

**HENRY FORD COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN
September 21, 2026**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Henry Ford College Board of Trustees was called to order on Monday, September 21, 2026, at the Henry Ford College Administrative Services and Conference Center in the Rosenau Board Room at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Aljahmi.

ROLL CALL

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- Board of Trustees Audit Committee Meeting – July 27, 2026
- Board of Trustees Policy Committee Meeting – August 24, 2026
- Regular Board of Trustees Meeting – August 24, 2026
- Board of Trustees Closed Session – August 24, 2026

III. RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HFC Honors student Noor Khan shared her story of being a non-traditional student. Noor earned her GED in 2025 and then enrolled at HFC. Noor stated that as a non-traditional student, HFC gave her the opportunity to rebuild her education and rediscover the importance of accessibility. Noor values the college's commitment to offering foundational courses for students who do not possess a traditional background. Noor serves as a Student Ambassador for the Admissions and Recruiting team, representing the college through multilingual campus tours, workshops and informational sessions. Noor is also involved in the National Society of Leadership and Success, and she is president of the United Nations Association campus chapter, which is coming to HFC soon. Noor's experiences at HFC inspired her to found Bridge Together, a student-led nonprofit that expands educational access and equal opportunity for students with different educational pathways. The goal is to ensure that students whose education has been disrupted by circumstances beyond their control still have the support they need to move

forward. Noor hopes to be a voice for non-traditional students. She plans to continue her studies and pursue a combined JD/MD degree to further serve her community.

1. We are happy to announce Student Council held elections last week and now has full membership for the year. You will be pleased to know that the Student Council initiative presented to you last spring to bring healthy food options to campus during the evenings resulted in two Aramark Refrigerated Units on campus. They provide salads, sandwiches, cheese, meat, and healthier snacks at affordable prices. So far, the feedback has been good.
2. The Student Activities Office successfully hosted the Welcome Back Days event to kick off the semester last week, serving hundreds of students with fun and interactive activities to help build a sense of community and belonging.
3. The Open Door program, which President Knezek highlighted during the State of the College, will officially launch on campus this month. HFC is the only community college that will pilot this program.
 - a. Open Door is designed to help students overcome life barriers, meet basic needs, and stay enrolled and succeed.
 - b. Through our partnership with United Way, a Community Care Navigator will be available on Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Student Center. Students can receive personalized assistance to connect with community resources.
 - c. This collaborative effort has been led by the President's office, along with Student Affairs, Marketing and Communications, Detroit Promise, and Enrollment Services. We look forward to the impact this program will have in helping our students overcome barriers and reach their educational goals.
4. The Student Affairs office launched a campaign for staff to wear "Need Help? Ask a Hawk" T-shirts during the first week of Fall semester. More than 170 HFC staff members took part in this campaign to help students feel welcome and navigate their classes with confidence and a feeling of belonging. The QR code to the campus map was scanned 91 times. This was a great way to start the semester and show our students that HFC is a welcoming College.
5. Many events on campus this fall are open to the public. We invite everyone to attend our Entrepreneurship Series, Michigan Reconnect Nights, Hammond Planetarium shows, Movie Nights, the WHFR Record Show, our Campus and Community Resource Fair, and many more events listed on the HFC homepage and social media

IV. PRESIDENT'S ITEMS

- President Knezek thanked Noor Khan for her presentation.

- President Knezek highlighted the excellence of HFC faculty.
- President Knezek shared that he will continue to send the Board enrollment updates offline as we shift to our 2027 winter semester.
- President Knezek shared that our annual Discover Day is scheduled for Friday, September 25, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. This is our largest high school recruiting event. We are expecting 1,100+ students on campus. One hundred and twenty staff and student workers will be helping host this event.
- President Knezek shared that last week he joined the Henry J. Bowers Focus Group for an informal conversation with their members. President Knezek thanked Dr. Harvell and the other sponsors of the group for this opportunity. Also, the group is hosting their 6th Annual Walking in Excellence conference on October 23. There is also a pre-conference Community Partners and Jazz Networking dinner on October 22.
- President Knezek thanked Vice President Reginald Best and the members of the Henry Ford College Foundation. President Knezek attended his first Board meeting with this group a few weeks ago. He was pleased to hear about the work and updates taking place with the Foundation Board.
- President Knezek shared that he has received incredible feedback from the community about HFC's presence at the Zaman International Run Walk Picnic held on September 19. President Knezek thanked the many students, athletes, faculty, and staff that were at the event and helped make it a success.
- President Knezek shared that today, HFC was well represented at the F.O.R.E. Golf Outing that supports the Dearborn Public Schools Foundation. President Knezek thanked all the community members who volunteered for this event.
- President Knezek shared that, earlier this week, he was appointed to the Michigan Community College Association's Legislative Committee. This is going to give our college a seat at the table and allow us to advocate for better policy at the State level.
- President Knezek congratulated Dr. Kathryn Rogalski, on her appointment as the new President of Grand Rapids Community College.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Citizen Participation

- Dr. Chelsea Lonsdale, HFC faculty member, spoke to the Board about issues impacting teaching and learning as well as gratitude.
- Dr. Eric Rader, President of Local 1650 faculty union, spoke to the Board about new hires.

