

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT #505
(Parkland College)**

**Counties of Champaign, Coles, Dewitt, Douglas, Edgar,
Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, McLean, Moultrie, Piatt, Vermilion, and State of Illinois**

March 26, 2025

ROLL CALL

The Meeting was called to order by James Voyles, Chair, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held electronically via Teams and in Room U325. At the direction of Chair Voyles, Krystal Garrett, Assistant to the President/Board of Trustees, called the roll of members of the Board who attended in person. The following trustees were present: James Ayers, Maureen Banks, Jarrett Clem, Bianca Green, Carolyn Ragsdale, Jaden Campbell (Student Trustee), and James Voyles. Also present were President Pamela Lau and representatives of the administration, faculty, staff, and public.

APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

Approval of attendance by electronic means, pursuant to Section 7(a) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA).

Trustees may attend by video or audio conference for the purpose of (i) personal illness or disability; (ii) employment purposes or the business of the public body; (iii) a family or other emergency; or (iv) unexpected childcare obligations.

It was moved by Dr. Banks and seconded by Mr. Ayers to allow Trustee Trimble to attend the meeting electronically via Teams due to family illness.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None.

ROLL CALL OF TRUSTEES ATTENDING ELECTRONICALLY

At the direction of Chair Voyles, Krystal Garrett, Executive Assistant to the President/Board of Trustees, called the roll of members of the Board who attended electronically. The following trustee was present: Dana Trimble.

CONSENT AGENDA MOTION

Chair Voyles asked if Trustees had any questions regarding items included on the Consent Agenda.

It was moved by Ms. Green and seconded by Dr. Banks to approve the consent agenda that includes all items on the agenda that are preceded by an asterisk.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None; ABSENT—None.

The consent agenda adopted included approval of the following items:

- Approved the Minutes from the Special and Regular Meetings held on February 19, 2025.
- Approved the voucher checks listing through February 28, 2025, including Board travel, totaling \$5,166,902.70.
- Approved the awarding of funds from the following external sources:
 1. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC): US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center Grant (International and Middle Eastern Studies curriculum projects)
 2. Illinois Community College Board (ICCB): FY25 Noncredit Workforce Training Initiative Grant
 3. Illinois Community College Board (ICCB): FY2025 Digital Instruction for Adult Education
 4. Illinois Community College Board (ICCB): Mental Health Early Action on Campus Support Expansion Project
 5. Illinois Community College Board (ICCB): FY25 Scaling and Assessing Developmental Education Reform Act (DERA) Project
- Approve the filing of the following grant applications:
 1. Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board Grant
 2. Case New Holland (CNH) TopTech Grants Program

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Voyles opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PCA

Kevin Hastings, President of PCA, stated that there was no report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Pamela Lau reported on the following:

1. Spring Enrollments

a. ICCB spring 2025 opening enrollment report: On March 18, the ICCB released its Spring 2025 Illinois Community College Opening Enrollment Report, heralding significant growth in statewide enrollments. The report is based on the traditional 10th Day census date when we report headcounts and full-time equivalents in terms of attempted hours. It highlights an increase of 8.9% in headcount enrollments and 7.1% in FTE.

A handout of tables 2 and 5 from this ICCB report was provided. Parkland was one of 40 community colleges that experienced an increase in headcount. Our headcount numbers were +6.3% and FTE +5.9%, which shows an increase but not as substantial as the state average.

One reason for this apparent lag behind the state average is that the ICCB enrollment numbers include non-credit Adult Education students. At Parkland, however, registration of almost all Adult Ed students occurs after 10th Day. The ICCB report only includes 6 Adult Ed students in our headcount of 5806 students. The actual number of students in Parkland's Adult Education this semester is much higher. As of March 21, we have 651 students enrolled in Adult Education. Of these, 499 meet the ICCT reportable requirement of having attended at 7.5 hours of class. 60% of these 499 students are in English as a Second Language classes; 40% are doing GED preparation.

Our Adult Education department is exploring how we can improve our current registration system to provide a more accurate and real-time accounting of our enrollment.

b. Parkland final spring 2025 enrollment count: Our enrollment count continues beyond the 10th day reports. Students register for 13-week classes (starting February 3) and mid-term start classes (starting March 10). Our final enrollment counts for the semester indicate we are up 5.1% in headcount for credit-bearing, tuition-paying students and up 4.5% in FTE in terms of attempted hours.

