



March 19, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 120
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 839 – Frederick Community College – Board of Trustees – Meeting and Training Requirements

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Frederick Community College Board of Trustees (the Board) and thank you to the Frederick County Delegation for their communication with the Board during the delegation process earlier this Session. The Board respectfully opposes House Bill 839, which would mandate in statute certain requirements for Board meetings, including requiring the opportunity for public comment at all Board meetings and mandating the recording of all meetings and certain posting requirements for those recordings. The Board voted at its January 21, 2026 meeting not to support the legislation and, at its February 18, 2026 meeting, to provide testimony in opposition.

The Board is strongly supportive of transparency and public engagement practices and has already taken several proactive steps to ensure the Frederick County community has the ability to meaningfully engage with the Board and its members on FCC policies and matters. The Board already conducts its work in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Agendas are posted in advance, meetings are open to the public, and minutes are published. In 2021, the Board moved its regular meetings to a larger venue on campus to better accommodate public presence and make it a more welcoming environment for members of the community and permit virtual access to meetings for community members who cannot attend in person. Earlier this year, the Board affirmatively voted to amend its bylaws to allow for public comment at Board meetings. These practices demonstrate a commitment to transparency without the need for statutory prescription and illustrate the Board's ability and willingness to work with our public officials to improve transparency and access through the institutional bylaw process. Members of the public are also free to share feedback with Trustees at any time outside of public meetings (via email), and the Board intentionally seeks community input through structured community input processes to inform the long-term direction of the College.



While the Board supports openness and transparency intended by the proposed legislation, it has concerns that HB839 sets a precedence of codifying Board practices and potentially politicizing Board activities. We are not elected officials, and the work before us is nonpartisan in nature. Community colleges in Maryland are governed by Governor-appointed Boards that are responsible for setting policies tailored to the needs of their counties and students. The proposed legislation would replace this longstanding local discretion with a one-size-fits-all statutory mandate. Boards already have the authority to adopt public participation policies that reflect their community's expectations, and many—including Frederick Community College—have done so. Codifying specific operational requirements in state law would limit the Board's ability to adjust procedures as circumstances evolve. Additionally, creating statutory requirements for select entities already subject to the Open Meetings Act raises questions of consistency and necessity.

The proposed legislation would have operational and fiscal impacts on FCC due to the recording requirements in the Bill. The Board has consulted with similar bodies in Frederick County, including the Frederick County Board of Education and potential vendors, about technology modifications it would need to ensure reasonable and regular compliance with the proposed bill. Based on that research, initial cost estimates indicate a \$15,000 cost to implement enhanced meeting recording capabilities and ensure recording fidelity. During this difficult fiscal environment when budgets and funding are increasingly tight, any additional unfunded mandates on Board operations are difficult to fund.

With respect to trustee training, every member of this Board participates in a comprehensive onboarding process, including mandatory ethics training with the Maryland State Ethics Commission and annual financial disclosure filings. FCC Board Policy requires the Board maintain at least two Trustees who have completed Maryland Open Meetings Act training conducted by the Office of the Attorney General; the Board currently has four Trustees who have completed this training. Trustees also engage in ongoing professional development through nationally recognized organizations, including the Association of Community College Trustees and Govern for Impact. Since January 2023, the Board has participated in more than 40 hours of professional development retreats, all documented in publicly posted Board minutes, and conducts regular self-evaluation in accordance with Board policy.

The concern cited as the impetus for this legislation involved records related to a donation for the FCC Children's Center. While the FCC Foundation, a separate 501(c)(3) organization, is responsible for donor records, the College responded to all requests for institutional documents related to the purpose of the donation, including Board minutes. The November 8, 2000 Board minutes and the College's memo for renaming request are attached.

Although this bill has been described as modeled after legislation enacted last year regarding Howard Community College, that legislation arose from a specific set of circumstances at that institution and addressed a broader range of governance matters. Frederick Community College is not facing those circumstances.

