Exhibit A

New River Community College Board
Meeting Number Three Hundred Seventy-Four

MINUTES

June 1, 2026

Meeting number three hundred seventy-four of the New River Community College Board was held on Monday, June 1, 2026, at Claytor Lake State Park.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Mr. Craig Chancellor (Floyd County)
Mr. William (Bill) Cunningham (Pulaski County)
Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Dewald-Link (Floyd County)
Mr. John Hale (Giles County)
Dr. Richard (Dick) Harshberger (Radford City)
Mr. Eric Johnsen (Montgomery County)
Ms. Jessica Littlejohn (Montgomery County)
Mr. Cameron Peel (Pulaski County)
Mr. Jonathan Sweet (Pulaski County)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
Mr. Christopher (Chris) Calfee (Radford City)
Mr. Chris McKlarney (Giles County)
Ms. Bobbie Potter (Montgomery County)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT
Ms. Melissa Anderson, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services
Dr. Peter Anderson, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services
Dr. Robert Brandon, President
Dr. Pam Hanks, Dean of Instructional Services and Innovation
Dr. Deborah Kennedy, Executive Director NRCC Educational Foundation
Dr. Tammy Parks, Faculty Assembly President
Dr. Kelley Pennell, Dean of Health Professions
Ms. Tammy Smith, Dean of Student Services
Ms. Kathy Ridpath, Administrative Assistant, President's Office
Dr. Mark Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations
Dr. Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz – Dean of Arts and Sciences

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Call to Order**

   Mr. Bill Cunningham, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present and due notice had been mailed and published.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Cunningham welcomed everyone in attendance.

3. Agenda for Approval

Mr. Cunningham asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: Dr. Dick Harshberger made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Jonathan Sweet seconded the motion.
Action: The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Minutes for Approval

The minutes of meeting number three hundred seventy-three, held on Monday, March 2, 2026, were disseminated in the meeting packet. No questions were posed. Mr. Cunningham asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: Mr. Eric Johnsen made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cameron Peel seconded the motion. Mr. Craig Chancellor abstained.
Action: The motion was approved.

5. President's Report

Enrollment
Dr. Brandon provided an update on enrollment. He referred to a graph showing fall semester enrollment headcount trends from 1992 through 2025. Questions were posed and discussed. He also reported that the summer enrollment shows an increase of 2 percent over last year. At this point, enrollment for the fall semester shows an increase of 8.5 percent. He noted that enrollment for online classes shows an increase.

Graduation Discussion
Dr. Brandon provided an update on the recent graduation ceremonies, noting that approximately 712 students graduated. He discussed challenges related to accommodating guests and reported that a committee has been formed to explore potential solutions. Suggestions made by faculty/staff include implementing a ticketing system, moving the ceremony to an off-campus venue, conducting three separate graduation ceremonies, or holding a single outdoor ceremony. He asked Board members to reach out to him with any feedback or further suggestions on this issue. Their feedback will be given to the committee. One suggestion, unrelated to the seating issue, was to provide live music before and after the ceremony.

President's Evaluation Information
Dr. Brandon provided information on his recent evaluation meeting with the Chancellor. The Chancellor provided six priorities for the colleges and NRCC met all six. He expressed appreciation for the feedback the board members provided on the survey. He also expressed appreciation to the Personnel Committee for providing the letter that was sent to the Chancellor.

Goals 2026-2027

Dr. Brandon referred to the document "Goals and Focus areas for 2026-2027" that was distributed. He stated that after looking at institutional analysis and his conversations with faculty, staff, and students, these focus areas were created. Some of these goals fit the system goals, and some fit the institutional goals. He asked the board for their feedback. One suggestion from the board included additional parking spaces in parking lot A. Dr. Brandon reported that this will be included in the upcoming master plan. He asked the board to let him know if they have additional feedback on the goals for FY2026-2027.

