

**HENRY FORD COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN
April 20, 2026**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Henry Ford College Board of Trustees was called to order on Monday, April 20, 2026, at the Henry Ford College Administrative Services and Conference Center in the Rosenau Board Room at 7:04 p.m. by Chair Aljahmi.

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following were present: Trustees Ali Bazzi, Patrick D'Ambrosio, Mary Petlichkoff, Nasri Sobh, Amer Zahr and Chair Jamal Aljahmi. There being a quorum, the meeting was declared in session. Trustee Adel Mozip joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- Board of Trustees Policy Committee Meeting – March 16, 2026
- Regular Board of Trustees Meeting – March 16, 2026
- Special Board of Trustees Meeting – March 23, 2026
- Special Board of Trustees Meeting Closed Session – March 23, 2026
- Special Board of Trustees Meeting – March 25, 2026
- Special Board of Trustees Meeting – March 26, 2026
- Special Board of Trustees Meeting – April 2, 2026
- Board of Trustees Building & Site Committee Meeting – April 6, 2026
- Special Board of Trustees Meeting – April 10, 2026
- Special Board of Trustees Meeting Closed Session – April 10, 2026

III. RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Holly Diamond, Vice President of Student Affairs, introduced the HFC Men's Basketball team and the HFC Wrestling team. Both teams were accompanied by their coaches. Men's Basketball Coach, Chris Shepherd, who received the Coach of the Year Award, introduced the team members and discussed their accomplishments this year. Ten of the eleven players made the All-Academic Team. The Men's Basketball team won the Eastern Conference Championship and the State Championship.

HFC Wrestling Coach, Grant Mackenzi, discussed the Wrestling team and their accomplishments this year. Historically, seventy-two wrestlers from HFC have qualified to attend the National Tournament. Several of the Wrestlers were present and spoke about their history and plans for the future. Assistant Coach, Jager Kwiatkowski, a former HFC student athlete, discussed his history after being an HFC student and is glad to be back. Both teams did an outstanding job this year.

IV. PRESIDENT'S ITEMS

- President Gonko congratulated the Board on reaching a final decision regarding the new President of HFC. President Gonko and Mr. David Knezek have been in communication and are working together to create a transition plan to present to the Board.
- President Gonko attended Capitol Day in Lansing last week. HFC had good representation as Vice President Holly Diamond, Hawkster, six HFC students, and others also participated in the event.
- President Gonko shared that this week marks the kickoff of the end of the winter semester. Activities include the Students vs. Staff Basketball game, Decision Day, Spring Jazz Band Concert, The Retention, Success & Best Practices Conference, Honors Symposium, Ford Asset Graduation Dinner, Nursing Pinning Ceremony, the Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony and commencement ceremonies.
- President Gonko shared that the Building & Site Committee met to review the SSC project and discuss concerns. They agreed to pause the project until the new president is in place. The status of the project will be fully communicated to the public.

Trustee Zahr asked President Gonko about her remaining time at HFC before she moves on to her presidency at Macomb Community College (MCC). President Gonko begins her presidency at MCC on July 1. In her discussions with Mr. Knezek, they hope to have a couple weeks of overlap time to ensure a smooth transition. They have tentatively talked about the first few weeks of June for this transition. President Gonko and Mr. Knezek will develop a joint plan and present it to the Board for consideration.

Chair Aljahmi asked Vice President Moss Ferguson to provide the Board with her opinion regarding Robert's Rules that he previously discussed with her. This is regarding a situation that occurred at a P-12 meeting where the Board President would have to relinquish his presidency position in order to make a motion. In his research, Chair Aljahmi found that it depends on the size of the Board. Seven and under is different than having over seven members. Ms. Moss Ferguson shared that in her research on this topic, Robert's Rules do govern the Board's parliamentary procedure per the Board's bylaws. Robert's Rules of Order provide that the presiding officer has the same rights as any other member and that impartiality is required while they are presiding. This means that the Chair cannot make or second motions. However, another rule elsewhere in Section 4921 "Procedure in Small Boards", provides that small Boards are generally

