

**Minutes of the MassBay Community College Board of Trustees Meeting – 8:00 am to 10:00 am
Tuesday, June 16, 2026, by Webex**

Trustees Present: Ilissa Povich (Chair), Tobey Choate, Alfonso Hidalgo, Matt Kahn, Sandy Lish, Rebecca Negreli, Pranshu Shah, Reyad Shah, Lili Silva, and Karen Williams

Trustees Not Present: Gary Prado

Guests Present (for the Executive Session): Gina Yarbrough, General Counsel Massachusetts Community Colleges

Trustee Hidalgo arrived at 8:23 am.

Staff Present: Yvonne Anthony, Senior Director of Grants Development; Steve Baccari, Comptroller; Liz Blumberg, Vice President of Student Development; Liz Borg, Special Assistant to the President and Capital Campaign Director; Karen Britton, Executive Director and Liaison to the Board, Office of the President; Lynne Davis, Dean of Health Sciences; Joe Delisle, Director of Facilities; Marcus Edward, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Catherine Gildae, Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Initiatives; Courtney Jackson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Mike Lyons, Chief Information Officer; Lisa MacDonald, Associate Dean for Equity Assurance; Lynn- Moore, Chief Unity Officer; Adam Nelson, Assistant Dean of Athletics and Special Assistant to the President for Community Relations; Dan Pace, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources and Payroll; Nhon Pham, EDP Systems Analyst; David Podell, President; David Protano, Dean of Automotive Technology and Dean of STEM; Lisa Slavin, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Jeremy Solomon, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Marketing, and Communications; Robert Stephanian, Chief of Police; Halye Sugarman, Dean of Business and Professional Studies; Venusa Toomey, Assistant Dean of Health Sciences and Framingham Campus Administrator; and Richard Williams, Dean for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Povich called the meeting to order and declared that a quorum was present.

HONORING TRUSTEE SILVA

Chair Povich reported that Trustee Silva's successor has been appointed and will begin serving as a trustee when he has been sworn in. She thanked Trustee Silva for her dedicated service and read a citation in her honor.

MOTION: Trustee Lish moved to approve the citation for Trustee Silva, and Trustee Williams seconded the motion.

The motion passed via the following roll call vote: Trustee Choate – YES; Trustee Kahn – YES; Trustee Lish - YES; Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES; Student Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Williams - YES

MAY 26, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Trustee Choate moved to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2026, meeting, and Trustee Kahn seconded the motion.

The motion passed via the following roll call vote: Trustee Choate – YES; Trustee Kahn – YES; Trustee Lish - YES; Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES; Student Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Williams – YES

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Board Chair

Chair Povich reported that this year's Commencement was wonderful as always. It takes many people to make this event happen, and she thanked everyone who played a role in making it such a special night for graduates, their families, and for all in attendance. Chair Povich attended her first MassBay Commencement in May of 2022, a month after joining the Board. She stood in the processional line next to Assistant Provost Sue Maggioni and commented that she was excited to see Commencement and be in the Wellesley building. Assistant Provost Maggioni offered to provide a tour of the Wellesley building, and one day soon after spent two and a half hours showing her most of the building, explaining programs, and introducing Trustee Povich to faculty and staff. While it was great to see the building for the first time, what Chair Povich really took away from that afternoon was Assistant Provost Maggioni's pride in the mission of MassBay and its programs, and her dedication to the success of MassBay students. Since that day, Chair Povich has interacted with the faculty and staff who attend these Board meetings and so many others who have exhibited that same dedication to MassBay and the success of its students. As some on the Board may know, Assistant Provost Maggioni very recently left MassBay to become the Provost at Middlesex Community College. Chair Povich wished Assistant Provost Maggioni well, and thanked her for her contributions to MassBay and for helping Chair Povich appreciate what a remarkable institution MassBay is.

President Podell noted that Assistant Provost Maggioni had been a faculty member and Dean prior to becoming Assistant Provost.

President

President Podell reported the following:

*Commencement was a great celebration and happily the weather was cooperative. It took a large team of people to make Commencement so successful. Vice President Blumberg, the Commencement Committee, and volunteers were thanked. This year over 400 out of over 900 graduates attended. The Wellesley Symphony Orchestra also sent a large number of musicians.

