

**Approved Minutes of the
Alpena Community College Board of Trustees Visioning Session**
April 9, 2026
Board Room, 400 Charles R. Donnelly Natural Resources Center
665 Johnson Street, Alpena, MI 49707

On Thursday, April 9, 2026, the Alpena Community College Board of Trustees gathered for a visioning session in the Roger C. Bauer Board Room, 400 Natural Resources Center, on the Alpena Campus. The meeting began at 11:03 a.m.

Present: John Briggs, Teresa Duncan, Joseph Gentry II, Lisa Hilberg, Susan Stender, Florence Stibitz, and Tom Townsend. Absent: None.

Also in attendance: President Dr. Don MacMaster, Board Secretary Jay Walterreit, Campus Security Officer Deputy Mike Lash, Vice President for Administration and Finance Dr. Nick Brege, Vice President of Instruction Dr. Paige Gordier, Director of Information Technology Adam Keyes, Instructor Tim Kuehnlein, Reporter Reagan Voetberg, and Facilities Director Kurt Konieczny.

Joining the meeting via Webex were Mary Eagan, ACC administration, Jess Haselhuhn, ACC staff, Lisa Blumenthal, ACC staff, and Rob Enslin, ACC administration.

Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Stender led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None.

Introduction of the Visioning Activity

Chair John Briggs introduced the purpose of the visioning session, which was to determine upcoming College funding priorities which could be shared with the Alpena Community College Foundation board for consideration for their fundraising activities.

Discussion

[Following is an AI-generated summary of the topics discussed and statements made during the visioning session.]

The meeting focused on defining funding priorities for the ACC foundation, emphasizing student success, technology needs, and broadening fundraising efforts.

- Meeting participants discussed funding priorities for the ACC foundation board.
- Emphasis on student success and technology needs emerged as key focus areas.
- Participants noted the growing demand for non-tuition support for students.

- Acknowledgment of existing athletic funds and potential for further fundraising initiatives.
- Importance of aligning strategic priorities with both student and structural needs was highlighted.
- Discussed the importance of broadening fundraising efforts for athletics and student support needs.
- Highlighted the need for clear priorities and messaging to attract potential donors effectively.
- Emphasized the growing demand for student emergency funds and support due to rising costs.
- Noted success in raising unrestricted funds, indicating donor willingness to contribute where needed most.
- Discussed three main pillars: student wellbeing, infrastructure, and innovation/technology.
- Emphasized importance of funding for student activities and mental health services.
- Recognized critical need for infrastructure upgrades to enhance college facilities.
- Highlighted the overwhelming nature of technology advancements as essential for success.
- Suggested focusing fundraising efforts on key projects to attract donor interest.
- Acknowledged the urgency of utilizing earmarked funds before expiration.
- Noted ongoing large projects, including housing and solar initiatives, impacting resource allocation.
- Federal court ruling could significantly impact the charity's operations and donor communications.
- Collaborative document development is planned for discussion at the upcoming board meeting.

Creation of a “Pillars” Document

Building off an idea introduced by ACC instructor and ACC Foundation chair Tim Kuehnlein, the ACC trustees identified three “pillars” of needed future College funding. Those pillars were:

- Student Wellbeing
- Innovation (including technology and safety)
- Infrastructure

The ACC trustees then identified associated areas within each pillar and set desired dollar figures. Added together, the estimated amount of funding for the three pillars was \$5 million (Student Wellbeing = \$1 million, Innovation = \$2 million, and Infrastructure = \$2 million).

Trustees were asked to develop written rationales for each of the pillars and associated funding amounts; these rationales would be part of the final document submitted to the ACC Foundation board as partial explanation of the ACC trustees’ funding priorities.

After brief discussion the ACC trustees agreed to have Secretary Walterreit solicit input on the rationales from the trustees via email; Walterreit would then combine the responses in the first

full draft of the pillars document and circulate the draft document to the ACC trustees prior to the April 16, 2026, regular board meeting. The ACC trustees will plan to discuss the draft pillars document at the regular meeting with the goal of approving the document for submission to the ACC Foundation board.

Adjournment

The visioning session was adjourned at approximately 12:58 p.m. by Chairman Briggs.

Jay Walterreit
Secretary of the Board of Trustees
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