

**HILLSBOROUGH COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026 – 2:00 P.M.
PLANT CITY CAMPUS
1206 NORTH PARK ROAD.
PLANT CITY, FL 33563
MINUTES**

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.01 Call to Order

This meeting was also held by Zoom video conferencing. The public was reminded that questions or comments can be submitted to the Trustees' email address at any time.

1.02 Invocation

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

1.04 Roll Call

The following Trustees were in attendance:

- Greg Celestan
- Clay Hollis
- Brian Lametto
- Michael Garcia
- Stephen Bunch
- Nicolas Castellanos

1.05 Welcome to Guests, Staff and Faculty

Trustee Celestan welcomed all who were present. He recognized Ms. Nancy Watkins for her service to Hillsborough College as Board of Trustee member. He Thanked her for her service to the Board with a Resolution to be presented to her at a later date.

Campus President, Dr. Marty Clay, welcomed the Board and honored guests to Plant City campus. He reminded everyone that the Strawberry Festival starts on February 26, 2026. He thanked his office and Trinkle Center staff who put together all the treats for the meeting. Dr. Clay then introduced Mechel Albano, Dean of Academic Affairs and DeLeon Powell, Grants Communication Specialist, to present on the grant "Supporting Students Through Innovative Practices."

1.06 Foundation Report

Garrett Weddle, Executive Director for the Foundation, provided the Board with a brief update of the HCF activities and support.

Check presentation: Moses Allen, Sunshine Health VP of Pharmacy Operations, presented a check for \$100,000 to Hillsborough College to benefit Workforce Training.

1.06.01 The Foundation Report was sent to the Board under separate cover and included:

- New gifts and commitments \$4.7M (July-January) Even with last year's YTD amount \$4.72M.

1.06.02 Highlights:

- Total amount of major gifts to date: 33 in FY26 – 27 in FY25
- Scholarships awarded for Fall 2026: 164 for a total of \$736,577
- Net Assets as of 12/31/2025: \$24.7M

1.06.03 Events:

- BBCB, March 4-7, 2026, Tampa Bay Convention Center
- Presidential Showcase, April 7, 2026, Armature Works

1.07 Faculty, Staff and Student Recognitions

Angela Eveillard, Executive Director of Marketing, provided the following faculty, staff and student recognitions:

1.07.01 Out of a field of more than 60 students representing 21 Florida State Colleges, two Hillsborough College students took top honors in the inaugural Sunshine State Debate Competition in Tallahassee, Florida this month. **Justice Robinson** advanced to the final debate taking second place and winning a \$1,000 scholarship. **Andrea Manjaka** advanced to the semi-final round, winning a scholarship of \$750. Both students were recognized at the Florida Legislative Session on Tuesday, February 17. **Dr. Ann Marie Coats**, speech instructor at the Ybor City campus, championed this event for HC and traveled to Tallahassee along with **Dr. C. Doug Charles**, Ybor City campus sociology instructor. HC faculty members, Dr. Andrea Vicente and Dr. Douglas Ponticos, served as coaches and mentors. This event was supported and partially funded by Civic Literacy funds from the HC Office of Academic Affairs.

1.07.02 **Sadie Moore**, Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance Project Manager served as a panelist for the National Well-being and Resilience Summit on February 16, 2026, in Tampa, Florida.

1.07.03 **Cheyenne Olson**, SouthShore SGA coordinator, was nominated for National Advisor of the Year Award for the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities.

1.07.04 **SouthShore SGA** was nominated for National Event of the Year Award from the Association of the Promotion of Campus Activities.

1.08 The Chair recommended adoption of the Agenda, all revisions to the Agenda and approval of all Agenda items marked "Consent."

Trustee Lametto made a motion to approve seconded by Trustee Garcia. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.

1.09 The President recommended approval of the December 3, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes and the January 20, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes.

Trustee Bunch made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Garcia. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.

2.0 HEARING OF STUDENTS

2.01 Hillsborough College students: Matthew Addison Jr., Echo Durham, Natalia DeSequeira and Abrianna Symlar addressed the Board regarding their perspectives on the Rays Ballpark plan.

3.0 HEARING OF CITIZENS

4.0 HEARING OF FACULTY AND STAFF

5.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

- 5.01 The President recommended approval of individuals for full-time employment. These individuals will be compensated in accordance with the Board-approved Salary Schedule.
- 5.02 The President recommended approval of part-time faculty and staff employment recommendations for Term 26/SP. Each part-time employee will be compensated in accordance with the Board-approved Salary Schedule.
- 5.03 The President recommended acknowledgment of employment separations.

