



**District Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026 – Usry Board Room, Pensacola Campus**

Board Workshop

Mr. Michael Johnston, Associate Vice President of Institutional Research and Enterprise Solutions, gave a presentation on the Economic Impact (FY 2023-2024) of Pensacola State College in the College's service area. His presentation was based on the results of an Economic Impact Study from Lightcast. Mr. Johnston answered the Trustees' questions, and the Trustees expressed appreciation for the information.

Board Meeting

Present: Chair Gordon Sprague, Mr. Ed Fleming, Mr. Richard Holzknacht, Mr. Todd Leonard, Mr. Oscar Locklin, Ms. Audrey McDonald, Mr. Zack Smith, Dr. Troy Tippett, Mr. Braden Ball General Counsel, Dr. Ed Meadows, and staff.

Absent: Chief Deputy Andy Hobbs

I. Call to Order

Chair Sprague called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

II. Introductions/Recognitions

Dr. Meadows introduced the newly appointed Trustee Oscar Locklin, who shared brief remarks about his background. The Board welcomed Mr. Locklin.

Dr. Meadows called on Ms. Juanita Scott and Ms. Veronica Jennings, two facilitators for the President's Leadership Institute. Ms. Scott informed the Board that several members of the 2026 President's Leadership Institute class were in attendance as part of the program's recommendation to attend a Board meeting and learn about the College's governance. Each class member provided an individual introduction to the Board.

III. Approval of Agenda

Chair Sprague called for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Tippett moved for approval. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

IV. Public Comments

Mr. Rick Dunn, Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, addressed the Board. He referenced the College's current vision statement prior to the proposed revision, scheduled for Board approval later in the meeting, noting its emphasis on cultural experiences and community outreach, and encouraged the Board to keep those points in mind as it considered the revised statement.

Mr. Dunn also addressed the Florida Board of Governors' recommended changes to the Introduction to Sociology textbook and curriculum. He stated that several topics had been removed, and he encouraged the Board to contact the Florida Board of Governors and urge

it to amend its recommendation to include subject matter he believes is important to student learning and civic engagement.

Mr. Dunn also referenced prior comments by Trustee Zack Smith supporting respectful debate and the free exchange of ideas and encouraged dialogue between the Board and students. He offered to assist in organizing and moderating a forum for discussion. In response, Dr. Meadows stated that Trustee Smith had previously indicated a willingness to discuss the issues. Dr. Meadows also stated that the State University System and the Florida College System are working together to develop a common syllabus and textbook for the introduction to Sociology course. Mr. Dunn thanked Dr. Meadows for the clarification and concluded his remarks.

V. Consent Agenda – Approved

Chair Sprague called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Tippet moved for approval, Mr. Locklin seconded, and the motion passed.

A. Minutes

Consent Items

1. January 20, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
2. January 20, 2026, Board Retreat Minutes

B. Finance

Information Items

1. Policy Change – The policy change will be brought to the Board for approval once legal notice requirements have been met.
 - a. 6Hx20-5.008 Travel
2. Current Contracts as of December 1, 2025
3. Budget to Actual for the Period Ending January 31, 2026
4. Finance Committee Minutes for January 2026

C. Academic and Student Affairs

Consent Items

1. 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

Information Items

1. New Program – Technical Certificate – Artificial Intelligence Practitioner

D. Facilities

No consent or information items

E. Human Resources

Consent Items

1. Reclassify the existing funded and filled Coordinator of Academic Computing position upon the retirement of the incumbent on February 27, 2026, Professional/Managerial Salary Schedule, Level 2, to Coordinator, Technology Support, Professional/Managerial Salary Schedule, Level 4.

Information Items

1. Human Resources personnel transactions conducted during January 2026.

VI. Action Items

A. Finance

1. Florida College System Risk Management Consortium (FCSRMC) – Fiscal Agent Change to Pensacola State College – Approved

Ms. Kovacs introduced Mr. Chauncey Fagler, Executive Director and Chief Risk Officer for the Consortium, which provides property and casualty insurance for the Florida College System institutions. Mr. Fagler provided a brief overview of the Consortium. Ms. Kovacs explained that the Consortium is requesting PSC to serve as the fiscal agent, replacing Santa Fe College following recent staffing changes and Santa Fe's Consortium's transition to Workday. She stated that Mr. Fagler met with the Board's

Finance Committee prior to the meeting to review the proposed change and respond to questions regarding the fiscal agent role. She assured the Board that PSC has the Workday experience and capacity to serve in this role. Following questions and further discussion, Chair Sprague called for a motion for approval. Dr. Tippett moved for approval, Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion passed.

