District Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2026

Pensacola Campus - Broxson Hall

Board Meeting

Present: Chair Zack Smith, Vice Chair Todd Leonard, Mr. George Atchison, Mr. Rick Byars, Ms. Audrey McDonald, Mr. Richard Holzknecht, Mr. Oscar Locklin, General Counsel Braden Ball, President Ed Meadows and staff.

Absent: Dr. Brooke Snyder

I. Call to Order

Chair Zack Smith called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Atchison moved for approval, Mr. Byars seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve the August 11, 2026 Board meeting minutes. Mr. Locklin moved for approval, Mr. Holzknecht seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Information Items

A. Finance

Ms. Kovacs advised that the Finance information items consisted of proposed policy changes that would be brought back to the Board for action at the next meeting. She invited anyone to contact her with any questions or suggested changes.

1. Policies
   a. 6Hx20-3.006 Prepayments
   b. 6Hx20-7.002 Parking and Flow of Traffic
   c. 6Hx20-7.004 Protection of Human Subjects

d. 6Hx20-8.001 Information Security and Technology Resources

VI. Action Items

A. Finance

1. Final Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026 - Approved

Ms. Kovacs presented the final budget amendment for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. She explained that approximately $16 million was added to the personnel budget to recognize the College's other post-employment benefit liability (OPEB) recorded for the first time as a result of the College's participation in the State's group healthcare program. She also noted that approximately $9.3 million in purchase orders remained outstanding at year-end, accounting for the difference between budgeted and actual current expense and capital expenditures. Mr. Byars moved to approve the final budget amendment, Mr. Locklin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Fund Balance Carryforward Spending Plan - Approved

Ms. Kovacs presented the annual Fund Balance Carryforward Spending Plan , noting that the College ended the fiscal year with a 17.63% unrestricted fund balance required by the State. She explained that Florida Statutes require an annual spending plan for funds exceeding the 5% minimum carry-forward requirement. She noted that the College maintains additional reserves to ensure adequate cash on hand to support future needs, post-employment and Florida Retirement System liabilities, and potential tuition refunds or other costs that could result from a hurricane or other emergency. Mr. Locklin moved to approve the Fund Balance Carryforward Spending Plan, Mr. Holzknecht seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. RFP 1-2026/2027, Mobile Training Trailer – Approved

Ms. Kovacs presented the recommendation to award the contract for the Mobile Training Trailer to Connected Engineering for $555,182. The mobile workforce training laboratory will provide hands-on technical education and workforce training in air conditioning, plumbing and carpentry throughout the College's service region and is funded through the PSC Rebuilds grant from the Department of Commerce. Trustees were provided with the scoring and ranking of the four firms that responded to the RFP. Mr. Locklin moved for approval, Mr. Byars seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. General Counsel

Mr. Ball provided an update regarding conveyance of the former gymnasium property at the Century Center to Escambia County. He reminded the Board that the transaction had previously been approved contingent upon completion of the required conditions. He advised that the deed was ready for execution by Chair Smith and Dr. Meadows so the County could proceed with acceptance of the property. No additional Board action was required.

VIII. President's Time

Dr. Meadows stated that he had no report and that reports from the College's support organizations would not be presented. He thanked Ms. Mel Miner and AFC for providing the refreshments.

IX. Chair's Time

1. Appointment of J. Alex Kelly as President of Pensacola State College - Approved

Chair Smith presented the recommendation of the Presidential Search Committee to appoint J. Alex Kelly as the next President of Pensacola State College. He thanked the Trustees who served on the Search Committee, the Committee advisors, and the faculty, staff and others who assisted with the search process and the campus activities held in connection with Mr. Kelly's visit.

Chair Smith noted that Mr. Kelly received significant support from members of the community. He shared excerpts from letters of support received from Pensacola Mayor D.C. Reeves; Dr. Rick Harper, Economic Advisor at Triumph Gulf Coast; Tyson Lamont, CEO of American Magic; and Major General James Hartsell, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. The letters highlighted Mr. Kelly's leadership, experience in workforce and economic development and his understanding of the connection between education, workforce, and economic opportunity. Chair Smith noted that other letters of support had also been received from business and community leaders who had worked with Mr. Kelly.

