

Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees Meeting

September 17, 2026

5 p.m.

Transcript of Meeting

- Good evening and welcome to the September 17th, 2026, Johnson County Community College board of trustees meeting. If you'll please stand and join me for the Pledge of Allegiance.

- [Board members] I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

- All right, and by the hair of our chinny-chin-chin, I do see that we've got three, four, five board members present in the boardroom, and I believe we have Trustee Holton up in the sky on the phone. Is that correct, Trustee Holton?

- [Trustee Holton] I am here.

- Okay, fabulous. So that means we have six board members in attendance. We are gonna begin this evening with our awards and recognition and I will turn it over to you, Dr. Miksa, for our student spotlight this evening.

- Thank you very much. I had the opportunity to meet with Matthew to talk a little bit about his presentation today and his experiences here at JCCC. So Matthew, why don't you come on up and talk?

- [Madam Chair] Welcome, Matthew.

- Hello. Good evening and thank you for having me out this evening to be the student spotlight. My name is Matthew Boris. I'm originally from Alberta Canada. I'm an international student here with Johnson County Community College. I joined Student Life in 2024 under the direction of Cassie Jordan. At the time, I was joining the international club, and had the opportunity to meet with other ambassadors. They recommended joining Student Life to get more involved with everything here on campus, and it was a decision that I am greatly happy for taking on. Yeah, during my first semester here at JCCC, I had the opportunity to be a part of some of the events with Cav Kickoff and Cav Connection, and it really gave me kind of a community and base here on campus. Currently, I'm the Student Life team lead for the activities division here. We just made a move over from the Student Center, so we used to be taking care of stuff like photos and IDs, taking care of the phone calls when they come into the college. And since then, we've moved over to GEB, just one floor above us and a couple floors over. And we have a couple of different divisions of Student Life. We've got our Student Lounge that is based here in GEB, it's a kind of a hub for all students to come, and hang out, and meet one another. We also have our Center for Student Involvement in CSI, under the direction of Cassie Jordan, where we connect students and student senates across campus with one another, and help them find a place and sense of belonging. We also have our center for, sorry, I guess we kinda changed our name on that one. Our student activities department as well, which is where I'm based out of, and we provide different programming across campus. Tonight, we've got intramurals happening, where there's approximately 30 to 40 different students doing stuff like pickleball and volleyball in our field house. And then, we also have our, sorry, I'm drawing a blank on it, Student Basic Needs Center, which provides a very important part for our campus here in keeping students well-fed and needs as well here on the campus. Yeah, that's a little bit about Student Life and kind of my time here on the college. We've got those four different kind of divisions and it's really an incredible thing to be a part of.

- [Madam Chair] Thank you. Do we have any questions for Matthew? All right, Trustee Jennings?

- [Trustee Jennings] Thank you, Matthew. Matthew or Andrew?

- Matthew.

- Matthew. So, number one, thank you for doing what you're doing, because, in my opinion, that face that another student has to see you and your members of the student ambassadors working with them makes a real difference, and it's a wonderful welcome for new students. So, thank you for that. And number two, what are you studying?

- I'm currently studying systems information so into the technology field. I'm also double majoring for general science with hopes to transfer to KU for data analytics.

- Right, thank you.

- [Matthew] Thank you.

- [Madam Chair] All right, any other trustees with questions? Yes, Trustee Mitchell.

- [Trustee Rattan] These are all yours.

- Oh, Mitchell, sorry.

- Did you say you were from Ontario?

- [Matthew] I'm from Alberta, Canada.

- Oh, from Alberta, okay. I lived a very brief period of my life in Edmon, or in, yeah, in Edmonton. So what brought you to JCCC? Do we have amazing marketing that kids from Alberta, or from Edmonton, or Calgary, wherever you're from?

- So I live actually just outside of Edmonton, originally. My wife's originally from Kansas here and attended Johnson County Community College. I worked in the performing arts industry

with the Shumka Ukrainian dancers up there, so she was interning there, and we ended up coming down to the States 'cause I wanted to get out of dance and into something a little bit more where you could sit down and less hard on the body. But from family and friends around this area, I've heard nothing but good stuff about JCCC, and small class sizes is absolutely incredible, and the wonderful instructors here as well.

- I'm glad you're here.

- [Matthew] Thank you.

- [Madam Chair] All right, Trustee Rattan?

- Thank you to your wife for bringing you here. In all the departments you have, do the students just select where they have passions for? Or do they rotate around to the different areas?

- Oh, we've got a couple kind of pro staff that kind of facilitate where we're at. So Cassie Jordan takes care of our Center for Student Involvement, and she kinda selects her team. We've got a team of about four ambassadors in that department and they work with our variety of clubs on campus as well as Student Senate. For our Lounge, we've actually have two brand new pro staff. They're actually in the back. If they wanna give a quick wave.

- [Madam Chair] Hey, stand up and be recognized.

- Yeah, we got-

- So we have Bria Jordan, sorry, Bria and Kai. We also have Robbie in the room as well from student... Yeah, and then we've got Andy as well. My apologies, I keep forgetting the department, but yeah, they're a vital part, and they kind of sit down, split us up, and students definitely have the chance to show what they're most interested and passionate

about. We have people that work through social media, people that love sitting in the lounge and facilitating those games and kind of one-on-one connections. And then, our events team, of course, with taking care of the larger scale, such as kickoff this last week here.

- [Trustee Rattan] Thank you.

- [Madam Chair] Trustee Carroll, I can't remember if you-

- I did not this time-

- Okay, all right, very good.

- Thank you, madam.

- Well Matthew, we really appreciate you visiting us tonight, and sharing a little bit about yourself, and about what you're doing on behalf of other students, because, just as Trustee Jennings said, when another student meets someone personally, they're much more likely to be successful and find successful paths forward through that personal, one-on-one relationship with other students. So we appreciate you being one of our great assets on campus to help our students from everywhere be successful. And I hope you stick around in Kansas, even though with this heat, I would not begrudge you for leaving as fast as you can. Thank you so much. Have a good evening.

- Thank you so much.

- All right and, Dr. Miksa, we're gonna move to our campus spotlight.

- Right, our campus spotlight. I'm excited to have them come up to the front here. Certainly, you know this is kind of an old friend of yours, Jason Arnett will kinda lead it, but this is a group that does great work on campus, keeping us all nourished, and keeping us all happy. And so I'd love to have them talk a little bit about their actions and what they do on campus.

- [Madam Chair] Welcome, Dining Services, come on up. Come on, everybody. That's right.

- [Dining Worker] So, good evening. Thank you for having us here tonight. It's nice to see so many familiar faces. Every time I came here before, I was by myself. Tonight I brought a crew, but I'm here to tell you a little bit about dining as a department. And I wanna start off by saying that, in fiscal year '26, we had 81 part-time temporary students that worked with us, and those 81 students worked more hours than our 16 full-time professional staff in the fiscal year. And then when we include our- Unknown caller.

- It's not me, I'm happy. When we add in the part-time regular staff, it's one and a half times our students, our students are just overwhelmingly the largest part of our demographic. 80 to 85% of our students are international, and many of them, it's their first job, coming into us. They work in catering, they work in the food court, in the cafes. In catering, we did 1,200 events last year. In all of retail, we did over 280,000 transactions at the registers. 153,000 of those transactions were in the food court with this team. So they're killing it, basically, is what's going on. But, basically, when the students come to us, we wanna make sure that they learn food safety, which is super important. We also teach them to work as part of a team. Hopefully, we teach them to be on time as they work with us. But, tonight, I'm gonna ask Electra Walker, who's our manager in the food court, who's created this really great family environment for the team, and she's gonna talk a little bit about that, and then she's gonna introduce one of our rock stars, Purnika. But also Ploy Luenthaisong is here. She started as a student with us 10 years ago and is now a full-time supervisor in the food court. So I wanted to recognize Ploy to the board, but Electra's gonna talk, so tell you a little bit about that.

- [Madam Chair] Welcome.

- Hi, Electra Walker. Like Jason say, I am the manager of the food court. I've been here three years and six months? Yes.

- Yes.

- Something around there and really happy to be here. And, you know, I love my team. No. You know, I came to JCC kinda like, "Oh, I don't know if I wanna go there", but when I meet my team, internationals, different cultures, it's like, I like to learn, and I learn from each one of them. You know, different culture, "This is too spicy, this is not too spicy." New recipes which I make at home, and it's been really fun, and yeah, I build up a family over there.

- [Madam Chair] Awesome.

- So Purnika, tell them about Purnika.

- Purnika, she started with us, really shy person and everything. And I'm really proud to say Ploy promote her to PTR, and she's been growing up with us. Now, you will see over there and, "Go, and help over here. Let's go do this." And I'm like, "You didn't talk before." And now she's, you know?

- [Madam Chair] Flourishing, yes?

- Yeah, she's growing up really good over there with us. So?

