

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2026
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting

Board Members Present: Ashley Flukinger, Ed Johnson, Bill Montero, Lloyd Mueller, Jody Stahancyk, Mitra Vazeen

Others Present: Bill Meck, Beth Van Elswyk, Jesse Fulton, Tom Ank, TJ Lackner, Tina Kotson, Fiona Giselle, Kevin Leahy, Amy Magnussen, Julie Kovatch, Fernando Rojas, Evon Jacobsen, Mary Jackson, "Community Member", Julie Kovatch, C. Johnson, "Bonni", "Zoom User", President Jarrod Hogue and Recording Secretary Felicity Green

CALL TO ORDER

Ed Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Roll was called. Mitra Vazeen, Ed Johnson, Bill Montero, Jody Stahancyk and Lloyd Mueller were present at roll call. Ashley Flukinger arrived late. Sheila Roley was absent (prearranged.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jody Stahancyk **moved to approve the agenda as presented.** Bill Montero seconded the motion, **Ashley Flukinger, Ed Johnson, Bill Montero, Lloyd Mueller, Jody Stahancyk and Mitra Vazeen voted Aye. The motion carried.**

TEN MINUTE PRESENTATION: *Jesse Fulton, Welding*

Jesse Fulton began his presentation by showing the Board the portable grill that students are building to be auctioned at the April 11 fundraiser. The students are learning as they build and fixing mistakes as they go. Welding classes for the Spring term are almost all full. He thanked Beth Van Elswyk for all the work she has done and said he was very excited that the Welding Department will be getting a laser welder, cutter and engraver. The CNC plasma cutter that they already have is hard to use, requiring that students be in 2nd year Auto CAD to use it correctly. The new machine will enable students to use it much earlier in their progress. He is developing an introduction to CNC course to introduce students to the technology.

There was a question about how much the machine cost and its capabilities. It was approximately \$20,000, all donated by the Foundation, and is extremely versatile, able to cut ¾ inch thick steel as well as weld. Laser welders are becoming industry standard and the students' early exposure to it will open new career fields for them. Beth Van Elswyk added that the students will be using the new laser cutter to create a permanent artwork featuring donor names. She said that the collaboration and new ideas coming from Welding are the signs of a strong program. Ed Johnson commented that two of his sons, one of whom studied with Jesse Fulton, are welders and make very good money. Jesse Fulton said that one of the great things about the trade was that you can go anywhere and make money. He encourages students to join the ironworkers and boilermakers' unions. There was a question about whether underwater welding was taught at the College. It is not. Jesse Fulton said that he does not recommend it, as the required training is prohibitively expensive in both time and money. WCT Marine is one of the biggest local employers for welding graduates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lloyd Mueller **moved to approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting as presented.** Bill Montero seconded the motion. **Ashley Flukinger, Ed Johnson, Bill Montero, Lloyd Mueller, Jody Stahancyk and Mitra Vazeen voted Aye. The motion carried.**

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Hogue reported that the state will not be pulling back any appropriations. The Oregon President's Council (OPC) has also agreed not to change the growth factor in the HECC funding equation, which means that funding will remain flat. This good news is tempered by rising expenses. He said that next year's budget will need to be trimmed by \$600 - \$700,000.

He is continuing to attend meetings and talk about the maritime capital project. He has submitted a community investment request through both Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden's offices. The project has received a \$500,000 commitment from an anonymous donor. He will be meeting with a simulator vendor on Monday; this is a complicated project. Beth Van Elswyk and the maritime faculty are also all out talking to the community and potential donors. He was surprised to learn at the Job and Career Exploration Fair that many students were unaware of maritime career possibilities.

He has been busy seeking grants to start up new CTE programs and is applying to the Murdock Trust for \$570,000 in funding to begin a construction and facilities maintenance program. That amount would cover salary and equipment for the first year then gradually phase out over the next five years. That allows the College to skip the seed costs which are very expensive. He has also been meeting with the Astoria City Manager to brainstorm possible partnership ideas that may help with some of the aging buildings on the Lexington campus, several of which have major structural challenges. Meyer Freeman is continuing to explore the possibility of sports at the College; President Hogue feels that is a hopeful initiative that could lead to significantly more students attending in the future.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bill Meck reported that the College is about three quarters of the way through the fiscal year and revenues are just under \$12 million. He said even with the reduction in state appropriations, this year would be fine on revenue. Current expenses are just over \$9.2 million and the College is continuing to manage expenditures as best they can. This fiscal year should end in a good place with expenditures of about \$13.3 - \$13.4 million and revenues at roughly \$13.5 million. Timber revenue is about \$20,000 above what was forecast and he hopes to be able to put all of that into the plant fund, where it will be needed next year.

There were several questions about the source of timber revenue. All College timber revenue comes from Clatsop County. Proposed federal logging changes would not affect the College.

REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR

Chair Ed Johnson said that he thought the Job and Career Exploration Fair on March 3 was a great event. He thought the breakout sessions were well done and remarked that President Hogue's sessions were packed.

