

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Henry Ford College Board of Trustees was called to order on Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Henry Ford College Administrative Services and Conference Center in the Rosenau Board Room at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Aljahmi.

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following were present: Trustees Ali Bazzi, Patrick D'Ambrosio, Adel Mozip, Mary Petlichkoff, Nasri Sobh, and Chair Jamal Aljahmi. There being a quorum, the meeting was declared in session. Trustee Zahr joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- Special Board of Trustees Meeting – February 12, 2026
- Special Board of Trustees Meeting Closed Session – February 12, 2026
- Board of Trustees Policy Committee Meeting – February 16, 2026
- Regular Board of Trustees Meeting Closed Session – February 16, 2026
- Special Board of Trustees Meeting – March 2, 2026
- Special Board of Trustees Meeting Closed Session – March 2, 2026
- Regular Board of Trustees Meeting – February 16, 2026, with the following correction:

V. ACTION ITEMS

D. BIDS AND CONTRACTS

1. Ferrilli Colleague Consulting – Board Report ~~#4798~~ #4800

III. RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hamza Alfares is an Early College student and currently the Vice President of the Student Council, an Honors Program student, and the founder of the Michigan Regional Science Bowl at HFC. Hamza chose to attend Henry Ford College as an Early College student so he could begin his college education while still in high school. He likes that he has been able to challenge himself academically and

explore his interests in science and health care. Hamza stated one of his most meaningful experiences at Henry Ford College has been bringing the Michigan Regional Science Bowl to campus. Hamza stated that his Honors program mentor, Sam Bazzi, helped him organize every aspect of this competition including coordinating with high schools across Michigan, communicating with the National Science Bowl Office in Washington D.C., organizing schedules and recruiting and training volunteers. The National Science Bowl is a nationally recognized program created and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. After graduating from the Early College, Hamza plans to enter the Radiography Program at Henry Ford College.

1. Congratulations to HFC humanities instructor Dr. Adam R. Hazlett on being selected as a Fulbright Specialist for Fall 2026. Dr. Hazlett will spend one month in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, collaborating with faculty at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy to strengthen its American Studies curriculum and engage students through lectures and cultural exchange. His work will also connect global learning experiences to HFC students and the campus community.
2. Congratulations to the HFC men's basketball team on winning the 2026 MCCA Conference and State Championships. The Hawks defeated Kalamazoo Valley Community College 80–79 in the State Championship game and advanced to the NJCAA Great Lakes District C tournament in Flint, with hopes of earning a berth in the national tournament. The Hawks lost to Lansing Community College in an exciting overtime game, concluding their season.
3. Congratulations to HFC wrestlers Vicente Navarro, Luke Gitens, Elan Bekker, and Jayden Charleston on qualifying for the NJCAA National Wrestling Championships. The four Hawks represented HFC at the national tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in early March, competing against the top junior college wrestlers in the country. Navarro improved on his 2025 record by winning two of his four matches at nationals this year.

IV. PRESIDENT'S ITEMS

- President Gonko introduced interim Vice President and CFO, Brad Mitchell. Chair Aljahmi welcomed Brad to HFC.
- President Gonko shared that Reuben Brukley, Director of Facilities, will be leaving the College on April 3 for another professional opportunity. Reuben has been a part of the College for over 30 years and will be greatly missed. Chair Aljahmi wished Reuben the best of luck in his future endeavor.
- President Gonko provided an update on the new Student Success Center project. Preparations are underway for the anticipated mid-May start of the renovation of Building A. Employees who work in that building will be moved to other areas of campus until the renovation is complete, which will be June 2027.
- President Gonko stated that at the last Board of Trustees meeting, the Board

requested data on the number of dual enrollment students by District. This information has been added to the Board of Trustees Teams site. Chair Aljahmi asked if the Board could find out which school districts the Penn Foster graduates are coming from. President Gonko will find out and let the Board know.

- President Gonko stated that at the last Board of Trustees meeting, the Board requested an analysis of Penn Foster graduates, particularly compared to graduates of Dearborn Public Schools. This information has been added to the Board of Trustees Teams site.
- President Gonko noted that the Board will see a lot more bids and contracts on the agenda tonight and in the near future. This is the time of year where we see an increase in purchasing as we allocate the last of our grant funds for the fiscal year, as well as determining the allocation of remaining general fund dollars needed prior to the new fiscal year on July 1.
- President Gonko announced that the Nursing Pinning Ceremony takes place on May 8 in the HFC gym.
- President Gonko announced that the HFC commencement ceremonies take place on May 9. There will be a morning and an afternoon ceremony.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board of Trustees Policy Updates Trustee Sobh

The Henry Ford College Office of Legal Services is in the process of reviewing, rescinding, and updating (if necessary) current Board policies and bylaws. This office is also preparing new policies and bylaws as dictated by changes in local, state and federal guidelines.

On February 16, 2026, the HFC Board of Trustees Policy Committee discussed and reviewed changes to the following policies:

Policies for Board Review

- Contract Review Policy

Trustee Sobh shared that the Committee has made a few minor changes to the Policy and tightened up some of the language. The biggest change was to add a minimum number of days for contract review. This Policy will be an action item at the April Board of Trustees meeting.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Citizen Participation

Hussein Berry, Former Board Trustee, spoke to the Board about the Presidential Search.