6.0 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & STUDENT SERVICES

- 6.01 The President recommended Board approval of the new course proposals, course modifications, courses becoming inactive, course terminations, new pathway proposal, program modifications, and program moratoriums effective SP/26, SU/26, and FA/26, unless otherwise noted.
- 6.02 The President recommended Board approval of the course fee modifications effective Fall 2026 unless otherwise noted.

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Lametto. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.
- 6.03 The President recommended Board approval of the Dual Enrollment Annual Articulation Agreement between Hillsborough College and Bell Shoals Academy.

Trustee Lametto made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Garcia. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.
- 6.04 The President recommended Board approval of the Dual Enrollment Annual Articulation Agreement between Hillsborough College and St. Peter Claver Catholic School.

Trustee Bunch made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Garcia. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.
- 6.05 The President recommended Board approval of the Dual Enrollment Annual Articulation Agreement between Hillsborough College and Victory High School.

Trustee Lametto made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Garcia. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.

As a point of information, the President reminded the Board that Hillsborough College is the 2nd largest dual enrollment provider out of twenty eight two year Florida colleges. We have over 8,000 students enrolled in the DE program and most of them come from Hillsborough County.
- 6.06 The President recommended Board approval for the following faculty be approved for Professor Emeritus:
 - Mara Manis; Biology, 1987-2022
 - Michael Moats; Computer Science, 1999-2007

- Don Soash; Mathematics, 1991-2023
- Kay Shannon; Mathematics, 1969-2000

Trustee Bunch made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Garcia. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.

6.07 The President recommended Board approval for the following post-tenured faculty remain on continuing contract.

- Kenneth Hawkins, English, BR

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Lametto. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.

7.0 INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

7.01 The President recommended Board approval to establish a line of credit for the HC Foundation, not to exceed \$75,000, with Regions Bank.

Trustee Bunch made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Garcia. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.

8.0 FINANCIAL SERVICES

8.01 The President recommended Board approval to adjust the College's property records to reflect asset inventory.

Trustee Bunch made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Garcia. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.

8.02 Information Only – Exempt Quarterly (Past) Purchases

8.03 Information Only – Monthly Financial Statements for November and December 2025.

9.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

9.01 The President updated the Board regarding the re-branding and presented the final designs. All Board members had positive responses.

9.02 The President reminded the Board about the following upcoming events:

- Rays Community Forum, March 3, 2026, Dale Mabry Campus, community event.
- District Board of Trustees Retreat - March 26, 2026
- All College Day March 31, 2026, Dale Mabry Campus for all faculty, staff and students.

9.03 The President asked Director Eric Johnson to update the Board on the legislative agenda for the College.

10.0 LEGAL REPORT

11.0 HEARING OF BOARD MEMBERS

11.01 Student Trustee Castellanos thanked Dr. Clay for the hospitality of the Plant City Campus. He shared all the upcoming SGA activities as well as those that have transpired. He thanked Dr. Niehaus, Dale Mabry Campus President, for answering all the student questions about the future of Dale Mabry Campus. He stated that it is a blessing to live in a country where freedom of speech is allowed, he thanked each student that addressed the Board at the meeting.

- 11.02 Trustee Bunch thanked Dr. Clay for his recent tour and is looking forward to visiting the remainder of campuses. He appreciates how welcoming the campus has been.
- 11.03 Trustee Garcia stated that it is always a pleasure to come out to Plant City and see the impact the agricultural side of things has on our county and the economy. He thanked the students for their comments and appreciated them speaking up, the Board takes their opinion very seriously when making plan for their future.
- 11.04 Trustee Lametto thanked Dr. Clay and the campus for their hospitality in hosting the Board.
- 11.05 Trustee Hollis thanked Dr. Clay for the hospitality. He echoed the sentiments of other Board members regarding the students that addressed the Board.
- 11.06 Trustee Celestan thanked Dr. Clay for his hospitality. He recognized a special visitor, Dr. Niehaus' mother was in attendance. He addressed the students that spoke to the Board and those who were in attendance by saying that he heard their concerns and that the Board of Trustees and Dr. Atwater will ensure the issues that they raised are addressed. Adding that the Board is excited about the potential Rays ballpark on the HC property because of the opportunity for the campus to receive new, state of the art facilities and for the students to have the opportunity to participate in programs with the Rays organization. He stated that there are a lot of details to be worked out with the project, but the Board will keep the students and the faculty informed as we learn of the details.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.