

BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

1. Call to Order

The four hundred and eleventh regular meeting of the Bristol Community College Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, March, 20, 2024, in person on the Fall River campus located at 777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, Massachusetts, in the John J. Sbrega Health & Science Building (J-137, Clinical Conference Room). The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m.

Trustees present: Joan Medeiros, Chair; Jeffrey Karam, Vice Chair; Valentina Videva Dufresne, Secretary; Frank Baptista; Renee Clark; Pamela Gauvin; Joseph Ferreir~~2~~neretreat

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to 10%.

- With the possibility of free community college in FY25 the Colleges may not have local control over setting fees in the future. Management feels it is important to position ourselves in the middle of the 15 schools and not be so focused on being in the bottom third as we have been for decades when students bore the greater brunt of the cost.
- Inflation continues to be a problem in constraining costs. FY25 will include an increase in faculty salaries of over 8%.
- Bristol was once a leader in the amount of reserves among the 15 community colleges. We are now #8 despite being the fourth largest school. Increasing fees along with growing enrollment will help the school build up a modest level of reserves.
- If free community college passes it will take the burden of the fees off the student and move it to the federal and state governments. Schools will be reimbursed based on their fee rate so schools charging more will get a larger state appropriation than the less expensive schools.

Trustee Motta shared the Finance and Budget Committee voted unanimously to increase fees \$12 per credit effective for the fall 2024 semester. Trustee Motta asked for