- Sorry, I forget a few things. Hi, everyone, my name is Purnika Thapa and I'm an international student from Nepal. I have been working as a cashier at food court since last fall when I first joined JCCC. Ever since then, they are like a family to me. And, when I first joined there, I remember I was very nervous. I still am a little, but it takes me a little bit of time to break out of my shell, and they helped me with that, and they always made me feel comfortable, and feel welcomed, and helped me understand what my role will be as a

cashier, and what am I supposed to do. And then, over a year, I was promoted recently to part-time regular, where I lead other part-time temporary people, and I train them like, "This is how it's supposed to do," and I guide them as well. And as an international student, and as English is not my first language, it was a little bit difficult to have a conversation with a stranger, like as a customer, but, eventually, like after working, and then they helped me a lot, like gain confidence in myself, and I can actually have a conversation with stranger now. And also leadership, so they believed in me, they promoted me to a spot, I mean, a position, where I have to guide other employees, and their belief and their guidance has helped me learn leadership as well. And they are my family, and there are other fellow international student as well, we all feel at home, obviously like because they helped us. And then, I also get benefits from my position as an international student, working at the food court. What do we say? Tuition benefit and that has helped me a lot. And I moved to JCCC from Louisiana, like I studied there as an international student for a year, and I came to Kansas for JCCC. Somebody recommended it to me, and I looked it up, and I liked the program. I liked how there was employment opportunity as well and that has been my journey with them ever since.

- All right, thank you for sharing. And do we have one more speaker or? Oh, okay. No, she doesn't. All right. Board, do we have any questions for our fabulous dining services presenters? Trustee Carroll?

- Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to commend all of you because it is very difficult to come to a new area and kinda find your way, but the fact that there's a culture of belonging, and there's a culture of family, and I can really tell everyone cares about each other, it's very difficult to get a large group of adults to do anything, let alone when everyone has different perceptions, and are coming from different cultures. So I definitely commend you for all of your hard work to keep that culture going, and thank you for feeding us because I love the food. That's all.

- [Madam Chair] Trustee Jennings?

- I would just say, that being a cashier, if you were shy, is a great way to come out of your shell, because not only do you have a wonderful team, family behind you, you kinda

probably see the same people at different times every day, so you get to know them more as familiar faces rather than a bunch of strangers.

- [Purnika] Yes, exactly.

- And then, I have a question for the team. So you mentioned that you like to cook the different recipes at home. Do any of those recipes ever make it into the food court?

- Yeah, I cook at home first,

- [Trustee Jennings] Oh, cool.

- Let's go try this.

- Wow, and then do you advertise it so we know what we're?

- In international week, we do.

- [Trustee Jennings] Okay, that's exciting, thank you.

- [Madam Chair] Yeah, very cool. All right, anyone else? Trustee Rattan?

- I've never had a bad meal there. So I would think that of all the student positions that this is probably one of the more high pressure. Once lunch hits and you gotta have everything ready and so thanks for everyone providing this amenity here at the college and it keeps us here. And a lot of times, we hear about how clubs are a retention tool, because people feel a sense of belonging, but it's also nice to see that a student job can also provide that sense of belonging. I heard you say you feel at home, and for anyone that's important, and

especially as you come and you don't have any family here, and you're still learning some of the cultural stuff. So it's just nice to know that the student jobs can also provide that benefit to our students. And then, did you say what your major is?

- I'm doing pre-nursing here at JCCC. I just applied for the nursing school.

- Good luck, you have this. Thank you.

- [Purnika] Thank you.

- All right, well, I wanna thank you all very much, dining services. As some of you know, probably Jason knows, I come from a family of food makers, and my dad is a chef, and, you know, food is much more than just food. Food is community, it is nourishment, it is healing, it is also rest and exchange, and it does all of those things when it's done well. And you have the right people and then right environment to do it. So kudos to your team for developing a sense of community. I've walked a path with a fellow international student here and have learned a lot. One of the things for our board to know is, when you come as an international student, the only place you can work is on campus. You are forbidden from working off campus or your visa can be revoked as an international student. So it's really critical that we provide good jobs that make you happy and make you feel that you belong because we also want you to have a great experience while you're getting your education and furthering yourself. So I'm really glad to hear that that is. And thank you for our full-time staff that provides that and puts that into place. You're not just there, you know, slopping out hamburgers. You understand, you know, all the layers of what you're doing and we appreciate you very much for that. So thank you, all. Have a good evening. All right, Dr. Miksa, I think that wraps up our awards, recognitions, and highlights for the evening. Is that right?

- [Trustee Miksa] Yes, it is, and could I just throw out something really quick?

- Yes, of course.

- I think, you know, when we talk about that idea of 40-40-40, this is one of those things that you might not think are connected to it, but if you're talking about graduation rate, this is one of the things, that sense of family helps keep students feeling like they're here and they can progress forward, so it's a part of that process as well too. And they have wonderful food, great, fresh food. It's wonderful there. So thank you.

- Thank you very much. All right, well, that's gonna take us to our open forum for the evening. The open forum is an agenda item at each regularly-scheduled board meeting. Speakers must register by completing the registration form 15 minutes prior to the regularly-scheduled board meeting. You will need to give your name, city of residence, and any group that you're representing. And then, each speaker is allotted five minutes to speak at the podium. We do have a registered speaker tonight. We have Ronnie Alzumi, is that right? Am I saying it right?

- [Ronnie] Yes.

- All right, come on up. Ronnie, you can come up to the podium up here.

- [Ronnie] Evening, board of trustees.

- [Madam Chair] Evening.

- First of all, let me tell you who I am. First of all, I'm a U.S. Army veteran of nine years, two tours, Iraq, Afghanistan. I currently reside in Overland Park, Kansas, and Olathe, that's a different story. When I first came to JCCC as in 2013, I had two options: drive or take the bus system. Now, come on. I'm a college student. I live alone, a full tank of gas probably runs me around \$60 a week back in 2013. So I tried to take the bus. At the time, students, in 2013, had to pay for bus fares. There were times, though, fiscally, back in 2013, if I didn't have the money to take the bus, I was at the mercy of the driver. Funny story. On exam day, coming from the plaza, I was short 25 cents. This happened many times to many students back at that time. What did the driver do? Put it out of receipt, told me, "Tough luck. Come back when you have the money." I'm a college student. These buses are paid for by tax

dollars. So, lo and behold, I went spelunking, or the of it, and I found 25 cents. Don't know how, miraculously I did, at the bus. A couple of semesters later, it was a struggle. I had to choose between dining services or pay the bus fares. This is fast-forward, back time, U-Passes were issued, all the community colleges, Penn Valley, Kansas City Kansas Community College, they got onboard and students were able to ride the buses for free. Well, paid for by bus pass. All right. Let's go back to what happened this summer. The World Cup came, had COVID-19, it had funding, federal funding, for the buses could be for free. Everyone in Kansas City Metro for a long time, it was a good deal, got to ride the buses for free. That ended with this World Cup. Okay, my first question was, "Before this World Cup happens, are the students' passes gonna come back?" Okay, my worst fear happens. I had at least a couple handful of my mates, my buddies, come and tell me they could barely afford the passes. Many of them live in Lawrence, Kansas. Now, the monthly fare to get from Lawrence, Kansas, to here is 120 a month. 120 a month, let's do the math. 120×12 is over \$1,400 a year. That's almost, okay, full-time tuition for a student. I'm already hearing stories from students in Lawrence that they're being turned away from the buses if they can't afford the fares. I rode the bus the other day, I saw a student had to sneak on the bus, he had to sneak on the bus to get home. If he doesn't have the money to get on the bus, he doesn't come to school. That is a travesty. These buses are paid for by tax dollars, this is a tax from the school. Now, I don't know how that works. I went to President Miksa, we've had that discussion outside your office that, okay, students are responsible for getting themselves to school. Now, I say that POVs are your own personal POVs. Okay, we're putting a stadium out here with tax dollars, okay? Students are being turned away in Lawrence, Kansas, 'cause they don't have the fare or something wrong with their phone. And if the students are coming to me, my upbringing in the military, "I gotta do something, say something," okay? This is probably happening around the Metro, okay? I know in University of Kansas, they can take the bus for free 'cause it's included in their tuition, UMKC, Avila, tuition, okay? I gotta do something, say something, on a street level that if students are able to afford, if a single mom from anywhere in the Metro, who has to decide between taking the bus and fare, from school, and has a tied, What's she gonna say? You're gonna say to her she can't come to school 'cause-

- [Madam Chair] You have one minute.

