimously.

b. 2026-27 Course Fees Increase (2nd reading)

Vice President Porter provided an updated copy of the course fees. Board Member Findley asked if the increase in fuel prices was considered when increasing aviation fees. VP Porter stated this fee increase is just for testing, but when the fee increase process started six weeks ago, fuel was not this high. Board Member Hart asked if the Board could vote on fees today but do a gas addendum later if needed. It was decided that process would work.

MOTION: Board Member Hart moved to approve the course fee increases and Board Member Norman seconded the motion. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Suzi Ireland, Ken Hart, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Torie Ramirez, and Dr. Lindsay Norman. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Capital Construction Project (2nd reading)

VP Bell provided a PowerPoint presentation and noted some additional information. The project discussed was the Barber Hall remodel and Weese elevator renovation. The College must submit a proposal to the State for the matching funds by April 6. Additionally, there are also some opportunities for seismic testing grants.

The overall focus according to VP Bell is asset preservation. The Barber Hall remodel will include seismic strengthening, HVAC replacement, plumbing modernization, accessibility upgrades (elevator), and interior modernization.

The Weese Building elevator upgrade will make the upstairs more accessible. Board Member Findley asked when the College would know if we received the funding. According to Dr. Young a decision would be made by June of 2027; noting that if the College does not get approved this biennium, it goes to the next biennium. She also stated you can go down in cost, but you cannot go up once it is approved.

Board Member Ramirez asked if the timeline changed from the last presentation and VP Bell stated it had not. The timeline presented is the shortest, most reasonable schedule. The estimated project cost is \$18,343,009 and the source of funding is the XI-G state bond, a seismic grant, capital campaign funds, and a general obligation bond.

Board Member Hart asked how much capital construction money was raised in the past to which Dr. Young responded that \$3m was raised for the science center and \$5m was raised for the nursing and allied health building. She also noted that a capital campaign was not done for the CTE Building.

Board Member Norman asked the cost per square foot for the nursing building. VP Bell stated the construction cost was \$550 to \$600 per square feet. Board Member Findley asked for the total cost of the nursing building. VP Bell stated that the cost is \$12.8m for construction with some additional project costs.

Board Member Hart asked if we have faculty support. VP Bell stated that faculty was part of the process. Board Member Findley asked if a new funding stream is available. It is different than the nursing building where new programs are being offered. VP McFetridge stated that the Barber Hall renewal will be beneficial as students will be able to see an updated facility. There is a lot of energy in that building and prospective students always visit the bookstore. From a recruiting standpoint, a newer building would draw students in. The building needs to reflect what we offer. Board Member Findley noted it will be a heavy lift as the state economy is not very good. Dr. Young noted we must operate as if the funds will be there.

Board Member Findley asked about the last time a bond was voted on for TVCC. Dr. Young stated the last bond only received a 35% approval. However, it was noted that Mt. Hood passed one after failing six times and the College is researching consultants.

MOTION: Board Member Hart voted to approve the resolution to support the Barber Hall renewal project and the Weese Building elevator project with a total cost of \$18,343,009. The motion was seconded by Board Member Ireland. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Suzi Ireland, Dr. Lindsay Norman, Torie Ramirez, Ken Hart, and Betty Carter. There was one opposed vote by Roger Findley. The motion passed.

d. Board Policy Chapter 7: Human Resources (1st reading)

Executive Director of Legal and Operations Anne Marie Kelso presented the Board with the policies and administrative procedures for Human Resources. She explained that many of the policies and procedures reflect existing frameworks, with some outdated provisions removed and others refreshed and modernized. The model used was based on OCCA guidance. The policies were reviewed through the full governance process, including the board subcommittee. Subcommittee members indicated they were satisfied with the final draft. Executive Director Kelso also noted that she will provide a spreadsheet next month comparing the new and old policies.

6. CONSENT AGENDA (action)

- a. Board Minutes: February 13, 2026 (Facilities Master Plan), and February 17, 2026 (Regular Meeting)
- b. Financial Report

MOTION: Board Member Hart moved to accept the consent agenda as presented and the motion was seconded by Board Member Norman. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Suzi Ireland, Ken Hart, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Torie Ramirez, and Dr. Lindsay Norman. The motion passed unanimously.

