EASTERN FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

June 8, 2026
10:30 a.m.

Public Safety Institute – Building 8
3^{rd} Floor – Board Room 301
Melbourne Campus

Present: Ronald Howse, Chair; Dr. Edgar Figueroa, Vice Chair; Dr. Kristine Zonka; and Dr. James H. Richey, Secretary
Absent: Bruce Deardoff and Michael DeMorat

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Howse called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. and acknowledged a quorum with three board members. Mr. Howse stated that Trustee Bruce Deardoff may call in and announced the new appointment of Trustee Michael DeMorat. Mr. Howse reported that Mr. DeMorat had a scheduling conflict and was not in attendance. The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mr. Howse asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Figueroa so moved. Dr. Zonka seconded the motion. ***Action:*** motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Figueroa, Zonka, and Howse.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A. Minutes, Board of Trustees Meeting – April 13, 2026

Mr. Howse inquired if anyone had any comments or changes to the minutes and asked for a formal motion to approve the Board of Trustees minutes dated April 13, 2026. Dr. Figueroa motioned for the approval. Dr. Zonka seconded the motion. ***Action:*** motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Figueroa, Zonka, and Howse.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Howse reported there were no public comments.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Summary of Income and Expenditures through April 2026
B. Approval of 2026-27 College Fees Schedule
C. Approval of General Education Review Packet
D. Approval of FY 2025-2026 Write-Off of Uncollectible Accounts
E. Approval of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2027-2030
F. Approval of Five-Year Educational Plant Survey
G. Approval of FY 2025-2026 Capital Asset Disposal of College Property
H. Approval of MOU between EFSC and EFSC Student Housing Corporation for College Property, Facilities, and Personal Services FY 2026-2027
I. Approval of MOU between EFSC and Maxwell C. King Center for the Performing Arts for College Property, Facilities, and Personal Services FY 2026-2027
J. Approval of MOU between EFSC and EFSC Foundation for College Property, Facilities, and Personal Services FY 2026-2027

Mr. Howse inquired whether anyone wished to remove or discuss any of the consent agenda items. Hearing no requests, Mr. Howse asked for a motion to approve items A – J listed. A motion was made by Dr. Figueroa and seconded by Dr. Zonka. ***Action:*** motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Figueroa, Zonka, and Howse.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of College Annual Operating and Capital Outlay Budgets, FY 2026-2027

Mr. Howse invited Dr. Richey to present the College's Annual Operating and Capital Outlay Budgets for 2026-2027. Dr. Richey announced that the final state budget had been passed and sent to the Governor. Dr. Richey reported there would be a slight increase in overall state appropriations for next year once the budget is signed. Dr. Richey also stated that the college is very appreciative of the funding increase and equally thankful that Florida leaders continue to recognize the outstanding value and performance the college puts forth year after year. Dr. Richey assured that EFSC will continue to provide students with the support and an outstanding education they need to be successful in the coming year. Additionally, Dr. Richey announced that the college's per credit rate for both lower division and baccalaureate Florida residents remains the same at $104 and $128.51 per credit. Non-resident-per-credit rates will also remain unchanged at $405.76 and $508.92. This marks the fifteenth year in a row the college has not raised tuition while fully funding all existing and approximately 86 new programs developed over the past few years.

Dr. Richey stated that next year the college will continue to have substantial additional expenses that need to be addressed in the budget. Among those discussed was an increase in health insurance costs. Dr. Richey explained that while the increase was significant, employees and those with family coverage have greatly benefited from the program due to lower contributions from them for the insurance. Dr. Richey further explained that the college will continue to pay 100 percent of the premium for individual base employee plans and will be reevaluated on a year-to-year basis. Dr. Richey emphasized that the employees are at the heart of what we do to accomplish the mission every day, and this benefit will continue as long as it is fiscally appropriate.