B. Special Consideration of an Action Item

None

C. Action to Approve Action Items

Motion to approve action items numbered 1-6, offered by Trustee D'Ambrosio, 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. Landscape Maintenance Services – Board Report #4801
Interim President Gonko

Move to approve a contract award to Franks Landscaping for \$92,960.00 for Landscape Maintenance Services for the 2026 growing season, as requested by Facility Services in accordance with the specifications of Sealed Bid #24437.

2. Kitchen Equipment – Board Report #4802
Interim President Gonko

Move to approve a contract award to Stafford Smith for \$130,479.99 for the purchase of new kitchen equipment for the Fifty-one O One Restaurant, in accordance with the specifications of Sealed Bid #24538.

3. Durable Skills Curriculum Digitization-BEPD - Board Report #4803
Interim President Gonko

Move to approve a contract award to MindSpring for \$372,000.00 for the digitization of durable skills curriculum requested by the Dean of the School of Business, Entrepreneurship, and Professional Development (BEPD) in accordance with the specifications of Sealed Bid #24313.

4. Robotics Training Systems - Board Report #4804
Interim President Gonko

Move to approve a contract award totaling \$192,281.00 to Toolkit Technologies for Robotics Training Systems, as requested by the Director

of K-12 Relations in accordance with Toolkit Technologies quotes dated March 1, 2026.

5. Virtual Reality (VR) Training System - Board Report #4805
Interim President Gonko

Move to approve a contract award totaling \$156,930.00 to Toolkit Technologies for a Virtual Reality Training System, as requested by the Dean of BEPD in accordance with Toolkit Technologies quotes dated March 1, 2026.

6. Building Science Living Laboratory Proposal - Board Report #4806
Interim President Gonko

Move to approve initiating the purchasing processes for the procurement of equipment, materials, and supplies required to implement the Living Laboratory, not to exceed \$1,200,000 of Congressionally Directed Spending supported by U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow.

VII. BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUSINESS

A. Acknowledgements of Correspondence

None

B. Board Committee Reports

- Trustee Sobh shared that the Policy Committee met prior to tonight's Board meeting. The Committee reviewed and will be bringing forward at the April Board of Trustees meeting for discussion, the "Allowability, Reasonableness and Allocation of Costs for Sponsored Projects Policy". At the Policy Committee meeting, President Gonko gave a brief update regarding a request by Trustee Zahr for demographic data. Trustee Zahr also asked that the admissions application mirror the demographic options that are on the Fast Facts webpage. Trustee Zahr also asked if the College could run a campaign to let students know they can make changes to their demographic data.
- Ms. Tracye Davis provided an update on the Presidential Search. The interviews with the Board have been scheduled for March 25, 26, 31 and April 1 & 2. Ms. Davis asked the Trustees to review and approve the interview time schedule. The final schedule will be posted on the HFC website and all the College's social media sights. Additionally, Ms. Davis will be meeting with internal constituents, including our internal planning team, which includes some of our community representatives to make sure we are getting the word out about the public interviews. At each one of the

public sessions there will be a QR code for attendees to complete a survey to provide feedback on the candidates. Trustee Petlichkoff asked to also make the feedback surveys available via hardcopy as not everyone is familiar with using QR technology. Ms. Davis distributed copies of the presidential search timeline to the Trustees.

Ms. Davis previously sent the Trustees a Sharepoint document with sample interview questions and a leadership profile. She asked them to provide feedback on the questions. Trustees discussed how they could discuss/deliberate on the questions and not violate the Open Meetings Act. VP Moss Ferguson stated that if the Board is deliberating and deciding via email, this constitutes a meeting and should be done in public. The Board discussed. The Board agreed they need to hold a public meeting to discuss/decide on the questions. Trustees will review the questions sent to them by Ms. Davis and send her their individual recommendations by Thursday, March 19. The Board will hold a Special Board Meeting on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and decide on the final interview questions.

Trustee Zahr discussed live streaming the presidential candidate interviews. The Board discussed borrowing the extra equipment needed to live stream from the P-12.

Trustee Zahr discussed how the Board will vote for the permanent president. When selecting the interim president, the Board policy states the Board must have a 5/7 vote. There is no bylaw or policy that indicates what the vote must be when the Board votes for the permanent president. Trustee Zahr proposed using the same method when they vote for the permanent president. Trustee Sobh stated the voting would default back to the Board's original voting standard which is 4/7. The Board agreed to think about this and discuss at the March 23 Special Board Meeting.

C. Requests for Information and/or Future Agenda Items

- Trustee Zahr asked if the College could live stream the Board of Trustee meetings. He would also like to have the Board of Trustees interviews with the presidential search finalists live streamed. President Gonko stated that she has been in discussions with Vice President Rhonda Delong about this. President Gonko will keep the Board informed.

D. Board Member Commentary

- Trustee Mozip congratulated the men's basketball team for being the State Champs. He would like the team to attend the next Board of Trustees meeting to commend them for their hard work.
- Trustee Mozip wished everyone a happy Women's History Month.
- Trustees Zahr and Bazzi wished everyone a happy Eid al-Fitr.

VIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Monday, March 23, 2026, **HFC** Special Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the Administrative Services and Conference Center in the Rosenau Board Room.
- B. Monday, April 13, 2026, **P-12** Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Administrative Service Center in the Frank Franchi Board Room.
- C. Monday, April 20, 2026, **HFC** Board of Trustees Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the Administrative Services and Conference Center in the Cabinet Conference Room.
- D. Monday, April 20, 2026, **HFC** Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Administrative Services and Conference Center in the Rosenau Board Room.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion offered by Chair Aljahmi was unanimously approved by those members present that the meeting be adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Amer Zahr, Secretary