- she can't afford the fare? This has to be addressed, and getting the U-Passes back to the students. I believe that, if the buses are paid for by tax dollars, that there has to be some sort of agreement that the students should be able to ride the buses for free as long as

they're enrolled in school here. I mean, these students are already living on shoe-string budgets, and this is a situation that has to be taken care of. My next step, I'm gonna go to the KCATA themselves, and get the situation going. But these are students here who are barely affording to come to school, and the tuition, the K10 connector averages monthly minimum 300 transit riders a month. That's 300 students who have to pay to go on from Lawrence, Kansas, to here, 120 a month, and they can't afford it? They are out of luck.

- [Madam Chair] Thank you, Mr. Alzumi. That is our five-minute time right now. I wanna thank you for coming and advocating for this cause. As a matter of regular business, we do not, from the dais, respond to comments at the board meeting, but I appreciate your advocacy, and I appreciate you speaking tonight. Thank you very much. Have a good evening. All right, that is going to take us to our board reports and we will begin this evening with our Student Senate Representative Erick Friel?

- [Trustee Miksa] Yeah, that's close enough.

- Is Erick here? All right, Erick.

- He's right here in the front.

- He's gonna correct me, we gotta get it right.

- [Madam Chair] Thank you.

- Excuse me, you have to bear with me, I'm losing my voice. Madam Chair, members of the board, my name is Erick Friel.

- [Madam Chair] Friel.

- I'm a student here, currently serving on the, I'm sorry, excuse me, I'm a student senator here, currently serving on the Interim Executive Board this semester. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak. Student Senate finds itself in a unique position this semester. After the spring semester ended with vacancies on the executive board, our advisor, Cassie Jordan, had just taken over as the advisor for Student Senate, and made the decision to establish an interim executive board in order to facilitate the primary functions of the Student Senate, which is to provide a voice for the student body. Our focus so far has been outreach and recruiting. We can't really do a lot if we don't have bodies that show up and are willing to get involved. So that has been our primary focus going into the semester so far, and being able to establish an election function that hopefully will be taking place next week. Sorry, I lost my place. One of the other primary functions of the Student Senate is getting involved in the campus activities, such as Cav Kickoff which just took place. That's obviously more difficult to do, you know, when you're short-staffed, but we've made it our mission to make sure that we're meeting those objectives as head on as we can possibly make that happen, all of us being full-time students ourselves with our own course loads and our own part-time jobs. I also happen to work on campus in the Veteran and Military Student Resource Center, so we have pretty full schedules, but we're doing the best we can to facilitate the needs of the Student Senate and the student body. One initiative that we've got coming up that Cassie had asked me to specifically speak on is JCC Gives. This is an initiative that we take very seriously, it's very near and dear to a lot of our hearts. For anyone that's not familiar with JCC Gives, I wanna make sure I get this right. JCC Gives is a campus-wide holiday assistance program that supports members of the JCC community, who may be experiencing financial hardship going into the holiday season. Students, faculty, and staff can nominate someone who they know may be in need of additional support, and members of the campus community can anonymously adopt a wishlist of purchase-request items. That support has included gifts for children, winter clothing, household necessities, and other items that can make a meaningful difference during the holiday season to a lot of folks. JCC Gives is really just one example that I can give. We get involved in a lot more than that, but that is probably what I would call the most important one that we've got coming up, short of trying to engage the student body in order to get involved in the things that we've got going on. As we rebuild our Senate this semester, we are definitely excited for the opportunities that we're being given to experience things like coming to speak to the board, getting to meet with Dr. Miksa. The interim executive board consists of myself and three other students that were selected that had previously served as senators. They will be rotating through these responsibilities that would normally be filled by the Student Senate president. So we're definitely excited for the opportunities. We are anxious and excited to represent the student body in the best way that we can put forward. And

hopefully, in doing so, we can serve the greater JCC community. So I thank you again for your time. Do you have any questions?

- [Madam Chair] Do we have any questions for Mr. Friel? That I will do correctly from here on out. Any questions? Yes, Trustee Mitchell.

- So, mechanically, what was the reason why they set up an interim board rather than having a new election?

- So, at the end of the spring semester, we had kind of a rare situation, where we did not have very many executive board members get elected. We, actually, if I remember correctly, we had two. Unfortunately, one of those students was not able to return to school this semester, and therefore was not able to fulfill the position. And the other, I think, ended up getting a scholarship and transferring to another institution or something to that effect. So we ended up in a situation where we didn't have any elected executive board members to take on the responsibilities. Normally, if we have at least one, that person is automatically promoted to the senate president and then they can appoint other senators to the rest of the positions. And in this scenario, we did not have that.

- [Trustee Mitchell] Thank you.

- Any further questions? Well, I wanna give kudos to you and the interim board. I've been here for six years, and I don't think, besides the year after COVID, that we've had a gap like this. And I know you guys are gonna go out and get some really great, enthusiastic student senators, and get an exec board set up, because you guys are incredible, and you'll make connections, and figure out how to lure them. I don't know, popsicles, lolly... Whatever it takes, right?

- We're working through it.

- The game room down there? I mean, "Come on out, let's have a meeting, and then we can play a Fortnite challenge," right? There's gotta be some kind of incentive there.

- Something, yeah.

- But, I appreciate that you have been willing to fill in, especially with as busy of a schedule as you have. I also wanna say, on behalf of the entire board, we appreciate your service, and we're really glad that you're here at JCCC at this time. And, hopefully, the next time you come, you're gonna bring so many people with you. We'll have two rows full of student senators, okay? All right, thank you so much. Have a good evening. Okay, that's going to take us to the college lobbyist report. And Dick Carter is not here this evening, so we're gonna move right on along to shared governance, which is usually presented by Ms. Krumsick, but I understand she has a fabulous stand-in willing to come and help her out. Welcome back.

- Hello, I'm Andrea Vieux and I am an associate professor of political science. Kaitlin asked me to fill in for the shared governance report because she was unavailable. So that is what I am doing this moment right now. In last month's update, Kaitlin mentioned that college council was working on synthesizing a new definition for shared governance. That stage of the process has been completed, and now, the next step of the process has begun, sharing the definition with campus and asking for feedback. ABC and staff council are beginning to share the new mission statement with their groups and Kaitlin also plans on hosting a town hall in the coming weeks to ensure that all employees have an opportunity to provide feedback. Otherwise, the regular work of shared governance continues. ABC had their first meeting of the semester on Monday, and today, staff council hosted their semi-regular coffee with staff council event hosted by campus services. And that concludes the shared governance report.

- I'm gonna ask our board to be very kind to Ms. Vieux and see if anyone has any questions for her. Seeing none, thank you, Ms. Vieux, for your presentation this evening and

- [Andrea] It's all right.

- for substituting, oh, look, the faculty association presentation brought to us this evening by Ms. Vieux. Welcome back, Ms. Vieux. It's been so long.

- Yes, hello and welcome. I am Andrea Vieux and I'm an associate professor in political science. I'm also the interim, I mean, the immediate past president of the faculty association and Dr. Olivares asked me to give the report tonight. So today was Constitution Day, or is, where we celebrate the constitution, and to celebrate, we had several activities around campus, including a live reading of the constitution, constitution trivia, cookie decorating, free pocket constitutions, which I had meant to bring up here to give to you, but they're in my purse so I forgot that unfortunately, and also voter information tables. These activities occurred around campus and were hosted by Student Life and Leadership. They are gone now, but as well as the CoLab and the department of history and political science. So just kind of a little group all around campus stuff. One thing about JCCC is that we are a people-oriented institution. We aren't in manufacturing and we don't sell products here. We don't make a product. So we are in a sector where we serve people and people are actually required to do that work. So transforming lives and strengthening communities requires people. Student success requires people. Investing in our students and our community means investing in the people who serve our students and our community. I can think of myriad examples of faculty and other employees who are doing that important work every day, such as Britton Hill, who is here to talk about the automotive program and the car that the students are building over there. You've heard from Hugh Clark, and the work that he does to support our veteran students. You heard from Jhonatan Vallejo and Mike Steinmetz, who developed that support for HVAC students that also they did to help K-12 students as well. You've heard about our outstanding Model UN program advised by Dr. Brian Wright that wins awards at international conferences while competing against schools from all over the world. Also worth noting that Dr. Wright and his students host the Metro KC Model UN program for our high-school partners here on JCC's campus and they get people from even Oklahoma and Arkansas at that conference. You've also heard from Dr. Heather Seitz and the AlgaePrize students who finished in the top five of the department of energy competition, where they were up against graduate students. You've heard about the course-based undergraduate research experiences grant and the support it provided to grow STEM and research opportunities in STEM courses. Dr. Melanie Harvey and Heather Seitz also leveraged that grant to create a conference for community college faculty that's actually held right here at JCCC over the summer. Our faculty are actually very incredible. The work they do to support students is remarkable. We are lucky that we have the faculty that we have because, without them, we would not actually be able to do all of these wonderful programs that support our students' success. I recently read a piece about the