REPORT FROM BOARD SELF EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Bill Montero said that the Board Self Evaluation Committee has created a survey for the Board. It is a two-part survey: the first part consists of more open-ended questions and the second, anonymous, portion is composed of specific questions on a scale of 1 to 4. Felicity Green will send the survey out next week and collect responses which she will then send on to the committee. The deadline for responses will be March 30.

BUDGET COMMITTEE UPDATE

Jody Stahancyk **moved to accept and appoint Zoe Higginbottom and Mark Cary as new members of the Budget Committee and to thank them for being good candidates.** Mitra Vazeen seconded the motion and added that she is happy Mark Cary applied. **Ashley Flukinger, Ed Johnson, Bill Montero, Lloyd Mueller, Jody Stahancyk and Mitra Vazeen voted Aye. The motion carried.**

All vacancies on the Budget Committee have now been filled.

Jody Stahancyk asked the Chair to send both new Budget Committee members a note thanking them for applying and saying the Board is appreciative of the gift of their time. Ed Johnson said he would make sure that is done.

POLICIES FOR SECOND READING AND ADOPTION: CONSENT AGENDA

Jody Stahancyk **moved to accept BP 5015 Residence Determination and BP 5040 Education Records, Directory Information and Privacy for second reading and adoption.** Bill Montero seconded the motion. **Ashley Flukinger, Ed Johnson, Bill Montero, Lloyd Mueller, Jody Stahancyk and Mitra Vazeen voted Aye. The motion carried.**

TUITION ADJUSTMENT

President Hogue said that as the Board discussed last year, he would like to continue implementing regular, thoughtful increases to COLAs and tuition costs by basing them on the consumer price index. CCC tuition is 14th of the 17 Oregon community college and increases have tracked closely with the CPI. The proposed 3% increase will come to \$4 per credit hour. He spoke with the ASG leadership team about the increase and they put together a student survey.

Fiona Giselle, ASG President, spoke about the survey (Appendix A.) She said ASG leadership was in unanimous agreement that the increase was necessary and the survey results show a consensus that most students agree.

The Board discussed the tuition increase. There was a comment stating that education should be a higher priority in the state. There was a question about how many students get financial aid versus how many pay out of pocket. The estimate is about 60 – 70% of CCC students receive some sort of financial aid. There was a question as to what the total amount of revenue raised would be, if it would be enough, and a question about what the new tuition would be per credit hour. The total raised would be between \$80,000 and \$90,000; the increase will take tuition to \$132 per credit hour. The tuition increase is not to fill a budget hole but instead to stay consistent year after year.

Clatsop Community College
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Bill Montero **moved to approve the tuition increase.** Mitra Vazeen seconded the motion. **Ashley Flukinger, Ed Johnson, Bill Montero, Lloyd Mueller, Jody Stahancyk and Mitra Vazeen voted Aye. The motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE OVER \$50,000: Results of Auditor RFP and Selection of Audit Company
President Hogue explained that the College conducted an RFP for contracting auditing services for the next five years. The results are in the Board packet and were quite close, but CliftonLarsenAllen, the current auditors, scored the highest. Their responses were the most detailed and their experience with the College ERP was also helpful.

Bill Montero **moved to approve the expenditure and the choice of CliftonLarsenAllen as auditors.** Mitra Vazeen seconded the motion. **Ashley Flukinger, Ed Johnson, Bill Montero, Lloyd Mueller, Jody Stahancyk and Mitra Vazeen voted Aye. The motion carried.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Ank announced that he has been working to create a makerspace at the College in the Computer Services offices. He said that he has gotten great feedback from students, faculty, and staff. The space should be opening the beginning of spring term; he hopes to be able to host a Board tour soon. The makerspace supports the STEM community and K-12 educators and will be a great resource for students and faculty.

President Hogue thanked Kevin Leahy for all his work on the job and career exploration fair. He also thanked the Board members for volunteering. He added that the College has signed a contract with the Seaside Convention Center to host it again next year and the date will be March 16, 2027.

TJ Lackner invited the Board to attend Pi Day on Saturday, March 14 from 1:59 to 6 pm. Lloyd Mueller will be in the pie booth at 5 pm and Beth Van Elswyk will be there at 3 pm.

Jim Alegria thanked everyone who RSVP'd for the Board of Education / Foundation Board social evening on Monday, March 23. He asked those who have not yet RSVP'd to please respond by Monday. Felicity Green will resend the invitation.

BOARD FORUM

Mitra Vazeen said that she was happy to see everyone.

Bill Montero complimented the job fair and said the tour of MERTS he got from President Hogue and Beth Van Elswyk was incredible.

Lloyd Mueller said that the idea of setting up the makerspace was the best thing he has heard in a long time; he saw it work at his previous school.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Clatsop Community College Associated Student Government March 11th, 2026

Student Feedback Request: Proposed Tuition Increase | Prepared by Fiona Giselle Hackett

Here's what's going on: Clatsop Community College is facing a budget shortfall, largely because state funding is tied to enrollment growth. While other colleges are growing, our region has stayed relatively flat. That means we're receiving a smaller share of state funds than before.