2. **Guaranteed Maximum Price GMP , Airframe and Power Plant Facility – Approved.** Ms. Kovacs reminded Trustees that in November 2024, the Morette Company was awarded the construction services contract for the Aviation Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic Facility at the airport. She stated that since that time, the Facilities Department has worked with the contractor to establish the final Guaranteed Maximum Price for the project, totaling \$14.8 million, which is the final phase and total project cost. Chair Sprague called for a motion for approval. Mr. Smith moved for approval, Dr. Tippett seconded, and the motion passed. Note for the record: Trustee Ed Fleming was not present for the vote due to a late arrival at the Board meeting,

3. **Policy Changes – Approved**

Ms. Kovacs presented the policy changes and noted that the changes are part of the College's regular policy review process. Board packets included a rationale for each policy change. Mr. Smith moved to approve all changes as presented. Dr. Tippett seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

- a. 6Hx20-1.011 Contracts
- b. 6Hx20-1.018 Holidays
- c. 6Hx20-1.019 Property and Equipment
- d. 6Hx20-1.021 Published Materials
- e. 6Hx20-1.023 Consultant Services
- f. 6Hx20-3.014 Graduation Requirements – Baccalaureate and Associate Degrees
- g. 6Hx20-3.022 Process for Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges SACSCOC Notification of Substantive Change
- h. 6Hx20-3.023 Student Complaint Logs
- i. 6Hx20-4.027 Faculty Qualifications
- j. 6Hx20-4.022 Substantive Personnel
- k. 6Hx20-5.012 Transfer of Private Contributions to Pensacola State College Direct Support Organizations
- l. 6Hx20-5.013 Student Activity and Services Fees Budget Development
- m. 6Hx20-7.001 Operation of Pensacola State College Public Safety Department

B. Academic and Student Affairs – Dr. Brenda Kelly presented two academic programs for Board approval.

1. **New Program, Applied Technology Diploma, Dental Assisting Technology and Management – Approved**

Dr. Kelly explained that the program is a 50-credit program designed to prepare students for employment as dental assistants. She noted that the program was developed in response to local workforce needs. She also noted that 14 credits will articulate in the associate's degree in Dental Hygiene. Dr. Tippett moved for approval, Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion passed.

2. **New Program, Career Certificate, Diesel Systems Technician – Approved**

Dr. Kelly explained that the program is a 1,800 clock-hour career certificate program that provides training in diesel systems and equipment repair. The program leads to certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence ASE Entry-Level Certification. Dr. Tippett moved for approval, Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion passed.

C. Facilities

No Action Items

D. Human Resources

No Action Items

VII. General Counsel

Mr. Ball provided an update on the proposed purchase of property at 2108 Douglas Avenue. He stated that environmental studies are underway, and initial results are favorable. The College anticipates moving forward toward closing once the environmental review is completed. He also reported on pending litigation involving the WSRE Foundation, stating that the College has engaged the Tallahassee law firm Lawson, Huck, Gonzalez as co-counsel with his office, and that a response to the matter is being prepared and is due at the end of the month.

VIII. President's Time

Action Items

1. Vision Statement – Approved

Pensacola State College's innovative and supportive educational environment fosters students to become engaged, self-supporting, and self-governing citizens.

Dr. Meadows reminded Trustees that the College's revised vision statement was developed as part of the strategic planning process at the January Board Retreat. He noted that the Vision statement reflects the institution's commitment to student success, workforce development, and service to the community. Mr. Smith moved for approval, Dr. Tippett seconded, and the motion passed.

2. Mission Statement – Approved

Pensacola State College is committed to providing quality, affordable, and accessible educational opportunities.

The College, a member of the Florida College System, offers baccalaureate and associate degrees, workforce certificates, business and industry training, non-credit continuing education, and community outreach.

Dr. Meadows reminded Trustees that the revised mission statement was also developed during the strategic planning process at the January Board Retreat. He noted that the mission statement is intended to guide the College's future direction and priorities. Dr. Tippett moved for approval, Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion passed.

