

Cascadia College Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2026

Cascadia College, 18345 Campus Way NE, Bothell, WA 98011, Tjossem Boardroom CC2-260

4:00pm

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Present: Dr. Meghan Quint, Chair; Alex Lee, Vice Chair; Dr. Colleen Ponto, Shahryar Quadri, Dr. Rania Hussein

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Chari Davenport, Erin Blakeney (excused), Brittany Caldwell, Dr. Eric Murray, Dr. Ellen Evans, AAG.

Susan Thomas (recorder)

Shannon Bath (presentation assistant)

AUDIENCE

Audience members via Zoom included: See Addendum A

1. Public Meeting Call to Order

Chair Dr. Meghan Quint officially called the regular meeting of the Cascadia College Board of Trustees to order at 4:04 pm.

2a. Transition to Executive Session

At 4:05pm, the Board entered into Executive Session as permitted under RCW 42.30.110 to discuss evaluation of the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

2b. Return to Public Meeting

The Board reconvened in Public Session at 4:45pm.

3. Consent Agenda

Chair Quint presented the Consent Agenda for approval. No modifications were proposed.

MOTION: Trustee Hussein

SECOND: Trustee Ponto

OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments submitted or made during the meeting.

5. New Employees / Promotions

New employees will be introduced at next month's board meeting

6. Information Item

None

7. Discussion & Presentation Items

A. Faculty Sabbaticals

Debra Waddell presented her **2026 Sabbatical Report**, "*A Journey with the Braver Angels.*"

Debra shared that her sabbatical was a period focused on studying and applying the Braver Angels approach to civil discourse, depolarization, and courageous citizenship. Her learning emphasized engaging across differences with curiosity, accuracy, and respect, including participation in Depolarizing Within training and additional workshops, debates, and forums through Braver Angels.

She noted that the sabbatical was a time of renewal and enrichment and the learning gained will directly benefit students by strengthening their communication skills in polarized environments. She shared that the experience was both personally restorative and professionally impactful, and she found inspiration in traveling and experiencing different parts of our beautiful country.

B. Mission Fulfillment Moment: Assessment & Program Review Part 2

One of the college's three recommendations from the NWCCU mid-cycle review was to develop an effective system of assessment and program review.

Kristina Young presented a high-level overview from the Accreditation slide deck, focusing on the evolution of assessment and program review practices at Cascadia. Key points included:

- Clarification of what constitutes a program, defined through Areas of Interest (AOIs)
- An example of an AOI workplan
- Progress toward merging student achievement and assessment processes
- The transition into deeper analysis as the next phase of this work

Kristina emphasized how assessment and achievement data are being aligned to strengthen program review and support continuous improvement.

C. Fee Requests

VP Erin Blakeney was not present for this item.

The Board reviewed a fee request related to a third-party vendor cost increase associated with Parchment, a secure digital credential service that enables students, alumni, and employers to request, send, and receive official transcripts, diplomas, and academic records.

Parchment reported that statewide transcript request fees average \$15, with common student fees ranging from \$7 to \$15 across institutions.

Recommendation:

- Continue charging students **\$8.40 per official transcript**
- Charge **third-party requestors \$15** for official transcripts and degree verification, aligning with common rates across the system and nationally

MOTION: Trustee Ponto

SECOND: Trustee Hussein

OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

D. Finance Update: Repair & Replacement, Reserves

The finance update included the following topics:

- Current status of the College's reserves
- Estimated FY27 reserve spending for IT and Facilities programs

Laura Hedal, Senior Director of IT Services, reviewed the FY 2026–27 Repair & Replacement requests for IT, which include:

- Upgrades to three older classrooms and one science lab
- Replacement of the digital signage system
- Replacement of approximately 10% of employee desktops, laptops, and monitors
- Replacement of main campus firewalls
- Replacement of approximately 25% of UPS batteries in campus network closets

The total IT request is \$576,000, which is lower than prior years and below earlier estimates that projected costs closer to \$800,000.

Shawna Pitts, Senior Director of Administrative Services, presented Facilities' five-year rolling plan and outlined the FY 2026 Repair & Replacement requests, which include:

- Furniture replacements in CC1 and CC2 Vistas
- Furniture stock replenishment, including ADA desks
- Painting and carpet replacement in corridors and classrooms

The total Facilities request is \$442,500. Combined, the FY26–27 Repair & Replacement requests for IT and Facilities total approximately \$1 million.

Reserves Update:

As of February, total reserves across all funds—including local funds, bonds, and LGIP—are \$17.3 million. Dr. Murray noted that the College has maintained reserves at approximately this level for the past six years and continues to be in a healthy reserves position.

President Murray spoke about the state-wide budget issues.

8. Action Items

None

9. Other Reports

A. Cascadia Events & Advocacy Board (EAB)

Muskaan Grewal was not present for this item. Her report is included in the board packet, with highlighted recent events and advocacy initiatives:

Events:

- International Women's Day Tabling
- Slime Lab
- Finals Noodle Table

Advocacy:

- Continuing to work on reusable water bottle campaign
- Reviewing applications to recruit students to join the S&A fee committee in the Spring
- Checking in with students about how they feel in today's world

B. Cascadia Community College Federation of Teachers (CCCFT)

Dr. Dave Shapiro shared a quote from Dr. Kimia Ghanbeigi's letter to her students, which was included in his written report. Dr. Ghanbeigi wrote the letter as war began in Iran, stating: *"I believe deeply that continuing our work matters. In times when the world feels unstable, choosing to think clearly, to learn, and to build is an act of strength."*

Dr. Shapiro reflected that this sentiment resonates strongly across classrooms. He noted that it is an honor and a privilege to provide students with a supportive space where they can come together, exchange ideas, and find comfort and strength during uncertain times.

C. Cascadia Classified Union (WPEA)

Ryan Higgins was not present; no report submitted.

D. Reports from Board Chair and Trustees

- Trustee Ponto will be attending the Northshore School District Board meeting on Monday.
- Vice Chair Lee will be attending the upcoming Lake Washington School District Board meeting.

E. President's Report – Dr. Eric Murray

- Northshore High Schools have some running start students who are co-graduating, with high school ceremonies occurring at the same time as Cascadia's commencement. We are exploring the creation of a separate, private ceremony for these students.

- Members of the UW Board of Regents visited campus last week. The new UW Bothell Chancellor expressed that Cascadia is considered part of their institutional family.
- A UW Seattle Vice Provost also visited campus and discussed the Cascadia/UWB relationship. Plans are underway to meet again to further strengthen partnerships and collaboration.

10. Other Business or Announcements

There was no other business

11. Next Meeting – Public Meeting

Date: April 15, 2026, 4:00pm

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Quint adjourned the meeting at 5:57 PM.

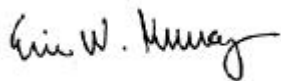
Approval of Minutes

Approved and Adopted on: May 20, 2026



Meghan Quint, Board Chair

Attest:



Dr. Eric Murray, President

Addendum A

Board of Trustees Meeting Attendance

Eric Murray, President	X
Meghan Quint	X
Alex Lee	X
Colleen Ponto	X
Shahryar Quadri	X
Rania Hussein	X
Ellen Evans, AAG	X
Brittany Caldwell	X
David Shapiro	X
Susan Thomas	X
Shannon Bath	X
Debra Waddell	X
Kristina Young	X
Erik Tingelstad	X
Teya Viola	X
Ana Nina	X
Shawna Pitts	X
Laura Heddal	X
Antonio Shimono	X
Becky Riopel	X
Jacinth Nurse	X
Victor Begay	X
Gergina Lazarova	X