Next, Dr. Richey discussed the collaborative work between the full-time faculty and the administrative team working diligently on the collective bargaining agreement. Dr. Richey was pleased to report that a tentative agreement was reached, which includes a negotiated increase of $1550 plus one percent of base salary per full-time faculty member. Dr. Richey also announced a 2.5 percent cost of living increase for all non-probationary full-time staff, all regular part-time staff, and all adjunct instructors, effective July 1, 2026.

To address the challenges and meet the state-mandated fund balance of 5 percent, the college considered other items in the budget. Unneeded or vacant full-time and part-time positions have been eliminated. Dr. Richey explained that the college would consider hiring new employees only after hiring managers have analyzed all aspects of the perceived need in consultation with the vice presidents. After all issues are considered, the vice presidents will make a recommendation to the president at which a final decision will be made to add any additional employees. This approach will provide more oversight of organizational costs while continuing to meet student needs. Considering these facts and netting revenues of $94,069,000 against the expenses and transfers of $97,693,000 there will be a reduction in fund balance of $3,624,000 which results in a final fund balance of $5,164,000 or 5 percent, which meets the state mandate.

Dr. Richey concluded with an overview of the capital outlay budget. The approval of the FY 2026-2027 capital budget will allow the college to continue planning capital projects including upgrades to the technological and physical footprint, upgrades to some college facilities, and for some small projects to certain college systems in addition to general maintenance of infrastructure. Dr. Richey expressed his gratitude to the governor, the local delegation, and legislative consultant, Steve Crisafulli, for all their support.

Dr. Richey recommended approval of both the operating and capital outlay budgets for FY 2026-2027 and opened the floor for any questions.

No questions were presented; therefore Mr. Howse asked for a motion to approve the College Annual Operating and Capital Outlay Budgets. Dr Zonka motioned to approve, and Dr. Figueroa seconded the motion. ***Action***: motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Zonka, Figueroa, and Howse.

B. Approval of Annual Operating Budget, EFSC Student Housing Corp., FY 2026-27

Dr. Richey invited Ms. Laura Maxwell, Vice President of Operations/CFO to present the EFSC Student Housing budget. Ms. Maxwell reported the revenue to be $1.5 million, which is mostly rental from the room fees. Ms. Maxwell added that the expenses were projected at $1.5 million, which is primarily the mortgage payment to the bank. Mr. Howse asked for a motion to approve the EFSC Student Housing Annual Operating Budget. Dr. Figueroa motioned to approve, and Dr. Zonka seconded the motion. ***Action***: motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Figueroa, Zonka, and Howse.

C. Approval of Annual Operating Budget, Maxwell C. King Center, FY 2026-2027

Dr. Richey asked Ms. Maxwell to present the KCPA budget report. Ms. Maxwell stated that $140,000 in interest dividends from the endowment would be expected, and the expenses are the same at $140,000 for audit and portfolio fees along with other miscellaneous items. Upon hearing no questions from the board, Mr. Howse asked for a motion to approve the Maxwell C. King Center Annual Operating Budget. Dr. Figueroa motioned to approve, and Dr. Zonka seconded the motion. ***Action***: motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Figueroa, Zonka, and Howse.

D. Approval of Annual Operating Budget, EFSC Foundation, FY 2026-27

Dr. Richey invited Victoria Jones, Interim Executive Director for the EFSC Foundation, to discuss the Foundation budget. Ms. Jones stated the projected budget was kept in line with last year's budget. The largest adjustment accounted for an increase in scholarship disbursements, with a goal of increasing that amount by approximately $100,000 each year.

Mr. Howse asked for a motion to approve the EFSC Foundation Annual Operating Budget. Dr. Figueroa motioned to approve, and Dr. Zonka seconded the motion. ***Action***: motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Figueroa, Zonka, and Howse.

