



Laurel Ridge Community College Board Meeting

Minutes

Laurel Ridge Community College Board

February 5, 2026; 12 PM

Laurel Ridge Community College, Middletown Campus, Corron Community Development Center, Carl & Emily Thompson Conference Center

Attendance

Present:

Members: Kim Blosser, Renard Carlos, Jeanian Clark, Joyce D'Urso, Ed Daley, JoAnn Ellwood, Will Fairhurst, Krista Farris, Ben Freakley, Ashley Hansen, Liv Heggoy, Brad Hodgson, Paul Johnson, Andrew Keller, Brandon Monk, Brian Sours, Maryam Tabatabai, Cory Thompson, Johanna Weiss, Jim Wells

Absent:

Members: William (Clay) Perry

- I. Call to Order (Presenters: Ben Freakley, College Board Chair)
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes, November 6, 2025 (Presenters: Ben Freakley, College Board Chair)

 [Laurel Ridge Community College Board Meeting Minutes - November 6, 2025.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve College Board Meeting Minutes, November 6, 2025

Motion moved by Brian Sours and motion seconded by Brad Hodgson. Motion carried unanimously.

III. New Business

- A. Recommendation to approve 2026 College Board Medallion of Recognition nominations
(Presenters: Kim Blosser, Laurel Ridge President)

President Kim Blosser reviewed the criteria for medallion recipients and guided board members to review the attached nominations for recipients of the 2026 College Board Medallion of Recognition. Nominees include Larry Baker, retired Laurel Ridge Workforce Solutions director of corporate training; Bill Long and Sandy Stonebreaker Long, Warren County citizens and business owners; and Todd Lynn (posthumous), Shenandoah County Public Schools.

Medallion recipients will be publicly recognized in the 2026 Laurel Ridge Commencement Ceremonies print program and related press release. Honorees will be presented medallions during a recognition ceremony held in May 2026.

 [Recommendation Memo - Medallion Recognition 2026.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve 2026 College Board Medallion of Recognition nominations

Motion moved by Ed Daley and motion seconded by Brian Sours. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Recommendation to approve 2026 Laurel Ridge Professors Emeriti nominations (Presenters: Kim Blosser, Laurel Ridge President)

President Kim Blosser guided board members to review the attached nominations for professor emeritus to be conferred in 2026. Nominees include Eunice Myers, retired assistant professor of mathematics, and Brenda Wiens, retired professor of biology.

Professor emeritus nominations are submitted by Laurel Ridge full-time faculty. Nominees must meet certain criteria including having taught for ten or more years, retired for at least one year prior to being nominated, and exhibiting exemplary work during their tenure with the College. There is a maximum of two nominees allotted per year.

Professor emeritus honorees will be publicly recognized in the 2026 Laurel Ridge Commencement Ceremonies print program and related press release. Honorees will be recognized in-person during a special ceremony held in May 2026.

 [Recommendation Memo - Professor Emeritus 2026.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve 2026 Laurel Ridge Professors Emeriti nominations

Motion moved by Brandon Monk and motion seconded by Maryam Tabatabai. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Recommendation to approve 2026 Laurel Ridge Classified Staff Emeriti nominations (Presenters: Kim Blosser, Laurel Ridge President)

President Kim Blosser guided board members to review the attached nominations for classified staff emeritus to be conferred in 2026. Nominees

include Steve Ayers, retired trades technician; Linda Bursey, retired administrative office specialist; and Sarah Kibler, retired trades technician. Classified staff emeritus nominations are submitted by Laurel Ridge classified staff members. Nominees must meet certain criteria including having been employed full-time by the college or VCCS for ten or more years, being retired for at least one year prior to being nominated, and exhibiting exemplary work during their tenure with the college.

Classified staff emeritus honorees will be publicly recognized in the 2026 Laurel Ridge Commencement Ceremonies print program and related press release. Honorees will be recognized in-person during a special ceremony held in May 2026.

 [Recommendation Memo - Classified Staff Emeritus 2026.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve 2026 Laurel Ridge Classified Staff Emeriti nominations
Motion moved by Maryam Tabatabai and motion seconded by Brad Hodgson.
Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Recommendation to approve President Evaluation Procedures 2025-26
(Presenters: Ben Freakley, College Board Chair)

Board Chair Ben Freakley recommended to board members that the proposed procedure for the President's evaluation be consistent with years prior. In April, Dr. Kim Blosser will provide board members with a written progress report on the AY 2025-26 Laurel Ridge Institutional Priorities. At the April board meeting, Dr. Blosser will give a verbal progress report on these goals.

After the April College Board meeting, board members will complete an anonymous electronic survey evaluating the President's performance over the 2025-26 academic year. A sample survey was included as an attachment for review. The College Board Chair will review the survey results and draft a letter of evaluation for board review. Upon board member approval, the letter will be sent to the Chancellor in May 2026.

