

Minutes  
September 16, 2026

CHEMEKETA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**BOARD WORK SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

August 26, 2026

Betsy Earls, Chair, called the Board Work Session to order at 8:16 am. The Work Session was held at the Chemeketa AG Hub in Room 102.

**Members in Attendance:** Betsy Earls, Chair; Jackie Franke; Neva Hutchinson; Birgitte Ryslinge, Vice Chair; and Diane Watson. Excused Absence: Iton Udosenata.

**College Administrators in Attendance:** Jessica Howard, President/Chief Executive Officer; Aaron Hunter, Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, College Support Services/Finance; and David Hallett, Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs Liaison. Excused Absences: Alice Sprague, Vice President, Governance and Administration; and Timor Saffary, Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs.

**Guests:** Colton Christian, Dean, Academic and Organizational Effectiveness, and Marie Hulett, Associate Vice President, Institutional Advancement.

**Review Agenda/Board Committee Assignments**

Betsy Earls, Chair, and Jessica Howard reviewed the agenda, and board general information. Betsy reviewed the 2026–2027 Board Committee Assignments and noted several changes to the board appointments for the Council of Governments and Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) board in moving to a three-year commitment for continuity. The committee assignments were affirmed.

**2025–2026 Board Evaluation and Self-Assessment**

Betsy Earls and David Hallett reviewed the compiled ratings and comments with the board and led discussions on several areas that stood out. Jessica and Alice will reword several of the assessment questions and send it to board members for their review.

**Board Guiding Principles Review**

The board discussed the guiding principles and Jessica will provide additional information to the board.

**Board Goals for 2026–2027**

The board reviewed its six goals and discussed changes. Alice Sprague will update the draft of board goals for next year and send them to the board for final review. The goals will be sent to the board for approval at a future board meeting.

The board took a recess at 9:30 am and reconvened at 9:45 am.

**Strategic Planning**

Colton Christian provided a strategic plan update. Colton covered the accreditation cycle, annual planning cycle, strategic scorecard, and the data reports planned for the board in 2026–2027.

Minutes  
September 16, 2026

Minutes of Board Work Session  
College Board of Education  
August 26, 2026  
Page 2

**Enrollment Strategies**

Jessica Howard discussed enrollment pressures, addressing K-12 population declines, the work underway regarding recruitment and retention, and strategies to address changing educational/workforce demands.

**Bond and Budget Update**

Aaron Hunter discussed the budget landscape for higher education, Oregon community colleges, Oregon four-year universities, and Chemeketa's challenges. Aaron also gave a capital project bond update and reviewed the completed and current projects.

**Marketing Report**

Marie Hulett provided a marketing update and discussed various projects, awards received, events attended, and advertising efforts over the past academic year.

**Desired Workshop Topics for 2026–2027**

Betsy Earls discussed the proposed board workshops for 2026–2027.

The board members were very engaged during the work session and asked many questions during the presentations.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Julie Deuchars**  
Board Secretary

**Jessica Howard**  
President/Chief Executive Officer

**E.A. Earls**  
Board Chair

**9/16/2026**  
Date