Again, the Board thanks the Committee and the Delegation for the opportunity to share its concerns about House Bill 839 as introduced and respectfully urges an unfavorable report. The Board already operates within a comprehensive statutory and regulatory framework that ensures transparency, accountability, and responsible governance. Frederick Community College was recently reaffirmed for accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which identified no areas of non-compliance related to Board governance, transparency, or public engagement. The Board remains committed to working with the members of the Delegation, this Committee and the Frederick County community to ensure transparency and enhanced communication with the public and looks forward to pursuing those goals through a collaborative, local process.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick Community College Board of Trustees

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

November 8, 2000

Prior to the start of the regular meeting of the Board, the members of the Board held a "conversation" with Dr. Claudia Chiesi, Harford Community College President, and Ms. Wanda Hutchinson, Harford Community College HR Director, at 6:00 p.m. in the President's Conference Room (A200e).

The Board of Trustees of Frederick Community College met in regular session on Wednesday, November 8, 2000 in the College Board Room (A201). In attendance: Trustees Brad Young, Chair; Doris J. White, Vice-Chair; George H. Littrell, III; Dixie J. Miller; William H. Poffenbarger; and Deborah E. Voso. Excused: Trustee Thaddious L. Goodman. Also in attendance: President Patricia Stanley, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board; Wilma Woodfield, Recording Secretary; Ted Taft, Faculty Association Chair; Doug Holt, Administrative Staff Association Chair; and members of the College staff.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Chair Brad Young at 7:00 p.m. The chair introduced the Affinity Group representatives who were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Trustee White, seconded by Trustee Miller, the minutes of the October 25, 2000 regular meeting of the Board were unanimously approved.

COLLEGE REPORTS

College Highlights - Director of Marketing and Public Relations Mike Pritchard informed the Board of various activities which have recently taken place on campus, or will take place in the near future, as well as information on various staff and College recognitions. A complete report is available in the Marketing and Public Relations Office.

Boy Scouts of America - International Leadership Program - A representative from the Boy Scouts of America, Bran Thompson, extended his appreciation on behalf of the Boy Scouts to Kathie Wood and Peg Mauzy for their efforts to award college credits to Boy Scouts for their International Leadership Program. There were 35 people (including 12 adults) who participated in the most recent travel program.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) - Trustee Young gave an update on MACC's efforts to broaden its role in helping state community colleges. The issue will be discussed again in December. By-Law changes have been published and will be presented for vote at their meeting on December 7.

Interagency Information Technologies (IIT) - Trustee Littrell gave an update on the county's Interagency Information Technologies Authority, the governing body that oversees information technology issues in the county. He reported that they are undergoing a functional re-alignment, working on the roles and responsibilities of the agency and its user groups. They are also ranking applications for the interview process to hire the new Director.

ACTION ITEMS

The following action items recommended by the President were presented by staff:

Approval of Proposed A.A.S. in Police Science - A recommendation was presented to the Board to approve the proposed A.A.S. Police Science Program. The program proposal represents collaboration between Frederick Community College and the Frederick Sheriff's Department to create an A.A.S. degree in Police Science to be awarded to cadets of the Police Academy who successfully complete the program. The program is available only to candidates in the Police Academy. Upon motion by Trustee Littrell, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Board unanimously approved by consent and roll call vote the above mentioned action item.

Naming of the Children's Center - A request was presented by Vice President for Administration Marty Crabbs to rename the "FCC Children's Center" to the "Carl and Norma Miller Children's Center" in honor of these most generous and devoted members of the community. Their gift in 1994 helped FCC complete its Children's Center. Since then they have donated thousands of dollars to support student scholarships and their recent donation to expand the Center led to a state grant of \$767,000. Upon motion by Trustee Littrell, seconded by Trustee Voso, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation as presented.

Legal and Personnel Issues - Moved to closed session.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

FCC Foundation Quarterly Report - Marilyn Young, Executive Director of the Foundation, introduced Ray Ramsburg, Chair, FCC Foundation. He updated the Board on activities of the FCC Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the College. Member-Directors of the Foundation recently met to discuss their vision for the Foundation.

