

**HENRY FORD COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN
February 16, 2026**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Henry Ford College Board of Trustees was called to order on Monday, February 16, 2026, at the Henry Ford College Administrative Services and Conference Center in the Rosenau Board Room at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Aljahmi.

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following were present: Trustees Ali Bazzi, Adel Mozip, Mary Petlichkoff, Nasri Sobh, Amer Zahr and Chair Jamal Aljahmi. Trustee Patrick D'Ambrosio was absent. There being a quorum, the meeting was declared in session.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion offered by Trustee Petlichkoff supported by Trustee Bazzi, passed with a unanimous vote attached that the following Minutes be approved:

- Regular Board of Trustees Meeting – January 20, 2026

III. RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Aalillian Jones graduated from Holt High School in Lansing in 2020 and planned to attend college out of state. However, her plans changed due to the pandemic, and she chose to attend HFC. She is currently in her last term at HFC and is an Honors student. Aalillian is majoring in Liberal Arts and plans to transfer to the University of Michigan to earn a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies combining Sociocultural Anthropology and Afro-American and African Studies, and later earn a Master's degree in Library Information Sciences. Aalillian thanked everyone who helped and supported her during her time at HFC. She is a member of the Henry J. Bowers Focus Group and thanked Dr. Harvell, Dr. Matthews, and Mr. Claybourne for all their support and encouragement.

1. Last Wednesday, the HFC community came together in support of students through the "Hunger Games" canned food drive, which highlighted school spirit and helped restock the Hawks' Nest food pantry. Hawks fans donated a total of 300 pounds of canned goods and nearly \$450 as they arrived at the women's and men's basketball games. This annual statewide event is sponsored by the MCCA.

2. Congratulations to the faculty, staff, and partners who hosted the HFC Women in STEM Day last Friday. This event brings awareness and inspiration for women to pursue STEM careers. It began with a presentation from the LegaSea Aquarium and zoo, which displayed live snakes, lizards, turtles, and a baby alligator. This was followed by an experts panel of STEM practitioners, and the presentation of the Women in STEM Award to Biology Instructor Jolie Stepaniak.
3. Congratulations to Ceramics Instructor Steve Glazer on his Faculty Lectureship Award and the “Gathering of the Griots” [*pronounced GREE-ohs*] exhibition, which celebrates storytelling, culture, and community through visual art. The Sisson Gallery exhibition of Glazer’s Motor City Griots masks – the faces of metaphorical heroes who protect Detroit -- created space for reflection and dialogue, highlighting the power of narrative in preserving history and identity.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ITEMS

- President Gonko shared that she attended the National Legislative Summit in Washing D.C. last week. The sessions throughout provided updates on Federal policy that is, or will be soon, impacting community colleges at a Federal level. Our Michigan delegation spent time with Senators Slotkin and Peters and shared our perspective on issues of importance including the continued strengthening of the Pell Grant Program.
- President Gonko discussed the progress made in recommending an interim VP-CFO for HFC. This is reflected on tonight’s agenda with a recommendation to bring Mr. Bradley Mitchell to the College via a contract with The Registry. If approved tonight, we expect Mr. Mitchell to be on campus within the next week.
- President Gonko shared a compliment made regarding HFC. The Higher Learning Commission emailed President Gonko last week to let her know they were so impressed with our Assurance Argument that we submitted during our last accreditation visit and in the processes that we utilized for gathering all our supporting evidence that they asked if we would allow them to post our Assurance Argument on their website as a Best Practice for other institutions to emulate. The HLC accredits institutions across 19 states. This is quite an honor for the College. President Gonko thanked our primary author and full-time English instructor Betsy Cohn for all her work on the Assurance Argument.
- President Gonko shared that Henry Ford College was mentioned on the TV program Jeopardy on February 9. The clue was “This Michigan City is home to Henry Ford College”. The correct response was “Dearborn”, but none of the contestants answered correctly.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Citizen Participation

None

B. Special Consideration of an Action Item

None

C. Action to Approve Action Items

Motion to approve action items numbered 1-4, offered by Trustee Mozip, supported by Trustee Petlichkoff, passed with a unanimous roll call vote attached.