2. **Men's basketball.** Our men's basketball team finished as the national runner-up in the NJCAA Division II tournament. It has been an excellent year of stellar performance. Parkland is so very proud of them. Dr. Lau recognized the excellent work of Head Coach John Bowler and his coaching staff under the leadership of Athletic Director Brendan McHale. Thanked Trustees Banks, Ragsdale, and Voyles who made it out to Danville to cheer our team on, and former Trustee Greg Knott was there. Dean Marietta Turner brought a bus load of Parkland student supporters to cheer the Cobras on. Dr. Lau noted that it was good to see faculty and staff come out to support the team. Saturday evening at the Mary Miller Gym on the DACC campus was quite an event, an evening to remember.
3. **Third-Party Administrator for the college's health insurance plan.** Health Alliance has been Parkland's Third Party Administrator for its self-funded health plan since July 2016. On February 25, Health Alliance announced that it will cease operations as a health insurance company at the end of 2025. Parkland's current contract with Health Alliance ends on June

30 of this year. Human Resources, under the leadership of Associate VP/CHRO Kathleen McAndrew, is leading the process for identifying another TPA for Parkland. The college posted the RFP with April 4 as the submission deadline. A college committee with employee group representatives will review submissions. A recommendation for a new TPA will be brought to the board at the April 23 board meeting.

4. **State legislation.** The Illinois Council of Community College Presidents (ICCCP) and Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) are working hard to advance both House and Senate versions of the bill to authorize community colleges to offer four-year bachelor's degree programs in select, high demand career fields. Last week, the initiative was stalled in the House Higher Education committee. We are working several avenues to pave a path forward and continue to discuss possible concerns with our elected representatives. A copy of the CCB Myth Busters flyer was provided.
5. **Current administration's actions affecting higher education.** In the face of Executive Orders and a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) from the Office of Civil Rights, we at Parkland were walking circumspectly to gather information where available so that we can keep in compliance with applicable law while not losing the mission focus of our work – engaging all students in learning so that they can experience success. Since then, the Office of Civil Rights has issued a “Frequently Asked Questions about Racial Preferences and Stereotypes Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act” document. This document affirmed several of our interpretations of the DCL, guiding actions to maintain compliance with applicable law. Our review and associated actions thus far include the following:
 - a. Admission to the college: Parkland College has always had an open admissions policy, welcoming all students who apply to attend. The college has not participated in illegal DEI. No action on this front was and is necessary.
 - b. Student support programing: We reviewed student support/training programs like SWFT, RISE, and HCCTP and revised program criteria as needed to ensure that eligibility for participation is not based on protected characteristics.
 - c. Foundation scholarships: We have identified and paused Foundation scholarships that use race and/or ethnicity as criteria for funding awards.
 - d. Participation in student organizations: Our student organizations have always been open to all students. We celebrate multicultural diversity as part of our educational mission. Diversity-related resources listed online are not restricted to any particular student demographic.
6. **Downsizing and closure of the Department of Education.** On March 20, President Trump signed an EO pertaining to the goal of closing the U.S. Department of Education. We are monitoring possible immediate and longer term implications for Parkland College. Several aspects of the work undertaken by the Department are vital to our work.

- a. Federal Student Aid: The Department currently oversees Federal Student Aid which includes the Pell Grant program, student loan program, and federal work-study. Over the last few years, 25 to 27% of our degree seeking students are Pell eligible. Pell grants allow many students to come to Parkland to begin entry into career pathways that lead to family sustaining wages and better quality of life. We hope that the administration's commitment to keeping the federal financial aid programs intact (albeit with a change in federal agency oversight) will result in minimal impact on students and their desire to come to college.

Trustees discussed potential concerns from the student body and the impact to students and their financial aid. Dr. Lau and Dr. Trame noted that as far as we know, the government plans to keep financial aid intact and students should continue to file FAFSA as they normally would.

- b. Grant-funded student support programs: Parkland currently has two grant-funded programs administered by the Department of Education – the TRiO program and CCAMPIS grant. We are hopeful that these key programs which support low-income and first-generation students and student parents will continue despite changes to the Department.
 - c. Quality assurance and federal regulations related to student protections: Current federal oversight provides for accountability through the institutional accreditation and processes like gainful employment reporting. Measures to ensure student safety are spelled out by the Cleary Act and Title IX. We await official communication as to the “what, when, and how” of changes in regulations and reporting.
7. Dr. Lau updated that she has been selected as a Phi Theta Kappa Paragon President Award winner. This award recognizes new college presidents for their outstanding support of student success. Faculty member Lori Garrett, who advises the Parkland PTK chapter led her team to submit the nomination. Dr. Lau plans to attend Phi Theta Kappa's Annual Catalyst Convention scheduled for April 3 – 5 in Kansas City, Missouri to receive the award.

