

A meeting of the Madison Area Technical College District Board was held on July 13, 2026, in a hybrid format, at the Madison College Truax Campus. Members of the public were given an opportunity to attend virtually through a phone line published as part of the notice.

Board members present: Shiva Bidar-Sielaff (Chair), Melanie Lichtfeld (Secretary), Dan Bullock (Treasurer), Chris Canty, Fabiola Hamdan, Ann McNeary, Tonya Olson, and Korbey White.

Also present: Jon Anderson, Legal Counsel; Jennifer Berne, President; Rose Buschhaus, Executive Vice-President, Human Resources and Equal Opportunity; Tim Casper, Executive Vice-President, Student Affairs; Beth Giles, Vice-Provost; Sylvia Ramirez, Executive Vice-President, Finance & Administration; and Mark Thomas, Executive Vice-President, Policy and Strategy.

Others present: Jimmy Cheffen, Director, Student Engagement and Community Impact; Bethany Jarvis, Director, Marketing; Ashley Larson, Student Senate President; Faridah Wansagali, Board Student Liaison; and Kristin Rolling, Recording Secretary.

### **Call to Order** <sup>I</sup>

The meeting was duly noticed and called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Ms. Bidar-Sielaff. Mr. Anderson confirmed that appropriate notices had been given and the meeting was being held in compliance with the open meetings law.

### **Organizational Meeting** <sup>II</sup>

#### **Oath of Office for Newly Appointed and Reappointed Board Members** <sup>II A</sup>

Mr. Anderson announced that Mr. Canty, Ms. Hamdan, and Mr. White had signed and subscribed a written oath of office for their three-year terms on the District Board of Trustees. They participated in a ceremonial oral oath administered by Mr. Anderson.

**Announcement of FY2026-27 District Board Officers** II B

Ms. Bidar-Sielaff announced that District Board Officers were elected at the Board's 4:30 p.m. meeting. The officers who will serve in FY2026-2027 are Ms. Bidar-Sielaff, Chair; Mr. Dantzler, Vice-Chair; Ms. Lichtfeld, Secretary; and Mr. Bullock, Treasurer.

**Appointment of Representatives to the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association Board of Directors and Standing Committees** II C

Mr. Dantzler expressed his interest, prior to the meeting, to continue representing Madison College at the District Boards Association.

**There was a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Canty, to appoint Mr. Dantzler as the Madison College representative to the District Boards Association. Motion carried.**

**FY2026-27 Board Meeting Schedule** II D

**There was a motion by Mr. Canty, seconded by Ms. McNeary, to continue the Board's practice of meeting on the first Wednesday of each month, with the January 2027 meeting being cancelled. Motion carried.**

**Routine Business Matters** III

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** III A

**There was a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Ms. McNeary, to approve the meeting minutes of June 1, 2026, as submitted. Motion carried.**

**Public Comments** III B

A Unite Here Local 1 representative expressed concerns about the lack of development by Drury at the former Downtown Education Center in Madison.

**New Business** IV

**Communications** IV A

**Board Chair's Report** IV A 1

**Future Meeting & Event Schedule** IV A 1 a

Ms. Bidar-Sielaff reminded trustees about upcoming meetings and events.

**Student Liaison Report** IV A 2

Ms. Wansagali shared that she is a pre-nursing student and she is looking forward to sharing student stories and perspectives to the Board and helping to create a campus culture of belonging.

**Student Senate Report** IV A 3

Ms. Larsen reported that all standing Student Senate committee officer positions have been filled. Student Senate will be tabling and talking to students about student clubs and organizations during upcoming Involvement Fairs.

**President's Report** IV A 4

**Vision 2030 – FY2025-26 Retrospective** IV A 4 a

Dr. Berne reported on her first year leading Madison College, emphasizing the College's commitment to its vision of providing accessible, affordable, and equitable education that meets evolving community workforce needs. She highlighted the dual role of the College in developing a skilled workforce while supporting individual economic mobility through degree and credential completion. She described a growing institutional focus on aligning programs, services, and community engagement efforts around helping students complete a credential and transition into careers or further education. She also encouraged continued collaboration with employers and community partners to support students in finishing their credentials before entering the workforce. She noted that this work represents a refinement of the College's longstanding mission, with increased focus on student success and workforce impact.

**College/Campus Announcements** IV A 5**Academic Affairs** IV A 5 a

Dr. Giles shared the previous fiscal year's highlights from Academic Affairs, as well as priorities for the upcoming year.

**Student Affairs** IV A 5 b

Dr. Casper reported that amid external and institutional change during the past year, Student Affairs professionals focused on providing stability for students while supporting the College's increased emphasis on credential completion. Teams worked together to improve student access, success, and completion outcomes. Key accomplishments included the launch of the centralized Student Support Services team, continued implementation of the WolfPack Rising student information system, and ongoing work to strengthen student mental health and well-being through the JED Foundation partnership.

