

FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Finger Lakes Community College
Carpenter Board Room
June 27, 2025
Presiding: Donald Cass, Chair

Committee Members Present: Trustee Astles, Trustee Cass (Chair), George Cushman, Trustee Geise, Trustee Mihalik, Trustee Russell, Trustee Wille

Excused: Trustee Martin

Others Present: Steve Harvey, Ontario County Supervisor

Staff and Students: Dr. Robert Nye, Laura Ortiz, Jamie Rotter, Jason Tack, Cheryl Ten Eyck, Carol Urbaitis

Guests: Meeting had a total of 2 participants virtually at the start of the meeting; some guests joined via WebEx call-in or livestream link and were unidentified.

Media: No representatives present at this meeting.

Call to Order

At 3:30 P.M. Trustee Cass called the FLCC Board of Trustees Meeting to order.

Community/Public Comment

Trustee Cass inquired if there was anyone who would like to make a public comment. There were no comments.

Minutes generated from AI

The Board of Trustees discussed the potential expansion of the New York kitchen and the FLCC culinary program, as a \$22 million project funded half by SUNY and half by local sources, including the Sands Family Trust and the Canandaigua Area Development Corporation.

The project involves \$10,000 currently available based on the contract with La Bella Associates and Ontario County that would relate to the updated 2024 FLCC Facilities Master Plan. The new facility aims to enhance commercial training for students, support public classes, and potentially host culinary competitions. The board also discussed the need for independent appraisals and approvals from various entities, including the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Discussion related to the following:

- Resolution to explore new facility for New York Kitchen and culinary program at FLCC.
- Cost analysis completed, but more exploration needed for the program and its benefits.
- \$10,000 remaining on contract with LaBella Associates for updating 2024 FLCC Facilities Master Plan.
- Proposal to integrate new facility into Facilities Master Plan update.
- \$22 million project, with half potentially funded by SUNY and half by local sources.
- Local funding through land donation and Sands Family Trust contribution.
- Construction request to SUNY planned for fall inclusion in next year's budget.
- Chef Jamie Rotter presented benefits of new facility for culinary program.
- New facility would allow for commercial equipment and expanded program offerings.
- Potential to add baking and pastry program and improve student recruitment.
- Collaboration opportunities with New York Kitchen and Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Goal to build the best culinary program in New York state.

Outline

Exploration of New York Kitchen and Culinary Program

- Introduces the exploration of a new facility for the New York kitchen and culinary program, mentioning a cost analysis and its benefits to the college.

- Tom Harvey, director of planning for the county, recognizes the opportunity for the college to grow its culinary program and mentions a \$10,000 contract with LaBella Associates for the updated 2024 FLCC Facilities Master Plan.
- Tom Harvey explains the proposal to the Public Works Committee of the Board of Supervisors and propose to spend the last \$10,000 left from the LaBella contract for the new facility as it relates to the Facilities Master Plan.
- The project is envisioned as a \$22 million project, with half funded by SUNY and the other half by local sources, including donations from the Sands Family Trust and the Canandaigua Area Development Corporation.

Details of Funding and Land Acquisition

- Details related to the city match was discussed, and Tom Harvey explains the process of land acquisition, including the need for two independent appraisals and approval from the SUNY Board of Trustees.
- The value of the land is estimated at around \$1.6 million, and the remainder of the local share is expected to come from the Sands Family Trust.
- Tom Harvey details the process of securing the project through SUNY and the involvement of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) for bonding.
- The need for the board approval at a later date with resolutions for land donation and the building as well as approval with SUNY.

Faculty and Program Benefits

- Jamie Rotter, a faculty member, expressed excitement about the new facility, highlighting the limitations of the current space and the need for commercial equipment for students.
- The new facility will allow for more public classes and better training for students, setting the program apart from others.
- Discussion related to the importance of partnerships with BOCES programs and the Ontario County Chapter of Cornell Cooperative Extension to offer more opportunities to students.
- The new facility will also support the wine service certificate program, providing valuable experience for students in the field.

Potential for Culinary Competitions and Expansion

- Further discussion about hosting culinary competitions in the new facility, the mention of past experiences with competition weekends.
- The capacity of the new facility suggests it could double the current number of students especially in baking and pastry programs.
- The new facility will offer more opportunities for students to stay enrolled and complete their programs, and there was concern currently about students leaving for other institutions.
- The faculty member emphasized the importance of the new facility in achieving the goal of building the best culinary program in New York state.

Action Items

- If the proposal is approved, submit a construction request to SUNY this fall for inclusion in next year's budget.
- Explore the logistics of land donation, approvals, and the overall funding structure for the \$22 million project.
- Continue discussions with SUNY and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) regarding the state's share of the project.
- Proceed with the county's proposal to use the remaining \$10,000 in the Facilities Master Plan contract to evaluate the new culinary facility proposal.

- Bring the county's proposal to the Public Works Committee of the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Trustee Resolution # 44- 2025

APPROVE THE EXPLORATION OF A NEW LOCATION FOR THE FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE CULINARY PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH NEW YORK KITCHEN AND CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ONTARIO COUNTY - WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Community College (the "College") Culinary Arts Program is currently located at the New York Kitchen (NYK) facility at 800 S. Main St.; and WHEREAS, the College has determined that relocating the Culinary Arts Program will serve the long-term needs of students and faculty for expanded opportunities in instruction, program growth, industry partnerships, and community engagement; and WHEREAS, the Canandaigua Area Development Corporation has announced its intent to donate undeveloped property on Lakeshore Drive in the city of Canandaigua for a facility to be used by the College, New York Kitchen and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County. WHEREAS, the concept of such a joint facility would support the College's mission, academic priorities, and long-term strategic goals; WHEREAS, the College; its sponsor, Ontario County; New York Kitchen; Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County; and the city of Canandaigua have agreed to cooperatively explore the feasibility of a joint facility before making any decisions; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board acknowledges the proposed donation for the College's benefit and authorizes the College administration to proceed with planning and coordination necessary to determine the feasibility of a joint facility and its potential incorporation into the FLCC Facilities Master Plan.

There was a request to accept the resolution on the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Cass requested a motion for approval, Trustee Russell motioned approval and a second from Trustee Astles to accept the resolution, the resolution was passed unanimously.

There was acknowledgement and a congratulations to Trustee Astles as a selected winner of NYCCT 2025 Donald M. Mawhinney Jr., Trustee Leadership Award. He will be recognized at the upcoming Award Reception in September.

Adjourn

Trustee Cass requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, at 3:50 P.M., on motion by Trustee Cushman and a second by Trustee Mihalik and a unanimous vote, the Board of Trustees unanimously adjourned their meeting.

Submitted,

Penny M. Hamilton
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees
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Donald Cass
Chair, FLCC Board of Trustees