BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

DATE: Friday, October 9, 2026; 8:00 a.m.

PLACE: CSU Parker Hannifin Administration Center, third floor, Cleveland, Ohio 44115; and via Zoom. Livestreamed for the public.

PRESENT: Board Chair Timothy J. Cosgrove; Trustees Nikki C. Byrd, Diane M. Downing, Ronald Johnson, Jr., James G. Pilla, Taras Szmagala, Jr., and Vanessa L. Whiting; Student Trustees Abigail Blackburn and Nathaniel Taylor; Community Board Member Alan G. Starkoff; Faculty Representatives Dr. Jessica Bickel and Dr. Sebastian Brockhaus; 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: Executive VP and Provost, Nigamanth Sridhar; VP, Finance, Nicole Addington; VP, Enrollment Management, Andrew Crawford; VP Advancement and Exec. Dir. CSU Foundation; 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.

Chair Cosgrove called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2026 Board Meeting. Trustee Downing provided the motion and Trustee Whiting seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

The CSU Commitment

Chair Cosgrove thanked members for their willingness to meet for a special meeting to discuss an exciting opportunity for the University. He announced that background materials were provided in advance of the meeting for review by the members, and that there was one item for

consideration, the adoption of The CSU Commitment. He called on President Bloomberg to introduce the item.

President Bloomberg reported that the proposal has gone through a vigorous months-long review including scenario planning, data analysis, and contingency planning; and she is excited to have The CSU Commitment presented for consideration. The plan and all of its initiatives are grounded by the Cleveland State United strategic plan, and would be a valuable part of the flywheel momentum that is accelerating student success initiatives.

In the CSU Commitment's simplest form, the initiative compounds CSU's vision to be a place "Where Everyone Thrives" and will offer transformational opportunities for students who want to attend college, but who may face financial obstacles.

She noted that the CSU Commitment will build on, not replace, existing financial aid that is available to students. President Bloomberg reported having met and discussed the proposal with Say Yes to Education leadership, and that the partnership remains strong.

The Commitment adds to CSU's aspiration to become a national leader in social and economic mobility. Access plus excellence creates opportunities for Ohioans, and hardworking Ohio students and their families deserve a clear pathway to earn a degree.

President Bloomberg called on Dr. Andrew Crawford, VP of Enrollment Management, to outline the proposed CSU Commitment.

Reinforcing the statement that "Cleveland State is in and of the City," Dr. Crawford reported that the CSU Commitment would begin in the Fall 2027, and would cover tuition for incoming full-time, first-year students from Ohio who meet the academic and family-income thresholds. These include Ohio residency; minimum 3.0 high school GPA; and family income of $125,000 or less (adjusted gross income). The coverage includes tuition, for up to eight consecutive semesters.

Dr. Crawford noted that students must complete the FAFSA form and apply to CSU to be considered eligible. CSU will fill the gap between cumulative aid packages and the cost of tuition.

Trustee Whiting thanked the administration for providing information regarding the funding of the Commitment and the ways that University Development and Marketing are working together to support the expanded access.

Trustee Byrd asked if there is a cap to the number of students who could access the Commitment. Dr. Crawford responded that initially there would not be a cap, and that each year

the data will be reviewed and tweaked as necessary. He noted that the growth plan is very intentional and would be monitored on a regular basis.

Trustee Szmagala voiced support for the plan and noted that it is an investment in Northeast Ohio. He asked that the administration regularly update the members, including analysis of how the market reacts.

Faculty Representative Brockhaus noted that the faculty are very excited about the proposal and support the efforts to increase enrollment.

Trustee Johnson echoed support, and he appreciated the thorough background materials provided by the administration. In his experience, the FAFSA can overestimate the amount of family contribution, and the Commitment would be a compelling component to expanding access to education.

Trustee Pilla noted the financial support for families in Ohio makes sense financially for CSU.

Dr. Crawford added that coupled with the CSU Commitment is enrollment management's expanded efforts for outreach to students in middle school. This includes a community rally cry that "when you are successful in high school, CSU will have your back" to enroll upon high school graduation.

Chair Cosgrove thanked the administration for thoroughly and thoughtfully bringing forth the proposal, and he noted the extraordinary efforts of pulling together facets of university leadership to present a well-rounded plan. He looks forward to meeting future students who will benefit from the Commitment.

Chair Cosgrove called for a motion to consider the approval of the CSU Commitment. Trustee Szmagala moved the approval; and Trustee Johnson provided the second.

The resolution below was approved by roll call vote, and was applauded upon approval.

RESOLUTION 2026-76

APPROVAL OF THE CSU COMMITMENT

WHEREAS, Cleveland State University is committed to expanding educational opportunity, promoting student success, and advancing social and economic mobility for the citizens of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland State Commitment advances the Cleveland State United Strategic Plan and supports the University's vision to be a national leader in access, achievement, and economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland State Commitment is designed to expand access to higher education by providing eligible Ohio students with a clear and affordable pathway to a Cleveland State University degree; and

WHEREAS, beginning in Fall 2027, the Cleveland State Commitment will provide tuition coverage for eligible incoming full-time, first-year Ohio students who meet established academic and family-income requirements; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed program, eligible students must be Ohio residents, have earned a minimum 3.0 high school grade point average, and have a family adjusted gross income of $125,000 or less, and tuition support will be provided for up to eight consecutive semesters; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that the Cleveland State Commitment supports the University's strategic priorities and mission to create opportunity through educational excellence and access; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Section 3344-1-05 (A)(2) Board approval is required for a major investment impacting the budget:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approves the Cleveland State Commitment as presented and authorizes the President, or her designee, to take all actions necessary to implement the program effective Fall 2027.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cosgrove thanked the administration again for their work and adjourned the meeting at 8:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON NOVEMBER 19, 2026
Sonali B. Wilson
Vice President of Legal Affairs and
Compliance, General Counsel and
Board Secretary

APPROVED ON NOVEMBER 19, 2026
Timothy J. Cosgrove
Chair, Board of Trustees