

**DRAFT MINUTES  
POLK STATE COLLEGE  
District Board of Trustees Meeting  
Monday, September 23, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.  
Polk State Lakeland Campus, LTB 1100**

Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti called the September 23, 2024, District Board of Trustees meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Ms. Ashley Bell Barnett, Ms. Ann Barnhart, Mr. Greg Littleton, Ms. Teresa Martinez, Ms. Cindy Hartley Ross, and Mr. Ashley Troutman

**Members Absent:**

**Special Recognition: Dr. Angela Garcia Falconetti**

**a. Student Government Association (SGA) and The Student Activities and Leadership Office (SALO)**

Dr. Falconetti congratulated Melvin Thompson, Director, Student Activities & Leadership and SALO staff for 16 years of SALO at Polk State College. The “Sweet 16” was celebrated in August during Welcome Week on both the Winter Haven and Lakeland Campuses.

Dr. Falconetti introduced the numerous SGA leadership in attendance and invited representatives from each campus to address the Board briefly to share their favorite thing about Polk State.

- Subrina Akter, SGA President, Winter Haven Campus
- Aaliyah Jones, SGA President, Lakeland Campus
- Destiny Williams, SGA Secretary, Polk State College JD Alexander Center

**b. Dr. Baz Abouelenein, Interim Chief Information Officer**

Dr. Falconetti introduced Dr. Baz Abouelenein, who was recently appointed as Polk State’s Interim Chief Information Officer, to briefly address the Board. Dr. Abouelenein provided an overview of the College’s ongoing Ellucian Banner ERP implementation, including the recent disbursements of Federal Financial Aid.

**Agenda:**

Ms. Barnhart moved, seconded by Ms. Bell Barnett, to approve the agenda for September 23, 2024. All members voted affirmatively.

**Consent Agenda Items: Ms. Cindy Baker and Ms. Stacey Cary**

- a. Tangible Personal Property Deletions for September 2024** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- b. Polk State College Personnel Actions Report for August 2024** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.
- c. Polk State College Salary Schedule Changes for September 2024** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.

- d. 2024-2025 Polk State College Carryforward Spending Plan** – Approved on consent agenda. Board action is required.

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Ms. Barnhart, to approve the consent agenda items for August and September 2024. All members voted affirmatively.

Those items included under the Consent section are self-explanatory and are not expected to require discussion before action. Items will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by any Board member on any item, the item should be identified and removed from the Consent agenda for separate action.

### **Approval of Board Minutes**

**a. August 26, 2024, Regular Board Minutes**

Ms. Martinez moved, seconded by Ms. Bell Barnett, to approve the August 26, 2024, Regular Board minutes. All members voted affirmatively.

### **President's Report – Dr. Angela Garcia Falconetti**

**a. President Garcia Falconetti highlighted select items from the Positively Polk State Report.**

- Fall Enrollment
- Haines City-Davenport Campus
- Nineteen students from Polk State Lakeland Collegiate High School, Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School, and Polk State Gateway to College Collegiate High School combined to earn national recognition from the College Board.
- Dr. Meesha Downing-Townsend, Principal of Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High Schools selected to participate in the 2024-2025 Chancellor's Leadership Academy (CLA).
- State Group Insurance Program
- The Haines City-Davenport Campus Groundbreaking on Wednesday, October 9, starting at 10 a.m. at 39816 U.S. Highway 27.
- The Office of Institutional Compliance and Engagement will host Polk State College's Somos Polk events:
  - September 24 from noon to 1 p.m. on the Lakeland Campus in LTB 1100
  - October 8 from noon to 1 p.m. on the Winter Haven Campus in WST 126
- Polk State College will host its 38th annual Fall Fest on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Winter Haven Campus.
- Polk State College District Board of Trustees Immediate Past Chair Teresa Martinez will be honored on October 8, 2024, at the News Service of Florida's second annual Above and Beyond Awards.

- Immediate Past Chair Martinez was also honored on September 10, 2024, during the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce's annual ATHENA Awards, in which Immediate Past Chair Martinez was one of three finalists for the ATHENA Leadership Award.
- b. President Garcia Falconetti distributed a press release and Polk.edu news article titled "Polk State College District Board of Trustees Selects 2024-2025 Leadership."**
- c. President Garcia Falconetti distributed *The Lakeland* article titled "Plan for Haines City-Davenport Campus Moving Forward."**
- d. President Garcia Falconetti referred the Board members to her recent email regarding a request from the Gubernatorial Appointments Office.**
- e. Association of Florida Colleges Council of Presidents (COP)**
  - COP meetings at Seminole State College
    - COP & Lobbyists Lunch and Panel Discussion with Senator Brodeur | 12:00 p.m. | September 12
    - COP Professional Development | 2:00 p.m. | September 12
    - COP Reception & Dinner with Lobbyists and VIPS | 6:00 p.m. | September 12
    - COP Policy & Advocacy/Business Meeting | 9:00 a.m. | September 13
  - Virtual COP Professional Development | 2pm | October 10
  - Association of Florida Colleges meetings in Orlando on November 7.
    - Council of Presidents & Trustees Joint Meeting | 1:30-5:00 p.m.
    - VIP Reception | 5:00-6:30 p.m.
    - Wattenbarger Award Dinner | 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Attorney's Report:**

None.

**Business Services Action Items:**

**Business Services Informational Items: Ms. Cindy Baker and Mr. George Urbano**

- a. Investment Interest Comparisons through August 2024** – Ms. Baker presented and reviewed the College's Investment Interest Comparisons through August 2024 for the Board's information. No Board action required.
- b. Financial Statements for August 2024** – Ms. Baker presented and reviewed the Financial Statements for August 2024 for the Board's information. No Board action required.

- c. **Capital Project Status Report for September 2024** – Mr. Urbano presented and reviewed the Capital Project Status Report for September 2024 for the Board's information. No Board action required.

**Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:**

None.

**Academic & Student Services Action Items:**

None.

**Academic and Student Services Informational Items:**

None.

**Collegiate High School Report:**

- a. **Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School Enrollment/Demographic Information for AY 2024-2025 – Ms. Patrice Bryant-Thigpen**

Dr. Jason Fields, on behalf of Ms. Patrice Bryant-Thigpen, presented and reviewed the Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School Enrollment/Demographic Information for AY 2024-2025 for the Board's information. No Board action required.

**First Reading Board Rules (No action required):**

None.

**Second Reading Board Rules (Final Approval):**

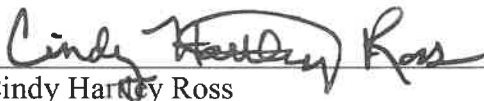
None.

**Board Discussion:**

The next District Board of Trustees meeting will be a Fall Retreat that will occur on Monday, October 21, 2024, at the Polk State Center for Public Safety in CPS 267 at 3:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:48 p.m.

  
Ms. Cindy Hartley Ross  
DBOT Chair

11/18/2024  
Date

  
Mr. J. F. Farnsworth

11/18/2024

Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti  
President

Date