D. At this time, the Secretary will return to any agenda items which Board members had asked to discuss and vote on separately. These will be considered one at a time.

None

BIDS AND CONTRACTS

1. Ferrilli Colleague Consulting – Board Report #4798
Interim President Gonko

Move to approve a contract award totaling \$80,000 to Ferrilli for Colleague consulting consisting of a Colleague Optimization Assessment and Degree Audit Consulting as requested by the Information Technology Services department and the Records and Registration department.

2. The Registry – Interim Vice President-CFO – Board Report #4799
Interim President Gonko

Move to approve a 10-month contract award totaling \$215,000 to The Registry for Interim VP-CFO services, inclusive of salary and placement fees.

HUMAN RESOURCES

3. Staff Recommendations
Vice President Moss Ferguson

Move to approve the following staff appointments:

Philomene Turner, Biology Instructor, School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, PhD, Step 8, 10 Months effective 1/12/2026. This is a temporary full-time position. Dr. Turner was an adjunct instructor during the Fall 2025 semester.

Nisrine Makki, CIS Instructor, School of Business Entrepreneurship and Professional Development, MA+30, Step 8, 10 Months, effective 1/16/2026. This is a temporary full-time position. Ms. Makki was an adjunct instructor

during the Fall 2025 semester.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

4. Certification of Appointments 2025-2026 MCCA Board of Directors Chair Aljahmi

Background information: The MCCA requires each member college to certify, each year in July, its representatives to the MCCA Board of Directors. As the Board of Trustees choose their committee assignments in January, we need to update the MCCA Board representatives. The representatives must be the chief administrative officer of the college and one member of the college's governing board. Each college board is also required to designate an alternate governing board member.

Recommended action: Move to approve the designation of the following as representatives to the MCCA Board of Directors for 2025-2026:

Adel Mozip	– Trustee Director
Jamal Aljahmi	– Alternate Trustee Director
Lori M. Gonko	– President

VI. BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUSINESS

A. Acknowledgements of Correspondence

None

B. Board Committee Reports

- Chair Aljahmi provided an update on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. The semifinalists will be interviewed on February 20 and 21. Semifinalists and Academic Search will be participating via Zoom. The Committee members will participate in person. Ms. Davis noted that after interviews have concluded on February 21, the Committee will spend some time deliberating. Trustee Petlichkoff noted that any Committee member who is unable to attend both days of the interviews will not be allowed to take part in the selection of the finalists.

The Board discussed the timeline, number of Committee members available for the interviews and how the interviews were going to be conducted. Chair Aljahmi noted that the interviews were being conducted per the direction of the Board at a previous meeting. Trustee Mozip concurred.

Trustee Zahr asked about the process of deliberation that the Committee will undertake after all interviews have concluded. Ms. Davis will speak with Academic Search and then let the Board know about the process.

The Board discussed the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the allowable reasons for going into a closed session. Trustee Zahr stated that when he called for a closed session at the last meeting, he did so pursuant to “section (f), which is specifically to talk about employment matters”. Trustee Zahr stated that any time a person’s name is going to be mentioned in this process, until the finalists are announced, it should be discussed in closed session. Vice President Moss Ferguson stated that at the last meeting, she did delineate the two exceptions under the OMA by which the Board could go into closed session given the matter that was being discussed on the floor at that time. Under the OMA there are two permissible exceptions for a closed session under these circumstances. One is to review and consider the contents of an application for employment, or appointment to a public office if the candidate requests the application remain confidential. The other item under section (h) is to consider material that is exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute. This includes material that is protected by the attorney client privilege. Vice President Moss Ferguson advised the Board that this should be done in a closed session. Vice President Moss Ferguson offered this information just to clarify the record that those were the two reasons why the Board could have gone into closed session last Thursday. The motion was made under subsection (f) which speaks to the consideration of the contents of an application for employment or appointment. To the extent that the Board would like to or needs to discuss or deliberate or decide on general matters of process that do not include naming the confidential names of candidates, that can be done in an open session. To the extent that a discussion requires the Board to discuss the contents of an application for employment specific to one candidate or another, that can be done in a closed session.

