

FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AGENDA ITEM III*

III. CONSENT ITEMS

- Approval of Minutes - Regular Board Meeting Minutes 1/26/2026

BACKGROUND:

A copy of the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on 1/26/2026 is attached for review by Board members prior to the meeting. All consent items, with no corrections, will be approved with one motion.



777 Grandview Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 26, 2026, 3:45 p.m.

Board Room, Blake Hall 140

A regular meeting of the Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees convened at 3:45 p.m., Monday January 26, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Callie Langohr called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. The following board members were in attendance:

- Jamie Pickering
- Mark Ruby
- Mary Sterhan
- Peter Akey
- Travis Steindorf

Trustee Kelly Stimpson was absent, with prior approval. Also present were President Jane Karas and Clerk of the District Holly Metzger.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. CONSENT ITEMS*

- **Approval of Minutes:** Regular Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, December 15, 2025

Trustee Peter Akey moved that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes. Trustee Mary Sterhan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. MONTHLY REPORTS

- **Faculty Activities**
The Faculty Activities Report was submitted to the board by Faculty Senate Vice President, Carlin C. Phillips, Assistant Professor, Substance Abuse.

- **Executive Staff**
The board thanked the Executive Staff for the informative reports.

V. COLLEGE ISSUES

- **Student Success: Honors Program**
Conrad Rauscher, Associate Professor, English Division Chair, Humanities and Marty Mullins, Adjunct Faculty, Social Science Division presented Honors Program Updates.

Enrollment in the Honors Program has been increasing after a decline due to Covid. This semester there was a record number of applications. The program has been working with marketing to reach more potential students. Recruitment for the program is focused on FVCC Freshman in the fall and local high schools in the spring. On April 1st there will be an open house for students and parents to learn about the program and opportunities for scholarships. The program also hosts a breakfast for local high school advisors to learn about the program, how to apply and hear from current students. There will be an honors conference held on May 8th.

One of the highlights of the program is the Honors Student Research Conference. Information and results of the competition are included in the faculty activity report, located in the January board agenda.

- **Resolution 26-2, Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election by Mail Ballot***
The board was presented with Resolution 26-2: Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election by Mail Ballot. There is one board position that will open in the Flathead/Glacier High School District and three positions in the Bigfork/Columbia Falls/Whitefish School District. The Board of Trustees is required to approve a resolution calling for Trustee Election to be held in conjunction with the regular school elections on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

Trustee Travis Steindorf moved that the Board of Trustees approve Resolution 26-2 Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election by Mail Ballot. Trustee Mark Ruby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Finance and Audit Committee**
 - **Quarterly Budget Report Ending December 31, 2025**
The Finance and Audit Committee met prior to the board meeting to review the second quarter budget report. There were no issues found during the review, everything is tracking as expected. President Karas thanked the business office for keeping the budget on track. Board Chair Langohr added that she appreciates the significant amount of maintenance work being done that keeps FVCC facilities safe and inviting to students.

- **Board of Trustees' Events Calendar**

President Karas reviewed the Trustees' events calendar.

- **President's Report**

President Karas updated the Board on several items.

- Today is the 5th day of spring classes, there has been an increase of 33 FTE and 88 headcount compared to last spring.
- President Karas attended Business Days at the State Capital on January 6th and 7th. She was able to visit with Commissioner Swanson, the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.
- The Community Colleges will explore revising the funding formula during the Interim Legislative Session.
- An all Employee Inservice was held on January 15th. There were several presentations, including one on Mission Fulfillment. Employees participated in a Sense of Belonging Survey. The results show that there are no significant differences in employee satisfaction from last year. Overall employees report having positive experiences at FVCC.
- The college was approached by the Anne Frank Center regarding an exhibition that is travelling across Montana. FVCC is excited to host the exhibition in June and to offer this opportunity to the community.
- The Wanda Hollensteiner Art Gallery hosted a public opening last week for their new exhibit, "*Karen Leigh: A Retrospective*". President Karas attended the opening and reported that there was a great turnout, and the artwork is phenomenal. She also commented that Karen Leigh has touched an amazing number of students during her time teaching for 53 years at FVCC.
- The board self-evaluation will be sent out soon and the results will be discussed at the February meeting.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm

Callie Langohr, Board Chair

Peter Akey, Secretary to the Board