

MINUTES: April 16, 2026

**RETREAT: Daytona State College
District Board of Trustees**

**PLACE: Daytona State College's
Daytona Beach Campus
Conference Center (Bldg. 640)
1200 W. International Speedway Blvd.
Daytona Beach, Florida**

**PRESENT: Dr. Thomas LoBasso, Corporate Secretary/President
Bob Lloyd, Vice Chair
Randy Dye
Kelly Kwiatek
Garry Lubi
Nellie Lupoli**

ABSENT: Dr. Randall Howard, Chair

Board Retreat began 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order

Trustee Lloyd called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Dr. Randy Howard was absent. All other trustees were present.

Public Participation

Trustee Lloyd inquired if there were any members from the public that requested time to appear before the Board. No requests received.

Approval of Naming Rights

Dr. LoBasso presented the following motion for approval.

MOTION: (Dye/Lubi) It is recommended that the Daytona State College District Board of Trustees approve the naming of the basketball court in the L. Gale Lemerand Athletic Center to the Will Dunne Court. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Retreat adjourned 9:10 a.m.

Trustees toured the L. Gale Lemerand Athletic Center building remodel project. Dedication of the Will Dunne Basketball Court was done at the end of the tour.

Board Retreat resumed 10:12 a.m.

President's Update

Recap:

Dr. LoBasso provided a recap of the past year which included U.S. News & World Report ranked Daytona State, for the 14th straight year, as the highest ranked state college in the United States for Best Online Bachelor's Programs and the College moved to 24th from 21st place.

The Office of Resource Development currently manages 29 active grants totaling \$17,540,221 and has five pending proposals and one in progress for potential funding of \$3,618,939.

Academics

Paramedic/EMS – This program was expanded to the Flagler/Palm Coast Campus and began Summer 25/Spring 26. This provides an additional opportunity to that community and increase enrollment on that campus.

Aerospace Technology A.S.- This program began in the Spring.

Aviation Maintenance Management A.S. – presented and approved at the 11/19/25 Board Meeting. The College is working diligently with the FAA and Embry-Riddle on this project. He shared they hosted an open house for this program at Embry-Riddle and had 102 students show, plus many others. It was a great success.

B.S. in Radiologic and Imaging Science - Was approved by State Board of Education 11/13/25 and the first class will begin Summer 26.

Nursing Expansion – Expanded programs on DeLand Campus (Spring 26) and New Smyrna Beach/Edgewater Campus (Fall 25). The program is now the 2nd largest Nursing program in the state of Florida.

Airframe and Power Plant Facility – drawings are in process. The goal is to have everything ready by July so when funding comes in the building construction can get underway.

Update

Private School – New Smyrna Beach/Edgewater Campus

Dr. LoBasso explained the company is working on the drawings with their architects for the building. Their plan is to open in the Fall of 2027.

QUANTA-Honors and Health Technology Hall

Dr. LoBasso explained the building is nearing completion and a ribbon cutting is scheduled for May 21, 2026.

Facilities Projects – Underway/Future

Lemerand Fitness Center Gymnasium renovation

Dr. LoBasso explained this renovation is wrapping up and how this update was much needed. He shared this facility will set us apart from other institutions.

Manatee Sculpture

Dr. LoBasso shared the Manatee sculpture will be located near the Student Center and drawings mapping out the location have been completed.

UCF Innovation Center

Dr. LoBasso shared the College is excited about the UCF Innovation Center. A location has been settled on for the building and UCF is working on drawings.

New Smyrna Beach/Edgewater Campus – new bldg.

Dr. LoBasso explained this new building is on the College's priority list and would house some technical programs, aviation programs, HVAC programs, and welding.

2025 Legislative Requests approved for funding:

- Completion of Airframe/Power Plant Facility – Dr. LoBasso shared the College did receive \$5,000,000 towards this building project.
- College-wide Building Access Control - \$700,000 – Dr. LoBasso explained the College is starting to implement access control in different locations on campus. This will give the College access to lock down different locations on campus if needed. Campus safety has been a top priority for the College for a long time and there may be legislation coming forward that may provide more funding in this area.

2026 Legislative Requests:

- Completion of Airframe/Power Plant facility - \$12,251,578
- Construction of a Center for Aerospace and Advanced Technical Education – NSB/Edgewater Campus - \$19,459,761
- Specialized Equipment for Center for Aerospace and Advanced Technical Education - NSB/Edgewater Campus - \$929,962
- Campus Security and Safety Enhancements - \$1,300,000
- Support for UCF's Discovery and Innovation Hub - \$0

Future Initiatives/Projects

- Airframe and Powerplant Facility
- Campus Safety Initiatives
- Expansion of New Smyrna Beach/Edgewater campus – new bldg.
- Moving EMS to DeLand Campus – He shared the College is in the progress of moving EMS to the DeLand Campus and the renovation of the two buildings on that campus should begin shortly.