sprawl of software in higher education and the costs and challenges that are faced by higher eds that are buying a bunch of different software packages that may or may not work the way they should. I was chatting with an employee who noted that, in their role, they interact with 28 different software systems, so 28. And it got like a lot of us thinking like how many different software packages do our students have to navigate when they're through the enrollment process or even when they're on campus here, whether they're trying to access tutoring or get into their courses or whatever? What's their user experience like, not just when they apply and enroll, but when they wanna do all these other things? Sometimes, software can be really useful. There's very useful software. Other times, maybe it's not so much, but it was interesting, that article was interesting to me, because it seems to be a bigger conversation going on in higher education more generally, not just like here, but as a larger conversation higher ed. I've also been thinking and hearing a lot about the future and what programs are critical to the success of our community and our workforce, and, of course, about the enrollment cliff. So I know that our administration is also thinking about these things and what's gonna happen here. And one example is, of course, the areas that support college initiatives. For example, with the expansion of healthcare programs, we need to also be clear about how we're looking at sciences and math because they support the prerequisites for those programs. Similarly, we're also seeing a growth of the dual credit students on campus, which is good to think about what those students need. So I just wanna really quickly remind everybody, dual credit students are high school students who come to our campus to take our classes. This is different from College Now or concurrent enrollment, where they're taking JCC classes in the high schools. So the dual credit students come here, they take our classes, it transfers back to the high school, and then they are able to get their high school diplomas and their associate's degrees at the same time. I mean, it's a really neat thing that we're doing for our community and our high school students, and I know there's been a lot of growth in that area recently. So the growth of dual credit students also means increased enrollment demands in courses that our high school students need to graduate. I'll just give you an example, a personal example. All Kansas high-school students are required to take one unit of American government and two units of U.S. history. So as somebody who does the schedule for history and political science, I have to think about these, what we might think of like in terms of anticipating growth and making sure that we have enough sections to meet the demands for those students. Sometimes, it can be a challenge because I'm in an area where it is hard for us to hire part-time people that can work during the day. Turns out political scientists have jobs, I guess. I don't know. But scheduling enrollment, and like navigating enrollment, and all that stuff, those are just some of the things that department chairs do more generally. We all have to kind of think about these as we're building schedules very soon. So speaking of department chairs, as you know, Dr. Terri Easley-

Giraldo and Tai Edwards, Dr. Tai Edwards, have started their term as chair and vice chair of the Instructional Chairs Committee late last spring. They've hit the ground running. They've been very busy. And coordinating meetings and communications with ICC, the chair subcommittee formula, chair formula subcommittee, the deans, Dr. Singh and McCloud as well, to kind of determine what, if any, changes might happen with the chair formula. So I'll just quickly report, last week, we had the first round of voting on proposals, and then next week, we have our second round of voting on proposals. So, hopefully, we will have a solution soon and then we can stop talking about the chair release formula. That'd be great.

- [Madam Chair] Oh, now.

- Finally, I'll just close with a couple of good news items. The Kansas Land Treaties Project grant was restored through the National Endowment for the Humanities. So that's really good news. They've gotten their grant back, and Kansas Studies Institute, which is, of course, directed by Tai Edwards, they collaborate with K State's Chapman Center for Rural Studies to annotate all the treaties between the U.S. government and the Kanza peoples, which now, we refer to as Kaw Nation. So they're also creating educational resources about Kanza history, and most recently, they actually created a documentary titled "Flooding Kaw Nation: Submerged Cities, Desecrated Graves, and Kaw Lake", which was accepted at the Tallgrass Film Festival in Wichita. So they'll be doing that. So the film documents the flooding of Washunga, Oklahoma, which is a Kaw Nation town to build the Kaw Lake. So they flooded this town to build a lake. And then, Dr. Edwards, a JCC alum named Claire Cox, and the Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum in Lawrence added that film as well as some other things related to Clinton Lake in a similar situation to their museum. So some of those artifacts are gonna go in there. And then, last but not least, JCCC Center for Sustainability had their third annual Thrift and Thrive event yesterday. It was very successful. I'm happy to say I ran into Krystal Anton who organizes that event, and I was in there looking at all the great stuff that people had donated, and she was talking about how they had a bunch of neat little things that students could get for their apartments or their homes. And this year, they gave away the most amount of things that we had given away, and they had very little leftover, and they took the remainings over to the thrift store across the street. So that is all I have.

- Okay, what a very robust report. Thank you, Ms. Vieux. Do we have any questions for our faculty association presenter, Ms. Vieux? Okay, Trustee Rattan.

- Your first comments about how JCCC is powered by the people. I 100% agree that it's the great people here at the college that make us great and that's our product, that's our service, and that's our competitive advantage.

- We like to agree with that. I think the trustees can also be in that, you know, everybody at the dais. Like it is a people place and we're very good with that.

- Thank you, Trustee Rattan. Thank you for coming back. You're welcome back anytime, because you threw so many things at us that I'm gonna have to like spend some time. I feel like I should have taken like cliff notes on the side and annotated because you always do such a great job. I always imagine you walking around with a spotlight in this place or a flashlight, and just showing all the different corners of this college and all the amazing people involved in doing the important work of our people business that we're in. So thank you for that.

- Well, thank you, because I actually did have to reduce my comments. They were even longer.

- Well, thank you for reducing it on our behalf. I appreciate that.

- [Trustee Carroll] Thank you.

- All right, that's gonna take us to the JCERT, Johnson County Education Research Triangle Report with Trustee Rattan.

- Thank you. JCERT received two million, four hundred seventeen thousand, nine hundred and ninety-four dollars and four cents in sales tax for August 2026. This is again a strong

number increasing over \$300,000 from last year and \$806,000 was distributed to each of the three university entities on September 3rd, 2026.

- [Madam Chair] Okay.

- That concludes my report.

- That concludes the report?

- All right, do we have any questions for Trustee Rattan on the JCERT report? Just as a reminder, the JCERT was a three-eighth-cent sales tax, created over a decade ago, to provide Johnson County with funding to be a research triangle. And that is what she reports on each time with that report. All right, that's gonna take us to the Kansas Association of Community Colleges. I do not believe Trustee Cross is on the line, so we will forfeit that report this evening, and we're gonna go right to the foundation report. Trustee Mitchell.

- Thank you, Madam Chair.

- Good evening. Please proceed.

- As you well know, we're given a script that basically details all the things that are going on so that we don't forget. And the script is now officially annotated as the exciting news report.

- [Madam Chair] Oh, nice.

- Harvest Dinner was a great success. We added two new sponsors and hosted a sold-out crowd. More money was raised than ever before. It was a fun and successful evening. Thanks to all of the trustees who attended. I think everybody was there. Some Enchanted

Evening 2026 is November 14th of 2026. The co-chairs are Dr. Tony Miksa and his wife Deb. It will be the 40th anniversary of the event. We are currently at 148% of our income goal, which is basically \$2.1 million and 86 tables have been sold, which is the same number as last year. We have decided to add four additional tables from last year, so we still have a little room for individual ticket sales. Please reach out to Joy Ginsburg or Jamie Cochran if you or anyone you know is interested in being at the event and it is worth attending. The foundation has worked to complete all the recommendations of the internal audit. The executive committee voted to accept the memorandum of understanding between the foundation and JCCC, which we will be voting on later on. And we have worked to clean up our funds and we have updated all of our board policies. The foundation investment committee made a recommendation to the executive committee to realize \$1 million from our current operating funds to allocate to continuing education scholarships and Nerman Museum operations. This investment into the college is possible because of the current ops fund balance has grown from just under \$300,000 in 2022 to 3.2 million in 2026. Three new board members have been elected to serve on the foundation board: Reagan Cussimano from the University of Kansas Health System, Gina Creek from AdventHealth, and Scott Coup from Security Bank. They're all provided an orientation and will be welcome to our first directors meeting, which was yesterday, and one of them was there yesterday. The other two couldn't make it. The fall scholarship lunch was held on September 10th. Several of us was there. This event is always a highlight of the year. Special thanks to Trustee Dawn Rattan for serving as the MC of the event. And they are excited to report that, in fiscal year '26, eight new scholarship funds were established, and so far in '27, we have four new funds established. This is a combination of endowed and spendable funds. And that concludes the report for the foundation.

- Okay, do we have any questions for Trustee Mitchell on the foundation report? All right, hearing none, we're going to proceed to two public hearings that we need to have in order to move on through our business for this evening. So the first one is the revenue neutral public hearing. So, typically, with the revenue neutral public hearing, you have to sign up 15 minutes before the start of the meeting, just like you do with the regular open hearing. You must register and then you're given five minutes. My understanding is there are not any signups this evening for the revenue neutral hearing, so I will both open the revenue hearing and close the revenue neutral rate hearing. I told you there's a lot of words in these scripts tonight. And that is going to take us to the budget public hearing. The budget public hearing is also the same. We're gonna open it for the '26/'27 budget public hearing for public comment. Those wanting to address the board during this hearing needed to sign up in person outside the boardroom 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. My

understanding is we also did not have anyone sign up for the budget public hearing. So seeing that we have no one signed up to comment, I will then close the '26/'27 budget public hearing meeting. And that is going to take us to the management and finance report provided by the lovely Trustee Mitchell. Trustee Mitchell.