Upcoming events

Dr. Lau highlighted the following upcoming events:

- April 1: Consolidated elections will include two Parkland trustee seats. Parkland continues to be a universal voting center which is located in the E building. Opening hours are 11 a.m. through 6 p.m.
- April 4: The Ford ASSET 30th anniversary celebrations start at 11 a.m. in the T building.
- April 15: Annual Foundation Scholarship reception in the Dodds Athletic Center starts at 3 p.m. The program begins at 4 p.m.
- April 23: Board agenda includes seating of new trustees and election of board officers.
- April 24: Annual Phi Theta Kappa All-Illinois Banquet in Springfield, IL

- April 29: Parkland Retirement and Recognition at 2 p.m. in the Student Union
- May 22: Board participation at Leadership Conference

The BOT annual retreat and president evaluation will take place in June. Executive Assistant Krystal Garrett will be in touch about a date. Let Dr. Lau or the board chair know if you have topics to recommend for the retreat agenda.

Dr. Banks noted that Senator Mike Halpin is stepping down as chair of the IL Senate Higher Education committee. Senator Mary Edly-Allen will be the new committee chair.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Stephanie Stuart, Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and Workforce Innovation, provided a legislative update. A handout was provided.

Student Trustee Campbell updated that he is the chair for the Student Advocacy Committee, which has grown to 7 students. They are focusing on the three main topics of: 1) adequate and equitable funding formula and funding the MAP grant 2) wraparound student supports for mental health, wellness, and well-being 3) community college baccalaureate degrees. They have been collecting information and data from students to take to our legislators to advocate for community college students as a whole.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUESTS

Stephanie Stuart reviewed requests made under the FOIA during the month and the disposition of the requests.

<u>Requestor</u>	<u>Information Requested</u>
Alyx Parker	Contracts and Correspondence
Justin Wenig	Vendor Contracts

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Chris Randles updated that the financial statements for February reflect the results of operations of the College for the first eight months of fiscal year 2025. The revised budget estimates indicate that expenses will exceed revenues by \$4,091,891.

- As noted in the February annual budget workshop, the current financial models project a deficit very close to the original budget of \$3.7M.
- Health Alliance has been the College's third-party administrator (TPA) for its self-funded health plan for several years. Health Alliance was selected through a competitive RFP process by a College committee that included employee group representatives. Health Alliance's recent announcement that they will cease operations at the end of 2025 requires the College find a replacement TPA prior to

July 1, 2025. That process is well underway. This change will not impact the FY25 financials but may impact future years.

Mr. Randles noted that they will bring a recommendation for a new provider to next month's meeting. He mentioned that we currently pay Health Alliance a fee per member to administer the plan, for a total cost of about \$37,000 per month.

- The key factors for the College's operating results in FY2025 will be tuition & fee revenues (enrollment), CPPRT revenues, and self-funded health claims' expenses and planned fund balance spending.
- The FY2025 audited beginning operating fund balance is \$44.2M. This amount is 62% of current budgeted operating expenditures.
- The FY2025 final budget projected a \$3,660,338 deficit.
- The FY2025 College tentative budget was lodged in July.
- The FY2025 College final budget was presented in September.
- The FY2024 College audit was presented in October.
- The TY2024 tax levy estimated amounts necessary were presented in October.
- The TY2024 final tax levy was presented in November.
- The annual budget workshop was presented in February.

Mr. Randles reminded the Board that Tammy Beckwith Schallmo will attend the May meeting to discuss bonds and future options.

EXEMPT PURCHASE- AVIATION REPAIR SERVICES

The Institute of Aviation at Parkland College requires engine and engine component overhaul services for fleet aircraft engines that are required after every 2000 hours of use. Poplar Grove Airmotive is an Illinois business qualified to provide overhaul services on the Institute of Aviation's engines. They specialize in and maintain an inventory of the primary engine type used in the Institute's fleet. This request covers the cost of one projected overhaul for the Institute aircraft needed before the end of FY2025.

