

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
OF THE HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

The Board of Trustees of the Hinds Community College District met at 1:00 p.m., March 4, 2026, on the Jackson Campus. The following members were present:

Mr. Jimmy Morton, President, in-person  
Dr. Kevin Abraham, Vice President, in-person  
Mr. Rickey Clopton, in-person  
Mr. Jeff Brunson in-person  
Dr. Homer Burns in-person  
Mrs. Jackie Granberry in-person  
Dr. Sandra Nash-in-person  
Ms. Jamie Rasberry in-person  
Dr. Mitchell Shears in-person  
Mrs. Dana Stringer- in-person  
Mr. Larry Swales in-person  
Dr. Bendalonne Thompson-Griffith in-person  
Dr. Cardell Williams in-person  
Mr. Calvin Williams via Zoom  
Mr. Johnny Young in via Zoom

Others present were Dr. Stephen Vacik, President of Hinds Community College; John Hooks, Board Attorney; Bill Campbell, District Project Architect; members of the Executive Leadership Team: Dr. Vic Parker, Vice President of Finance; Andrea Janoush, Vice President of Human Resources; Marvin Moak, Vice President of Auxiliary Services & Facilities Management; Jonathan Townes, Vice President of Career and Technical, Sponsored Grants and HBCU Initiatives; Dr. Ginger Robbins, Executive Director of Governmental Affairs; Dr. Keri Cole, Vice President of Planning, Effectiveness, and Technology; Renee Cotton, Chief of Staff; Dr. Jennifer Scott-Gilmore, Vice President of Student Services; Dr. Thomas Ware, Vice President of Instruction & Academic Transfer Programs; and Matt Jones, Vice President of Advancement. Also present were Addie Green & Ella Beecham.

**Call to Order**

Board President Mr. Jimmy Morton called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Kevin Abraham to open in prayer.

### **Approve Agenda**

**Upon motion by Dr. Burns, seconded by Dr. Abraham, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for this meeting.** A copy is on file and included in the minutes of the meeting.

### **Approve February 4, 2026, Minutes.**

**Upon motion by Mr. Swales, seconded by Mr. Clopton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the February 4, 2026, minutes.** A copy is on file and included in the minutes of the meeting.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Upon motion by Mr. Clopton, seconded by Mr. Brunson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.** A copy is on file and included in the meeting minutes.

### **Matters of Special Order**

#### **a. Board Bylaws Review**

Each Board member has received a copy of the current bylaws. We would like to take time to review them and make any necessary revisions to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including SACSCOC requirements.

Two specific areas require updates: the board self-evaluation instrument and the process for amending the bylaws. Please review these sections carefully and submit any recommended changes to the attention of Board President Jimmy Morton.

All recommendations will be compiled and presented to the full Board for consideration.

b. Request for Proposal (RFP) – Contractual Services

Several years ago, Hinds Community College adopted a policy requiring the periodic review of all contractual services. It is recommended that we do this every three to five years, depending on the type of service.

Approximately five years ago, the College issued an RFP on behalf of the Board for legal services during Ben Piazza's tenure as Board Attorney. At that time, the contract was awarded to Adams and Reese.

It is now time to reevaluate these services. We fully anticipate that Mr. John Hooks and his team at Adams and Reese will submit a proposal.

A committee has been established to oversee the process and review the submissions. The committee members include Mark Buys, Jeff Brunson (Chair), Dr. Kevin Abraham, Larry Swales, and Jamie Rasberry, with Jimmy Morton serving as Ex Officio. Emiko Hemleben, our in-house counsel, will also participate in the process since she will be working closely with the Board Attorney.

Once proposals are received, the committee will review and score them in accordance with the College's established policies. The committee will then make a recommendation to the Board, with a goal of completing the process by July 1, 2026.

c. One-Year Educator License for Veteran Teachers

**Upon motion by Dr. Abraham, seconded by Mrs. Stringer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the One-Year Educator License for Veteran Teachers.** A copy is on file and included in the meeting minutes.

### **Budget Summary**

The Board President, Mr. Jimmy Morton, called on Dr. Parker to present the Budget Summary update. Dr. Parker reported that the college is projected to spend 8.33% monthly. Hinds Community College should be at 33.63% after the month of February. The college currently has 36.24% available. Current Net Position 2.88% = \$2,751,840 ahead of the average monthly projected rate.

### **Approve Claims Docket**

The ending balance at the end of February 2026 is \$10,647,125.14 in cash. The ending balance in the money market is \$1,000.00, and \$3,784,061.71 is in the Raymond James investment account. The total net position is \$ 14,432,186.85.

The monthly expenses for February 2026 totaled \$4,488,590. The Fund 1 Unrestricted Funds expense total is \$1,059,240; Fund 2, Grants/Partnerships expense total is \$1,016,296; Fund 3, Auxiliaries expense total is \$863,022; and Fund 7, Capital Improvement expense total is \$ 1,550,033.

**Following discussion of the Claims Docket and upon motion by Mr. Clopton seconded by Mr. Swales, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Claims Docket.** A copy is on file and included in the minutes of the meeting.

### **Recommend Personnel**

The College President brought one (1) new faculty member before the Board for approval.

- a. Mitchell Tagert, Electrical Line Worker Instructor, Raymond Campus, Salary-\$60,000, effective date of employment February 2, 2026.

**Upon motion by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Stringer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommended personnel.** A copy is on file and included in the minutes of the meeting.

### **President's Report**

#### **I. Project Updates**

- a. Legislative Update: Dr. Ginger Robbins gave a legislative update. A copy of that information is on file and included in the minutes of the meeting.
- b. Program Health Index- We are taking a look at all career tech programs, specifically enrollment, graduates, jobs, and salaries that await those who graduate. We are working on the program pacing index to see where students are in their program and if they are not making progress, how we can help them.
- c. Budget Planning – We are still building our zero-based budget based on priorities and needs.

#### **II. Key Accomplishments**

- a. Mississippi Business Journal – Best of the Best Community College 2025
- b. PEP On-Site Visit -Went Very Well
- c. Vicksburg Warren County Schools Signing -We are revamping the career tech education with high school students; the career center, as we know it, is going away. They will primarily be dual credit, so they can leave as seniors with credentials.
- d. Hosted MCCLA/Served on Panel
- e. Hinds County Delegation Meeting
- f. Students of Excellence Awards
- g. Ag EXPO
- h. Campus Conversations
- i. Pearl Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner
- j. Hinds will receive the Humanities Council Award on March 20.

#### **III. Upcoming Opportunities**

- a. Spring Leadership Training
- b. Spring Break – March 9-13
- c. Groundbreaking – The Commons, March 16; 11:30 am
- d. Hinds Hype Day CMCF
- e. MACCT Conference, Biloxi, June 1-3 (confirm today)

### **Executive Leadership Team Reports**

Executive Leadership Team Board Reports are included.

### **Board Education**

Dr. Keri Cole, Vice President of Planning, Effectiveness, and Technology, presented her Continuous Improvement Framework and the Strategic Plan to the Board. A copy of the PowerPoint is on file and included in the meeting minutes.

### **Announcements**


The Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for April 1, 2026, will be held at the Raymond Campus in the Board Conference Room. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.


Due to the Mississippi Association of Community College Trustees Conference, which will take place June 1–3, 2026, in Biloxi, Mississippi, the June Board meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday, June 10, 2026

### **Adjournment**

There was no further business to discuss, and the meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

**Upon motion by Dr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Clopton, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:17 p.m. as declared by Board President Mr. Morton.**

  
Mr. Jimmy Morton, President

  
Mr. Rickey Clopton, Secretary