- Thank you again, Madam Chair. The Management Finance Committee held their meeting at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, September 2nd. The information related to the meeting can be found on pages 4 through 12 of the board packet. A few moments ago, we held the revenue neutral rate hearing and the public hearing for the fiscal year 2026/27 legal budget. These public hearings represent the culmination of a year-long budget development process beginning with budget guidelines that were first presented to the board of trustees in December of last year. The preliminary budget guidelines provided a framework for building out the fiscal year 2026 budget and were adopted by the board at the December 18th, 2025 meeting. Additionally, the board held a comprehensive budget workshop in April of this year and adopted the management budget in May prior to the start of the new fiscal year on July 1st. At this time, I'd like to ask Megan Casey, vice president and chief financial officer, to come to the podium and share the information that she presented to the Management Finance Committee on September 2nd related to the adoption of the legal budget. Thank you.

- [Madam Chair] Welcome back, Ms. Casey.

- Good evening.

- [Madam Chair] Good evening.

- Okay, as Trustee Mitchell shared, this is our final step in our fiscal year '27 budget cycle. Adopting our legal budget will set our statutory spending authority for the year as well as our mill levy and tax rate. Our legal budget is to be filed with the county by October 1st each year. There have been no changes to the budget that was presented and adopted in May, our management budget, so I'll briefly go over our budgeted revenue and expenses with you all. Our budgeted revenue is 208 million, with property taxes representing 66% of the budgeted revenue, followed by tuition and fees at 16%, and state aid at 14%. For property

taxes, the budget includes assessed valuation growth estimate of 5%. It maintains our current mill levy rate at 7.861 mills, which is higher than the county's calculated revenue neutral rate of 7.5 mills, which is why we needed to have the revenue neutral rate hearing. And we are exceeding revenue neutral rate because of that budgeted assessed valuation growth. Next for tuition and fees, in December, you all approved tuition increases of 5 to 6% across all residency categories. And then, state aid, we are expecting an increase in the state operating grant of 6%. Can you move ahead ? Thank you. Now, for our expenses, they are budgeted at just over 235 million, with salaries and benefits representing 67% of our expected expenses, followed by capital at 16%, and operating and grants at 15. So highlights for our expenses, it includes a four and a half percent compensation increase for faculty and staff that was effective July one of this year. It includes benefit cost increases, so employer medical paid portion, 403b contributions. The total number of budgeted faculty and staff positions remains unchanged. However, we do have a process that allows for reallocation of existing positions or creation of new positions as approved. In the capital line, it does include 25 million in a strategic investment to the first phase of our facilities master plan, which is our healthcare education building, an on-ground observatory for our astronomy program, improvement to athletic spaces, and then capital infrastructure updates that are needed. With these expenses, we are still able to maintain our reserve levels, which supports our strong financial health and bond ratings. Then, this last page is just a summary of what we just went over. And I'll stop here for any questions.

- Are there any questions for Ms. Casey on the budget? Just to be clear, particularly because we've had several guests here this evening, this is a budget that we have been... We work on the budget 12 months out of the year and different parts of the budget are brought forward to the board for review. So we've been operating with this budget and looking at these numbers since April of last year, and we take our responsibility of managing our budget very seriously on this board. Some have accused us of being quite conservative in how we manage our budget and some accuse us of being quite liberal in how we manage our budget. That's for everyone to judge, but all of this information is available online. If you go to the JCCC website, you can find this information by typing in budget in the search part of the website and you can find this presentation as well as our annual budget book. Does it still get mailed out? I think it gets mailed out to some, but maybe not all. We get it in some various forms.

- Only a few, but it's available on the website.

- And so the part that we just conducted prior to this was the open forum, where taxpayers or community members could speak. This is the time where we're going to actually evaluate what it is we're doing with our finances and approve each of the parts that we manage for our budget. And I just think it's important for our general public to know that this is not something that we're seeing for the first time. I think for me alone, probably the sixth or seventh time that I've seen it. For those of you on management, maybe the 10th or 12th time that you've seen it and gone over it. So I just wanted to put that out there. Does anybody have any questions for Ms. Casey? Trustee Rattan?

- We usually assume that state aid is gonna be flat. Can you explain the 6% increase again?

- So the funding formula is based on a three-year calculation of our average enrollment. And so, over the past several academic years, our enrollment increased, and so that's why we're expecting to receive additional revenue.

- Yes.

- [Trustee Rattan] Thank you very much.

- Okay and then, we are gonna move to a vote in a little bit, so we can have some discussion about each of the components of the budget. But Ms. Casey, I appreciate that that means, if we've heard it 8 to 10 times, you've been here 8 to 10 times presenting, and re-presenting, and answering questions, and making sure that we have all the information we need to proceed with the vote. We very much appreciate that. All right, thank you very much. Trustee Mitchell, please proceed with your report.

- Yes, the Management Finance Committee has two recommendations related to the budget. First, a recommendation to adopt a resolution to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate. It is therefore the recommendation of the Management Finance Committee that the board of trustees accept the recommendation of the college

administration to adopt a resolution to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate for the 2026-2027 fiscal year as found on the following pages. And I so move.

- I have a motion made by Trustee Mitchell. I have a second by Trustee Rattan. This is for the, oops, sorry, I skipped ahead to mine. This is for the adoption of the revenue neutral rate. Do we have any discussion? Trustee Rattan.

- I would like to say just for the numbers, it looks like revenue neutral is 7.5 and we are at 7.861. So I think this reflects effort from staff and whoever gives inputs into budgets to get as close to revenue neutral that we can get to while still operating our quality programs and college. And so thanks for the effort for everyone who's worked on this.

- Yes, I completely agree with you. I also wanna say that this revenue neutral, the hearing and the declaration that goes out and everyone gets mailed was conceived in the legislature a number of years ago. For somebody who believes that local control is central to what we do on this board, I would say I objected to it, because what the legislature has done is they have tied us to the same amount of dollars we had this time last year and that we are to operate year after year with the same amount of dollars as if no expenses are going up. I don't know about you all, but in my own house, my fuel costs, my housing costs, my electrical costs, my food costs, have all gone up since 2025. And that is the same for this institution. Imagine, the dining services talked about this evening, the amount of people we feed, the cost to do so has increased. We have a vehicle, a fleet of vehicles that do a number of things from safety to grounds, to our EMT, the cost to fuel those has gone up. So it is, in my opinion, a shame that we have a legislature that has made it look as though we are taking an exorbitant amount of funds to fund this place when, in fact, what we're doing is very conservatively taking enough to be able to operate with the extra additional incurred costs and be able to provide this community with an excellent community college. And that is my own personal comments about the board, the neutral, sorry, gosh, I can't even think of the word now,

- [Trustee Rattan] Mill levy.

- Mill levy, no, no, no, we're not doing the mill levy yet. The revenue neutral process that we have to go through now, which was not the case when I began on this board six years ago. So it's just been in the last four years we've had to do this, as well as every entity in Kansas. So with that, I think we're gonna move to a vote unless anybody has additional comments or discussion. Trustee Holton, are you still on the line?

- [Trustee Holton] I'm here.

- All right, we're gonna move to a vote. So all in favor of the recommendation presented before us about the revenue neutral rate, please proceed with an aye.

- [Board members] Aye.

- [Trustee Holton] Aye.

- All opposed? Nay.

[Trustee Holton] - Aye.

- Hearing none, the motion carries six zero. All right, Trustee Mitchell, please proceed.

- Next, we have the recommendation to adopt the fiscal year 2026 legal budget. It is therefore the recommendation of the Management Finance Committee that the board of trustees accept the recommendation of the college administration to adopt the FY 2026-2027 legal budget as presented and does hereby certify said budget to be to the county clerk of Johnson County, Kansas, for collection in a manner prescribed by law. And I so move.

- [Trustee Jennings] Seconded.

- Motion made by Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Trustee Jennings. So this one is adopting the numbers that you saw on the board and proceeding so that the college can take care of itself in the next fiscal year. And guess what we'll be doing next month? Starting the budget process all over again. Do we have any discussion on this point? Hearing none, we'll proceed with a vote. All in favor say aye.

- [Board members] Aye.

- [Trustee Holton] Aye.

- Any opposed? No, the motion carries six to zero. Thank you very much. Please proceed, Trustee Mitchell.

