

**PIERPONT COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Presidential Search Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026
9:00 AM**

**Pierpont's Advanced Technology Center (ATC)
500 Galliher Drive
Fairmont, WV 26554
Room 201A**

MINUTES

Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Pierpont Community & Technical College (Pierpont) Board of Governors Presidential Search Committee was held on January 14, 2026, beginning at 9:00 AM. The meeting was conducted in person at the Advanced Technology Center in Fairmont, WV. Advanced announcement of this meeting was posted on the WV Secretary of State's Meeting Notices Webpage.

I. Call to Order

Anthony Hinton called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

II. Roll Call

Amanda Hawkinberry conducted a roll call:

Name	Present/Not Present
Debra Benedetti	Present
Alex Billiris	Present
Gia Deasey	Present
Rusty Elliott	Present
Maynard "Chip" Hawkins	Present
Joni Gray	Present
Anthony Hinton	Present
Joanne Seasholtz	Present
Melissa White	Present

Others Present: Kimberly Cale and Amanda Hawkinberry

Amanda Hawkinberry announced there was a quorum present.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2025

Rusty Elliott moved to accept the meeting minutes from the December 16, 2025 Committee meeting. Debra Benedetti seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

IV. Executive Session – Closed Session

A. Entering Executive Session – Closed Session

Gia Deasy moved that the Committee go into Executive Session in accordance with WV Code §6-9A-4 at 9:04 AM. Debra Benedetti seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Items brought into Executive Session:

- Presidential Search – Interview Matrix and Candidate Review

B. Exiting Executive Session – Back to Open Session

Rusty Elliott moved to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session at 11:25 AM. Maynard “Chip” Hawkins seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

C. Items brought forward from Executive Session

No items were brought forward from Executive Session.

V. Recess

Gia Deasy moved to recess at 11:35 AM. Alex Billiris seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Rusty Elliott moved to return from recess at 12:09 PM. Debra Benedetti seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

VI. Executive Session – Closed Session

A. Entering Executive Session – Closed Session

Gia Deasy moved that the Committee go into Executive Session in accordance with WV Code §6-9A-4 at 12:10 PM. Alex Billiris seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Items brought into Executive Session:

- Presidential Search – Interview Matrix and Candidate Review



Mission Statement: To provide accessible, responsive, comprehensive education that works
Vision: To empower individuals and strengthen communities through exceptional training and educational pathways
Tagline: Education that works!

B. Exiting Executive Session – Back to Open Session

Maynard “Chip” Hawkins moved to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session at 3:50 PM. Debra Benedetti seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

C. Items brought forward from Executive Session

Rusty Elliott moved to advance the following candidates to the virtual interview stage: Candidates 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 23, 24, 27, and 28. Melissa White seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

The committee will reconvene once virtual interviews have been scheduled.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Alex Billiris moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 PM. Rusty Elliott seconded the motion. All agreed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda N. Hawkinberry



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