B. Special Consideration of an Action Item

None

C. Action to Approve Action Items

Motion to approve action items numbered 1-7 offered by Trustee Petlichkoff, supported by Trustee Mozip, 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. New Admissions and Recruiting CRM Software Services – Board Report #4823

Vice President Mitchell

Move to approve a contract award to Enrollment RX, LLC for a three-year agreement totaling \$358,935.00 for the implementation, hosting, and support of an Enrollment Rx Admissions and Recruiting CRM System in accordance with Bid #24878.

2. Heavy-Duty Diesel and Transmission Training Equipment – Board Report #4824

Vice President Mitchell

Move to approve a contract award totaling \$179,819.00 to Consulab Inc. for Heavy-Duty Diesel and Transmission Training Equipment, as requested by the Dean of BEPD in accordance with Consulab Inc quote dated May 11, 2026.

3. Alquist 3D Concrete Print System – Board Report #4825

Vice President Mitchell

Move to approve a contract award totaling \$182,983.44 to Alquist for the Alquist Educational 3D Concrete Print System, as requested by the Dean of BEPD in accordance with Alquist quote dated August 19, 2026.

HUMAN RESOURCES

4. Staff Recommendations

Vice President Moss Ferguson

Move to approve the following staff appointments:

Wojciech Zolnowski, Philosophy Instructor, School of Liberal Arts, MA, Step 8, 10 months, effective 8/18/2026. This is a temporary full-time position.

Mark Oprisiu, Energy Technology Instructor, School of Business, Entrepreneurship and Professional Development, LMA, Step 8, 10 months, effective 8/18/2026. This is a temporary full-time position.

Norman Hurns, Counselor, Counseling, PhD, Step 8, 11 months, effective 8/18/2026. This is a temporary full-time position.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

5. Henry Ford College Local Strategic Value Resolution – Board Report 4826
Vice President Mitchell

Background Information: In order to receive funding under the local strategic value category, community colleges must confirm they meet four out of five of the best practices listed for each category. The wide range of educational programs and business and industry partnerships at Henry Ford College ensure that the best criteria practices are met.

Move to approve the following resolution as documented by Attachment A.

RESOLUTION: Henry Ford College, through its duly authorized officers, certify that Henry Ford College has met four of five best practices in each category as required by Section 230 of PA 60 of 2015, the Education Omnibus Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2027.

6. 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 August 24, 2026, the HFC Board of Trustees Policy Committee discussed and reviewed changes to the following bylaw:

- Bylaw 0161, Parliamentary Authority

Move to approve the changes to the following bylaw:

- Bylaw 0161, Parliamentary Authority

7. Appointment of Director of Communications – Board Report DPS 26-47
Mr. Mike Esseily

Background Information: The position of Director of Communications was created by the retirement of David Mustonen. The Superintendent of Schools

is prepared to recommend a candidate as Director of Communications at this time.

Move that Matthew Barnhart be appointed to Director of Communications at Grade 3, Step 12, of the Dearborn Schools Exempt Administrators' Salary Schedule, 260 Days, effective September 22, 2026.

VI. BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUSINESS

A. Acknowledgements of Correspondence

None

B. Board Committee Reports

Trustee Mozip attended the HFC Foundation meeting and reported that all is going well with the Foundation.

C. Requests for Information and/or Future Agenda Items

Trustee Mozip requested to know how many international students are currently attending HFC.

Trustee Zahr requested that the Policy Committee review the rule that the Board follows when needing to extend a Board meeting. Currently, extensions are done in 15-minute increments. He would like the Committee to review this and consider how this can be changed. Chair Aljahmi asked the Policy Committee to work with Legal on this and determine if the process can be changed.

D. Board Member Commentary

- Trustee Bazzi shared that the Zaman Run Walk Picnic event was very successful. He thanked HFC athletes and Board Trustees for attending. He gave a shout out to the men's basketball team and women's volleyball team for their presence at the event. Chair Aljahmi and Trustee Sobh echoed Trustee Bazzi and shared that it was a fun and exciting day for attendees.
- Trustee Sobh shared that he volunteered to work at today's F.O.R.E. Golf Outing. He stated that it felt good to be out in the community and everyone enjoyed the event.
- Chair Aljahmi shared that Trustee Pat D'Ambrosio was absent from tonight's meeting as his granddaughter is very ill. On behalf of the Board, Chair Aljahmi wished his granddaughter well and sent prayers to her and the family.
- Trustee Mozip wished all workers a belated happy Labor Day.

VII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Monday, October 12, 2026, **P-12** Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Administrative Service Center in the Frank Franchi Board Room.
- B. Monday, October 19, 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, October 19, 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 8:01 p.m.

Amer Zahr, Secretary