considered as Boards with twelve or less members. In a Board where there are not more than above a dozen members present some of the formality that is necessary in a large assembly would hinder business. Subset 7 of that same rule says, "If the Chairman is a member, he may, without leaving the Chair, speak in informal discussions and in debate, and vote on all questions." Ms. Moss Ferguson stated that as the HFC Board of Trustees is comprised of seven members, less than a dozen, the Chair may make a motion and second motions without stepping down as Chair. Chair Aljahmi thanked Ms. Moss Ferguson and asked that, in the future, if a situation comes up where a Trustee concludes that there is a difference of opinion, Trustees consult with Legal as to whether the Board is in compliance before changing the rules. Chair Aljahmi stated that the Board should not be changing the rules because of the situation. The Trustees discussed. Trustee Zahr asked Ms. Moss Ferguson about which version of Robert's Rules of Order the Board follows as there have been revisions since the Board last agreed on using Robert's Rules for governing their meetings. Trustee Zahr shared that he believed the Board intended to use the version of Robert's Rules in place at that time and exclude any revisions. Ms. Moss Ferguson stated that, Bylaw 0161 Parliamentary Authority states that "the Parliamentary Authority governing the Board of Education shall be Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in all cases not inconsistent with statute, administrative code or the Board's bylaws or the rules of order of this Board." Ms. Moss Ferguson stated that her assumption is that the Board is governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. Trustee Zahr had further questions about the year the Board approved using Robert's Rules and whether or not the revised versions of Robert's Rules should apply. Trustee Mozip asked Trustee Zahr to make his point. Ms. Moss Ferguson asked Trustee Zahr to clarify his intent. Trustee Zahr stated that Ms. Moss Ferguson does not have to answer now, but he would like an answer about the use of the versions of Robert's Rules. Additionally, Trustee Zahr had questions about other items in Robert's Rules that he feels the Board has not been following regarding small Boards. Trustee Mozip shared that he believes the Policy Committee can take up this discussion.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Proposed Fiscal year 2026-2027 Budget – Board Report #4805 Vice President Mitchell

Vice President Mitchell provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. Trustee Mozip stated that a few years ago, the Board approved tuition increases/decreases based on the CPI. Macomb Community College has frozen their tuition for the past three years. Trustee Mozip wondered if the CPI is necessarily the best parameter to use in changing tuition. Trustee Mozip would like to revisit the Board's policy on tuition changes based on the CPI. President Gonko shared that as part of the policy, the Board will review it every two years. This is due to happen this year.

Henry Ford College					
Fiscal Year 2026-2027					
Board of Trustees General Fund Report With Proposed Budget (SUMMARY)					
	FY2025-2026	Change From	FY2025-2026	Change From	FY 2026-2027
	Adopted	Adopted to	Adjusted	Adjusted Budget	Proposed
	Budget	FY 25-26	Budget	to FY25-26	Budget
Revenues					
Tuition and Fees	\$ 54,167,000	\$ 4,100,000	\$ 56,667,000	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 58,267,000
Local Property Taxes	\$ 16,081,000	\$ 805,000	\$ 16,781,000	\$ 105,000	\$ 16,886,000
State Appropriation	\$ 30,853,000	\$ 316,000	\$ 31,253,000	\$ (84,000)	\$ 31,169,000
Other Revenue	\$ 3,772,000	\$ (574,000)	\$ 3,772,000	\$ (574,000)	\$ 3,198,000
Total Revenue	\$ 104,873,000	\$ 4,647,000	\$ 108,473,000	\$ 1,047,000	\$ 109,520,000
Expenditures					
Instruction	\$ 38,497,430	\$ 1,441,529	\$ 38,797,430	\$ 1,141,529	\$ 39,938,959
Administration	\$ 18,814,481	\$ 1,568,731	\$ 17,594,481	\$ 2,788,731	\$ 20,383,212
Physical Plant	\$ 2,919,650	\$ 37,997	\$ 2,519,650	\$ 437,997	\$ 2,957,647
Employee Benefits	\$ 25,821,113	\$ 1,170,424	\$ 25,821,113	\$ 1,170,424	\$ 26,991,538
Total Personnel Costs	\$ 86,052,674	\$ 4,218,681	\$ 84,732,675	\$ 5,538,680	\$ 90,271,355
Purchased Services	\$ 6,963,900	\$ 461,723	\$ 7,810,000	\$ (384,377)	\$ 7,425,623
Materials and Supplies	\$ 2,159,588	\$ 89,598	\$ 2,168,588	\$ 80,598	\$ 2,249,186
Rent, Utilities, and Insurance	\$ 1,944,483	\$ 71,939	\$ 1,944,483	\$ 71,939	\$ 2,016,422
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,788,490	\$ (62,230)	\$ 1,733,489	\$ (7,230)	\$ 1,726,259
Mandatory Transfers	\$ 4,603,921	\$ (2,711)	\$ 6,246,821	\$ (1,645,611)	\$ 4,601,210
Capital Expenses	\$ 869,944	\$ -	\$ 1,446,944	\$ (577,000)	\$ 869,944
Total Expenditures	\$ 104,383,000	\$ 4,777,000	\$ 106,083,000	\$ 3,077,000	\$ 109,160,000
Total Revenues	\$ 104,873,000	\$ 4,647,000	\$ 108,473,000	\$ 1,047,000	\$ 109,520,000
Excess Revenues/(Expenditures)	\$ 490,000	\$ (130,000)	\$ 2,390,000	\$ (2,030,000)	\$ 360,000