This purchase relates to the following Strategic Goals:

Goal E: Secure our Future: Parkland College will strive for sustainable fiscal vitality emphasizing a continued investment in the human, technological, physical, and virtual assets of the college.

4. Maintain sustainable resources and maximize efficiency to support the learning mission of the college.

Administration recommended purchasing repair services from Poplar Grove Airmotive, Inc., Poplar Grove, IL, for a total cost not to exceed \$46,050. This item is exempt from formal bid requirement per the Illinois Community College Act, Section 805/3-27.1 (a) contracts for the services of individuals possessing a high degree of professional skill where the ability or fitness of the individual plays an important part and (l) contracts for goods or services which are economically procurable from only one source, such as for the purchase of magazines, books, periodicals, pamphlets and reports, and for utility services such as water, light, heat, telephone or telegraph. Board authorization is requested since the cost exceeds \$20,000. Funds are available from the FY2025 Aviation budget.

It was moved by Mr. Trimble and seconded by Ms. Ragsdale to approve the purchase of repair services from Poplar Grove Airmotive, Inc., Poplar Grove, IL, for a total cost not to exceed \$46,050.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None; ABSENT—None.

CAREER EXPLORATION CARTS

As part of Parkland College's Career Engagement Priority and the creation of a Department of Career and Community Engagement aimed at increasing awareness of career opportunities and educational pathways, bids were solicited from qualified vendors to design, build, and deliver interactive career exploration carts aimed at engaging youth aged 12-17. These carts will provide hands-on, educational activities that spark interest in a variety of career fields including welding, advanced manufacturing, automotive, agricultural, electrical, and health professions. The project aims to encourage career exploration by integrating technology, creativity, and interactivity into portable and durable carts. A legal bid notice was placed in the News Gazette with cart specifications including the scope of work, qualifications of responders, and work and delivery schedule.

This purchase relates to the following strategic goals:

Goal A: Empower Our Students: Parkland College will empower all students for success.

1. Develop clear evidence-based pathways for success so that students start right, maintain progress, and complete a credential in a timely manner.

4. Increase engagement opportunities to enhance well-rounded student development.

Goal B: Enhance Teaching and Learning: Parkland College will continually improve teaching practices and enhance learning opportunities to maintain excellence in its academic programs.

3. Create flexible, accessible learning environments that encourage students to participate in and take responsibility for their own education.

Goal C: Enrich the Community: Parkland College will work collaboratively to enrich the District 505 community.

2. Collaborate with K-12 districts and community-based organizations to develop curriculum and deliver systems to sustain a college-going culture, increase opportunities for students to begin and accelerate progress on college and career pathways, and promote students' college success skills.

4. Effectively market and promote the college, its programs, and services to raise awareness of opportunities for social and economic mobility and career advancement; increase awareness of the college's priorities among key stakeholders, including policymakers.

One bid was received from the following vendor:

1. Vista AAC, Ltd	\$49,760
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Administration recommended purchasing six career exploration carts from Vista AAC, Ltd, for a total cost of \$49,760. Board authorization is requested since the cost exceeds \$20,000. Funds for this purchase are available from FY2024 and FY2025 Taking Back the Trades grants through ICCB.

Mr. Randles thanked Dave Donsbach and Nancy Sutton for their planning and collaboration to ensure that this process was handled through the bid process. Dr. Sutton added that these carts are mobile and can be used in classrooms in addition to the mobile trailer. They are customizable and height adjustable. In the future, we hope to buy carts directly and create our own.

It was moved by Ms. Green and seconded by Dr. Banks to approve the purchase of six career exploration carts from Vista AAC, Ltd, Youngstown, OH, for a total cost of 49,760.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None; ABSENT—None.

EXEMPT PURCHASE – CARLE ATHLETIC TRAINER CONTRACT

Parkland College Athletics is looking to contract with Carle Hospital to provide athletic training coverage for the athletic training room and Athletic events for the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 season. The athletic trainer will provide daily therapy/rehab sessions for student athletes, along with event and concussion protocol coverage. Coverage includes, but is not limited to, concussion baseline testing prior to all student athletes who participate in any collision and/or contact sports.

This purchase meets the following strategic goals:

Goal A: Empower Our Students: Parkland College will empower all students for success.