Chair Smith recognized Florida Commissioner of Education, Dr. Henry Mack, who had arrived during the meeting, and invited him to address the Board. Dr. Mack spoke in support of Mr. Kelly's appointment, citing his experience and leadership in education, workforce development, and economic development and his understanding of the connection between education, workforce, and economic opportunity. He noted Mr. Kelly's commitment to creating opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds and at different stages of life, from traditional high school graduates to adult learners. Dr. Mack expressed confidence in Mr. Kelly's ability to serve the College, its students, and the community. Dr. Mack also recognized Dr. Meadows for his leadership and service, noting the impact of his work not only at Pensacola State College and in the community but throughout the Florida College System. He expressed his appreciation to Dr. Meadows and thanked him for all he has done.

Following Dr. Mack's remarks, Chair Smith moved to accept the recommendation of the Presidential Search Committee and appoint J. Alex Kelly as President of Pensacola State College. Mr. Atchison seconded the motion. Chair Smith asked if any of the Trustees would like to make comments prior to the vote. Mr. Byars commented on the extensive search process, noting that 107 candidates had been considered and recognized the significant time and due diligence involved. He expressed thanks to the search consultants and legal counsel for their assistance throughout the process. Chair Smith echoed Mr. Byars appreciation and also thanked the faculty and staff who gave their time throughout the search process. With no further comments, Chair Smith called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously appointing J. Alex Kelly as President of Pensacola State College.

Chair Smith congratulated President-elect Kelly and invited him to address the Board.

President-elect Kelly thanked the Board for its confidence and expressed appreciation to those involved in the presidential search process. He also recognized his wife, Leda, for her support. Mr. Kelly spoke about his visits to the College's campuses and programs and the opportunity to listen to students, faculty, and members of the community. He thanked Dr. Meadows and recognized "the incredible platforms of sustained success" he has built at the College and the opportunities those platforms provide to continue supporting the College, the community, and the region.

Mr. Kelly spoke about his experience in education, workforce and economic development, and public service, as well as his relationship with community partners in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve Pensacola State College and stated that he looked forward to "serving this community humbly" and "serving this community with passion" with a focus on student learning and excellence.

Chair Smith thanked President-elect Kelly and stated that the Board looked forward to working with him and to the great things Pensacola State College would continue to accomplish.

2. Amendment of Agenda - Approved

Chair Smith requested that the agenda be amended to add two resolutions related to the presidential transition. He explained that the resolutions were intended to provide clarity during the transition period, which would occur between regular Board meetings. Mr. Leonard moved to amend the agenda to add the two resolutions, Mr. Atchison seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Resolution No. 2026-921-1 - Approved

Chair Smith presented Resolution No. 2026-921-1, temporarily suspending the President's authority to execute certain long-term contracts and take certain personnel actions during the presidential transition. He explained that the resolution would bring decisions that could bind the College beyond the transition period to the Board until President-elect Kelly assumes office, currently scheduled for October 19, 2026, or a later date if necessary. Mr. Atchison moved to approve the resolution, Mr. Holzknecht seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Resolution No. 2026-921-2 - Approved

Chair Smith presented Resolution No. 2026-921-2, recognizing the presidential transition and providing that the powers and authority of the President will transfer to President-elect Kelly upon the date he assumes office. The resolution also confers the title of President Emeritus upon Dr. Meadows effective on that date in recognition of his service to the College. Mr. Byars moved to approve the resolution, Ms. McDonald seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

X. Good of the Order

Chair Smith asked whether any Trustee had anything to bring before the Board under Good of the Order.

Dr. Meadows thanked those who provided refreshments and expressed that he looked forward to working with President-elect Kelly during the transition.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Recorded by: Pat Crews

Date Approved: October 20, 2026

Chair, District Board of Trustees

President