*MassBay hosted the Cybersecurity Summit last week. There were many vendors and sessions. Michele Drolet, a former Foundation Board member and CEO of Towerwall, oversees this event with Chief Information Officer Lyons. The Summit yields scholarships for Cybersecurity students, which is positive both for students and the College's reputation in Cybersecurity.

*An anonymous large financial institution has awarded MassBay a total of \$450,000. \$350,000 will go towards the Facilities Master Plan (the total cost of which will be \$450K to \$500K), and \$100,000 towards the Basic Needs Fund for students, including food insecurity, housing, childcare, and emergencies. Senior Grants Director Anthony, Special Assistant to the President and Campaign Director Borg, and Campaign Consultant Janet Nolan were acknowledged for their work on this grant application.

*Summer semester has begun. Fall enrollment is looking positive. Summer is a good time to work on facilities, including updating faculty offices in the Wellesley campus. The kitchen renovation is almost done and should be ready for the fall. The Admissions office will be located where the bookstore was, right at the front of the main entrance.

*MassBay's new Chief of Police, Robert Stephanian, was introduced. Chief Stephanian comes from

Plymouth County Sheriff's Office, where he served as Captain and in various leadership roles. Associate Dean for Equity Assurance MacDonald led the search. Chief Stephanian indicated he is pleased to meet everyone and looks forward to the future.

Student Trustee

Student Trustee Shah reported the following:

*With many students off campus for summer, there has not been as much activity, but summer classes are in session, and students are continuing to come to campus. As MassBay prepares to welcome new students in August, Peer Navigators are getting ready for Ready to Register sessions, open houses, campus tours, and other events.

*MassBay held its annual Pride Workshop on June 5, bringing together students, faculty, staff, and community members for workshops, a keynote speaker, giveaways, and a performance to celebrate.

*As mentioned previously, MassBay hosted the annual Cybersecurity Summit, where cybersecurity professionals and students explored topics such as artificial intelligence, risk, and resilience. The event also helped raise scholarship funds for MassBay cybersecurity students.

*A total of 36 Early College students from Framingham, Milford, and Waltham visited PUMA's North America headquarters in Somerville. Students got a behind-the-scenes look at different areas of the company. This was a great opportunity to explore possible career paths and hear directly from professionals about their experiences.

*MassBay's Motor Parts Career Automotive Program (MOPAR CAP) students also attended the Stellantis Unstoppable event at the Xfinity Center, where they had the chance to experience the automotive industry in an exciting and hands-on way.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Committee Chair Kahn and President Podell turned the reports over to Vice President Edward.

Finance Items

Vice President Edward reported the following:

***Investments, Cash, & Student Receivables Summary Reports**

Investments

The investment balance at the end of May was \$36.4 million. Investments gained 3.2% in the month of May. The current investment balance is \$36.5 million, an increase of \$100,000, or .2%, in the month of June thus far.

Cash

The cash balance at the end of May was \$7.6 million, a decrease of \$803,000 compared to the prior month. The current cash balance is \$2.8 million.

Student Accounts Receivable

The receivable balance at the end of May was \$5.3 million. Receivables decreased by \$578,000 compared to the prior month.

***Cash & Investment Position by Month**

This chart shows the cash and investment balances over the last five years.

***Kitchen Renovation Updates**

A total of \$3.1 million has been spent by the end of May. Approximately \$4.2 million will likely be spent on the project. The final inspection is scheduled for next week, and a few “punch list” items are still outstanding. The remaining \$800,000 will go back into the General Fund for future use.

***Contracts**

There is one contract for \$161,000 for a state-funded fire pump replacement project.

***Fee Increase**

In February, fees were increased by 2.76%, consistent with the state cap. Fees of \$100 per credit for the new Sonography program and \$62 for the Medical Assistant program are being proposed today. President Podell explained that Sonography is a new program and involves the upkeep of expensive equipment. MassBay’s fee would be similar to that of some of the other community colleges that offer the program. The increase for the Medical Assistant program is presented to correct an oversight when fee increases for existing programs were presented at an earlier meeting.

MOTION: Trustee Williams moved to approve the \$100 fee for the Sonography program and \$62 fee for the Medical Assistant program, and Student Trustee Shah seconded the motion.

The motion passed via the following roll call vote: Trustee Choate – YES; Trustee Hidalgo – YES; Trustee Kahn – YES; Trustee Lish - YES; Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES; Student Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Williams - YES

Personnel Items

Associate Vice President Pace reported the following:

***Personnel Actions Report**

The report shows one new hire and one employee in a new role.