4. Increase engagement opportunities to enhance well-rounded student development.

Goal C: Enrich the Community: Parkland College will work collaboratively to enrich the District 505 community.

5. Maintain an open door for the community to visit campus and engage in enriching programs, events, and experiences.

Administration recommended contracting with Carle Foundation Hospital for athletic training room and event coverage for the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semester at a total cost not to exceed \$26,720. This item is exempt from formal bid requirements per the Illinois Public Community College Act, section 805/3-27.1 (a) contracts for services of individuals possessing a high degree of professional skill where the ability or fitness of the individual plays an important part. Board authorization is requested since the cost exceeds \$20,000. Funds are available from the FY2025 Athletics budget.

It was moved by Dr. Banks and seconded by Mr. Clem to approve the contract with Carle Hospital for athletic training room and event coverage at a total cost not to exceed \$26,720.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None; ABSENT—None.

PARKLAND STOP-OUT RECRUITMENT AGREEMENT

Parkland College seeks to recruit those students that have attended Parkland for some amount of time over the last 20 years but have stopped out before earning a college credential from Parkland. Two other Illinois colleges, Triton College and Oakton College, have had great success reaching this population of potential students by partnering with ReUp Education, Inc.

Last fall, ReUp approached the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents (ICCCP) and the Chief Student Services Officers with a proposal to expand their services to a larger number of Illinois community colleges in exchange for a volume-pricing structure that would reduce the cost of the company's services for each participating college. With this opportunity for partnership, Parkland College plans to contract with ReUp to perform bundled stop out reenrollment and student success support services. Initially, the college would provide the company with a list of approximately 20,000 students that have stopped out over the last 20 years. The company will then work on updating the contact information for these students before creating a relationship with them that will lead to their reenrollment. These relationship building and reenrollment facilitation processes are evidence-based programs that Parkland would have a difficult time performing itself from a financial and human capital perspective.

Parkland College administration recommends a five-year contract with ReUp to provide the above-mentioned services. The contract would include an option for both parties to extend the contract annually at the conclusion of the initial 5-year term. In exchange for the provision of these services, Parkland College would agree to remit to ReUp a percentage of the tuition paid to Parkland for each of these students that ReUp assists in reenrolling. This percentage would be a variable percentage rate, between 24 and 30%, of the tuition paid each semester until the student graduates. The variable percentage rate is based on how many community colleges agree to contract with ReUp for these services this spring. Administration projects a likely percentage of 27% for the term of this contract. In summary, the college only pays for students that actually re-enroll and only pays a percentage of the new tuition revenue dollars realized by the college.

This proposal meets the following strategic goals:

Goal A: Empower Our Students: Parkland College will empower all students for success.

1. Develop clear evidence-based pathways for success so that students start right, maintain progress, and complete a credential in a timely manner.

Goal C: Enrich the Community: Parkland College will work collaboratively to enrich the District 505 community.

4. Effectively market and promote the college, its programs, and services to raise awareness of opportunities for social and economic mobility and career advancement; increase awareness of the college's priorities among key stakeholders, including policymakers.

Administration recommended contracting with ReUP Education, Inc, Austin, TX. Board authorization is requested. Funds for this contract will be available from tuition revenue.

Trustees discussed the process and what it means for the institution and students. Dr. Trame added that Triton and Oakton have worked with this company for over a year; and Triton reported that they have produced over \$1.5M in tuition revenue over 18 months, with a 50% persistence success rate. Dr. Trame noted that ReUp contracts with a few state systems around the country and in the event that a college does not have the ability to meet the student's need, they will connect that student with another partner college. The list provided to ReUp will be scrubbed to take out students who are not allowed to return to Parkland for any reason, and students will be evaluated to determine their residency. Dr. Trame added that there is no financial risk to the institution, it is purely contingent and meets Title IV requirements. ReUp will focus on credit bearing courses and fees only apply to base tuition.

It was moved by Ms. Green and seconded by Mr. Ayers to approve contracting with ReUp Education, Inc, Austin, TX, to provide bundled reenrollment and student success services for a term of 5 years at a rate of no more than 30% of tuition realized from the reenrollment of these stop out students.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None; ABSENT—None.

PARKLAND EARLY TRANSFER ACADEMY TUITION AND FEES AGREEMENT

Parkland College seeks to open doors to higher education for all students by creating clear pathways toward the completion of college credentials. The college works directly with District 505 school districts, Education for Employment (EFE) system, and other educational entities to develop structured opportunities for high school-aged students to earn credits at Parkland College.