Chair Aljahmi called a point of order. He wanted the Trustees to indicate specifically why they want to go into a closed session as the public should be informed. He does not want to go into a closed session to discuss anything that the public should hear. The Board discussed.

Trustee Petlichkoff motioned to approve that the Board add names to the original semi-finalist list that the Board approved last Thursday, February 12, 2026. Trustee Petlichkoff withdrew the motion.

Chair Aljahmi motioned, supported by Trustee Petlichkoff, that the Board respect the Advisory Committee’s recommendation and accept the names of the semifinalists as recommended by the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, and which the Board approved on February 12, 2026, and not add names to the list. After Board discussion, Trustee Zahr called the question. Motion failed with the following roll call vote attached: Ayes: Chair

Aljahmi and Trustee Petlichkoff (2); Nays: Trustees Bazzi, Mozip, Sobh and Zahr (4).

Trustee Mozip had the names of two candidates he wanted the Board to consider adding to the list of Presidential Search semifinalists.

Chair Aljahmi discussed that the original goal of the search firm and the Advisory Committee was to have a minimum of eight semifinalists with two as a buffer in case any of the candidates drop out.

Motion offered by Trustee Mozip, supported by Trustee Sobh, to advance candidate number 2 to the semi-finalist list.

Motion offered by Trustee Zahr, supported by Trustee Mozip, that the Board go into closed session per MCL 15.268(f). Motion passed with the following roll call vote attached. Ayes: Trustees Bazzi, Mozip, Sobh and Zahr (4); Nays: Trustee Petlichkoff and Chair Aljahmi (2).

Regular Board of Trustees meeting suspended at 8:43 p.m.

Regular Board of Trustees meeting resumed at 9:25 p.m.

Chair Aljahmi returned to the motion on the table. Motion passed with the following roll call vote attached. Ayes: Trustees Bazzi, Mozip, Sobh and Zahr (4); Nays: Trustee Petlichkoff and Chair Aljahmi (2).

Motion offered by Trustee Zahr, supported by Trustee Bazz, to extend the meeting 15 minutes, passed with a unanimous roll call vote attached.

- Trustee Sobh provided an update on the Policy Committee. The Committee met prior to tonight's meeting. They discussed the "Contract Review Policy" and the "Allowability, Reasonableness and Allocation of Costs for Sponsored Projects Policy." The Committee agreed to discuss further at the next Committee meeting on March 16, 2026. The Committee also discussed student demographic information collection.

C. Requests for Information and/or Future Agenda Items

- Trustee Mozip asked how many dual enrolled students we have per district compared to 2022. He would like to see if there has been an increase or decrease.
- Trustee Petlichkoff asked how many Penn Foster students we have at the college and where they are placed and how successful they are. Chair Aljahmi asked what the guidelines are for the college accepting students from Penn Foster. Does the college have requirements for students coming from virtual schools such as Penn Foster. Trustee Zahr asked if there are any legal avenues the college could take regarding Penn Foster students.

D. Board Member Commentary

- Trustee Zahr received a blue card that was submitted late. Chair Aljahmi allowed the person to speak. Abdulhakem Alsadah thanked Chair Aljahmi for his transparency and stated he hopes the next president is selected through the established process.
- Trustee Mozip appreciates the College's acknowledgement of Black History Month.
- Trustee Petlichkoff wished everyone a blessed Lent and Ramadam and Chinese New Year.
- Chair Aljahmi wished everyone the best in their celebrations.

VII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Monday, March 9, 2026, **P-12** Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Administrative Service Center in the Frank Franchi Board Room.
- B. Monday, March 16, 2026, **HFC** Board of Trustees Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the Administrative Services and Conference Center in the Cabinet Conference Room.
- C. Monday, March 16, 2026, **HFC** Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Administrative Services and Conference Center in the Rosenau Board Room.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion offered by Chair Aljahmi was unanimously approved by those members present that the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Amer Zahr, Secretary