

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

January 8, 2026
Special Meeting

The Board of Trustees of Frederick Community College held a **special meeting** on Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the Conference Center (E126AB). A virtual option to participate was provided. Participating in person were: Trustees Theodore Luck, Chair; Carolyn Kimberlin, Vice Chair; Jan H. Gardner; Dr. Carmen R. Hernandez; Tracey McPherson; Dr. William Reid; and Myrna Whitworth. Also attending in person was President Dr. Annesa Payne Cheek, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board.

Participating virtually was Edmund O'Meally, PK Law, College legal counsel.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Luck called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES BYLAWS

The Board reviewed proposed amendments to Article V, Section 8 of the Board of Trustees Bylaws related to public comment.

Chair Luck provided context regarding the Board's Policy Governance® framework, ownership-linkage practices, and prior incorporation of the Maryland Open Meetings Compliance Board's Model Regulations into the Bylaws.

Mr. O'Meally reviewed the proposed framework for public comment, emphasizing that the model regulations do not address public comment and that the proposal was designed to be meaningful but limited, neutral as to viewpoint, and consistent with First

Amendment requirements. The proposal includes a time-limited, agenda-focused public comment period without Board response.

Trustees engaged in extensive discussion regarding the value of public comment and alignment with Policy Governance®, including: whether limiting public comment to agenda items appropriately balances community input with governance discipline; concerns that public comment may attract extreme or unrepresentative viewpoints and divert the Board from long-term, future-focused governance; perspectives that public comment can provide valuable insights; questions regarding enforcement, decorum, administrative logistics, and expectations for follow-up; and whether the Board should consider an alternative means of gathering input from the public, consistent with ownership linkage.

Trustees expressed differing views, with some in full support, some supporting adoption as a trial, and others favoring additional consideration or referring the matter to a committee. No consensus was reached during the meeting.

Mr. O'Meally advised that the proposed amendments are scheduled for consideration at the January 21, 2026 Board meeting, where the Board may approve, amend, table, or refer the matter to a committee.

The Board then discussed provisions of Article XIII related to meeting agendas, including the distinction between consent agenda items and required approvals.

There was consensus for the amendments with the following changes to the draft revisions: delete “and are expected to receive unanimous support” under Consent Items;

and add to item 2 under Required Approvals “Clarifying questions are permitted that are ministerial in nature or clarify relevant Board policy.”

Chair Luck expressed appreciation for the input from everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Dr. Annesa Payne Cheek

Secretary/Treasurer

Prepared by Kari Melvin
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Frederick Community College