

MINUTES
FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 12, 2026
5:00 pm, Regular Meeting
FGC Administration Building, Board Room

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the District Board of Trustees was called to order on March 12, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Mr. Lindsey Lander. Vice-Chairperson Ms. Renae Allen and Trustee Mr. Chuck Brannan were absent.

All votes were unanimous unless stated otherwise.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Lindsey Lander led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Audience of Any Citizen

There was no response.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Mr. John Medina made a motion to approve the February 12, 2026 Board meeting minutes. Ms. Suzanne Norris seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

V. Student Government Report

SGA President Brianna Sweet presented the Student Government report. SGA shared student feedback gathered during a recent discussion. The primary barrier to event attendance was identified as time constraints, including academic, work, and family obligations. Students expressed interest in more frequent events and later scheduling. In response, additional afternoon events are being planned.

When asked how to improve student life with a \$10,000 budget, top suggestions included a campus coffee shop, updated dorm facilities, and electric scooters.

SGA reported hosting multiple events this month, including a therapy dog event during midterms, which received strong student engagement and positive feedback.

Upcoming initiatives include the Lucky Fest event on March 17, distribution of spring break kits on March 18–19, ongoing fundraising efforts to support a student affected by a house fire, and a follow-up student feedback session planned for April.

VI. Presentation of Consent Agenda

- A. *Personnel Matters
- B. *Routine Contracts and Agreements
- C. *Surplus Property
- D. *Approval of Course Changes
- E. *Approval of New Courses
- F. *Approval of Course Termination
- G. *Approval of College/Board Attorney Contract

Dr. James Surrency made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items “A” through “G”. Mr. John Medina seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

VII. Academic Affairs

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Kris Brady, started his report by highlighting the college’s hosting of the Florida Civics Debate Initiative regional qualifier, which brought over 160 students from 30 middle and high schools to campus and served as a strong showcase for the college. The college also hosted the Suwannee Valley Regional Science Fair, where more than 22 students advanced to the state level and four to national and international competitions.

The Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony recognized over 200 students who achieved a GPA of 3.5 or higher. In Liberal Arts, the debate team concluded its season at the state tournament and represented the college well.

In Health Sciences, there has been strong early interest in the new Massage Therapy program. In Workforce Education, the college led a regional workforce council with school districts, CareerSource, and industry partners to improve program alignment, efficiency, and collaboration across the region.

The Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence program received SACS approval and is scheduled to launch in the Fall, with initial courses already developed. The Welding Lab expansion is nearing completion, with occupancy expected at the end of April, supporting increased enrollment and additional program offerings.

VIII. Enrollment and Marketing

Ms. Kacey Mimbs, Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing, started by sharing the Spring enrollment statistics. Spring enrollment was reported at 3,033 students, up from 2,981 at the same point last spring, reflecting a 1.7% increase. Credit hours total 27,406, nearly a 1% increase over last year. Summer registration will begin on April 6. The college hosted an Open House on March 5 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., attracting approximately 200 attendees, with faculty and staff recognized for representing their programs and showcasing FGC.

In Financial Aid, the Board of Trustees scholarship application closed on March 2, receiving approximately 120 applications, which are now under review. Scholarship winners will be surprised in their classrooms during school visits scheduled from early to

mid-April. National Student Employment Week will be celebrated April 13–17, with events organized to recognize and appreciate student workers and their supervisors. In Advising, career and transfer adviser Angela Glantz has organized a University of Florida transfer-focused tour for April 2 for students in transfer pathways. Senior Night will be held on April 9 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., inviting high school seniors to celebrate their milestone and helping them get started at FGC.

The TRIO Program received a perfect federal performance score of 15 out of 15 for 2024–25, serving 100% of funded students and exceeding benchmarks for persistence, academic standing, and graduation. Liz McCardle was recognized for her leadership of the program.

Finally, FGC placed in the top 10 of the Bellwether Award competition, highlighting the college’s dual enrollment initiatives and their positive impact on student retention, continuation, and completion.

IX. Business Services

Ms. Michelle Holloway, Vice-President of Business Services requested Board consideration of the following items:

A. General Information

B. * Budget Amendment Number seven (7) Restricted Current Fund (Fund 2) Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Dr. James Surrency made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Number seven (7) Restricted Current Fund (2) Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Mr. John Medina seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. * Budget Amendment Number Seven (7) Capital Outlay Plan for Unexpended Plant Fund (7) Budget Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Mr. John Medina made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Number Seven (7) Capital Outlay Plan for Unexpended Plant Fund (7) Budget Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Dr. James Surrency seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously

X. President’s Report

Dr. Barrett began his report by announcing several upcoming events and institutional updates. Completion of the STEM 2 building is expected on May 7, 2026. Spring Graduation is scheduled for May 8, 2026, and the Second Chance Pell graduation is tentatively planned for April 23, 2026, pending final confirmation.

An update regarding the mandatory commissioner meeting was provided. This meeting affects the May board meeting, and the Chair may be required to attend in Miami. If the Chair is unavailable, Vice Chair Renae Allen has agreed to represent them. The Board is expected to maintain a quorum and proceed with the May meeting as scheduled.

Dr. Barrett then gave a brief legislative update.

Several new academic programs are under development, including X-Ray Technician, Mental Health Technician, Organizational Leadership (Bachelor's), Construction Technology, Electrical, Plumbing, and Human Services. Fall programs are proceeding as scheduled, with the academic team actively working to expand opportunities for students and meet community workforce needs.

The Board also received an update on community partnerships. The college is collaborating with Meridian Mental Health and Palms Medical Group on three downtown Lake City properties. Contracts have been executed, and plans include providing medical services, security, and eventual classroom space.

The Board acknowledged the recent dedication of the Lee Family Atrium and the Ron Chambers Classroom. The Foundation achieved a record fundraising year, generating approximately \$7.5 million in new assets, which will support ongoing and future institutional initiatives.

The Board also discussed challenges and opportunities related to K-12 education and dual enrollment. Public school enrollments are declining, and homeschooling, voucher programs, and charter schools are increasing, impacting scholarship programs. Board of Trustee scholarships currently apply only to public school students, and the Board may consider expanding eligibility to include dual enrollment and private school students. Dual enrollment students are participating in student life, extracurricular activities, and competitions, highlighting the institution's commitment to broadening access and engagement.

Finally, the Board was reminded that Dr. Barrett's April evaluation will be distributed by email and is to be addressed at the May board meeting.

XI. Topics for Future Meetings

XII. Inspect Warrant Register

XIII. Set Time for the Next Meeting

April 9, 2026

Time: 5:00 pm / Regular Meeting

Location Regular meeting:

Florida Gateway College

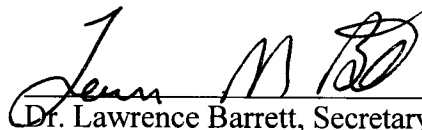
149 SE College Place

Lake City, FL 32025

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm



Mr. Lindsey Lander, Chair



Dr. Lawrence Barrett, Secretary