To help offset this, the college is considering a \$4 per credit tuition increase from \$128 to \$132 per credit.

For context, our community college funding comes from:

- Tuition: 20%
- Property taxes: 40%
- State appropriations: 30%

—> Long story short: Our budget has been cut, the college looking to raise tuition, and

here's why: it will help keep essential services that are used by students.

ASG will be presenting student perspectives to the Board of Education on March 12th. We want to bring your real experience to that table. Please return this form to your ASG rep, drop it at our office in COL 117, or slide it under the door if we're not in.

Deadline: Wednesday, March 11th by 3:00 PM

Summary of Student Feedback

State of Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon (OR) <input type="checkbox"/> Washington (WA)	Age	How are you paying for school? <input type="checkbox"/> Financial aid <input type="checkbox"/> Out of pocket <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Are you in support of the proposed \$4 per credit tuition increase?	Why do you feel this way? Please share your experience:
Oregon	19	Out of pocket	No, I do not support it	“Community college is by far the cheapest college experience, and I can pay out of pocket, but with raise in tuition (and in additional the difficulty of obtaining scholarships//financial aid) this will make payments more difficult, especially with individuals who are living paycheck to paycheck.”
Oregon	19	Both	No I do not support it.	“Although I am more than grateful for the financial aid I have received it has definitely relieved me and my family more than anything. But not all of us get those opportunities to receive much aid. Its hard enough that inflation has increased in our needs, grocery, healthcare, but adding it to education will lower student peers due to low income, and lowers the expectations of graduates and I would hate to see this happen.”

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Oregon	68	Out of pocket	Yes, I support it	"I realize this might not be a popular idea but inflation is real. Things cost more and we, the students, need to pay our fair share of increased costs."
Oregon	27	Financial Aid	Yes, I support it	"I don't use a lot of the services that are used by students and are essentials. If that means school costs me a little bit more then it is important that they are supported."
Oregon	18	Other : Running Start	Yes, I support it	"I don't pay tuition. Why wouldn't I want better education for free?"
Oregon	45	Financial Aid	Yes, I support it	"It's a small increase that can be budgeted for to ensure the level of experience at Clatsop stays."
Oregon	19	Financial Aid	Yes, I support it	"I was thinking it was going to be a big increase but \$128 to \$132 isn't terrible. If it will help save people's jobs, I'm fine with that. Some people struggle to pay tuition, so maybe teachers should share scholarships more, help everyone out so students aren't stressed with money and people don't lost their jobs."
Oregon	20	Financial Aid	Yes, I support it	"I feel like we should increase tuitions! Only because students like myself use some of the resources around campus that maybe affected by this cut."
Oregon	34	Financial Aid	Yes, I support it	"Because I deeply appreciate the opportunities that this financial aid affords me and I understand that the more people that are able to make use of it the greater the incentive will be to continue providing it."

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Oregon	20	Financial Aid	Yes, I support it	“Personally, I go to college for free and I make money back. However if I was paying for school and I was aware that there would be an increase, I would budget outside expenses. In our economy it would be unrealistic to not expect an increase in college expenses. I believe that a \$4 increase stacks up, but it is reasonable.”
Oregon	19	Financial Aid	Yes, I support it	“I think this would help maintain and improve essential services at the college.”
Oregon	23	Out of pocket	I’m not sure.	“As someone who pays for school out of pocket, I’m not sure of the proposition - it would affect me - but I am not entirely opposed - I understand some individuals aren’t able to pay for college and use financial aid... It’s not an easy road for me financially as it is, I also pay for my own bills, rent, and necessities, but I understand a small increase would help the ... (illegible)”
Oregon	19	Both	I’m not sure.	“I dont know how finances work all I understand is that things could get more expensive.I dont think it would cause much problems. Why is this the first I’ve heard of this?”
Oregon	19	Financial Aid	I’m not sure.	“To be honest, I feel. Bad people who are paying out of pocket. College is way too expensive for some people, but I understand why we need to raise tuition especially if it means someone can lose their jobs.”
Oregon	Not provided	Both	I’m not sure.	“Because I wasn’t aware that the school was doing so poorly financially and in enrollments.”

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Oregon	Not provided	Both	I'm not sure.	"As someone who mostly pays for school out of pocket, of course I'm not too pleased about the increase, however, I do want work-study to keep the same wages. The only thing I recommend if that work-study should be talked about more for students who do (me lol!) Need more money during these times. It is not talked about enough."
Oregon	Not provided	Financial Aid	I'm not sure.	"I want staff to keep jobs, but not wanting to pay \$16 dollars more per 4 credit class. Would there be a way to increase tuition to \$2 instead of \$4."

One additional remark from a student in person instead of through this form:

"\$4 isn't that much but when you add it all together, it all adds up. Continuing to pay that extra \$4 \$2048 (12 classes 4x a year \$512) \$2112 (12 classes 4x a year \$528) \$256 more a year for a full time student...that's a couple weeks of gas, a week of groceries, or a pair of baseball cleats for my son, which as a single mom that's where my mind goes."