**Finance & Administration** IV A 5 c

Dr. Ramirez reported on key accomplishments within the Finance and Administration division, including the opening of the childcare center at Goodman South Campus and balancing the budget while maintaining the College's financial position and bond rating. She emphasized commitments to supporting the completion priorities through initiatives such as student internships, strategic resource allocation, capital planning, and maintaining a safe and welcoming campus environment.

**Organizational Impact & Culture** IV A 5 d

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Cheffen on behalf of Dr. Grady, the report highlighted a year focused on strengthening organizational culture while advancing student success, employee engagement, teaching excellence, and global learning opportunities. Key accomplishments

included integrating the Center for International Education into the division, expanding support for conflict resolution and restorative practices, and increasing collaboration across departments to promote belonging and organizational effectiveness. The division will continue to align its work with the College's student completion goals, expanding international partnerships, and investing in employee development and organizational culture.

#### **International Travel** IV A 5 d 1

One authorization supports faculty training in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, where specialized Caterpillar equipment training will enhance instruction in the Heavy Equipment and Diesel programs and support ongoing accreditation requirements. A second authorization supports the faculty-led Taste of Ireland study abroad program, which will provide students with cultural and culinary learning experiences in Dublin and Bundoran, Ireland.

#### **Policy & Strategy** IV A 5 e

Dr. Thomas reflected on a year marked by significant institutional initiatives, including the onboarding of a new president, implementation of a new student information system, accreditation efforts, strategic planning, expansion of rural educational access, and the opening of major new facilities and student support spaces. He noted that these initiatives were guided by a shared commitment to improving students' post-completion social and economic opportunities and aligning the College's work with its strategic priorities.

#### **Marketing & Communications** IV A 5 f

Presented by Ms. Jarvis on behalf of Ms. Charbonneau, the report highlighted Marketing and Communications' efforts to strengthen Madison College's brand visibility, digital presence, and internal communications. Major accomplishments included expanding community partnerships and media exposure, enhancing website accessibility and digital experiences, and

leading the successful welcome campaign for President Berne. The division also improved employee communications and implemented new internal systems and processes to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

### **Technology Services** IV A 5 g

Mr. Chrisinger highlighted the division's ongoing partnership with departments across the College to modernize systems, improve digital experiences, and support student success. Major accomplishments included the successful launch of the D2L Brightspace learning management system, continued progress on the WolfPack Rising transition to Workday Student, and collegewide efforts to advance digital accessibility. The division also supported responsible adoption of artificial intelligence and completed further migration to cloud-based services, Technology Services remains focused on delivering secure, accessible, and innovative technology solutions while supporting numerous active projects across the institution.

### **Action Items** IV B

#### **Three-Year Facilities Plan** IV B 1

Dr. Ramirez reported that Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) districts are required to prepare and submit a Three-Year Facilities Plan to the Wisconsin Technical College System State Board. The plan must be approved by the District Board and submitted to the WTCS.

**There was a motion by Ms. McNeary, seconded by Mr. White, to approve Madison College's Three-Year Facilities Plan dated August 2026 for submission to the Wisconsin Technical College System. Motion carried.**

#### **Capital Projects Borrowing** IV B 2

**Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$5,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026-27B <sup>IV B 2 a</sup> and Resolution Establishing the Parameters For the Sale of Not to Exceed \$5,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026-27B <sup>IV B 2 a</sup>**

Ms. Grigg presented two Resolutions for consideration by the Board. The first resolution is the authorization to begin the borrowing process and totals \$5,000,000, including \$1,500,000 for building remodel and improvements, and \$3,500,000 for the cost of acquisition of movable equipment and technology. Once the borrowing is authorized, the resolution is published as public notice per Section 67.12(12)(e)5 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Bids are then received. The second resolution is the issuance of the notes is for the public purpose of the acquisition of movable equipment and technology costing \$5,000 or more per unit or set (\$3,500,000), and for the purpose of paying the cost of building remodeling and improvement projects (\$1,500,000). The resolution limits the delegation of authority by stating that the General Obligation Promissory Notes may not be issued unless the True Interest Cost is equal to or less than 5.00%.

**There was a motion by Mr. Bullock, seconded by Mr. Bullock, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$5,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026-27B and to adopt the Resolution Establishing Parameters for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$5,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026-27B. Motion carried.**

**Consent Agenda** <sup>IV B 3</sup>

**General fund monthly financial report as of May 31, 2025** <sup>IV B 3 a</sup>

**Supplier payments greater than or equal to \$2,500 and schedule of checks issued for the period May 16, 2026 through June 15, 2026** <sup>IV B 3 b</sup>

**Request for proposals/request for bids/sole sources** <sup>IV B 3 c</sup>

**38.14 contracts for services May 2026** <sup>IV B 3 d</sup>

**Employment of personnel** <sup>IV B 3 e</sup>

**Resignations and separations** <sup>IV B 3 f</sup>

**Retirements** <sup>IV B 3 g</sup>

**There was a motion by Mr. Canty, seconded by Mr. White, to approve Consent Agenda items IV.B.3.a. through g. Motion carried.**

**Adjournment** <sup>v</sup>

**There was a motion by Hamdan, seconded by Mr. White, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

---

Melanie Lichtfeld, Secretary