

**MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025
Canton Library
Canton, MA
6:00 p.m.**

Approved November 19, 2025

Attendees: Tom Carroll, Bonnie Blackler, Eshita Chakrabarti, Jim Dunphy, Carl Kowalski, Laura Lawson, Daniel Pestana, Kate Welch

Absent: Eval Silvera

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Pestana - yes
Trustee Welch – yes

Chairman's Report

Chair Carroll welcomed everyone to the meeting, stating that it was good to be back in Canton, and thanked everyone who works at the Canton Campus for everything they do. In addition, he shared the good news that we will have a new trustee joining the board. Mr. David Offutt has been reappointed and will be at the next board meeting. We had a lot of feedback from our 35-minute conversation about President Mitchell, and the feedback of the trustees and the community was incorporated to Commissioner Ortega.

President's Report

Board Liaison, Cori Foy and Title IX and Compliance Officer, Amee Synott spoke about Massasoit 60th anniversary. The committee consists of approximately 20 Massasoit people from various offices and departments, and the goal is to host at least one signature event each month throughout the 2026-2027 academic year. President Mitchell is excited for the first alumni event on October 16 which will have 120 alumni attending. Professor Robin Peery and Professor Kate DiMarca from our global studies program, did a presentation to the Foundation to help pay of this year's trip, which is Ireland. The foundation was really impressed and approved \$30,000 to help subsidize this program.

Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Daniel Pestana has been meeting with more and more offices, programs and divisions within Massasoit. The first Student Advisory Council meeting was September 25, 2025. There was not a lot to discuss, but we voted in a new chair position. Next meeting is October 23, 2025. Our first official Student Senate meeting was September 24, 2025. We have 9 active senators and we have already voted in the VP, Secretary and Treasurer. We have voted in 8 clubs so far: Culinary, Student Senate, PTK, Cape Verdean Student Senate, Active Minds, Artists Union, Vet Tech and Devotion Club. The Community College Student Leadership Association meeting is November 6th and 7th. Student Life has had 3 major events in the last month that were super successful – pumpkin decorating, club fair and Carnival of Champions. We are in the midst of Student Leadership week, have one more training for the Unity Center peer mentors, and renamed the Student Ambassador Program to “Peer Navigators”.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Kowalski and seconded by Trustee Pestana to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Pestana - yes
Trustee Welch – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation on truck and heavy equipment by Mr. Aaron Rovaldi, Department Chair Diesel Technology

Assistant Professor Rovaldi stated that they have changed the department's name to Truck and Heavy Equipment Technology. In addition to diesel technology, they work on trucks and heavy equipment from the ground up. As far as **Academic Innovation**, they are working on grants for an electric vehicle program and a grant to help put together a mobile training lab. They work with the Department of Corrections and are trying to offer more adult and continuing ed courses at night. This is the only truck and heavy equipment program in Massachusetts, and one of two in all New England. Massasoit students enjoy 100% job placement with starting wages in the \$60,000 to \$70,000 range. Regarding **Institutional Excellence**, our program and students are excellent. We also have great industry partners. The Get Ahead program is our sponsoring dealer. Massasoit students can earn factory certifications through that program. Through grants we can help them with their commercial driver's licenses (CDL) which gives them a serious head start in the field. Through other energy programs, we help our students to be well-rounded. They are AED accredited and all our students receive their MVAC license (Mobile Vehicle Air Conditioning License). There are currently 45 students in the program.

Presentation on Veterinary Technology by Ms. Roda Motta, Director of the Veterinary Technology Program

Director Motta thanked all that were able to come on the tour of our amazing lab facility. The veterinary technology degree is a two-year applied associates degree, so the students come into a full-time program, and their goal is to become a credentialed veterinary technician. In order to become a credentialed veterinary technician, you have to do two things in the state of Massachusetts. One is to graduate from an accredited Vet Tech program and the second is to pass the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). The program is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association and CVTEA which is the Committee on Veterinary Technician Educational Activities. This is the 10th Anniversary of this program, and we are currently in our 5-year accreditation cycle. The next site visit will be in 2027. We also have 100% job placement as there is a desperate need for credentialed vet technicians. Our skills are completed here on campus with our trained faculty and we are in very high demand. **Academic Innovation** – Massasoit is the only accredited veterinary technology program in the state of Massachusetts. We received the Perkins grant which gave us the new state-of-the-art OptiCell Hematology analyzer. We are also the only Veterinary technology program in Massachusetts that has access to an AI radiology software program. Through another Perkins grant, we received a portable equine radiograph. We have everything that our students need to support them as they go into their internships, and that is why they are offered jobs before they are done with those internships. Massasoit is a regional leader, and we have many places that we place students in internships. We have arrangements with MIT, Pfizer, Tufts, MSPCA Angell, VCA, Animal rescue League Boston, New England Wildlife and Buttonweeds Zoo. We prepare our students incredibly well to take the VTNE (Veterinary Technician National Examination). There are currently 35 students in the program.

