

GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD  
Regular Meeting, June 11, 2025

The Gateway Technical College District Board met virtually and in person at the Kenosha Campus, Madrigano Conference Center Board Room, on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Jason Tadlock, Chairperson.

**Open Meeting Compliance:** David Elliott confirmed the meeting was duly noticed in accordance with state statutes for open meeting compliance.

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Ram Bhatia, Preston Gardner, Zaida Lange-Irison, Nicole Oberlin, Scott Pierce and Jason Tadlock

**Virtual:** William Duncan

**Excused:** Benjamin DeSmidt, Rebecca Matoska-Mentink, and Andrea Nunez, student trustee

Also in attendance were President Ritu Raju, Recorder David Elliott, Executive Assistant Liz Allen and 53 virtual and 20 in person citizens/reporters.

**Approval of Agenda:** It was moved by S. Pierce, seconded by Z. Lange-Irison and carried to approve the Agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by S. Pierce, seconded by P. Gardner and carried to approve the Minutes of May 8, 2025, Public Hearing of the FY-25/26 Budget, May 15, 2025, Regular Meeting, May 23, 2025, Special Meeting, May 29, 2025, Special Meeting and May 30, 2025, Special Meeting.

**Citizen Comments:** There were no citizen comments.

**Chairperson's Report - Board Evaluation Summary:**

4 of the 8 trustees completed the June survey. Two trustees were excused.

Task: I make it a point to review all materials prior to each board meeting. It is strongly encouraged that for future board meetings, we are able to receive at least the bulk of the materials for the meeting sooner than has been current practice. When previous Administrative Assistant was working for the President's office, we always received notification of the coming meeting on the Friday before the meeting. Please see if that can be achieved in the future. Absolutely prepared, engaged and maintained positive communications.

Action: To some degree we focused on the governance role that we are to follow as Trustees ... of course, it was of little to no value to provide guidance to an outgoing president as she will not have impact on the college the end of this fiscal year. The agenda reflected the board governance role and guidance to the President.

Results: It was disappointing to me that none of my fellow Trustees expressed any concern in the final proposal for the 25-26 budget. For months we have discussed and encouraged our leadership to seriously consider providing a minimum percentage (at least CPI) to budget under compensation, especially when we recognize that just under 80 percent of our annual budget is people costs. The fact that the budget was approved with one not accepting the final budget, I believe, was short sighted of us and we may find ourselves in a serious fiscal shortfall in the coming year. This on top of the fact that there have been little to no meetings with the GTEA on negotiations for this 25-26 school year. It is my sincere hope perhaps with our Interim President starting in July, that he can provide some direction for us as Trustees to give greater focus on some of our major responsibilities, one to ensure a fiscally sound budget from which the College can operate. Yes, the agenda and discussions advanced the college's goals.

**Chairperson's Report – Wording Review of Governance Policy 3.5:** The Trustees reviewed the wording of the policy. It was moved by R. Bhatia, seconded by P. Gardner and carried to approve the wording of Policy 3.5 with modifications to Section 5 to align with the state statute. P. Gardner will lead the effort to present an updated version at the July 14, 2025, Organizational Meeting.

**Chairperson's Report – Wording Review of Ends Statement #5:** The Trustees reviewed the wording of the ends statement. It was moved by P. Gardner, seconded by Z. Lange-Irison and carried to approve the wording of Ends Statement #5.

**Ad Hoc Committee Update – Discussion of Board Member Accountability Policy:** P. Gardner delivered the final reading of draft policy 1.17 on enforcement. It was moved by S. Pierce, seconded by R. Bhatia and carried to approve the wording of policy 1.17.

**Board Member Community Reports:** R. Bhatia shared concerns raised by community members regarding pride-related events on campus and if they are sanctioned by the college and funded through taxpayer dollars. It was confirmed that such events and clubs are sourced from student-directed funds. Community members are invited to come forward to state their positions and concerns. Z. Lange-Irison expressed her appreciation for the care she received on maternity leave by Gateway-educated nurses, demonstrating the college's contributions to workforce excellence in the region. S. Pierce commended the excellent commencement ceremonies Gateway held May 20-21. J. Tadlock provided an update on the search for the interim president and thanked Jacqueline Morris, Talent & Culture, and GTEA for their support in the process.

**President's Report – Announcements:** President Raju provided college updates and a statement to express her appreciation for her experience as President.

**President's Report – Dashboard:** The dashboard report included a report on the positive results from the 2025 commencement ceremonies held May 20-21 and the funds raised through the annual Gateway Foundation golf event on May 22.

**Student Trustee Report:** Pina Eke substituted for A. Munez to give an update on student activities that have been taking place over the past month.

**Operational Agenda - Action Agenda  
Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Approval**

The administration is recommending the FY 2025-2026 budget be approved.

**Following discussion, it was moved by R. Bhatia, seconded by W. Duncan and carried to roll call vote for approval of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget.**

**Aye: 6**

**No: 1**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Excused: 2**

**Resolution No. B-2025 A – Approval of Three-Year Strategic Facility Planning Guide for Stated Submission: FY-25/26, FY-26/27, FY-27/28**

The guide is being provided to the Board for review and approval. Per the Wisconsin Technical College System Board Financial and Administrative Manual, the Three-Year Facilities Plan lists the projects which are under consideration in that time period.

