

AGENDA
VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING
September 3, 2026
(VGCC Building 1 Boardroom and Zoom)

- **Board Meeting** - 4:30 p.m.

MISSION

Vance-Granville Community College educates, inspires, and supports a diverse community of learners to achieve professional and personal success.

VISION

Vance-Granville Community College will be a catalyst in developing strong communities where everyone experiences fulfilling quality of life.

- Call to Order & Roll Call
- Welcome
- Ethics/Conflicts of Interest Statement: In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Board today? If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved.

For Action:

Consideration of a Data Center Educational Forum as Requested by Community Members

Nominating Committee report for re-electing a Board Vice-Chair

Adjournment

Proposal for Offering a Public Education Event

College Role

Be a neutral educational convenor to present fact-based information and articulate multiple perspectives on a controversial topic of great concern in our communities.

Event Purpose

Provide objective, educational information about data centers, including potential benefits, challenges, and community considerations. The College is not advocating for or against any specific project. Our goal is to support informed community understanding through factual information and balanced panel discussions. Attendees will be provided a short Q&A time after each panel to ask questions of panelists. Audience debate or public forum will not be a part of this event.

Event Considerations

Deliberate decisions will need to be made to maintain neutrality:

- Moderator selection
 - Someone with strong facilitation skills
 - Who holds credibility with multiple audiences
 - Is comfortable managing difficult conversations
 - Not involved with current decision-making for data centers
- Panelist selection (*a challenge will be to find credible, respected panelists across viewpoints*)
 - Industry experts
 - Utility experts
 - Economic Development professionals
 - Environmental specialists
 - Local government representatives

Deliberate processes will need to be in place to preserve order and produce a successful event:

- Question procedures
 - Consider gathering questions online ahead of time or either written or electronically submitted during the event: do not use microphone
 - Have a framework ready to prioritize questions, and make that framework publicly available
 - Consider answering questions that we didn't have time to address in written format after the event.
- Decorum standards – for everyone, panelists included
 - Treat everyone with courtesy and respect; address ideas and issues, not people
 - Allow others to express viewpoints that differ from yours
 - Do not interrupt speakers
 - No demonstrating during the event

The event design, processes, and standards should all reinforce that this is an educational event - not a public hearing, public forum, political rally, or advocacy event. The purpose is to understand the issues – not to persuade anyone.

Given the time needed to present these topics, consideration should be given to a late afternoon or weekend presentation.

Understanding Data Centers: Opportunities, Challenges, and Community Impact Event Outline

- I. Welcome and Event Decorum (10 minutes)
- II. What is a data center? (15 minutes)
- III. Panel 1 – What opportunities might a data center bring to a community? (45 minutes)
 - a. Economic Development
 - i. Capital investment
 - ii. Construction employment
 - iii. Permanent technical jobs
 - iv. Local tax revenue
 - v. Business attraction
 - b. Infrastructure and Utility Demand
 - i. Improved utility infrastructure
 - ii. Road improvements
 - iii. Fiber expansion
 - c. Environmental
 - i. Modernized energy-efficient designs
 - ii. Renewable energy partnerships
 - d. Community
 - i. Increased tax base
 - ii. Community partnerships
 - iii. Workforce development
 - iv. Infrastructure improvements
- IV. BREAK (15 minutes)
- V. Panel 2 – What challenges might a data center bring to a community? (45 minutes)
 - a. Economic Development
 - i. Incentive packages
 - ii. Opportunity costs
 - iii. Limited permanent employment compared to investment
 - b. Infrastructure and Utility Demand
 - i. Electric power reliability
 - ii. Water usage
 - iii. Construction traffic
 - c. Environmental
 - i. Noise
 - ii. Emissions
 - iii. Lighting
 - iv. Heat discharge
 - v. Wildlife
 - d. Community
 - i. Visual appearance

- ii. Property values
 - iii. Emergency response planning
 - iv. Quality of life
- VI. Q&A for panelists (30 minutes)

Estimated Costs

Expense Category	Assumption	Estimated Cost
Professional Moderator	Experienced neutral facilitator for a 160-minute event, preparation time included	\$1,000 - \$3,000
Panelist Honoraria	10 panelists @ \$100-\$300 each (optional but often appreciated)	\$1,000 - \$3,000
Panelist Travel/Reimbursement	Mileage, meals, or lodging for out-of-area speakers	\$500 - \$2,000
Marketing & Promotion	Flyers, digital ads, media outreach	\$250 - \$1,000
Event Materials	Programs, signage, handouts	\$150 - \$500
Security / Event Support Staff	Crowd management and logistics	\$1,000+

Note: These costs do not include time and effort for me (and my staff) to identify and secure a moderator and panelists, which is likely to be considerable since we are not already connected in these circles.