With this objective in mind, Parkland College plans to offer Parkland Early Transfer Academy (ETA) programming to interested District 505 school districts so that their college-ready students can enroll in classes on Parkland's campus to systematically work toward the completion of a Parkland credential and/or earn an ISBE College and Career Pathway Endorsement. ETA programming will launch in Fall semester 2025.

Participation in Parkland ETA includes a tuition-and-universal fees arrangement with participating school districts and other educational groups. Administration proposes that the tuition arrangement follows the current tuition/fees set up with EFE 330 for the Early College and Career Academy (ECCA). The total cost of tuition/fees will be determined by the credit hours offered to the participating school district students in ETA. Parkland College will forgive 2 credits for every 12 hours offered to a district's ETA students. This is equal to a 16.67% discount for tuition/universal fees. ETA students will pay non-discounted additional course fees specific to the courses offered.

This tuition and fee arrangement does not vacate or supersede existing tuition/fee arrangements related to the delivery of dual credit coursework in high school buildings by credentialed faculty.

This proposal meets the following strategic goals:

Goal A: Empower Our Students. Parkland College will empower all students for success.

1. Develop clear evidence-based pathways for success so that students start right, maintain progress, and complete a credential in a timely manner.

Goal C: Enrich the Community. Parkland College will work collaboratively to enrich the District 505 community.

2. Collaborate with K-12 districts and community-based organizations to develop curriculum and deliver systems to sustain a college-going culture, increase opportunities for students to begin and accelerate progress on college and career pathways, and promote college success skills.

It was moved by Mr. Trimble and seconded by Ms. Ragsdale to approve tuition/fee arrangement for District 505 school districts participating in the Parkland ETA initiative.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None; ABSENT—None.

AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREE POSTHUMOUSLY

Andrew W. Thomas, a Parkland student in the Ford ASSET program, passed away on April 25, 2024, following an accident in Champaign, IL. At the time of his passing, Andrew was only two weeks away from graduation in May 2024. He was a 2022 graduate of Avon High School in Indiana.

Per Parkland College Policy 8.30, Guidelines for Awarding an Honorary Degree Posthumously, David Charney, the Program Director for the Ford ASSET program at Parkland, petitioned the college to award Andrew an honorary degree and provided supporting documentation for this request. Per the guidelines, Dean Kristin Smigielski, was asked by Vice President for Student Services, Dr. Mike Trame, to assemble and lead a committee to evaluate the request and make a recommendation to the college.

Dean Smigielski, on behalf of the committee, notified Dr. Trame on Friday, February 21st, that the committee had completed its review of the supporting materials for this request. The committee lodged their unanimous recommendation to award Andrew Thomas an honorary degree posthumously.

Based on the recommendation of this committee, the Parkland College administration recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the granting of a posthumous honorary degree to Andrew Thomas. As a result of this approval, Andrew's family is presented with this degree, and his name is placed on a memorial wall plaque in the college.

It was moved by Dr. Banks and seconded by Mr. Ayers to approve the award of an honorary degree posthumously to Andrew W. Thomas.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None; ABSENT—None.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Voyles stated that the Board would not be going into Closed Session.

PERSONNEL REPORT

It was moved by Mr. Ayers and seconded by Mr. Clem to approve the Personnel Report for March 2025, in accordance with the documents that were provided to the Board.

The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Campbell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None; ABSENT—None.

Dr. Lau introduced Danielle Wilberg as the new executive director of the Parkland Foundation.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Campbell updated that Student Government recently approved a new Parkland Aviation Club. In addition, they created an outreach committee who will reach out to departments to see how they can help support students' needs. Elections are underway with 5-6 students returning. He updated that he will be attending the U of I to obtain his bachelor's degree in political science. He thanked administration and the Board for the opportunity and support.

Vice-Chair Green stated that it will be very different not having Mr. Voyles and Mr. Campbell at the table and it has been enjoyable to serve with both trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Ayers and seconded by Ms. Green for adjournment.

Board of Trustees' Meeting
March 26, 2025

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The motion carried by the following vote: AYES—Ayers, Banks, Clem, Green, Ragsdale, Trimble, Cambell (Advisory Vote), and Voyles. NAYS—None. ABSENT—None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

James Voyles, Chair

Maureen Banks, Secretary