E. Approval of Brevard Police Testing Center Operating Budget, FY 2026-2027

Mr. James Gibbens, Director of the Brevard Police Testing and Selection Center, presented the FY 2026-2027 Brevard Police Testing Center Operating Budget. Mr. Gibbens stated that there was a projected increase in user fees, Clerk of Court distributions, and fringe benefits. The call-sharing contributions were projected to remain the same as last year. Due to an increase in vendor prices, Mr. Gibbens requested a reasonable increase in user fees. Additionally, a new line item was added to the budget for independent contract services for fingerprinting the EMT, paramedic, and firefighter applicants. Mr. Gibbens reported that the trust fund is healthy, with an increase from $171,000 in 2017 to the current balance of $315,000. Mr. Gibbens confirmed that the trust fund is fiscally strong and will allow for a possible drawdown of funds, if needed. Mr. Gibbens concluded by stating that this budget was approved by the Brevard Police Testing Center Board of Directors on May 21, 2026, and was recommended for approval to the Eastern Florida Board of Trustees. Mr. Howse asked for a motion to approve the Brevard Police Testing Center Operating Budget, FY 2026-2027. Dr. Figueroa motioned to approve, and Dr. Zonka seconded the motion. ***Action***: motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Figueroa, Zonka, and Howse.

F. Approval of Schedule of Meetings of Board of Trustees, FY 2026-2027

Mr. Howse acknowledged that the item was discussed after the Student Housing DSO Report, Item VIII, A, out of agenda order. The proposed meeting schedule for the Board of Trustees remained consistent with previous years: August 3, 2026; October 12, 2026; December 7, 2026; February 8, 2027; April 12, 2027; and June 14, 2027, all at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Howse asked for a motion to approve the Schedule of Meetings of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Figueroa motioned to approve, and Dr. Zonka seconded the motion. ***Action***: motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Figueroa, Zonka, and Howse.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Howse stated there were no presentations.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Howse stated there was no old business.

VIII. DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION TRUSTEE REPORTS

A. EFSC Student Housing Corporation

Dr. Richey invited Mr. Jack Parker, VP of External Affairs, to present the report for the Student Housing Corporation. Mr. Parker began by acknowledging VP Laura Maxwell for all the dedication she and her team have put into shaping the budget for the Student Housing Corporation. Next, Mr. Parker recognized Ms. Michelle Herrnkind, Support Services Coordinator; Mr. Ricky Carswell, Security Administrative Sergeant; and the housing team for the great work on the occupancy rate. Mr. Parker reported the occupancy rate for the fall term was 100 percent and there were 55 students in housing for the summer, although lower occupancy was to be expected for the summer term. Mr. Parker also acknowledged Ms. Paola Moneymaker, Associate Dean of Student Life, and her team in student services for their efforts in organizing the activities for the housing students throughout the year. Lastly, Mr. Parker announced that a move-in event was planned for the upcoming fall term.

B. EFSC Foundation

Dr. Figueroa invited Ms. Victoria Jones to present the report for the EFSC Foundation. Ms. Jones reported that the Foundation and Alumni Association hosted a table at commencement where information cards were distributed to all graduates to remind them that they are officially EFSC alumni. Next, Ms. Jones announced that the planning for the annual golf tournament was underway and registration would open in July. Additionally, the Foundation would be working with the enrollment management team through the *Go Higher* events, which serves as a pipeline from local high schools to college enrollment numbers. Limited scholarships would become available to students who meet established criteria. Ms. Jones also announced that the Foundation remained on track to award $1.3 million in scholarships and the fall 2026 scholarship application selection is underway. Lastly, Ms. Jones introduced Ms. Christen Mea, the Foundation's new Donor Relations & Scholarship Manager.

C. King Center for Performing Arts

Nick Palmiotti, the new General Manager of the King Center, introduced himself to the board and outlined his leadership priorities. His focus areas include growing revenue and financial performance through increased bookings and event programming; enhancing the guest experience to ensure every visitor has high-quality experiences; maintaining strong entertainment programming despite competition in the regional market; and investing in staff and volunteer development, recognizing their critical role in the venue's success.