- Thank you, Madam Chair. The Management Finance Committee received the following reports from staff, legal and regulatory compliance program annual update. AnnLouise Fitzgerald, Associate Council Policy and Compliance provided an update on legal and regulatory compliance program. She reviewed the background of the program, showed an example of departmental compliance plan, and highlighted the goals for the current and upcoming fiscal year. Rachel Lierz, executive vice president for finance and administrative services, presented a memorandum of understanding with the JCCC Foundation. And I mentioned in the foundation report earlier that they have voted on it. The details of this can be found on the consent portion for this meeting and we will be voting on that as part of the consent later on. Capital Acquisitions and Improvements Progress Report. Tom Hall, associate vice president, campus services and facilities planning, provided the committee with the information on facilities projects for the Capital Acquisitions and Improvements Matrix. The matrix summarizes and monitors budgets and actual expenses for campus services projects and includes payments through August 31st, 2026. He also reported that the renovation of the Student Media Center COM 260 is complete. The remodeled classroom is now state-of-the-art laboratory for learning the present and future of digital journalism and media creation. The space is used for courses within the English communication and journalism division and is home to "The Messenger", JCC student-run multimedia news site. And then aside after the committee, we took a quick tour of that facility. It was very nice. Next, Jim Feikert, executive director of procurement services,

presented the monthly procurement report and recommendations. The first recommendation is for construction management at risk services for COM and OCB infrastructure. It is therefore the recommendation of the Management Finance Committee that the board of trustees accept the recommendation of the college administration to approve the proposal from Nabholz in the established amount of \$889,200, which includes their \$9,000 pre-construction fee and 9.78% overall construction fee. And I so move.

- Okay, motion made by Trustee Mitchell. Do we have a second?

- Second.

- Trustee Carroll with a second. Any discussion on this or any notes, Trustee Mitchell, about this particular motion? Sometimes, you add-

- Yes, nothing noteworthy other than to say that construction management at risk saves us from cost overruns and such. So I've worked on projects in other capacities and it's well worth it to have somebody like this, it's almost like an owner's representative type situation focusing on your needs.

- Thank you very much. All right, we're gonna move to a vote. All in favor say aye.

- [Board members] Aye.

- [Trustee Holton] Aye.

- Any opposed? No, hearing none, motion carries six zero. Trustee Mitchell, please proceed.

- Now, we're gonna talk about the Ellucian Enterprise Resource Planning software. It is the recommendation of the Management Finance Committee that the board of trustees accept

the recommendation of the college administration to approve the renewal extension for Ellucian for a total amount of \$5,201,354 through September of 2029. And I so move.

- Motion made by Trustee Mitchell. Do we have a second?

- [Trustee Jennings] Second.

- Trustee Jennings with the second. Any discussion? Can you remind me what this is for? Is this our-

- So the ERP planning systems run all kind of the back-office aspects of the college, purchasing, finance. I don't know if-

- [Trustee Lierz] Human resources.

- Yeah, human resources.

- And the bulk of it is our student information system. So it's classes, and class scheduling, grades, transcript, financial aid, all of the above.

- Notwithstanding Dr. Vieux had mentioned that in an organization like this, there's like 70 different software applications. This is really kind of one-stop-shop for the major back-office automation in an organization like this.

- [Trustee Holton] I...

- [Madam Chair] Oh, Trustee Holton?

- [Trustee Holton] I do have a question.

- Yes, Trustee Holton.

- [Trustee Holton] Is Ellucian our only provider of this or are there others out there or is it just too hard to change? Why is there only one for a \$5 million total?

- Yeah, this is the only.

- This is the incumbent software solution. So I don't really know what other options there are out there, but presumably, if we were to do a conversion to another solution, if such exists, it would be quite a bit more expensive. I can tell you from my experience working in the healthcare sector that it's not unusual to have very limited options. It's greater in healthcare than it used to be in terms of these types of systems. So it may be the only... But practically, I think it's the only one we have a choice of. Otherwise, we're doing a whole new implementation of a whole new system and that gets very costly.

- [Madam Chair] Ms. Lierz, do you have anything else to add?

- No, I mean, there are other providers out there. The college has worked with Ellucian since the late 1990s, I believe. But an ERP system is just that by nature. It is all of those things combined into one package.

- All right, any further questions or discussion? All right, hearing none, we're gonna proceed to a vote. All in favor of the motion for Ellucian, please indicate by saying yes.

- Yes.

- Aye.

- Any opposed?

- [Trustee Holton] Yeah.

- Oh, sorry, thank you, Trustee Holton. I got to wait for the man in the sky. Hearing none opposed, the motion carries six to zero. Please proceed, Trustee Mitchell.

- Thank you, Madam Chair. And mercifully, this concludes my report.

- No such thing. Thank you for your management and budget report. I wanted to add one more thing. I'm just going to take a moment of personal privilege to do so about the budget process that I forgot to mention earlier. The other thing about budgeting this place is that, when this college was created 50 years ago, and there is a book called "The History of JCCC" that I recommend everyone read, it's riveting, it was understood and it was an agreement with the community that it would be funded through a three-legged stool. And that three-legged stool of funding is the Kansas legislature, the local taxpayer, and student tuition and fees. As we have gone along in years, the one stool that continues to shrink, and shorten, and not hold up the rest is the Kansas legislature. And I would encourage anyone who is concerned about funding or about tax dollars asking for the state of Kansas to do their part to fund what they said they would fund, because otherwise, it's put on local taxpayers to bear that burden. And in some places, I think the burden is too much, but we, in this legislative body, are tasked with funding this institution with what we have available. And so we have to take what the state of Kansas gives us, even though, what was it? I think 19%? They're not even funding 30% of our operations anymore in order for us to continue to do business and offer courses and classwork for our community. So I wanted to take that moment of privilege. Thank you, everyone, for indulging me, and we are going to move on to the Employee Engagement and Development Committee. Trustee Cross was supposed to provide that report tonight. Who do I have? Trustee Jennings here this evening for the Employee Engagement and Development Committee report. Trustee Jennings.

- Thank you, Madam Chair. The Employee Engagement and Development Committee met on Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026. Under HR-4 Monitor HR and Employee Engagement

Strategies and Initiatives, Ms. Christina McGee, vice president human resources, presented an update on the compensation studies that are underway with CBIZ and Gallagher for faculty and staff. Ms. McGee reported that Two West, the vendor who acts as the fiduciary and retirement consultant for the college's employee retirement benefits, has been acquired by Higginbotham Retirement Advisors. Ms. McGee advised that Two West shared that the account team fiduciary agreements and record-keeping will remain the same. Ms. McGee also provided an update regarding the HRIS system analysis and advised that the analysis should be completed by October. Ms. McGee also presented an update regarding changes to the employee mandatory compliance training. Ms. McGee shared that the deadline was moved from December 1st to September 15th to ensure that employees are aware of their role, expectations, and policies at the beginning of the school year rather than at the end of this semester. Ms. Rachel Haynes and Dr. Farrell Jenab reported on this fall's PLD week highlighting that over 600 employees attended the employee breakfast, which was a wonderful breakfast, and approximately 700 attended the president's address and keynote speaker. Also that week, JCCC honored years of service recipients with a reception and recognized individuals at the Wall of Honor celebration. Ms. Barbra Cooper, director of human resources, presented updates from her teams to the committee. Several class offerings regarding employee benefits were held during PLD week and with over 200 employees attending different sessions. In addition, Ms. Cooper shared that the benefits administration system, RFP, will close on September 16th. Ms. Cooper also shared that the benefits team is gearing up for open enrollment this year and will hold a benefits and wellness fair on October 14th. Ms. Cooper updated the committee on the compensation department's current projects, stating that, in addition to gearing up for the compensation studies, the department is undertaking a large project, where they are reviewing and updating approximately 700 unique staff job position descriptions. Furthermore, Ms. Cooper reported that the talent acquisition team has rolled out a new career webpage. She shared images of the updated careers webpage and provided data pertaining to the number of clicks on each section of that webpage, which includes a total number of 9,000 clicks. And this concludes my report, Madam Chair.

- Great, thank you, Trustee Jennings. Any questions or comments for Trustee Jennings on the employee engagement report? All right, hearing none, we're gonna move on to the Student Success Committee and surprise, Trustee Jennings is back for more.

- Thank you, Madam Chair. The Student Success Committee met at 9:30 AM, September 2nd, 2026, in this room, GEB 137. Shelia Maupin presented a new agreement with

Walgreens at the registered nursing program. Details of that can be found subsequently in the board packet. Dr. Michael Brooks, director of the assessment evaluation and institutional effectiveness, which is A-E-I-O U

- U and Y? Oh, sorry.

- department presented annual updates on assessment and program review. Academic program review, APR, helps departments plan for future financial expenditures and forecasts support needs for faculty development. There are two types of APR: annual and comprehensive. Dr. Brooks shared highlights from the annual year '25/'26 APR, which included: the overall submission rate, vitality assessment, and programs vitality indicator ratings. He then discussed student learning outcomes and institutional learning outcomes. He discussed the difference and shared SLO and ILO data from the annual year '25/'26. Dr. Jackie Eidson, director of the National Higher Education Benchmarking Institute, NHEBI, presented an annual update on the department. She gave a quick history of NHEBI at JCCC,

- Goodness. They did you wrong on this report, Trustee Jennings.