7. COLLEGE REPORTS & STATEMENTS

a. Statements from ASG/Student Programs

Emily Christopherson, ASG President, reported her team is wrapping up the 2026 winter term. In other news:

- ASG handed out pink t-shirts during the Pink Night basketball game.
- Supported the Multicultural Center during Black History Month and Women's History Month.
- Provided foam fingers for basketball's Sophomore Night.
- ASG also hosted a blacklight laser tag event, a free bowling night, and a relaxation event.
- They are now finalizing the spring schedule, which will include a free food event at Ogawa's, events to support softball and baseball, and an Earth Day event.
- On the student government side, construction will begin on the new Weese patio.
- The academic senator is initiating a new "Food for Thought" survey, which will function more as a focus group rather than a traditional survey.
- Applications are also open to selecting a new ASG team for next year.

b. Statements from Foundation

Executive Director Cathy Yasuda noted that the Scholarship Review Night is scheduled for tomorrow, with a high number of applications received this year.

Upcoming events include:

- The annual Donor Scholarship Reception, which will feature alumni Cindy Lee as the keynote speaker.
- The Pops Concert will be held in May, while the garden tour has been postponed until next year.

In the grants update, Executive Director Cathy Yasuda reported that she will meet with Matt Bisek, Executive Director of the Oregon TRIO organization. The grant application

announcement for Talent Search was released today, but the college is leaning toward applying for the Upward Bound grant which is more inline and a better fit for TVCC at this time. We will begin working on the application which is expected to be available next year. Yasuda has also submitted a grant request for \$100,000 from the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation to purchase needed equipment for the new advanced energy programs.

c. Statements from Faculty

Laura Faulk spoke on behalf of the faculty. She noted that it is finals week and faculty are busy grading and helping students reach the finish line. Board Member Findley asked about essay responses and the use of AI. Faulk noted that each department has its own policy. For her, the biggest indicator is when cited sources or quotations do not exist. Grading now takes more time to verify sources, and in some cases, AI detection tools are used. Board Member Hart asked whether each instructor has an individual policy or if there is a college-wide policy. According to Faulk there is no college-wide policy, as approaches vary by discipline. Some classes incorporate AI as a tool in the classroom, which differs from its use in subjects such as English. Dr. Young noted that an AI policy will be developed with an emphasis on academic freedom.

d. OCCA Board Rep. Report

Dr. Young reported on behalf of Chair Crow noting that she sent a reminder email today to board members about the next OCCA Lunch and Learn, which will focus on improving outcomes for rural young men. Young also stated that she will provide an end-of-session report to the Board outlining which bills passed and which did not. OCCA is also monitoring federal legislation. Pell Grants are currently \$18m short for next year, and OCCA is working with federal legislators to address the shortfall.

e. President's Reports

i. Academic Affairs

VP Porter presented a written report. Board Member Findley asked about the recruitment of surgical technology faculty. VP Porter noted that recruitment is challenging due to the bachelor's degree requirement.

Board Member Findley noted his appreciation for the College's pesticide testing in Harney County and expressed enthusiasm about the purchase of heavy equipment simulators. Dean of CTE Bernie Weldon stated the simulators are expected to be operational the first week of April.

Board Member Hart asked whether there are opportunities to improve the business climate through the testing center, noting that businesses often must send employees to Salem or Portland for certain certifications. VP McFetridge stated that the testing center already conducts a significant amount of community testing; however, if additional community needs are identified, the College may be able to pursue certification. VP Porter noted that testing in healthcare fields may be more complex due to regulatory requirements imposed by governing boards.

ii. Student Services

VP McFetridge reported that there has not been a significant change in the winter quarter report. The College is closing the gap on RFTE, which has narrowed from

ten to seven. Enrollment has leveled off on the main campus, while spring term is still showing growth due to dual credit and registration trends.

VP McFetridge also noted that TVCC hosted the Ontario Chamber Leadership cohort last month. There has been a significant increase in campus tours for middle school students, and the College received very positive feedback from Weiser Middle School following their visit.

