

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**May 15, 2024**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 in the Coral E. Richards Boardroom at Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, located at 1601 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street, in the City of Scottsbluff, in the County of Scotts Bluff, in the State of Nebraska, as per the publicized notice in the Star-Herald on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

A current agenda was available in the Board Secretary's office on the Scottsbluff Campus at the time of the publicized notice.

**AREA BOARD**

Karen S. Anderson, Chairperson .....	Present
Misty L. Curtis.....	Present
Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales.....	Absent
F. Lynne Klemke .....	Present
Allan D. Kreman.....	Present
William M. Packard.....	Absent
Coral E. Richards .....	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr.....	Absent
Marjorie A. Schmidt .....	Present
John P. Stinner, Vice Chairperson .....	Present

**ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS**

*Ms. Guzman-Gonzales, Dr. Packard, and Mr. Savely informed the Board secretary they were unable to attend the meeting due to personal business commitments.*

**QUORUM**

Chair Anderson declared a quorum was present for the transaction of business.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Chair Anderson asked for comments from the community. Pursuant to Board Policy BP-106, Chair Anderson reminded community members who wish to make comments will be limited to a five-minute presentation. There were no public comments.

**BOARD CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS**

Chair Anderson announced for public information there was a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act available on the table at the back of the room.

Chair Anderson announced the Board reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary for any item on the agenda per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

## **REPORT FROM BOARD VACANCY AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Mr. Stinner, chair of the Board vacancy ad hoc committee, reported that he, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Curtis, and Ms. Schmidt, met in April to conduct an interview for the District One Board vacancy. The applicant had an impressive resume with past experience in education and continued advocacy of education made this individual an excellent candidate. The committee was grateful for the applicant's interest in serving on the Board of Governors.

Mr. Stinner **MOVED** for approval of the appointment of Ms. Lori Liggett as the District One representative on the WCCA Board of Governors. **SECONDED** by Ms. Klemke. The vote was, Yes: Curtis, Klemke, Kreman, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Savely. Motion carried.

## **OATH OF OFFICE**

Mr. Phil Kelly, College attorney, administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Lori Liggett, newly appointed Board member representing District One.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Review Contents of Consent Calendar
  - a. Agenda
  - b. Excuse Absent Board Member(s) (Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Savely)
  - c. Minutes
    - i. April 17, 2024 Informal Meeting
    - ii. April 17, 2024 Regular Meeting
2. **Claims:** April 2024
  - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$2,469,927.19
  - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$3,429.50
  - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$6,070.46
  - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$4,931.31
  - e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
  - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$130,993.25
  - g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$102,277.47
3. City Planning Commission Reports
  - a. City of Alliance
    - i. Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Progress Report
  - b. City of Gering
    - i. Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Progress Report
  - c. Village of Hemingford
    - i. Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Progress Report
  - d. City of Scottsbluff
    - i. Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Progress Report
    - ii. Notice of Public Hearing (3)
4. Approval of Consent Calendar
5. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

Chair Anderson inquired if there were any items on the Consent Calendar to be extracted for separate consideration. There were no items extracted from the Consent Calendar.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR (cont.)**

Ms. Klemke MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar. SECONDED by Ms. Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Klemke, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner, Curtis, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Savely. Motion carried.

### **BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

Ms. Klemke MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Ms. Misty Curtis for \$93.40 and Mr. Allan Kreman for \$26.13. SECONDED by Mr. Stinner. The vote was, Yes: Liggett, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner, Klemke, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: Curtis, Kreman. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Savely. Motion carried.

### **BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Mr. R. J. Savely for \$120.60 and Ms. Marjorie Schmidt for \$453.11. SECONDED by Ms. Klemke. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Stinner, Curtis, Klemke, Kreman, Liggett, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: Schmidt. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Savely. Motion carried.

### **PRESIDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT**

#### **Resignation(s)**

There were no resignations.

#### **Appointment(s)**

Chair Anderson entertained a motion for approval of the President's Personnel Report.

Ms. Schmidt MOVED to approve the President's Personnel Report as presented. SECONDED by Ms. Klemke. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Stinner, Curtis, Klemke, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Savely. Motion carried.

### **WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

#### **Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee**

##### **Second and Final Read: BP-430 Reduction-in-Force**

This policy defines the purpose for employee reduction-in-force and charges the College President with establishing a reduction-in-force procedure in compliance with federal and state laws. The policy applies to all full-time employees of Western Nebraska Community College.

Ms. Klemke MOVED to approve the Second and Final Read of BP-430, Reduction in Force Board policy as presented. SECONDED by Ms. Liggett. The vote was, Yes: Stinner, Curtis, Klemke, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Schmidt, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Savely. Motion carried.

##### **Second and Final Read: BP-431 Involuntary Separation of Employees**

This policy establishes the authority of the College to terminate the employment of employees. This policy applies to all employees of Western Nebraska Community College, except for the President, where the process for termination is established in Board Policy 845.0200.01 (Annual Review of the College President's Performance).

## **Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee (cont.)**

### ***Second and Final Read: BP-431 Involuntary Separation of Employees***

Ms. Klemke MOVED to approve the Second and Final Read of BP-431 Involuntary Separation of Employees Board Policy as presented. SECONDED by Ms. Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Stinner, Curtis, Klemke, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Savely. Motion carried.