- and why benchmarking matters. As an example of JCCC using this data, Dr. Eidson shared that Shelli Allen used it for a presentation at a national conference. The benchmarking office will continue national visibility by presenting at over seven conferences by the end of 2026. Dr. Eidson thanked the board and administration for their support. Chad Sanner, dean, healthcare public safety and wellness, HPSW, presented an annual update on the division. The HPSW division is made up of over 10 departments, including RN, CNA, dental hygiene, EMS, fire science, and wellness and public health classes. He showed how the division is helping students overcome some barriers by offering hybrid learning WDCE classes, more scholarships and aid, new programs and peer faculty support. Dr. Sanner emphasized that the new healthcare education building will help meet the growing demand for healthcare programs by increasing student capacity. And Madam Chair, this concludes my report.

- And your acronym soup

- [Trustee Jennings] I know, right?

- this evening. Thank you, Trustee Jennings, for that report. Do we have any questions or comments for Trustee Jennings on the student success report? All right, hearing none, we're going to move on to the president's recommendations for action. And we have the treasurer's report with Trustee Mitchell.

- Thank you again, Madam Chair. The board packet includes the treasurer's report for the month ended July 31st, 2026. July was the first month of the college's 2026-2027 fiscal year. Some items of note include, page one includes the general post-secondary technical education fund summary, which are the primary operating funds of the college. The general fund unencumbered cash balance is 146.6 million as of July 31st, 2026. State grant payments of 18.2 million were received during the month of August and will be reflected on next month's report. Expenditures of the primary operating funds are within approved budgetary limits. It is therefore the recommendation of the college administration that the board of trustees approve the treasurer's report for the month end of July 31st, 2026, subject to audit.

- [Madam Chair] You make that motion, Trustee Mitchell?

- Yes, so moved.

- Okay. Motion made by Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Trustee Rattan. All in favor of the treasurer's report indicate by saying aye.

- [Board members] Aye.

- [Trustee Holton] Aye.

- Thank you, Trustee Holton. Any opposed, nay? Hearing none, the motion carries six zero. Please proceed, Trustee Mitchell.

- That concludes the report.

- Thank you very much. All right, that's going to take us to the monthly report to the board from Dr. Miksa.

- Thank you very much. All right, I'll start with enrollment. I think this is great news. I mean, you always want enrollment to be up 20 or 30%, but our enrollment is, well, maybe not, enrollment, in terms of our headcount, up about 0.1%, so that's great. Total credit hours, down about 0.1%. So in essence, it's flat out there. I think one of the things that we're really excited about is the idea that dual enrollment is steady or, if not, just a little bit higher in the dual enrollment area. I'm looking at John to make sure I get my nod. So we're excited about that because we didn't necessarily know what was gonna happen with some of the changes around dual enrollment. In workforce development and continuing education, we're scorching it a little bit there. We have about 5,679 enrollments going on right now. That's about 34.4%. I was gonna say it was up 34.4%, but no, that's about 34.4% towards our goal of 16,500 enrollments. I do think that the nice thing about that is we're at about 4,500 enrollments last year at this time, so we are ahead of pace. So things are looking really good in that area as well too. So everybody keeps talking about the enrollment cliffs, but we continue to be strong here and do some stuff that continues to keep us moving forward. So I do appreciate everybody's work there. I can't believe it, it's already week, I feel like it's week three of this semester, but it's actually week four this semester already, so it is moving right along very quickly. Last week, they did the Cav Kickoff event, which is what they generally do each year. Over 900 students took advantage of the Cav Kickoff. They explored over 100 tables. Again, this is another great example of that opportunity where students can come out, they can walk around, they can see people at different tables, clubs, organizations. They can kind of find their people, make that connection, because we know the more the connections that the students make, the better opportunities that they have to be successful, hopefully going towards that 40% graduation rate that we have here, as well as enrollment as well too, because when we keep them, that means that retention helps our enrollment also. During the first of couple weeks of the semester, I had the opportunity to go over to the Nerman and see our first-ever, student-curated exhibition that they had on campus here. So it was great. I got to talk to the students about why they chose

some of the pieces of artwork that they had, and so that was fun. A lot of these students that were a part of that, I think I threw a picture out there on Instagram around that, and Chad, Trustee Carroll was there as well too, but they talked about why they chose it, and then a lot of them are gonna be museum workers in the future. So I think that that was really exciting. Excuse me. I also got the opportunity to go over to the FADS building. I love that building. There's so much great, hands-on stuff there, so it's wonderful. But we had a student art show that was there also. And so, again, I got the opportunity to talk to students. One student had an exhibit where it was the back of two people's heads and the hair was connected. She kind of explained why she put that together. Another student was talking about her photography work that she did, and it was great. As I was talking to her, she was explaining why she took the picture. Then she stopped and paused and she's like, "Oh my gosh, there's another person. I didn't even realize that. That makes it change." I was like, "Oh, that's great." Always learning, always inspiring. So that was wonderful as well too. I continue to try to make connections across the state outside of Johnson County. I feel like Topeka is my new home. I've been there a couple times now. So I met with the new CEO and president of KBOR, Jennifer Bonds-Raacke. So we had lunch, and met, and talked about some of the things they have there. Today, I just got back, met with Alysia Johnston. She's the KBOR board chair, learned a little bit about their operations as well too. I went over there for the KBOR meeting, and had breakfast with other presidents, and talked to them, other presidents, KBOR staff as well too. And we also, myself, Sheila, and Gurb made a trip and went to the TEA, the Technical Education Association meeting, and listened to some work there as well too. So it's been a great opportunity to be connected there, and get to know that part of the state, and that board, and how we work there. We spent some time, I know Dawn was at this one, or Trustee Rattan, I'm sorry, I got to be formal here when we're in front of everybody, the Johnson County of the Year reception. We celebrated Greg Musil at that. Anybody else at that? It was just Trustee Rattan. So that was great. What I think of it, so this is my second year here, is kind of like that welcoming for the Some Enchanted Evening. So I think Some Enchanted Evening is gonna be great. And as you heard, the fundraising is going gangbusters. We're over two million, so Joy continues to set records as well too, so that's wonderful. I think they also mentioned as well too, in terms of scholarships this year, no, scholarships ending last year, we gave away over \$2 million in scholarships to the foundation as well too. So that was a record that we set also. One of the great things about living in downtown Overland Park, you walk to everything. And so we were walking back, and we ran into a gentleman, Dr. Pat Bosco, who was a vice president emeritus, vice president of student service emeritus at K State, and he had been on our campus before, and I said, "Hey, I'd love to have you come back, tour." He's like, "Yeah, that'd be great." So he came back. I can understand why he's so loved. Well, he's so engaging, great to have him around. So that was wonderful that he came and took time to

talk to people on campus. But the other part about that is walking around campus, and I've kind of said this before, but everywhere we went, our employees, no matter who they were, they engaged him in conversations. I mean, we went into the student services area, where I got a great picture with him and some of our students. We went over to the automated engineering technology area and he was interested in the machines. Then, we were walking down the hall, and Holly Dressler was like, "Do I know you?" And so they started talking like, "Oh yeah," they were good friends from the past. So just really wonderful to have him on campus and also wonderful to show our campus to people that come around. We had the accreditation council for business schools come to campus, so they're accrediting our business accounting. And what's the other program?

- [Staff Member] Marketing.

- Marketing, that's right, I forgot to write that one down. Marketing, so that's great. So we're going through that process.

- [Madam Chair] I think he's ahead of you. How could you forget marketing?

- I know, well, it's not his department. It's the academic department.

- I know, I get it. I just thought somebody.

- And then we had some fun, Trustee Carroll and I had some fun, what was it, Monday or Tuesday? We went-

- Yeah.

- Monday? Yeah, it's been a blur of a week. We went over to the CDL range. It was truck driver week, and so we were able to bring donuts over there, courtesy of Elisa and her department, and we handed out donuts to the people that were doing some training. We

had BNSF was there, so they were training, and also Union Pacific. So I think one of the things to keep in mind is, anytime you're there and you see people working on those railroad tracks and you think, "Get out of our way, we wanna get through", remember, they were probably our students at one time. I bet they did a great job. I will say Trustee Carroll sat down at the simulation. He did pretty good. I don't know if you wanna ask him. I'll hand it over to you. I don't want to talk about a dog, but-

- Thank you, Dr. Miksa. The simulator is very real, real simulation. And they put me, thankfully, in an automatic, but it was a 53-footer with 40,000 pounds, which is a lot, obviously, and so the first time I tried to brake, it was different than driving a regular car, and I was doing great, and the building was right there. And he was like, "Oh, the building's right there. You're almost to the end." And then a dog popped out. I did not run the dog over the front. It just went underneath the back tire.