***Recruitment Report**

The report shows three open faculty positions and three open staff positions. The outstanding Nursing position reported at a previous meeting has been filled. An offer has been accepted for a fall semester start.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Vice President Slavin reported the following:

Summer enrollment is well underway, with FTE up 12.5% and headcount up 6.7%. Students can still

enroll in the next six-week summer session, which begins on July 6. As of today, Fall 2026 enrollment is up 16.5% in FTE and 20% in headcount compared to this time last year. Admissions applications for new incoming students are also trending ahead, currently approximately 15% ahead of this time last year.

The Admissions team remains actively engaged in processing new applications and completing the incomplete applications so students can move forward in the enrollment process. “Ready to Register” sessions and placement testing are ongoing and are key steps in supporting students through the enrollment process for the fall. An increase in new student registration activity following the July 4 holiday is anticipated.

MassBay may be approaching a point where double-digit enrollment growth begins to level off, as the initial surge associated with the implementation of free community college programs stabilizes.

DASHBOARD

Associate Dean Gildae reported the following:

Retention and Student Success

The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) recently refreshed the Performance Measurement Reporting System (PMRS). MassBay is exceeding the 2033 target of 30% for the Timely Completion of Gateway Courses by one percentage point. For On Time Credit Accumulation, MassBay is approaching the 40% target with 39% for 2025, marking an increase from 36% the previous year. Persistence After First Year, which includes enrollment at any United States institution, reveals that MassBay held steady at 61%, showing room for improvement relative to the 2033 target rate of 65%.

Outcomes

Figures 4.5 through 4.9 were also recently updated by DHE. With regards to Transfer to Baccalaureate, MassBay is at the 2033 target rate of 25%. The Six-Year Comprehensive Student Success shows that MassBay exceeded the Massachusetts community college average rate of 61% by 5 percentage points. Additionally, DHE refreshed the data on Earnings of Graduates Who Enrolled Immediately After High School and Earnings of Graduates Who Enrolled at Age 25 or Older. Among students who entered immediately after high school and earned an associate’s degree, earnings at years 1, 3, and 5 all exceed those of the reference group (Massachusetts residents with only a high school diploma). Similarly, earnings among graduates who enrolled at ages 25 or older exceed their reference point (pre-enrollment earnings). Associate Dean Gildae noted that these data reflect the post enrollment earnings for MassBay graduates who did not enroll at a subsequent institution and who are employed within the Commonwealth.

Academics

All of section 5 has been updated with the current academic year data. There has been a slight decline in the Percentage of Sections Taught by Full-Time Faculty, from 46% to 44%.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

Special Assistant to the President and Capital Campaign Director Borg reported the Campaign Team is working with key volunteers who can introduce President Podell to strong prospects. At the end of May, one such volunteer reached out to nearly 70 former colleagues, inviting them to attend a reunion at his home and inviting President Podell to speak about MassBay's work at the event. Another volunteer has opened doors to several banks. The team also continues to strengthen relationships with individual, corporate, and foundation donors to the last campaign.

REPORTS FROM PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief of Police Stephanian reported that the March, April, and May, 2026, Clery & National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) reports are unchanged from last year and show all zeros.

2026/2027 MEETING SCHEDULE

Chair Povich reported that the schedule of the 2026-2027 meetings is included in the binder. There will be two in-person meetings, in October and April. She is looking at setting up a tour of Ashland next year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Povich explained the process for moving into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding 40 Oakland Street noting that an open meeting. Chair Povich stated that the Board of Trustees is entering into an executive session pursuant to Mass. General Law chapter 30A, section 21(a)(3) as she has determined that an open session will be detrimental to the litigating position of the College.

MOTION: Trustee Williams moved to adjourn the meeting and move into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding 40 Oakland Street as the Chair has determined that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declared, and Trustee Shah seconded the motion.

The motion passed via the following roll call vote: Trustee Choate – YES; Trustee Hidalgo – YES; Trustee Kahn – YES; Trustee Lish - YES; Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES; Student Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Williams – YES

The Chair announced that the Board would not return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 am.



9/15/26



9/15/26

David Podell, President Date
MassBay Community College

Ilissa Povich, Chair Date
MassBay Board of Trustees