



777 Grandview Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 27, 2025, 3:45 p.m.

Board Room, Blake Hall 140

A regular meeting of the Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees convened at 3:45p.m., Monday October 27, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Travis Steindorf called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. The following Board members were in attendance:

- Peter Akey
- Jamie Pickering
- Kelly Stimpson
- Mark Ruby

Chairperson Callie Langohr was absent, with prior approval. Also Present was – President Jane Karas

• **Appointment of Trustee ***

Vice Chair Steindorf addressed the need to appoint a new trustee to fill the remainder of Patrick Gulick's term through May 2026. Patrick resigned due to moving out of the Bigfork/Columbia Falls/Whitefish High School District.

Vice Chair Steindorf introduced Mary Sterhan. Ms. Sterhan gave a brief background and shared why she is interested in serving on the FVCC Board of Trustees.

Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees appoint Mary Sterhan to fill Patrick Gulick's seat until May 2026; Trustee Jamie Pickering seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

• **Trustee Oath of Office**

The Clerk of the District administered the "Oath of Office" to Mary Sterhan and requested her signature on the "Certificate of Appointment" form.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. **CONSENT ITEMS***

- Approval of Minutes: Regular Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, September 22, 2025

Trustee Peter Akey moved that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes; Trustee Kelly Stimpson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. **MONTHLY REPORTS**

- **Student Activities**

The Student Activities report was submitted to the Board and presented by Heather Maestas, Student Government President. Heather highlighted several student activities, such as Grocery Bingo, 9/11 Day of Service Week and the Campus-Wide picnic that had 171 attendees. The board thanked Heather for the report.

- **Faculty Activities**

The Faculty Activities Report was submitted to the Board and presented by the Faculty Senate Vice President, Carlin C. Phillips, Assistant Professor, Substance Abuse. Carlin called attention to several faculty achievements, highlighting Michael Garcia, Instructor, Firearms Technology. Michael attended the Cerakote Certified Applicator training in Medford, OR. This resulted in Michael becoming a certified Cerakote applicator and FVCC will be recognized nationally and internationally as a location that is authorized and trained to teach and apply Cerakote. The board thanked Carlin for the report.

- **Executive Staff**

The Board thanked the Executive Staff for the informative reports.

V. **COLLEGE ISSUES –**

- **Student Success: Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) Program Update**

Denise Pacovsky, Program Director, Medical Laboratory Technology and Amanda Eney, Clinical Coordinator gave an update on the positive impact of implementing a distance option to the MLT program. They highlighted the NAACLS (National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences) site visit and findings along with the award of 10 years of accreditation. Distance students' impressions of the program were shared along with the increase in cohort sizes and the higher than national average BOC (Board of Certification) test scores. They also showcased the distance site visits that Amanda conducts, and the praise she has received.

Vice Chair Steindorf asked if site visits to clinics are conducted after a student is identified or if clinics are identified first. They answered that both scenarios occur.

The Board thanked Denise and Amanda for an excellent presentation.

- **Resolution 25-3, Disposal of Surplus Property Through Sale***

The Board was presented with Resolution 25-3, Disposal of Surplus Property. The college has found that the surplus property has become obsolete and is no longer suitable for use.

Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Resolution 25-3, Disposal of Surplus Property; Trustee Jamie Pickering seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Board Policy, Chapter I, Doctrine, Sections 70, 80, and 125 - Second Reading***

It was noted that athletics was removed from sections 70 and 80, which was approved at the September board meeting.

Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Board Policy; Trustee Peter Akey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Board Policy, Chapter XII, College Facilities, Sections 10, 20, 30, and 50 – Second Reading***

No revisions were made in these policies.

Trustee Peter Akey moved the Board of Trustees approve the Board Policy; Trustee Jamie Pickering seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Finance and Audit Committee**

- **Quarterly Budget Report: July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025**

President Karas reported that the Finance and Audit Committee met prior to the Board meeting to review the first quarter report. The committee reviewed the report and found no issues. FVCC is right on track with the budget.

- **Board of Trustees' Events Calendar**

President Karas reviewed the Trustees' event calendar. The Grand Wine Tasting takes place on Saturday, November 1st. The Board of Regents will be meeting in Missoula in November. The next Board Meeting takes place on November 24th which is the same week as Thanksgiving and the December board meeting takes place on December 15th which is earlier in the month due to the College Closure for Winter Break.

- **President's Report**

President Karas updated the Board on several items:

ACCT Certificate – FVCC received a member in good standing certificate for service and dedication to the honorable mission of higher education in 2026. President Karas thanked the Board for all the good things they do.

Wachholz Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center -The ribbon cutting takes place on Thursday, October 30th from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. There will be a fireside chat with Eric Harry, WIEC director and Liz Marchi, Two Bear Capital Head of Community Engagement. Tours of the building will also be available.

Festival of Flavors – There will be two dinners this week hosted by the FVCC Foundation. President Karas thanked the foundation of all the work they do to support students.

Foundation Retreat – The retreat occurred on October 3rd . Callie Longohr attended as Board of Trustees Liaison.

Food Pantry -Due to the potential lapse in Snap Funding, recipients may not receive benefits as of November 1st. FVCC is looking at food pantry options to better serve students and employees who rely on these benefits. The food pantry is supported by the FVCC Foundation.

Enrollment growth – President Karas reported that enrollment growth is on track, a report will be presented at a future Board Meeting. There was an article in the Daily Inter Lake outlining the enrollment growth since the Covid-19 pandemic. The article was positive. It will be forwarded to the Board.

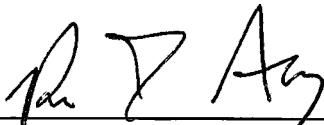
ACCT Leadership Congress – President Karas thanked Trustee Mark Ruby for attending the ACCT Leadership Congress, which she attended as well. A report out will occur at the November Board Meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further action, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.



Callie Langohr, Chairperson of the Board



Peter Akey, Secretary to the Board