3. Arc Gateway Agreement – Approved

Dr. Meadows presented an amendment to the agreement with Arc Gateway regarding the PALS Postsecondary Adult Learning and Support program, which provides postsecondary educational opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through academic instruction and workforce-readiness training. There are currently approximately 12 students enrolled at the College through the partnership with Arc Gateway. Dr. Meadows explained that concerns had arisen about the way invoices were being submitted under the existing agreement. Following discussions with Arc Gateway representatives and Senator Gaetz's office, the amended agreement includes additional oversight measures, including quarterly operational audits, to ensure that the program operates in accordance with program expectations and funding requirements. Following the Trustees' questions and discussion, Chair Sprague called for a motion to approve the amended agreement. Mr. Fleming moved for approval, Dr. Tippett seconded, and the motion passed.

Reports and Announcements

- Dr. Meadows reported on a recent meeting in Tallahassee with the Policy and Budget Office and provided the Board with an update on the legislative session and the College's funding requests.
- Dr. Meadows announced that the Legislature has included in the proposed budget \$35,000 to PSC in Linking Industry to Nursing Education LINE funds, which will be matched for a total of \$70,000. He stated that the funds will support efforts to expand

nursing program capacity, provide NCLEX review workshops each semester, offer student scholarships to improve retention and completion, and allow the College to hire adjunct instructors to provide training for healthcare partners at the College's Simulation Center.

- Dr. Meadows reported that the City of Pensacola received initial approval for a \$76 million MAEVE grant project to support the shipbuilding industry, and that PSC will be a partner in the initiative, providing workforce training to support the region's shipbuilding and ship repair industry.
- Dr. Meadows announced that Dr. Brian Ward's Business Strategic Management class placed 16th globally in the February 9-15 Business Strategy Game competition, competing against 3,203 teams from 131 colleges and universities worldwide. The team outperformed competitors from well-known institutions, including Missouri State, Georgia State, Utah State, and the University of Tennessee.

Information Items

The Trustees received a calendar of upcoming College events. Dr. Meadows highlighted the upcoming Spring Festival of Flowers, April 10-12, on the Milton Campus and reminded Trustees of the May 11 Charter Academy Graduation and the May 13 Commencement Ceremony.

Reports –

Alumni Association and Athletics: Ms. Lotz provided the following updates regarding the Alumni Association and Athletics:

- Homecoming events are underway, including student activities and the faculty/staff vs. students basketball game. Homecoming is February 18. The Alumni Association Board and Student Services are partnering to host a tailgate party.
- Military Appreciation Night is February 23, the final home game of the season.
- The Alumni Association's annual quail hunt fundraiser is February 20-22. The event is sold out.
- The PSC Alumni and UWF Joint Social originally scheduled for May 5 will be rescheduled.

Foundation: Ms. Krieger provided the following updates regarding Foundation activities:

- The McCutchin Family Endowed Scholarship was recently established by Gene McCutchin in honor of his parents, who did not have the opportunity to go to college, yet were advocates for the College during its founding.
- Plans were underway for the Foundation's Community Breakfast, March 25, in the Delaino Student Center. The event will focus on the Foundation's mission and its accomplishments over the past year.
- The Foundation's Holiday Experience will be held on campus on November 20.

WSRE: Ms. Hubbs provided an update on WSRE activities.

- On President's Day, WSRE hosted middle and high school teacher from Escambia County for a professional development program focused on the American Revolution and the U.S. Constitution, presented as part of the nation's 250th anniversary.
- Ms. Hubbs announced the upcoming Shining Star Awards, a partnership with Escambia County School District. The program recognizes one student from each elementary school for leadership and character rather than academic achievement.
- WSRE is planning additional professional development opportunities for educators in Santa Rosa county, related to the nation's 250th anniversary celebration.

IX. Chair's Time

Mr. Sprague acknowledged members of the President's Leadership Institute class who attended the Board meeting and thanked them for their participation in the program. He noted the importance of the program in developing future leaders at the College.

Good of the Order – No additional comments

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Recorded by: Pat Crews

Date Approved: April 21, 2026

M. Sprague
Chair, District Board of Trustees

E. Meadows
President