



**Board of Trustees of Community College District 535
Minutes of April 21, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 was held on April 21, 2026 in Room P103 at the Skokie campus of Oakton College, 7701 Lincoln Ave, Skokie, Illinois.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Burns called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Ms. Martha Burns	Chair	Present
Ms. Theresa Bashiri-Remetio	Vice Chair	Present
Mr. William Stafford	Secretary	Present
Dr. Micah Eimer		Present
Mr. Benjamin Salzberg		Present
Ms. Marie Lynn Toussaint		Present
Dr. Wendy Yanow		Present
Mr. Chris AbiNader	Student Trustee	Absent

Also present in Room P103:

Dr. Joianne Smith, President; Dr. Kelly Iwanaga Becker, Associate Vice President for Strategic Planning; Johanna Fine, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Ashley Knight, Interim Dean for Liberal Arts; Dr. Ileo Lott, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Michele Roberts, Vice President for Administrative Affairs; and Beatriz Sparks, Assistant to the Board.

Discussion

The Board discussed the rotation of their executive committee for the 2026-2027 academic year, and the Board will vote to choose the new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary during the regular meeting at 6 p.m. today.

The Board discussed the need for more frequent Committee of the Whole meetings – It was decided to hold these meetings quarterly in June, October, February and April.

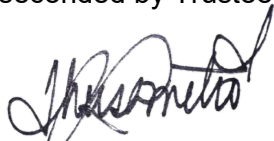
The Board agreed that there was need for more discussion related to the structure of meetings, including reading of the Land Acknowledgement and the Pledge of Allegiance. This will be a topic for the June Committee of the Whole.

Day of Civic Action requested by the Classified Staff Association – The Board had consensus that due to the current situation with the river flooding, the College has already been closed for almost a week, and it isn't advisable to have more closures; this time is needed to help students prepare for the end of the semester. The College embeds opportunities for civic action and engagement through programming and curriculum.

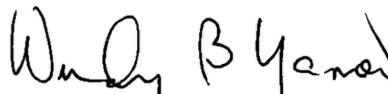
The Board also discussed the need for more opportunities for Board representation in the community.

Adjournment

Chair Burns asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee name made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Salzberg. A voice vote was called and the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.



Theresa Bashiri-Remetio, Chair



Wendy B. Yanow, Secretary

Minutes recorded by: Beatriz Sparks
4/2026