



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING**

- DATE:** Thursday, August 28, 2025; 8:00 a.m.
- PLACE:** Parker Hannifin Administration Center, 2300 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115; and via Zoom.
- PRESENT:** Board Chair Timothy J. Cosgrove; Trustees Nikki C. Byrd, Diane M. Downing, Ronald V. Johnson, Jr., Alan G. Starkoff, Taras Szmagala, Jr., D. Geoffrey Vince, and Vanessa L. Whiting; Community Board Members Lisa K. Kunkle and David M. Reynolds; Ex Officio Member Michael B. Klein; Student Trustees Skye Carlson and Abigail Blackburn; Faculty Representatives Dr. Carol Olszewski and Dr. Linda Quinn; President Laura Bloomberg; and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, General Counsel and Vice President, Legal Affairs and Compliance Sonali B. Wilson.
- Others in attendance: Provost and Sr. VP of Academic Affairs Nigamanth Sridhar; Chief of Staff and Chief Administrative Officer Patricia L. Franklin; Chief Financial Officer Nicole Addington; Director of Athletics Kelsie Harkey; VP of Marketing and Communication Roy Gifford; Chief Information Officer Wesam Helou; AVP, Hospitality and Facility Services, Nick VandeVelde; Sr. Director, CISO, Tony Mansoor; Outside counsel Marcus Harris; and Assistant Board Secretary Heather A. Link.

Chair Cosgrove called the special meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and confirmed that a quorum was present. He reminded members that the meeting was being livestreamed on the CSU website for public viewing.

Calling for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2025 Special Meeting, the August 7, 2025 Special Meeting, and August 8, 2025 Special Meeting; Trustee Downing provided the motion. And, Trustee Whiting seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by roll call.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Cosgrove moved for the Board to recess into Executive Session to discuss trade secret information required by law to be kept confidential and the sale or disposition of real property. Trustee Downing seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken by the Secretary of the Board; voting in the affirmative were Ms. Byrd, Ms. Downing, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Starkoff, Mr. Szmagala, Dr. Vince, Ms. Whiting, and Mr. Cosgrove. The motion carried.

Chair Cosgrove excused everyone except the voting trustees, President Bloomberg, ex officio Board Member Klein, Community Board Members Kunkle and Reynolds, Provost Sridhar, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Candisky, Ms. Addington, Mr. Gifford, Ms. Harkey, Mr. VandeVelde, Mr. Harris, Ms. Park, Assistant Board Secretary Link, and VP, General Counsel and Board Secretary Wilson.

The executive session began at 8:05 a.m.

At 9:09 a.m., Chair Cosgrove announced that the Board had finished its business in the Executive Session and was returning to its regular meeting.

Chair Cosgrove announced that he was turning the meeting over to Vice Chair Whiting and that she would lead the remainder of the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Chair Whiting announced that one item would be considered as a result of the Executive Session and would approve the recommendation to move forward with negotiations for the redevelopment of the Wolstein Center site. She noted that the process is in the early stages and that no plans are final at this time.

Trustee Downing moved the approval; and Trustee Szmagala seconded the motion.

Chair Cosgrove noted for the record that he recused himself for a portion of the executive session and removed himself from any discussion and deliberation and will abstain from voting.

Board Secretary Wilson called the roll, and the following resolution was approved.

### **RESOLUTION 2025-60**

#### **AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED SOCCER LEAGUE FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE WOLSTEIN CENTER SITE**

**WHEREAS**, the Wolstein Center site is the home of the CSU Wolstein Center, a 35-year-old arena facility whose age and condition has compromised its utility as a premier sports and entertainment destination in downtown Cleveland; and

**WHEREAS**, earlier this year, the Board supported the commencement of an RFQ/RFP process to seek interest from the community concerning partnering with CSU to redevelop the Wolstein Center site in alignment with CSU's Master Plan, and current Strategic Plan, Cleveland State United; and

**WHEREAS**, the RFQ yielded two finalists who were invited to respond to an RFP to shed greater light on their concepts and interest; and

**WHEREAS**, both finalists responded to the RFP in a timely manner, and were invited to present their proposals for vetting by the RFQ/RFP Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, following interviews with each, and the opportunity to further probe and consider their proposals, the Committee unanimously approved moving forward the United Soccer League ("USL") proposal to the Board for their consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees has reviewed the proposal and is in support of the recommendation made by the University Administration:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the recommendation to move forward with negotiations with the USL for redevelopment of the Wolstein Center site; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees authorizes the President to form a negotiation team to work with the USL toward developing a mutually satisfactory agreement consistent with USL's proposal and with Cleveland State University's strategic priorities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board shall receive updates on the progress of these negotiations at regular intervals throughout the process.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Cosgrove thanked members for their participation and noted that the fall semester has just gotten underway and that the campus is vibrant with student activity. He adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**APPROVED ON OCOTOBER 3, 2025**

Sonali B. Wilson  
Vice President of Legal Affairs and  
Compliance, General Counsel and  
Board Secretary

**APPROVED ON OCOTOBER 3, 2025**

Timothy J. Cosgrove  
Chair, Board of Trustees