**Following discussion, it was moved by S. Pierce, seconded by R. Bhatia and carried to roll call vote for approval of Resolution No. B-2025 A – Approval of Three-Year Strategic Facility Planning Guide for Stated Submission: FY-25/26, FY-26/27, FY-27/28.**

**Aye: 7**

**No: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Excused: 2**

**Resolution No. F-2025-2026A.1 – Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2025-2026A**

The administration is recommending approval to issue General Obligation Promissory Notes Series F-2025-2026A; in the principal amount of \$4,000,000: \$1,500,000 for the public purpose of financing building remodeling and improvement projects and \$2,500,000 for the public purpose of financing the acquisition of movable equipment. This borrowing is included in the 2025-2026 budget. Upon approval, appropriate legal notices will be published in the official district newspapers.

Following discussion, it was moved by R. Bhatia, seconded by N. Oberlin and carried to roll call vote for approval of Resolution No. F-2025-2026A.1 Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2025-2026A.

Aye: 7

No: 0

Abstaining: 0

Excused: 2

**Resolution No. F-2025-2026A.2 – Establishing Parameters for the Sale of \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2025-2026A**

The administration is recommending Board approval of a resolution establishing parameters for the sale of \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2025-2026A: \$1,500,000 for the public purpose of financing building remodeling and improvement projects; \$2,500,000 for the public purpose of financing the acquisition of movable equipment. This debt issue is included in the Board-approved budget for FY 2026.

Following discussion, it was moved by R. Bhatia, seconded by Z. Lange-Irison and carried to roll call vote for approval of Resolution No. F-2025-2026A.2 – Establishing Parameters for the Sale of \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2025-2026A.

Aye: 7

No: 0

Abstaining: 0

Excused: 2

**Resolution No. M-2025 A – Tuition Rate Setting for Aid Code 60 Programming**

The administration is recommending Board approval of a resolution for the tuition rate for Aid Code 60 courses.

Following discussion, it was moved by Z. Lange-Irison, seconded by R. Bhatia and carried to roll call vote for approval of Resolution No. M-2025 A – Tuition Rate Setting for Aid Code 60 Programming.

Aye: 7

No: 0

Abstaining: 0

Excused: 2

**Consent Agenda**

It was moved by R. Bhatia, seconded by P. Gardner and carried that the following items in the consent agenda be approved.

**BID 1745 – Kenosha Chiller Repairs Project; project cost \$400,000.00**

**BID 1746 – iMET Electrical Upgrades; project cost \$100,000.00**

**Finance - Summary of Revenue and Expenditures:** Approved the summary of revenue and expenditures as of 5/31/25.

**Finance – Cash and Investment Schedule:** Approved the monthly cash reconciliation, investment schedule, and investment report.

**Personnel Report for June:** Approved the personnel report of new hires (0), transfers (0), retirements (0), promotions (1) and separations (2).

**BWS Contracts for Instructional Delivery:** Approved the contracts for instructional delivery report for June 2025.

**Protective Services Contracts for Instructional Delivery:** Approved the contracts for instructional delivery report for June 2025.

**High School Contracts for Instructional Delivery:** Approved the contracts for instructional delivery report for June 2025.

**Advisory Committee Activity Report:** Approved new members as of June 1, 2025.

**Program Approvals Delivery:** Approved Cybersecurity Analyst Apprenticeship.

**Policy Governance Monitoring Report**

No items this month.

**Next Meeting Date and Adjourn**

Organizational Meeting – Monday, July 14, 2025, 8:00 am, Virtual and In-Person, SC Johnson iMET Center, Kopper Auditorium.

Adjourn - At approximately 10:14 am, it was moved by S. Pierce, seconded by P. Gardner and carried by a roll call vote that the meeting was adjourned and the Gateway Technical College District Board moved into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) to discuss **Contract Matters** related to the Interim President position. The Board reserves the right to reconvene in open session to take action on items discussed in closed session.

**Aye: 6**

**No: 0**

**Abstaining: 1**

**Excused: 2**

**Closed Session**

At approximately 11:15 am, it was moved by S. Pierce, seconded by Z. Lange-Irisson and carried to approve that the board reconvene in open session.

At approximately 11:20 am, it was moved by S. Pierce, seconded by Z. Lange-Irisson and carried to approve that the board approve the contract matters recommendation discussed during the closed session: appoint Dr. Morgan Phillips as Interim President, effective July 1, 2025, and move the annual retreat from July 14, 2025, to a to-be-determined date in late August 2025.

**Aye: 6**

**No: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Excused: 3**

At approximately 11:22 am, it was moved by S. Pierce, seconded by P. Gardner and carried by a roll call vote that the meeting was adjourned.

**Aye: 6**

**No: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Excused: 3**

Submitted by,



Nicole Oberlin, Secretary  
Gateway Technical College Board of Trustees