Presentation and recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Report presented by Mr. William O'Neill, Vice President of Administration/CFO (vote needed).

Mr. O'Neill, reported on the Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Report. As of June 30, 2025, the College ended the year with a \$3.4 million budget surplus comparing collected revenue to actual expenses. The College collected over 103.61% of projected operating fund revenues. We collected over 103.36% of State appropriation

funds. FY25 was a \$53.8M spending plan and we spent 92% of it. Looking at the operating revenue and our operating fund, the operating revenue is what we consider operating fund plus the state appropriate dollars. 74% of what we spent was on payroll expenditure, 2% on benefits, 8% on capital improvements and equipment and then operations or other is 16%.

A motion was made by Chair Dunphy and seconded by Trustee Blackler to approve the Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Report

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes
Vice Chair Dunphy – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Pestana - yes
Trustee Welch – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Sabbatical Presentation by Mr. Drew Dunphy, Associate Professor, English

Associate Professor Dunphy stated that he is starting his 16th year at Massasoit, and was present to talk about his recent sabbatical. He has been Massasoit's Professional Development Fellow, providing support to faculty, both full and part-time. Prior to that time, he did a lot of work providing professional development to new teachers in New York City public high schools. Over that past 20 years, colleges have relied more and more on adjunct faculty to teach their courses. This is a growing phenomenon as about two-thirds of faculty at community colleges nationally are part-time. This allows full time faculty to do an incredibly important part of our mission, which is to be flexible. Adjuncts are more likely than full-time faculty to teach the real foundational general education courses, so they serve a very important function for our students. Many adjuncts teach at 2 or 3 different colleges and juggle other types of work with being an adjunct, so supporting them is incredibly important. On this project, Mr. Dunphy conducted a college-wide survey, and 102 of our adjuncts answered all the questions. He conducted focus groups and interviews, research and literature reviews to see what we could learn from other community colleges.

Sabbatical Presentation by Mr. Robin Peery, Professor, French, Portuguese, & Film

Professor Peery stated that he has been teaching at MCC for 15 years and has been a faculty co-sponsor for the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) for the past 10 years. As a person who listens to queer people on a daily basis and has lots of conversations with faculty members, he decided to focus his sabbatical project on incorporating some topics and including certain materials that would make all students feel seen. There is a cohort of lesbian, gay, trans, bisexual and queer folks who work at Massasoit. We are 25 strong, we call our cohort "Pride at Massasoit", and we meet once a month to work on better support for our students. Professor Peery created a Canvas site to support faculty who may be interested in incorporating some ideas. The goal is to make things a little more inclusive across the board. This is available to all faculty who wish to have access to it. We know that queer people have existed forever, and we are not going away. The French language is not terribly inclusive. What if someone is neither masculine or feminine? We have invented some inclusive pronouns called neopronouns which are becoming more commonplace via media by young people who want to be more inclusive. The final subject that I worked on is film studies. There is a lot of ways to interpret film through a queer lens. Some very classic movies can be interpreted this way. **Question:** Is Canvas for all faculty? How do they get it? **Answer:** Yes, through Professor Perry. He gave lunch and learn and there will also be a presentation on this at Professional Development Day.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Lawson and seconded by Trustee Kowalski to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll - yes

Vice Chair Dunphy – yes

Trustee Blackler – yes

Trustee Chakrabarti – yes

Trustee Kowalski - yes

Trustee Lawson – yes

Trustee Pestana - yes

Trustee Welch – yes

Recording Secretary – Cori Foy

Chair – Tom Carroll