New Program Opening 2026/2027

Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics

- New Advanced Technical Certificate
- Embedded in BSIT
- Three new courses
- 25 credit hours

AI Awareness

- College Credit Certificate
- Interdisciplinary program
- 9 credit hours

New Programs in Development

Avionics Systems Technician, Career Certificate (Fall 2027) - 1200 clock hours.
Prepares students for employment as avionics installation and repair technicians.

Emerging Programs Under Consideration

- Cybersecurity, B.A.S.
- Semiconductor Engineering Technology, A.S.
- Semiconductor Cleanroom Operator, College Credit Certificate.
- Certified Production Technology, C.C.

Athletics

- Women's Soccer Team won the 2025 NJCAA Division I National Championship, back to back championships.
- Rocket League Esports Team and Esports coach made history by winning its 3rd NJCAA National Championship.
- Men's soccer won NJCAA Region 8 Championship and finished runner-up in National tournament.
- Men and Women's Cross Country
 - Men placed 4th in NJCAA Nationals and earned Academic All American Honors.
 - Women won FCSAA Region 8 Championship for 3rd time in program history and finished 3rd at Nationals.
- Men's Basketball won their 4th straight conference championship and made it to the second round in NJCAA Division I Nationals.
- Athletic Department GPA for the Fall semester was an impressive 3.42. This includes 214 total student athletes.
- Women's Flag Football heading to Nationals for a 2nd year in a row.
- Women's Softball and Men's Baseball are in the hunt for 1st post-season appearance in decades.
- Women's Golf won Southeast District tournament and placed 3rd in Nationals

Campus Safety Update

Tanika Clemons, Vice President of Human Resources, provided an update on the following areas:

Strategic Investment in Campus Safety:

- \$700,000 In Legislative Funding - Enhanced access control in 10 campus buildings, improving entry control, emergency response, and real-time security.
- \$100,000 to Expand Improvements - Being used to upgrade and install additional security cameras to expand coverage in key areas across the campuses.
- Phased Implementation - Phased rollout ensures strategic implementation, efficient resource use, and minimal disruption. Expected completion: Early June.

Impact

- Secure Buildings Quickly - Allows immediate restriction of access to facilities during critical incidents.
- Visibility Surrounding Building Access - Gives us real-time insight into entry activity.
- Supports Future Integration - Connects access control with broader safety systems.
- Aligns with State/National Expectations - Ensures alignment with evolving safety standards and legislative expectations.

The Broader Environment

- Focus on Preparedness & Response - Centered on ensuring the College is equipped to act quickly, effectively, and in a coordinated manner during any incident.
- K-12 Safety Requirements Extended - The extension of K-12 safety requirements to post-secondary institutions reflects a broader shift toward more structured and proactive safety expectations.
- Risk Identification & Mitigation - Focuses on proactively recognizing potential threats and addressing them before they escalate.

Our Current Response

- Infrastructure & Technology - Investment in camera refresh, access control, FUSUS and facial recognition to strengthen safety infrastructure.
- Policy & Compliance - Reviewing policies and processes to ensure alignment with evolving safety standards.
- Preparedness & Training - Prioritizing training to ensure staff are prepared to respond across a range of scenarios.
- Security Operations - The College maintains a visible security presence through detail officers across campuses.

Reviewed the Armor Act (HB 757) and Guardian program.

Looking Ahead:

- Legislative Request - Submitted a \$1.3 million legislative request to expand campus safety infrastructure across additional buildings and campuses.
- Scaling Access Control & Surveillance - By increasing coverage and enhancing system capabilities, we strengthen our ability to monitor activity, control access, and respond effectively to incidents.
- Strategic Evaluation - Evaluating additional safety strategies, including institutional risk, resource allocation, and potential program enhancements.

Board Open Discussion

Discussed the idea of a Risk Management Insurance association program. Mentioned the lab school proposal from the previous retreat and how that was researched and will be reviewed under Dr. Long's time.

Academic Updates

Dr. Jodi Long, Vice President of Academic Affairs reviewed the following areas.

Update on New Programs

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography A.S. Degree - Self-Study Submitted. Site visit in early summer. First class graduating May 2026.
- Aerospace Technology, A.S. - First class provided Spring 2026.
- BSET Concentration in Industrial Engineering - ABET Accreditation – Confirmed Summer 2025.