- [Madam Chair] Let's make sure we're careful. A simulated dog.

- Simulated dog, yes. They did not put me in a real,

- [Madam Chair] A simulated dog.

- real semi, but it was a great experience, and I'm glad about the investments, all the new pads that we invested in as well, and they were extremely, extremely busy.

- Very good. Dare I say, Trustee Carroll is quickly catching up to Trustee Rattan, who everyone on this board recognizes as being everywhere at all times, and I believe that Trustee Carroll is quickly catching up because he's been on your Instagram almost more than you have.

- [Trustee Miksa] I agree. We're fighting for the lead Instagram trustee. And the one other thing that we did, Trustee Carroll and I, we kind of talked offline about who might be the best truck driving trustee and who might be the worst. We can talk about that at some time.

- [Madam Chair] Yeah, let's take that offline.

- [Trustee Carroll] It was a secret vote.

- I would say my grandpa drove a Peterbilt, so maybe that's in my DNA if I get in there someday.

- Two other small thing. Well, I shouldn't say small things. We yet again won the sustainability award through the AASHE. We are the number one community college in America for sustainability again.

- Woo.

- That's wonderful work.

- [Madam Chair] Professor Antle?

- Rachel, and Professor Antle, and their team. So we really appreciate that time out there as well too. And then the last, the workforce development and community ed annual report is done. It's available and it'll be sent to trustees electronically. So be looking for that in your mail. And that is my report.

- Very good, do we have any questions or comments for Dr. Miksa? Trustee Rattan.

- Well, I am sorry I missed the Cav Kickoff. I usually don't miss it, but it is a great kickoff to the start of the year. And I do wanna say the theme that runs through a lot of your comments and the feedback from the board was to go develop those external relationships. And so thanks for the detail on making those connections, developing those

relationships. And also, we all have assumptions about what a community college is doing, and I think that our college goes above and beyond that, and goes in so much more detail even with what we're doing with art. And so you going out in the community is creating that pipeline where people can come and see that firsthand or hear it from you. So thank you for that. And then my next question, which we may not have the answer to yet, but in the news, we hear about the enrollment cliff, which I thought was further out for us because we're a community college, but we're hearing about the six or so schools that are closing in Olathe. Have you had any conversations with that superintendent? Or have you had any conversations internally about how that affects us?

- So I haven't talked specifically to that superintendent. It's Brett, no, it's not Brett. Yeah, Brett, so I have not talked to him specifically. I've heard him make that presentation in a couple different areas. And I know it's so difficult when you're looking at schools trying to decide what to close, but I also do know that they've put a lot of effort and data research into doing what they're doing. I don't know. Can I put Shelli on and to talk a little bit about some of the-

- She'll love that.

- Yeah, right. I mean, well, she's here, so come on up to the podium and talk a little bit about some of the enrollment activities. And then Gurb, if you also wanna talk about it from the academic affairs side of the house as well too, please don't hesitate to as well.

- So it's a typical recruitment year.

- Introduce yourself and your title.

- Shelli Allen, Vice President, Student Success and Engagement. It's been a typical recruitment year thus far. As you know, we have software support that's helping us that we have not had in the past. And so that's been a positive. We reorganized and restructured the way that we onboard students. And so we have success coaches working out of the admissions office now and that gives students the opportunity to meet someone one-on-

one when they come. We know that our numbers for high schools are slightly lower than they have been in years past. I think we calculated about 700 fewer graduates that we see coming in the spring of '27 than we had last year. We have not seen that in our numbers thus far. We were concerned about dual credit numbers and high-school numbers coming into this fall. Right now, those numbers are flat, and our main concern were just differences that they've made at the high schools in the way that they fund and the way that they offer dual credit offerings at the high schools. But right now, we are seeing pretty solid numbers. We closed dual credit enrollment on Monday the 21st. Are there any questions about enrollment-related activity?

- [Madam Chair] Questions Trustee Rattan?

- Because we're starting to see it at grade school, and say that's your first through fifth, so yeah, seven years later, they graduate. Do we think that we're gonna start to feel? Well, you're saying you though 700, but we're not seeing it materialize yet. Is there any thought about when that will materialize enough to have an impact on us?

- [Shelli] Yeah, it should have.

- Vice President Megan Casey said that we actually had higher enrollment, which got us 6% more from the state.

- Yeah, higher than we budgeted. And we should have seen an impact this year. And, in fact, last year, we saw an impact in our high-school numbers. And so we didn't see it with the students who are coming to campus, but we did see it with the students who were enrolling in high-school courses. What we have prepared for is an increase in adult students and figuring out ways to change the work that we do because we expect to see a decline at some point. It's one of those things where what choices students make is completely up to them ultimately, but we know that there are other populations that we can work with. And so the conversation has been about how do we serve those students who may not have come to us in the past and we know that we have capacity there.

- That's a great point. And we saw a lot of that at the scholarship luncheon. There were quite a few students who had left maybe for up to 10 years and were coming back, so maybe we're seeing some of that effort now. Thank you very much.

- I'll throw out just a couple of other things. We just talked, the other day, about retention or the idea of going after students that have some college coursework, but haven't hit that degree to kind of hit that, so maybe reaching out and connecting with them. We've also had some discussions with Elisa in her area and how we can transition people over from that non-credit side of the house to the credit side of the house as well too and how we can integrate those in as well. So just a variety of different things, and just kind of looking at it from different areas, and we'll see where we go from there.

- [Trustee Rattan] Thanks for everything you're doing to prepare us.

- Gurb is gonna probably talk a little bit about maybe some of our new programs and the growth of our programs.

- My name is Gurbhushan Singh, associate, not associate, Vice President, Academic Affairs. I really wanted to just come to the podium so I could say cutting edge. So we are actually, along with what Shelli just said, we're looking at like diversifying our enrollment basket. So we're focusing on two different things. Number one, we're expanding our schedule to offer maybe more late-start courses so we can maybe have some non-typical students, attract to some of those. And number two thing, the second thing we're doing, working with Chris's area, they're using their cutting-edge technology to do some marketing surveys for us to see how we can expand our online offerings. So we're looking at maybe starting next year, thanks to Dr. Mapin here, looking at maybe offering a certificate and/or a degree that would be completely online, maybe offered in a eight-week format, like each course would be eight-week long, then every eight weeks, we'll start like another course. So offer a schedule that we're committed to even if it has fewer students on it. So we can promise a student that, in two years or six months, whatever, if they pick a certificate, it could be smaller or short term, that we would guarantee that they would finish after six months, or a year, or two years. So those are a couple of things we're doing. So this would sustain our enrollment longer term. So those are just a couple of things. There are a lot of other things, but these are the two main things that we're focused on right now.

- Thank you for your flexibility and creativity.

- [Gurb] Thank you.

- Thank you, Dr. Singh. Any other questions or comments about Dr. Miksa's report? I would just echo a lot of what Trustee Rattan said. Being actually an employee, my day job, my other hat, of the Olathe schools, I will say, if it's any consolation, that this has been an issue that's been building for probably about five to eight years. It's been accelerated by some of the policies in Washington, I would say, but it has not been new. So the size of the kindergarten classes has slowly been less and less than the size of the graduating classes. And that is true for all districts here in Johnson County. Olathe is certainly the largest to be impacted, but both Blue Valley and Shawnee Mission are looking at shrinking populations. Birth rate is down and people just are not having students in that K-12 age range right now. So it will be impacted, but kudos to you all and the team here about us thinking about our non, I think we've always called them our non-traditional students, and that's who we'll really have to go after with vigor and get them, and make sure that they know they can come here no matter what age or how much time has lapsed, and that we have offerings for them. So thank you for that, Dr. Miksa. I appreciate your report tonight.

- [Trustee Miksa] Thank you.

- All right, that's gonna take us to new business. I am not aware of any new business, and so we will move on to old business, and I'm also not aware of any old business, which will then take us to the consent agenda. The consent agenda is a regular, monthly business and reports all bundled into one motion. And so I will take a motion to approve the consent agenda.

- [Trustee Mitchell] Move to approve the consent agenda.

- Thank you, Trustee Mitchell with a motion. Do I have a second?

- Second.

- Second from Trustee Carroll. All in favor say aye.

- [Board members] Aye.

- [Trustee Holton] Aye.

- Thank you, Trustee Holton. Any opposed, nay? Hearing none, the motion carries six zero. That will take us to an adjournment. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

- [Trustee Mitchell] Move to adjourn.

- Trustee Mitchell with all the motions this evening. Do I have a second for adjourning?

- Second.

- Trustee Jennings with a second. And is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

- [Board members] Aye.

- And any opposed? No, I don't hear any there either. All right, have a good evening. Thank you, everyone.