Mr. Palmiotti highlighted several successful events that drew more than 1,000 paid attendees, including Gary Owen, Leonid & Friends, Samantha Fish, Brit Floyd, and Theresa Caputo. Other major events included Rodney Carrington, Josh Gates, Beetlejuice, and the Happy Together Tour. Mr. Palmiotti also noted the importance of hosting seven graduation ceremonies, which welcomed hundreds of students and families to the King Center.

Mr. Palmiotti announced many future events, which included a Community Open House on June 11th, Classic Albums Live which began June 13th, and Travis Tritt on June 25th. Recent concert announcements included Stayin' Alive (Bee Gees tribute), Josh Turner, Ashley McBryde, Buddy Guy, and The Rock Orchestra.

Mr. Palmiotti gave an update on the fiscal performance detailing strong growth during the 2025–2026 season. Ticket sales increased 4%, generating $223,000 more revenue than the previous year. Total ticket revenue reached $6.2 million and roughly $1 million of ticket revenue came from new ticket buyers. Approximately $1.1 million came from customers outside Brevard County, which supported local economic activity. The venue hosted 98 ticketed events, up from 89 events the previous year and membership revenue increased 6%, with significant growth in higher-tier memberships. Mr. Palmiotti reported that bookings for the upcoming fiscal year are ahead of where they were at the same time last year, indicating strong future performance. Mr. Palmiotti also announced a partnership with Lexus to install a new concrete display pad at the front of the venue, enhancing the appearance of both the display and the facility.

Lastly, Mr. Palmiotti recognized the King Center's nearly 200 volunteers, who contributed 13,750 hours during the fiscal year. He emphasized that their dedication is essential to the organization's success.

Vice-Chair Dr. Figueroa asked whether the King Center has analyzed the demographics of new ticket buyers and whether current programming aligns with Brevard County's changing population. Mr. Palmiotti said he did not have that data available but would research the issue and provide additional information. The board welcomed him and expressed enthusiasm about working together.

IX. TRUSTEE'S CLOSING COMMENTS

During closing remarks, board members and college leadership expressed their appreciation for EFSC faculty, staff, and students, while reflecting on the institution's achievements and impact. Dr. Figueroa thanked the entire EFSC community for their dedication and hard work, noting that while leadership sets the direction, the college's success is driven by employees, volunteers, and supporters who consistently exceed expectations.

Graduation success rates and student achievement were discussed. Several speakers highlighted the recent graduation ceremony as a major accomplishment. Dr. Figueroa praised the large number of honor graduates, noting that an overwhelming percentage of graduates earned academic honors. Dr. Richey reported that it was the largest graduation ceremony in the college's history in terms of students participating, with nearly 800 graduates walking. Both emphasized that the strong attendance reflected students' pride in their achievements and the life-changing impact of the college. Dr. Zonka shared her experience attending a previous graduation, describing the emotional reactions of families, students, and faculty and thanking employees for their role in making those moments possible.

Dr. Figueroa expressed gratitude to Governor DeSantis for his recent reappointment to the Board and said he was honored to continue serving alongside his fellow trustees.

The college growth and achievements were discussed by Mr. Howse and Dr. Figueroa. Mr. Howse reflected on the college's long-term success, noting EFSC has not increased tuition in 15 years. The college has continued providing employee raises while adapting to changes such as remote education. The institution has expanded programs that meet community workforce needs, including dental hygiene and aircraft maintenance.

Dr. Figueroa also highlighted the Foundation reaching an all-time high in fundraising for student scholarships, continued athletic success, including NJCAA championships, and student-athletes excelling academically as well as athletically.

X. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING COMMENTS

Dr. Richey emphasized that Florida's state college system is unique in its ability to offer bachelor's degrees and workforce-focused education, creating significant economic and educational opportunities for the community.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

APPROVED: ______________________________
Chair, District Board of Trustees

APPROVED: ______________________________
Secretary, District Board of Trustees