Dr. Brandon reported that tuition will increase for the next academic year beginning with the fall semester. Additionally, beginning Fall 2026, the VCCS will introduce new per-credit-hour course fees for select high-cost Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. He reported that the Foundation have increased the scholarship awards in preparation for these additional costs. Questions were raised and discussed.

6. Instruction and Student Services

Industrial Advisory Committees

Proposed membership lists for all industrial advisory committees for the Career Technical Education programs (exhibit B) were distributed in the meeting packet. The committees consist of educational and industrial members. Dr. Anderson stated that these committees are vital to the work of the college. The committees formally meet with faculty in September of each year to discuss the direction of the programs and informally during the year. Mr. Cunningham asked for a motion and second to approve the Industrial Advisory Committees.

Motion: Mr. Sweet made a motion to approve the advisory committees. Mr. Peel seconded the motion.

Action: The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Workforce Development and External Relations

Mission Statement

Dr. Mark Rowh reported that the college is required by the accrediting agency to review the mission statement every five years. He referred to the proposed revised mission statement that had been distributed and noted that feedback from faculty and staff had been incorporated into the revision. He stated that no substantial substantive changes had been made to the statement. He asked the board to review the proposed revisions. He then recommended approval of the revised mission statement.

Motion: Mr. Sweet made a motion to approve the revised mission statement. Dr. Harshberger seconded the motion.

Action: The motion was unanimously approved.

8. NRCC Educational Foundation

Scholarship Update

Dr. Deborah Kennedy reported that the Foundation awarded 540 scholarships this past year, an increase of 92 students compared with the 2024-2025 academic year. She also reported that scholarship funding for the upcoming year will total $1,075,000, up from $739,000 last year, representing a 45 percent increase. In addition, she noted that the scholarship awards will now cover six credits.

ACCE Update

Dr. Kennedy provided an update on the ACCE program. She stated that for the 2024-2025 academic year, 270 students received ACCE funding. This past year 268 students received ACCE funding. She reported that enrollment for ACCE students has not been finalized for the fall semester but noted there are 467 who have accepted ACCE.

Pathways to Professions

Dr. Kennedy provided an update on the Pathways to Professions initiative. The goal was to create an endowment large enough to pay for licensing and credentialing fees in perpetuity for students. The Foundation is working toward a total of a $2 million endowment to pay for these fees. At this point, the Foundation has $1.1 million. She noted that fees have been covered this year for about 60 nursing students that included fees for the NCLEX exam, Virginia Board of Nursing registration, and background check fees. She noted that when the $2 million endowment is reached, the Foundation will be able to cover fees for all students (nursing, skilled trades, IT, etc.). The college's Public Relations and Marketing team is working on a press release that will be shared.

Dr. Kennedy expressed appreciation for all who supported the "sponsor a graduate" campaign. The Foundation was able assist 38 graduating students with their caps and gowns.

9. Schedule of Meetings 2026-2027

The schedule of meetings for 2026-2027 was presented in the Board packets that were previously disseminated. Mr. Cunningham asked for a motion and second to approve the schedule.

Motion: Mr. John Hale made a motion to approve the schedule. Mr. Sweet seconded the motion.
Action: The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Report of the Nominations Committee

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Mr. Eric Johnsen nominated Mr. Cunningham as Chair and Mr. Chris Calfee as Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. Dr. Harshberger made a motion to close the nominations.

Action: The recommendation and motions were unanimously approved.

Mr. Cunningham expressed appreciation to the Board for the reappointment as chair.

11. Open Discussion/Q&A Session

There was no further discussion.

12. Special Recognitions

Mr. Cunningham recognized Ms. Jessica Littlejohn, Mr. Chris McKlarney, and Mr. Jonathan Sweet as they retired from the board. Those members present were presented with an appreciation plaque. Ms. Littlejohn and Mr. Sweet thanked the Board and expressed their appreciation for the years served on the Board.

13. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the New River Community College Board is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2026, at the Christiansburg site. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Cunningham

Mr. Bill Cunningham, Chair

Robert R. Brandon

Dr. Robert Brandon, Secretary