B. 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 March 16, 2026, the HFC Board of Trustees Policy Committee discussed and reviewed changes to the following policies:

Policies for Board Review

- Allowability, Reasonableness and Allocation of Costs for Sponsored Projects Policy

Trustees briefly discussed. This will be an action item at the May 18 Board of Trustees meeting.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Citizen Participation

- Samraa Luqman spoke to the Board about a finalist for Dearborn Public Schools Superintendent.
- Student Council students Audil Saifallah, Iman Sabra and Richard Cremeans spoke to the Board about food options on campus.

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. Purchase of Access Control System & Licenses-East Campus – Board Report #4806
Interim President Gonko

Move to approve a contract award to Grit Technologies for \$132,942.66 for the purchase of a Verkada Access Control system for the East Campus, as requested by Campus Safety in accordance with Grit Technologies Quote #GRTQ7097 dated April 6, 2026.

Chair Aljahmi asked about this being a pilot program. He asked what happens if we commit to this company and what the total cost would be to update the main campus. President Gonko shared that in last year’s Operational Planning process, nearly \$1M was allocated for this project. Campus Safety wanted to start this project with East Campus first to ensure they had a seamless installation process. The quote for the remainder of the project shows a cost of approximately \$860,000. This will be coming to the Board but the funding for the project has already been set aside.

Trustee Zahr asked for someone to explain the project and what it is intended to accomplish. Michael Ball, Campus Safety Emergency Manager,

shared that the East Campus is being done first as they have more updated buildings. Installation will be easier and more stable and will make the transition to the main campus easier. We currently have a camera system on our campuses from this vendor, Verkada. The access control will integrate with the camera system as everything comes from the same software platform. This gives Campus Safety more ease of use and gives us more options. Campus Safety will be able to lock down any building at the push of a button. The current access control system is well beyond its life expectancy. The service company has told us, due to its age, they will not be able to fix any hardware failures with our current system. The current system is approximately 30 years old. Mr. Ball stated the new system will allow Campus Safety control via phone apps to lock access to entry doors and allow the college to move to more secure ID cards.

2. zSpace Training System – Board Report #4807
President Gonko

Move to approve a contract award totaling \$611,331.20 to zSpace for a VR/AR Training System, as requested by the Dean of BEPD in accordance with zSpace quote dated March 5, 2026.

Chair Aljahmi shared that this contract is for 60 devices for 360 licenses. He asked if this would be enough to meet our future needs if we plan to expand. This is a three-year contract. Are the 60 devices what we need for the three years? Vice President Michael Nealon shared that licenses are per learner. The 60 packages will enable us to equip groups of 6 students. The cost is not simply tied to the equipment or the hardware. It also involves the purchase of the ready-made curriculum and teaching artifacts that the students can use in lieu of the College having to afford and frequently replace very expensive equipment. Changes can be made to update the units via the software. Chair Aljahmi explained that this is all virtual training devices, tools and software that allows the College to teach electronic engineering.

