

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

GENERAL SESSION | April 15, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Hybrid General Session: Culinaire Room (I-108)

Join by Zoom link or phone: <https://rtcedu.zoom.us/j/86866830371> / +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) 868 6683 0371

---

**Agenda Items**

**Information/Action/Presenter**

**I. GENERAL SESSION**

**Information/Action/Presenter**

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Bob Zappone called the Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 3:04 P.M. and noted that a quorum was present.

2. Adoption of Minutes

A. March 18, 2026 Meeting

Trustee Peschek moved to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2026 Board Meeting. Trustee Norouzi seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Communications

A. General Information/Introductions

Vice President Doris Martinez introduced Dr. Lisa Hahn, Director of TRIO, and Laura Madera, TRIO Student Support Services Navigator.

B. Correspondence

None

C. Public Comments from the Audience

None

D. Associated Student Government

Chef Roe, ASG Vice President, and Rue, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, provided an ASG report. They shared that ASG is preparing to hire student leadership for the upcoming year from April 27 through May 15. A Graduation Fair is scheduled for June 8, and the ASG Senate met on April 7, during which several funding requests were presented. Club participation has increased. They reported that RTC placed third in the Culinary "Duck Off" competition held yesterday, April 14th. ASG is also planning "SereneTea," a mental health awareness and de-stress event, on May 12.

E. Renton Federation of Teachers

Dr. Huma Mohibullah spoke to the importance of support and care for those impacted by current global and national issues. She noted that the end of the financial emergency allows the union to place renewed focus on instruction and student success. She acknowledged the contributions of entry advisors, AA5s,

and non-faculty staff who play an essential role in supporting the college community. Dr. Mohibullah reported that the union now has regularly scheduled meetings with Instruction and that bargaining for high-demand for 2027 will begin soon, while 2026 bargaining continues. She also shared that oversight of the statewide efficiency study has shifted from WACTC to SBCTC.

F. Written Communication Reports

None

4. Discussion/Reports

A. President's Report

President Yoshiko Harden reported that the second annual Equity Symposium was well attended and received overwhelmingly positive feedback, including thoughtful critiques and suggestions for improvement. She thanked Vice President Doris Martinez and the DEIC Professional Development Committee for their leadership and shared that Cabinet reviewed the feedback and will continue deeper discussion at the summer retreat.

Dr. Harden shared highlights from recent professional engagements, including serving as a panelist for Northeastern University on the ethical use of artificial intelligence in K-12 and higher education. She noted the importance of AI literacy while emphasizing that trade-based institutions are more resilient to automation, as skilled labor remains essential.

She reported that she hosted U.S. Senator Patty Murray for a tour of the Mechatronics program, which is expected to grow as part of a \$2.65 million federal investment, with nearly \$1 million benefiting RTC. Dr. Harden acknowledged Instructor Jeremy Thorn and four student demonstrators, as well as the participation of elected officials and regional partners, including the mayors of Renton, Kent, and Auburn.

Dr. Harden reported attending the Puget Sound College and Career Summit, focused on Black and Brown males in education, which included best-practice discussions, a student panel, and a keynote by Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade. She also shared early conversations about piloting TRIO-related student well-being initiatives.

Enrollment updates reflected continued growth. Spring quarter General Education enrollment is ahead of last year and above internal targets. Professional-Technical enrollment is up year-over-year, and College Completion Programs are on track. Tuition-paying FTE is up 11 percent compared to the same time last year.

Facilities updates included the Funding Hub project, for which the initial winning bidder was disqualified; the Department of Enterprise Services is now working

with the next lowest bidder. Bidding for the second and third floors of Building J has closed and is moving forward.

Dr. Harden provided a brief legislative update, noting monitoring of the Trump administration's proposed FY27 federal budget, including potential impacts to higher education and student support programs.

She also shared that the statewide efficiency study will now be led by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and will include representation from presidents, trustees, labor reps, a student, and Nate Humphrey from SBCTC. Dr. Harden expressed hope for transparency in the appointment process.

Finally, she reported ongoing conversations with Seattle Central regarding the possible transfer of carpentry equipment to RTC, clarifying that this will not be a program transfer. The equipment acquisition could support future program development here at RTC. Additional updates will be shared at the next All-College meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### B. Financial/Budget Status

Christina Solis provided a financial update for FY 2026. She reported that operating revenue is approximately \$1.6 million higher than at the same point last year and that overall expenditures remain aligned with budget projections. Facilities updates included delays to Building L due to permitting, completion work still pending for cubicles and door frames in Building C, and parking lot lighting improvements awaiting delivery of remaining equipment.

#### 5. Board of Trustees

##### A. Legislative Action Liaison Report

Vice Chair Zappone reported that the legislative session has concluded and noted the elimination of Centers of Excellence statewide, including Construction COE. He commented positively on Senator Murray's continued advocacy and the federal funding secured for RTC. He acknowledged the financial challenges facing colleges statewide and commended President Harden and Vice President Jackson for proactive leadership that has helped RTC avoid more severe impacts. Vice Chair Zappone reflected on the importance of solidarity and collective effort during challenging times.

#### 6. Meetings

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2026.

#### 7. Adjournment

Trustee Peschek moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Norouzi seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:49 P.M.