 [Recommendation Memo - President Evaluation Approve process 2026.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve President Evaluation Procedures 2025-26
Motion moved by Brad Hodgson and motion seconded by Brandon Monk.
Motion carried unanimously.

- E. College Board Budget FY2026 quarterly update

(Presenters: Cory Thompson, Laurel Ridge, Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services)

Laurel Ridge Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services reviewed with board members the attached College Board Budget quarterly update including local contributions and expenses as of the second quarter of fiscal year 2026. This was an information item and required no further action.

 [Information Item - FY26 Q2 College Board Budget 2.2026.pdf](#)

- F. Recommendation to approve Renaming Computer Science Generalist CSC to Computer Science CSC
(Presenters: Johanna Weiss, Laurel Ridge, Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs)

Johanna Weiss recommended the name change of the existing Computer Science Generalist Career Studies Certificate to Computer Science Career Studies Certificate for board approval. Board members reviewed the attached curricular proposal.

 [College Board Recommendation Form - Rename Computer Science CSC.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve Renaming Computer Science Generalist CSC to Computer Science CSC

Motion moved by Ed Daley and motion seconded by William Fairhurst. Motion carried unanimously.

- G. Recommendation to approve AY2026-27 College Board meeting dates
(Presenters: Ben Freakley, College Board Chair)

 [2026-27 Laurel Ridge Community College Board calendar of meetings.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve AY2026-27 College Board meeting dates

Motion moved by Ed Daley and motion seconded by Andrew Keller. Motion carried unanimously.

- IV. Report of the College Board Chair
(Presenters: Ben Freakley, College Board Chair)

Chairman Ben Freakley recognized the upcoming retirement of Chris Coutts, vice president of communications and Fauquier campus provost at Laurel Ridge. He expressed sincere appreciation for Dr. Coutts' many years of dedicated leadership and

service to the college. Chairman Freakley also reported that Caroline Wood, associate vice president of student success, has announced her departure from Laurel Ridge after accepting a vice president position at a college in Maryland. The administration is actively managing the transition and has initiated the posting and recruitment process for both vacant positions.

The Chairman noted positive momentum in the college's Power Line Worker Program, which continues to experience growth and strong performance.

Chairman Freakley also shared that Justin Pence, recently elected to the Virginia House of Delegates representing the 33rd District, visited the college and participated in a campus tour.

In closing, Chairman Freakley commended the college's building and grounds team for their effective management of recent snow and inclement weather events, highlighting their professionalism and commitment to maintaining safe and accessible campus operations.

V. Report of the Laurel Ridge Educational Foundation Representative
(Presenters: Brian Sours, College Board member, Page County)

The Educational Foundation Board met on December 11, 2025, and its next meeting is scheduled for February 16. During the December meeting, the Board received an update on the power line training facility project. The project remains on schedule, with design work completed and permit approvals currently underway. Construction is anticipated to begin in the third quarter of 2026. In support of the project, the HITT Family Foundation has pledged a \$250,000 matching gift. Additionally, the Board noted positive outcomes from the program's first cohort, with seven of ten graduates successfully placed in employment.

The Board also discussed the ongoing process related to the college's acquisition of the Student Union from the Foundation, which continues to move forward. There is active legislation currently under consideration in both the House and Senate, with committee-level legislative reviews expected over the coming weeks.

Several upcoming special events were highlighted, including the Donor Appreciation Luncheon scheduled for March 27 and the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Luray–Page County Center, to be held later this summer.

VI. Reports of the College
(Presenters: Kim Blosser, President; Jeanian Clark, Vice President, Workforce Solutions; Johanna Weiss, Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs; Cory Thompson, Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services; JoAnn Ellwood, Associate Vice President, Human Resources; Liv Heggoy, Associate Vice President, Development)

 [College Board - Reports of the College - February 2026.pdf](#)

- VII. College Board Calendar of Meetings and Engagements
(Presenters: Ben Freakley, College Board Chair)

 [College Board Calendar of Meetings and Engagements - February 2026.pdf](#)

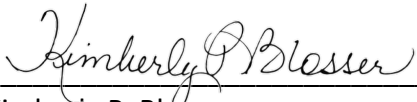
- VIII. Adjournment
(Presenters: Ben Freakley, College Board Chair)

Motion:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 1:17 p.m.

Motion moved by Ed Daley and motion seconded by Joyce D'Urso. Motion carried unanimously.

SUBMITTED BY:



Kimberly P. Blosser
President, Laurel Ridge Community College;
Secretary, Laurel Ridge Community College
Board

APPROVED BY:



Benjamin C. Freakley
Chair, Laurel Ridge Community College
Board

Copy + Attachments to: All College Board Members and College Senior Leadership members.
Copy of Approved Laurel Ridge Community College Board Minutes – November 6, 2025, filed
with Dr. David Doré, Chancellor, Virginia Community College System.