Trustee Mozip asked Dr. Nealon how old the current equipment is on campus. Dr. Nealon shared that the current equipment is three years old. We not only use it in many programs in the Business, Entrepreneurship and Professional Development areas, we also use it in our Health and Human Sciences area.

3. Steelcase Furniture-BEPD - Board Report #4808
President Gonko

Move to approve a contract award to NBS Commercial Interiors for \$155,840.04 for the purchase and installation of Steelcase furniture requested by the Dean of the School of Business, Entrepreneurship, and Professional Development (BEPD), in accordance with Quote #399481 dated March 6, 2026.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

4. Board of Trustees Policy Updates

Trustee Sobh

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

- Allowability, Reasonableness and Allocation of Costs for Sponsored Projects Policy

Recommended action: Move to approve the changes to the following policies:

- Allowability, Reasonableness and Allocation of Costs for Sponsored Projects Policy

VII. BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUSINESS

A. Acknowledgements of Correspondence

None

B. Board Committee Reports

- Trustee Petlichkoff shared that the information President Gonko shared about the SSC project covers the Building & Site Committee meeting.
- Trustee Zahr provided an update from the Contract Negotiation Committee. Trustee Zahr had asked Vice President Moss Ferguson to draft a framework of what the contract negotiation process should look like. Ms. Moss Ferguson will provide that to the Committee this week. After receiving the document, the Committee will meet and discuss how to move forward. Trustee Zahr stated that the Committee would also need advice on how they could meet without violating the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Trustee Petlichkoff shared, regarding previous presidential contract negotiations, that the Board used outside counsel as their person to interact with the appointee's legal counsel to avoid conflict of interest.

Chair Aljahmi shared that he had been concerned about the lack of traction in the process of contract negotiations. Chair Aljahmi asked the Committee to provide a timeline for the process. He also stated that he had no concerns if Ms. Moss Ferguson acted as the Board's legal counsel in this process. She could work with Mr. Knezek or his attorney. Chair Aljahmi asked the Board to allow Ms. Moss Ferguson to work with Mr. Knezek on the preliminaries. Trustee Sobh agreed, as long as Ms. Moss Ferguson feels she could use and maintain her professional judgment. However, Trustee Sobh deferred to Ms. Moss Ferguson. Trustee Zahr agreed. Discussion ensued. Ms. Moss Ferguson shared that either approach can be done, using

outside counsel or inside counsel. Ms. Moss Ferguson also offered a compromise if the Board approves. She could make herself available, and if a conflict arises or there is a need for outside counsel, she will advise of such and would engage outside counsel. Ms. Moss Ferguson stated that she was willing to proceed but with the disclaimer that if a conflict arises, she will advise the Board to seek outside counsel. Trustee Bazzi suggested the Committee begin by using the 2018 presidential contract as a place to start but update the percentages and salary. He would like to see a fair value. Trustee Sobh agreed. Trustee Zahr inquired of Ms. Moss Ferguson about which party submits the first draft. Ms. Moss Ferguson stated that typically the employer, i.e. the Board, provides the first draft. Chair Aljahmi asked the Board to allow Ms. Moss Ferguson to work with the Committee once there is a foundation in place. Ms. Moss Ferguson stated she would only be the go-between and would not take part in negotiations. Trustee Zahr questioned Trustee Petlichkoff about the last time the Board held presidential contract negotiations, whether they were open to the public, and whether the Committee discussed specific terms. Trustee Petlichkoff answered yes to both questions.

C. Requests for Information and/or Future Agenda Items

- Trustee Petlichkoff requested a cost analysis for the most recent court case where we had to defend the presidential search application process. How much did it cost the College for external legal fees and internal staff time. If there is still something pending, Trustee Petlichkoff stated she is happy to wait until everything is resolved so the Board has a complete picture of how much the lawsuit cost the College in total.
- Trustee Zahr discussed a resolution he drew up and sent to the Trustees today. Motion to approve the resolution and publish it offered by Trustee Zahr, supported by Trustee Bazzi.