New Programs Opening

- Bachelor of Science in Radiologic and Imaging Sciences – First classes will be offered Summer 2026.
- Aviation Maintenance Management, A.S. – Classes starting Fall 2026, pending FAA and SACSCOC approvals. New facility scheduled to open Fall 2027.
- Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics - New Advanced Technical Certificate, embedded in BSIT, three new courses, 25 credit hours.
- AI Awareness – College Credit Certificate, interdisciplinary program, 9 credit hours.

New Programs in Development

- Avionics Systems Technician, Career Certificate – prepare students for employment as avionics installation and repair technicians.

Emerging Programs Under Consideration

- Cybersecurity, B.A.S.
- Semiconductor Engineering Technology, A.S.
- Semiconductor Cleanroom Operator, C.C.C.
- Certified Production Technology, C.C.

Workforce Pell Programs

Dr. Long explained there is new funding available for students enrolling in Workforce Pell eligible programs. Programs must be 150 – 599 clock hours and 8-<15 weeks in length. Workforce Pell eligible programs were 300 clock hour HVAC, Short-term Avionics and Construction and Facilities Management.

Program Expansions

Welding, C.C.

Nursing, A.S.

Radiography, A.S.

Paramedic, A.S. Certificate

EMT, C.C.

Quanta Honors Program

Program Relocation – DeLand Campus Update

Full suite of Academic Support Services in one location which will include the Academic Support Center, Writing Center and Library services.

Lab School Exploration

Dr. Long explained there was a lot of discussion about possibly launching a lab school. A work group was created and involved all the stakeholders. They considered all the angles, legal, facilities, curricular, and student population. They interviewed counterparts at other institutions and visited one college to see their facility and met with various departments that were involved with the opening of their charter school.

Dr. Long provided an overview of the difference between lab schools and charter schools. She explained that each is governed by a different statute. FS 1002.32 states lab schools have to be affiliated with a college of education at a university. This type of school is for conducting research. The faculty that teach in the lab school are members of the university faculty. This lab school operates as its own school district, is funded by FTE, and is part of the university. The governing board for the lab school is the university's board of trustees. Only universities are eligible to have lab schools, so Daytona State is not eligible. With regards to a charter school, an FCS institution can sponsor a charter school or operate one, but it cannot do both. She explained a sponsor and operator are separate legal entities. The school would operate independently from the sponsor, is funded by FTE, and governed by a board that is separate from the sponsor. She explained the requirements for operating a charter school which included infrastructure, curriculum, teachers, resource officers, food service, security, and a gymnasium. The Board discussed the charter school option and felt the College should not pursue operating a charter school.

Accreditation Update

Alicia Alexander, Dean, Institutional Effectiveness and Compliance, explained that the College is currently accredited with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is in the process of transitioning to Higher Learning Commission (HLC). She reviewed the accreditation timeline for the transition which ends with approval by the HLC Board in February 2028 and explained each step has a funding component. She reviewed the expectations of the Board and there would be meetings scheduled with the on-site visit team.

Adjourned for lunch.

Retreat resumed.

Facilities Updates

Allen Masters, Associate Vice President of Facilities Planning, reviewed the following facility projects:

- Health Sciences Hall Restoration
- News-Journal Center Envelope
- Quanta-Honors & Health Technology Hall Remodel
- DeLand Campus – Library and Adult Education move

- Residence Hall II Site Work
- Multi-Purpose Field Buildout
- L. Gale Lemerand Athletic Center Renovation
- Airframe and Power Plant Facility
- DeLand Campus – Emergency Services Bldg. 8 Remodel
- DeLand Campus – Emergency Services Bldg. 1 Remodel
- Manatee Foundation Project
- UCF Discovery Innovation Hub

Residential Housing Update

Dr. Cerese Ramos, Vice President of Student Development, shared the majority of students in the Residence Hall are still from Florida and housing applications continue to exceed availability. The residence hall continues to remain at full capacity. She explained there will be various groups (interns, camps, TRiO) that will be occupying the residence hall during the summer.

Foundation Update

Kristen Hanson, Executive Director, shared in 2025 (Jan 1- Dec 31) the Foundation raised \$2.7 million, awarded more than \$1.6 million in scholarships and program support to students, and raised just over \$220,000 at the Annual Foundation Gala and Cork and Fork.

The Foundation received \$1 million from Halifax Health for the LINE grant, which will fund nursing scholarships, programs, and equipment. The College received a 100% match from the state which is also being used for equipment and testing materials for nursing expansion. She reviewed a snapshot of the Foundation's net assets in 2015 compared to 2025 and data on the type of donors, number of gifts and funding received. She provided an update on the Residence Hall II funding campaign which has raised \$5.1 million to date. Discussed financing options for the Residence Hall II project. She provided information on Alumni activities and the events the Foundation participated in.

