

# Barton Community College Board Meeting

August 25, 2026

## Website Platform & Hosting

**Detail:** Barton's public website is currently built on Drupal, an open-source content management system (CMS). A CMS is the software staff use to create, organize and publish website content. Website hosting is the separate infrastructure that keeps the website's files, databases and applications available on the internet. In a fully managed platform-and-hosting model, the vendor also assumes more responsibility for the servers, security, backups, monitoring, performance and platform maintenance.

The current Drupal environment has become increasingly difficult to maintain. Because the site was custom-built, coding errors and structural issues often require assistance from the third-party developer who originally built it. This creates vendor dependency for troubleshooting and fixes that cannot always be handled internally. Additional concerns include custom-code maintenance, module/theme compatibility, security and core updates, dependency conflicts, major-version upgrades, testing requirements, and the risk that changes in one area can affect other portions of the site.

The goal of this review is to move toward a modern, supported website platform that reduces technical dependency, provides a more predictable hosting and maintenance structure, and allows Communications staff to focus more heavily on content, recruitment and user experience rather than recurring backend troubleshooting.

# Website Vendor Comparison

| Vendor / Platform          | Platform & Hosting | Implementation | Total Cost |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| <b>Modern Campus</b>       | \$27,500           | \$25,000       | \$52,500   |
| <b>Kentico + BlueModus</b> | \$59,400           | \$185,500      | \$244,900  |
| <b>Sanity + Webstacks</b>  | \$145,000          | \$100,000      | \$245,000  |

- Platform/CMS: the system staff use to build, edit, approve and publish website content.
- Hosting: the servers/cloud infrastructure that keep the website online, secure, backed up and performing reliably.
- Managed SaaS hosting shifts more infrastructure, monitoring, patching and availability responsibility to the platform provider.

# Current Drupal Concerns & Recommendation

## Current-State Concerns

- Custom site architecture creates reliance on the original third-party developer for coding errors and complex fixes.
- Core, modules, themes and third-party dependencies require ongoing updates, testing and compatibility review.
- Major Drupal upgrades require a dedicated upgrade process and can expose incompatibilities in contributed or custom code.
- Troubleshooting can involve multiple layers: Drupal core, custom code, modules, hosting environment and dependencies.
- Technical maintenance consumes staff/consultant time that could otherwise support content, enrollment and user-experience priorities.

Recommendation: Approve the bid with Modern Campus for Barton's website platform, hosting, and support.