

**Proposed Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Alpena Community College Board of Trustees**  
Thursday, April 16, 2026  
665 Johnson Street, Alpena, MI 49707

On Thursday, April 16, 2026, the Alpena Community College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting in the Roger C. Bauer Board Room, 400 Natural Resources Center.

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair John Briggs.

Trustees present in person: John Briggs, Teresa Duncan, Joseph Gentry II, Lisa Hilberg, Susan Stender, Florence Stibitz, and Tom Townsend. Absent trustees: none.

Also in attendance: Dr. Don MacMaster, ACC president; Denis (Jay) Walterreit, board secretary, and Alpena County Sheriff's Deputy Mike Lash.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Trustee Stibitz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Agenda**

Trustee Stibitz made the motion to approve the agenda as presented; Trustee Hilberg seconded the motion. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

**Approval of the Proposed Minutes of the March 19, 2026, Regular Meeting and the April 9, 2026, Visioning Session**

Trustee Duncan made the motion to approve the proposed minutes of the March 19, 2026, regular meeting and the minutes of the April 9, 2026, visioning session; Trustee Townsend seconded the motion. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

**Introduction of Guests and Public Comment**

Guests attending the meeting in person were: Dr. Nick Brege, ACC administration; Dr. Paige Gordier, ACC administration; Rob Mills, ACC faculty; Tim Kuehnlein, ACC faculty; Tim Onstwedder, ACC faculty; Eric Kennedy, ACC faculty; Sierra Baker, ACC student; and Valerie Binge, ACC student.

Guests attending via Webex were: Dr. Matt Bedard, ACC faculty; Mary Eagan, ACC administration; and Bob Tosch, community member.

Bob Tosch gave a public comment.

**Communication(s)**

President MacMaster read a card from the family of Sylvia Owens thanking the College for its expression of grief on Sylvia's passing.

## Board Member and Subcommittee Reports

Trustee Duncan gave the following report on the ACC Foundation:

- The Foundation has been busy planning for the end of this academic year.
- We have helped to select the Fellows of the College, which we cannot reveal until graduation.
- We have also selected the ACC Distinguished Graduate, also a secret until graduation.
- We are helping to prepare the awards for the Jesse Besser and Anna Besser award winners, as well as the John M. Grant Frontrunners.
- Scholarship season is in full swing. The Foundation's scholarship committee is hard at work scoring applications and Kerrie has been running interference with our scholarship award software developers, who seemed to have made some updates that have affected our application.
- We have continued to use student support funds to help students.
  - Out of the Berg fund, we are paying the cost of having Thunder Bay Transportation pick up a student in Spruce each day and drop him off at ACC.
  - We used the Rosebush funds to help a single mother put new tires on her SUV, which had bald tires that made driving unsafe.
  - We are using the Berg fund to help a nursing student with car problems.
  - I've given out \$600 in gas cards since February.
  - We continue to work to manage the ACC Student Food Pantry, which gets restocked at least once a week.
  - So far in this fiscal year, we've spent about \$14,437 in emergency aid to students so they can stay in school.

## Student Report

Criminal Justice instructor Rob Mills introduced Phi Theta Kappa president Sierra Baker, who gave a report on recent PTK activities.

## Action Items

### 2.980 Resolution of Congratulations for 2026 PTK All-Michigan Academic Team Member Valerie Binge

The following resolution was proposed by Trustee Townsend and seconded by Trustee Stibitz:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Alpena Community College unanimously extends its sincerest congratulations to Valerie Binge for her numerous contributions to improving the quality of life at the College and for her outstanding scholarly accomplishments.

Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

While receiving the resolution certificate Binge noted that the cost of joining PTK (\$80 membership fee) dissuades a number of students from joining the honor society. Sierra Baker

echoed that thought. The trustees promised to make money available to pay for student PTK memberships.

## Faculty Report

ACC Criminal Justice instructor Rob Mills delivered the Faculty Report. Among a number of recent accomplishments Mills noted the signing of a 3+1 articulation agreement in criminal justice with Northern Michigan University.

## President's Report

President's Report to the Alpena Community College Board of Trustees  
April 14, 2026

### Governor Whitmer Visits Alpena Community College



Governor Whitmer recently issued a proclamation making April Community College Month in Michigan. Over the past five years, the Whitmer administration has instituted the following programs in support of students attending Michigan community colleges:

- Two years ago, the Community College Guarantee was implemented
- Four years ago, the Michigan Achievement Scholarship was created
- Five years ago, Michigan Reconnect was launched with over 14,000 Reconnectors earning degrees or certificates

Since Whitmer took office eight years ago, Michigan has boosted its post-secondary education rate from 45% to nearly 52%, substantial progress toward the Governor's goal of 60 percent of Michiganders earning a post-secondary degree

or credential by 2030. Governor Whitmer spoke on Thursday to enthusiastic supporters about her time in Lansing. It's a great day for ACC when we can host the Governor.