The testing center will have extended hours during finals week. Daniel Liera-Huchim is organizing this year's Conéctate event, which will be hosted at TVCC.

Upcoming initiatives include launching the Treasure Valley merit waiver and a non-traditional student waiver. Marketing will begin advertising the free summer class. Board Member Norman asked what percentage of students who participated in the free course later enrolled in fall term. VP McFetridge stated he will provide exact figures to the Board but estimates the rate to be 70%.

iii. Administrative Services

The College continues work on the facilities master plan. VP Bell will meet with the City of Ontario tomorrow to discuss updates. The goal is to complete the plan in April and have Opsis Architecture present the final document to the Board.

The nursing building project will now include completion of rooms that were previously planned as shelled space. The contractor has agreed to complete these rooms at the original cost, resulting in savings of approximately \$100k. VP Bell also noted that the gym roof needs repair noting that it is a membrane roof with insulation beneath it, and that repairs were last completed following a fire in the 1980s.

Board Member Hart asked about donor signage for the nursing building. Executive Director Yasuda noted that the committee will be reconvening soon to discuss the signage.

Board Member Norman asked whether there is a dedicated fund for deferred maintenance. VP Bell stated that there is a capital reserve fund with \$700,000 to \$800,000 available.

Board Member Ramirez asked whether the College exceeded the budget in completing the nursing building rooms. VP Bell confirmed that the project remains within budget.

iv. President's Comments

Dr. Young commended Chase Van Weerdhuizen for coordinating the visit of the Humphrey scholars, who were very impressed with TVCC. The visitors attended a Women's History Month event and observed a panel discussion that included guest appearances by TVCC's Mara Poynter and Gayle Van Weerdhuizen, along with representatives from the Ontario School District, and the local Boys & Girls Club.

In other updates, Dr. Young is coordinating visits with local school districts to share dual credit data and she is planning to attend board meetings in Vale, Nyssa, and

Adrian. Board Member Ramirez volunteered to attend the Nyssa meeting, and additional volunteers are requested for Vale and Adrian.

CTE Day at the Capitol was a success. Dean of CTE Bernie Weldon and Apprenticeship Coordinator Jackie Koehler's tabletop display was particularly popular, with VR goggles drawing significant interest. Dean Weldon also had the opportunity to join Dr. Young to engage with legislators, including local representatives.

On the legislative side, community colleges did not receive budget cuts in the second year of the biennium; however, institutions have been advised to prepare for significant reductions in the next biennium and over the next six years. Additionally, the legislature is considering a study of universities and community colleges with a focus on a more efficient system through shared services. There has also been discussion regarding whether the legislature should determine which institutions offer specific programs. With upcoming legislative races and a gubernatorial election, future direction remains uncertain.

Lastly, Board Member Findley asked about negotiations. Executive Director Kelso reported that they are ongoing.

8. STATEMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS & FOLLOW UP

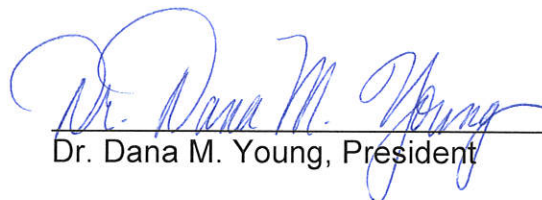
- Suzi Ireland noted that Pink Night was enjoyable and that the Women's Celebration event was dynamic and well executed. She thanked VP Bell and VP McFetridge for the tour of the Evelyn S. Dame Nursing and Allied Health Professions Center.
- Dr. Lindsay Norman expressed appreciation for the updated report formatting that aligns with strategic goals. She also noted that Pell grant funds used for non-tuition expenses are taxable, and there is currently no federal discussion to change this.
- Roger Findley expressed excitement about the new heavy equipment simulators and noted that with power transmission projects from Vale to Willow Creek, there will be increased demand for trained operators. He suggested the College partner with contractors of the power line project and the incoming gold mine to assess workforce needs.

9. ADJOURN AND NEXT MEETING(S)

Vice Chair Carter recapped the upcoming important dates then the meeting was adjourned.



Stephen Crow, Board Chairman



Dr. Dana M. Young, President