CE/CT Strategic Plan Report - Vice President for CE/CT Howard Smith presented the Continuing Education/Customized Training division's 2000-2001 Strategic Plan. The plan shows that corporate spending on training will continue to rise; there will be a continuous need for trained workers, particularly in IT; and FCC and other community colleges must utilize technology to provide education to businesses and industry.

FY 2001 Work Investment Grant (Frederick Works Project Consortium) - Vice President Smith updated the Board on a new initiative called Frederick Works. The One-Stop Employment Partnership Council received a 30-month grant (\$806,000) from the Department of Labor to enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Beverly Baccala was instrumental in the project and worked with Cindy Rice and Dana Crespo to develop a web site and brochure.

FCC Financial Statements through 9/30/00 - Vice President Crabbs provided an overview of the FCC Financial Statements dated September 30, 2000.

ADJOURNMENT/CLOSED SESSION

Upon motion by Trustee White, seconded by Trustee Littrell, the meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:34 p.m. in accordance with Maryland's Open Meetings Law, paragraph 10-508, 1) to consult with staff, consultant or other individuals regarding personnel issues and 2) to consult with staff, consultant or other individuals regarding pending or potential litigation.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no action taken during the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room (A201).

PATRICIA STANLEY
Secretary/Treasurer

**Prepared by Wilma Woodfield
Executive Assistant to the President
Frederick Community College
/whw/bdnov00**



November 8, 2000

TO: President Stanley
Members of the Board of Trustees
Frederick Community College

FROM: Marty Crabbs (M < 14y
Vice President for Administration

TITLE: Renaming of the Children's Center

OVERVIEW:

N/A

ANALYSIS:

Carl and Norma Miller have been generous donors to numerous projects at Frederick Community College. In 1994, a major gift from the Millers led to the successful completion of the FCC Children's Center. Since then they have provided numerous other gifts to the College for student scholarships and Children's Center scholarships. The Millers' provided a major gift to FCC several years ago that led to the present expansion of the Children's Center, which will be constructed during 2001. Their gift, which represents more than 25% of the cost of designing, constructing, and equipping the addition, was the impetus for the addition project. In fact, this leadership gift was the driving force behind the securing of a state grant of \$767,000 to assist with construction of the addition. The Miller's have given more to support Frederick Community College than any other individual, business, or other private donor. While College policy refers to a 50% baseline for naming a building after an individual, it is clear that the Millers' accumulated contributions, tireless advocacy for FCC students, and their leadership role as FCC's foremost donor merit substantial recognition. It is entirely appropriate that they be FCC's first benefactors to have a campus building named after them.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is with great pleasure that we recommend the FCC Children's Center be renamed the **Carl and Norma Miller Children's Center** in honor of these most generous and devoted members of our community, Carl and Norma Miller.

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Attachment:

1. FCC Policy 6.18, Naming of College Facilities



FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICY

Section: 6.00 GENERAL POLICIES	Title No. 6.18
Title: Naming of College Facilities	Page No. 1 of 1
Buildings should be named for their specific function. However, there may be rare exceptions in order to honor individuals making outstanding contributions to the College. In such cases, the following procedures are to be used: A. The President may initiate a request to name a building in honor of an individual. B. The recommendation is to be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. C. Recommended criteria for the Board to name specific areas of the College in honor of persons, groups or donors: 1. The persons(s)/group to be honored have made very significant contributions to the College either in terms of outstanding leadership and/or service to the College, funding support or some other factor valued by the College. 2. The person(s)/group to be honored has, in the determination of the Board, exhibited exemplary citizenship. 3. (<i>Employees/Trustees</i>) The person(s) to be honored shall not have, for a period of two years, been formally affiliated with the College as an employee or trustee. 4. (<i>Donors</i>) The financial contribution must be equivalent to more than 50 percent of the total estimated cost of constructing the area to be named in the donor's honor or in honor of someone designated by the donor. 5. Existing named areas should serve as precedents for determining the extent and nature of future recognition for outstanding contributions to the College. 6. Whenever possible, the area to be named should be appropriate to the person's contribution.	