### Academic Wall of Excellence Mounted in Besser Tech



Kudos to Bill Shatrau, ACC Maintenance, and Jess Haselhuhn, ACC Communications Technician, for their inspired work on the new ACC Academic Excellence display in Besser Technical Center. The display documents in one place the recent recognition ACC faculty, staff, and students have earned for academic excellence.

### ACC Esports are Champions!

By Athletic Director Allen Telgenhof

Alpena Community College's Rocket League team captured the NECC Division VIII East Playoff Championship Tuesday night, defeating Mercyhurst University 4-2 in a best-of-seven series that kept an engaged crowd in the Fitzpatrick Student Commons on the edge of their seats from the opening kickoff to the final goal.

The three players who made it happen — Max McCarty, Isaac Zocco, and Charlie Best — delivered a complete team performance across six games, combining dominant shooting, clutch defensive saves, and championship-level composure when it mattered most.

The atmosphere inside the Commons rivaled any traditional sporting event on campus. Athletes and coaches from across ACC's athletic programs filled the

room alongside fellow students and fans. Also in attendance were ACC President Don MacMaster and Trustee Lisa Hilberg — a testament to how far this program has come in such a short time.

The championship capped a remarkable playoff run for a program that entered the East bracket as the #7 seed. ACC rolled into the finals and defeated a Mercyhurst team who came in as the #1 seed and who had defeated ACC in the regular season. While the Warriors were a regular season powerhouse, the Lumberjacks were better on Tuesday night.



*Above: a number of excited spectators gathered around ACC's Charlie Best as he competed in the esports NECC Division VIII East Playoff Championship on April 14, 2026.*

For Alpena Community College — a two-year institution competing in the NECC comprised mostly of four-year colleges and universities — the title represents something far larger than a bracket win. In their debut NECC season, the Lumberjacks didn't just compete with programs that have been established for years, they beat them. It is proof that this program belongs, and that the students who built it have earned every bit of the celebration that followed.

With the East playoff championship under their belts, the Lumberjacks move on to the Division VIII nationals with a shot at the division national championship. There are nine divisions in NECC play and moving on from the East, ACC may face schools such as USC, Loyola Marymount, San Diego State, and Fresno State. Bellevue University (Nebraska) was the only undefeated team in Division VIII headed into their West championship game tonight against Missouri Valley College. Despite losing to the Jacks tonight, Mercyhurst did enough to qualify for the nationals and may face ACC again.

Needless to say, there are more exciting esports times ahead at ACC as the games get more competitive while the Lumberjack faithful gets larger and larger in number. As soon as released by the NECC, game dates and times will be released here. Stay tuned!

During the President's Report Dr. Nick Brege, vice president for administration and finance, and Dr. Paige Gordier, vice president of instruction, briefed the trustees on the mutual gains bargaining efforts with the Faculty Council. Brege and Gordier shared a summary of the faculty contract tentative agreement and talked through the list of proposed contract changes. All participants in the mutual gains bargaining praised the process and the resulting tentative agreement.

### **New Business**

Chair Briggs then introduced the topic of the draft "pillars" document which was created after discussion at the April 9, 2026, ACC Board of Trustees visioning session.

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

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).

After soliciting input from the trustees, Secretary Walterreit drafted a document which listed the pillar categories, areas associated with the pillars, the purpose of each pillar, the rationale for funding each pillar, and a project dollar amount to devote to each pillar. Funding for each pillar would come from both ACC and the ACC Foundation.

Secretary Walterreit shared the draft document with the trustees prior to the April 16 meeting and asked their feedback.

After Briggs introduced the topic Trustee Gentry made a motion to accept the pillars document as written and transmit it to the ACC Foundation for their consideration; Trustee Stibitz amended the motion to include a yearly review of the pillars.

Trustee Stender seconded the motion.

Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion passed. [This motion will be given the action item number 2.981.]

## Financial Report

### General Fund Year-to-Year Actual Comparison Through March 2026

- Property tax receipts total \$3,534,908, up \$359,686 from March 2025 due to taxable value adjustments.
- Tuition and fee revenue totals \$7,514,083, an increase of \$324,295 year-over-year, driven by higher Fall semester billable contact hours.
- State aid is consistent with last year and aligns with expected timing.
- Interest income is lower than last year due to reduced interest rates and lower cash balances related to construction reimbursement timing. The Federal Reserve has reduced the federal funds rate by 0.75 basis points compared to the same period last year.
- Instructional Support expenses decreased due to internal staffing shifts and the associated benefit plan costs.
- Student Services expenses increased due to contractual wage adjustments and higher athletic waivers.
- Institutional Administration expenses increased due to filling the previously vacant Foundation Executive Director position, higher legal costs, and increased insurance premiums.
- Physical Plant expenses have risen slightly, primarily due to higher snow removal costs and contractual wage adjustments. Additional costs include the required installation of elevator door restrictors under the updated State Elevator Code.
- Net income through the first nine months shows a net income of \$2,727,202.