Trustee Petlichkoff stated she had no time to read and reflect on the resolution and was not comfortable voting at this time. She would choose to abstain from voting. Trustee Zahr read the resolution aloud. Trustee Sobh appreciated the thought and sense of urgency. However, he too wanted time to review the document. He also wanted to gauge the process of bringing forth and passing a resolution by the Board as he believes this is the first time this has occurred. Trustee Sobh added that he would also like to confer with legal counsel on passing any such resolution. Trustee Sobh stated that he did not feel comfortable voting on this tonight. Trustee Mozip shared that, whether the Board passes the motion or not, members of the community have been greatly impacted by what is taking place in the Southern Lebanon. He appreciated Trustee Zahr bringing this document forward but wanted more time to consider the resolution. Trustee Bazzi agreed with the Trustees regarding the need for more time to consider the resolution. Trustee Bazzi discussed the injustice that is happening to people in South Lebanon. Chair Aljahmi stated that the timing of the request was at issue. He had not had

time to read the document. He stated he personally condemns what is taking place, but as a Board, they need time to review and consider the resolution. Chair Aljahmi stated that as a Board, they must go through the proper process.

Trustee Zahr withdrew his motion. He stated that he would bring this matter to the Board at next Thursday's Board of Education meeting. He would like to receive feedback from the Trustees prior to the meeting.

Trustee Mozip raised a point of order. Thursday's meeting was reserved for interviews, which were at set times and did not include citizen participation. He did not want to take any time away from the interviews. If the Board was going to consider this resolution, Trustee Mozip also wanted to hear from the citizens. Trustee Mozip suggested that after the interviews have concluded, the Board could have time for citizen participation, then the Board could consider the motion. Trustee Zahr inquired whether, given the meetings for interviews are public, the Board is not legally obligated to allocate time for citizen participation. Trustee Mozip clarified that, as the Board would not be voting during the meeting, no citizen participation is required. Chair Aljahmi stated that the Board had a consensus, to add the resolution as an agenda item after the interviews and include a time for citizen participation.

D. Board Member Commentary

- Trustee Mozip stated that tomorrow is Earth Day and this month is Arab American Heritage month. He wished everyone well.
- Chair Aljahmi referenced some recent lawsuits the Board has had. He shared that some of the Trustees received subpoenas. Ms. Moss Ferguson made a point of clarification. The Board Trustees that were attempted to be subpoenaed were not properly served. There was not a proper subpoena that was effectuated. Counsel then filed to challenge those subpoenas of the testimony of those Trustees. Chair Aljahmi thanked Ms. Moss Ferguson for clarifying. He encouraged all Trustees, that when this type of situation occurs, they follow the advice of the Board's legal counsel. Anything the Trustees do is representative of the Board and impacts the Board and the College.

VIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Thursday, April 23, 2026, **P-12** Superintendent Finalists Interviews, 6:00 p.m. at the Administrative Service Center in the Frank Franchi Board Room.
- B. Monday, May 11, 2026, **P-12** Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Administrative Service Center in the Frank Franchi Board Room.

- C. Monday, May 18, 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, May 18, 2026, **HFC** Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Administrative Services and Conference Center in the Rosenau Board Room.
- E. Monday, May 4, 2026, **P-12** Superintendent Finalist Deliberation and Selection, 6:00 p.m. at the Administrative Service Center in the Frank Franchi Board Room.

IX. CALLING FOR A CLOSED SESSION PER OMA MCL 15.268(1)(h) TO CONSIDER MATERIAL EXEMPT FROM DISCUSSION OR DISCLOSURE BY STATE OR FEDERAL STATUTE AND TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN LEGAL OPINION FROM COUNSEL

Motion offered by Trustee Sobh, supported by Trustee Mozip, that the Board enter a closed session passed with a unanimous roll call vote attached.

Board of Trustees meeting suspended: 9:14 p.m.

Board of Trustees meeting resumed: 10:01 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion offered by Chair Aljahmi was unanimously approved by those members present that the meeting be adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Amer Zahr, Secretary