Dr. LoBasso shared he met Michelle Carter, Vince Carter's mother, and thanked Mr. Lloyd for introducing her to him. She was interested in our Falcon HOPE Center and starting a scholarship. She attended our basketball game and stayed the entire time.

Dr. LoBasso mentioned the College will bring forward at the next meeting a request to extend the Strategic Plan by an additional year because of the accreditation transfer.

President's Evaluation

Distributed results of the 2025-2026 President's Evaluation, items A-F. Made an official part of the minutes as Supplemental A: 4/16/26-Retreat.

The Board conducted the evaluation of the President. Evaluation instruments were completed by all six of the trustees and the data was compiled and distributed at the Board Retreat. The instrument contained 47 questions in total and used a rating scale of 1 through 5 (1-Unsatisfactory, 2-Needs Improvement, 3-Meets Expectations, 4-

Occasionally Exceeds Expectations, 5-Consistently Exceeds Expectations and DK/NA-Do Not Know/Not Applicable). Dr. LoBasso received an overall average of 5.00 (4.996).

Trustee Lloyd shared it is hard to improve on near perfection referencing the evaluation results. He shared how fortunate they are as a Board because of Dr. LoBasso's leadership. He commented on Dr. LoBasso's leadership and how it helps motivate others and how he allows his staff to flourish and push their initiatives to a standard of excellence. He shared how other boards have issues but because of Dr. LoBasso's leadership it is not like that at Daytona State.

Trustee Dye shared he sits on a lot of boards, and this was the easiest evaluation to do. He commented that he uses Dr. LoBasso as a comparison to others and situations. He stated Dr. LoBasso sets the standard on performance and applies this to others. He appreciated the one-on-one meetings prior to a board meeting where he can ask questions and talk through things, so he has a better understanding in preparation for a meeting.

Trustee Lubi commented on Dr. LoBasso's crisis management skills and referenced COVID. He keeps the Board well informed and is continuous, consistent and collaborative. He stated how Dr. LoBasso makes the Board's job easier and appreciates how he is always thinking about the future and where the institution should be heading. He commented on navigating the outcomes and impacts of the legislative session and knows Dr. LoBasso will adapt accordingly. He commented on Dr. LoBasso taking student housing to the next level and believes they can raise the funds needed.

Trustee Kwiatek appreciated Dr. LoBasso's honesty and felt his leadership is exceptional and how his team follows his lead. She felt the Board was lucky to have him and appreciated being kept informed and believed the College was heading in the right direction.

Trustee Lupoli agreed with others and added how impressed she was with his leadership and how this motivates others to want to do well.

Dr. LoBasso thanked the Board for their support and trust, and it is a team effort. He said the pace has been fast and furious over his 11 years as president and it has been very exciting to accomplish a lot of initiatives. He appreciated meeting with the Board members one-on-one and has learned from them and how each brings their expertise to the table. He shared having a senior staff team that embraces initiatives and are excited about what the College is doing is great.

Dr. LoBasso departed the meeting at this point.

Trustees' Self-Evaluation

Distributed results of the 2025-2026 Trustees' Self-Evaluation. Made an official part of the minutes as Supplemental B: 4/16/26-Retreat.

Evaluation instruments were completed by all six of the trustees and the data was compiled and distributed at the Board Retreat. The evaluation instrument contained 20 questions in total and used a rating scale of 0 through 4 (0-Insufficient Basis for Judgement, 1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Agree, 4-Strongly Agree). The Board received an overall average of 3.97.

Mr. Lloyd commented what a great Board they were and felt they deserved top marks on the evaluation. He was excited every time they got to meet and hear all the discussions and ideas for the future.

Mr. Lloyd asked Rodnie Marquinez, General Counsel, to discuss the President's contract. Mr. Marquinez shared Dr. Howard's proposal and recommendations for the Board's consideration. He shared Dr. LoBasso's current salary is \$365,000 and proposed to increase to \$383,500. The current auto allowance is \$21,000 and proposed increasing to \$24,000. The one-time payment is currently \$50,000 and proposed increasing to \$67,500. The total contract is currently \$436,000 and with the proposed increases that would bring it to \$475,000, which is an overall increase of 9%. Dr. Howard felt the increase was justified as Dr. LoBasso is one of the longer serving presidents, is going a great job, respected in the community, respected by his fellow presidents, respected by state leaders, and this would lend to extending his contract term another year (2028). Mr. Marquinez also mentioned the retirement deferred compensation component would remain as is. He also suggested adding a clause if Dr. LoBasso is still serving as president as of June 2029 the College would guarantee a one-year contract as a faculty member of the highest compensation of a faculty member of the same discipline and qualifications.

The Board discussed and gave consensus to the proposed recommendations mentioned above for the President's employment contract.

Board Retreat adjourned at 1:50 p.m.