### General Fund Comparative Income Statement Year-to-Date Through March 2026

- All categories remain within acceptable ranges for this point in the fiscal year, except as noted above.

### General Fund Month-to-Month Comparison Through March 2026

- All Month-to-Month comparisons are tracking as expected, except as noted above.

### Consolidated Income Statement for the First Three Quarters of FY 2026

- The Designated Fund comprises the Technology Improvement Fund, Athletics, Workforce Development, and the Wellness Center. The current deficit in the Designated Fund is primarily due to the Wellness Center and Athletics. This shortfall will be addressed through an end-of-year transfer of revenue from the General Fund, as outlined in the approved FY26 budget and presented in the March Comparative Income Statement as budgeted transfer expenses.
- Activity within the Restricted Fund consists of various grants and federal programs, including the Solar Array grant, the ADN/BSN grant, and Pell grants. All categories of the Restricted Fund are currently tracking as expected.
- The deficit in plant funds reflects planned use of maintenance and replacement reserves for boiler plant upgrades, as well as expenditures related to the student housing construction project. Under USDA requirements, the College must initially fund the first

phase of project costs and will begin receiving reimbursements once the College's contributions have been fully expended.

- Other balances are reasonable for this time of year.

## **Personnel Report**

New hires, terminations, and status changes from March 3 to April 1, 2026.

### New Hires:

- None.

### Re-Hires:

- None.

### Transfers:

- None.

### Resignations:

- None.

### Terminations:

- None.

### Inactive:

- None.

### Retirements:

- None.

### Name Changes:

- None.

### Position Name Changes:

- None.

## **Gifts and Grants Report**

This report reflects the following activity for pledges and gifts received by the ACC Foundation for the month of March 2026.

Alpena Agency, Inc.  
Alpena Longbeards  
Anonymous  
Association of Lifelong Learners at ACC

Baiardi Family Foundation, Inc.  
Bolenz Jewelry  
Mr. and Ms. Jeffrey D. Brasie MA  
Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas J. Brege

Ms. Heather Bromund  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey D. Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Cameron  
Dr. Alhasan S. Ceesay  
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Chapman  
Mr. Robert Corwin  
Mr. and Mrs. David Cummins  
Ms. Harley J. Dutcher  
Ms. Mary T. Eagan  
Dr. and Mrs. Lynn E. Field  
Ms. Vicki M. Goodburne  
Dr. Paige Gordier  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Haselhuhn  
Dr. Priscilla R. Homola  
K-otic Games  
Ms. Kerrie A. Kamyszek  
Ms. Sherry Kelly  
Mr. Eric M. Kennedy  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kollen  
Mr. James V. Kollien  
Mr. Louis Konieczny  
Mr. Timothy M. Kuehnlein Jr. and Mr. Todd  
Russell  
Ms. Jewel K. Lancaster  
Maplewood Tavern  
Mrs. and Mr. Beth J. Matzke  
Ms. Vicki L. Mccoy

Mr. Terry S. McKenzie  
Mr. Steven A. Meyer  
Mr. Robert O. Mills  
Mr. and Mrs. James Naragon  
Mr. James M. Oates  
Mr. Timothy Onstwedder Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew B. Paad  
Dr. Donald D. Peasley  
Player's Pub & Grub  
R.A. Townsend Company  
Ms. Rosemary Rosenbrock  
Sassy Soda  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy W. Smith  
Ms. Lisa Snyder  
Mrs. Angela I. Soltysiak  
Ms. Dawn B. Stone  
Ms. Rebecca Streeter  
Mr. Kent Sysak  
Thumb Electric Cooperative  
Thunder Bay Winery  
Ms. Denise Tobias  
Visa  
Mr. and Mrs. Denis J. Walterreit  
Ms. Kristen L. Wiesniewski  
Ms. Christal Wiltse  
Ms. Kathy Woods  
Mr. Kyle Zarske

**Total Donors: 61**

Number of Gifts: 102

New Gifts: \$18,560.49

**Board Discussion**

Trustee Hilberg brought up the topic of distributing awards at the 2025 Honors Breakfast; there had been some confusion with the process. Dr. Gordier mentioned that College staff were addressing that situation this year by placing all of the awards for each student in an envelope labeled with the student's name.

Chair Briggs also mentioned the schedule for the end-of-semester activities. Dr. Gordier confirmed the date and time for this year's Last Lecture event: April 30 at 3 p.m. in Granum Theatre.

**Suggested Future Agenda Items**

None.

### **Next Regular Meeting**

The next regular board meeting will be on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Roger C. Bauer Board Room, Room 400 of the Charles R. Donnelly Natural Resources Center.

### **Adjournment**

The regular meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Denis J. Walterreit,  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees  
(989) 358-7215

PROPOSED