### ***Info Only: AP-331.01 Construction Management-at Risk***

Nebraska Statutes §§ 13-2901 through 13-2914 were amended by the Nebraska Legislature on July 18, 2008, to allow community colleges to plan, design, and build capital improvements using the Construction Management-at-Risk (CMR) methodology. The Statute is entitled "Political Subdivision Construction Alternatives Act."

Nebraska Statute, § 13-2905 requires WNCC to adopt a procedure for entering into CMR contracts and sets forth basic requirements for the contents of the policies to be used by the Board of Governors in implementing a CMR construction project.

The purpose of this procedure is to effectively increase collaboration between the parties involved in the construction process, shorten project schedules, control construction costs, and avoid or reduce costly claims and delays on construction projects the Board of Governors deems suitable for use of the CMR construction methodology. No action was required.

### ***Single Read: Format Update, BP-331 Construction Management-at-Risk***

The only change to this policy was a format update.

Ms. Klemke MOVED to approve the format update to BP-331 Construction Management-at Risk. SECONDED by Ms. Liggett. The vote was, Yes: Klemke, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner, Curtis, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Savely. Motion carried.

## **Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Facilities Committee**

### **Bids/Contracts**

#### ***Settlement Agreement - WNCC and Nebraska Community College Insurance Trust (NCCIT)***

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services explained this is a settlement agreement with the Nebraska Community College Insurance Trust. According to statute, settlement agreements that exceed 1% of the College's budget or \$50,000, whichever is less, require Board approval, which means this claim has been closed out and there will be no further action. In response to an inquiry, Ms. Koski confirmed this claim was related to the 2019 hailstorm and the settlement has been received.

Mr. Stinner MOVED to approve the settlement agreement with the Nebraska Community College Insurance Trust. SECONDED by Ms. Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner, Curtis, Klemke, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Savely. Motion carried.

## **Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Facilities Committee (cont.) Bids/Contracts**

### ***Plans for Pioneer Hall Modification Project***

Ms. Koski reminded Board members of the previously approved abatement of Pioneer Hall. The plan presented today is the second piece of the project. Once the abatement is completed, the walls will be repaired along with cosmetic updates such as new carpeting, paint and furniture. There will be no change in the floor plan, but due to the anticipated cost, Board approval is required so bidding for the second part of the project can move forward. In response to an inquiry, Ms. Koski confirmed that Pioneer Hall will be offline for approximately a year with an expected project completion date of fall 2025.

Ms. Schmidt MOVED to approve the plans for the second piece of the Pioneer Hall modification project. SECONDED by Mr. Stinner. The vote was, Yes: Liggett, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner, Curtis, Klemke, Kreman, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Savely. Motion carried.

## **INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS**

### **Student Report**

There was no student report.

Chair Anderson mentioned the Board has been inviting students to join them for lunch and to join the meeting. Ms. Howton introduced Ms. Reagan True, a recent graduate of WNCC who earned an AA in Psychology.

Ms. True shared she was a non-traditional student and sincerely appreciated the support she received during her time at WNCC. Thanks to many people at the College, she earned a degree, which is something she believed she could not accomplish. Attending WNCC has been a wonderful experience.

### **Faculty Report**

Ms. Howton reported instructor Frank Riley shared the Auto Tech Program started using an entry level testing called Auto Service Excellence (ASE), which is a series of eight tests. They recently had their first student, Rand Golden, pass all eight tests. Passing this testing was a great accomplishment and looks good on a resume and can open doors for employment.

Instructor Russell Pontarolo reported 100% of the full-time students in the Welding Technology program are employed as welders, with most hired prior to graduation. Many are employed in Scottsbluff and Gering with a couple in Morrill and one in Alliance, which means most are staying local. Three of the welding program graduates are female. This summer, through the Workforce Development Office, they will be providing training and testing for Prime Metals of Gering. Last summer training was provided for Western Sugar Coop and Scotts Bluff County Road and Bridge.

Instructor Patsy Yeager shared the spring 2024 Children's Literature books are on display in the College library. The students put a lot of time into their book projects and the end products were very well done.

### **Faculty Report (cont.)**

While on Sabbatical Leave, instructor Jacklyn Cawiezel finished her internship with Scottsbluff Public Schools and earned a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Chadron State College. Ms. Cawiezel will return to WNCC in the fall to teach Psychology classes.

Math instructor, Nancy Resseguie reported the AMATYC Student Math League of two-year colleges hosted their competition this past fall and spring. The WNCC team had the five highest scores on the test; ranked third last fall; fourth this spring and third overall for 2023-2024 in our ten-state region. Winners for the AMATYC spring competition were: first place, Gurnoor Hayer, (\$300 scholarship), second place, Kaleb Borges (\$200 scholarship), and third place, Jaimason Kulovany (\$100 scholarship).

Math Instructor, Erandi Gunapala reported six of the twelve STEM Connect scholarship students graduated this spring and all six are transferring onto four-year institutions. Josiah Andrews who has been a part of the STEM Connect Scholarship Program will continue with the scholarship as he attends UNL. He was also selected to participate in the summer Research Experience for Undergraduates Program. For this ten-week experience, Josiah received a \$10,000 scholarship and a stipend of \$6,000 with travel expenses and room and board included. Maya Wilson, a graduate from last spring will also be participating in the Research Experience for Undergraduates Program through the STEM Connect Scholarship Program.

### **Nebraska Community College Association**

Mr. Stinner reported he attended the NCCA quarterly meeting in person and Ms. Anderson and President Dart joined via Zoom.

Mr. Stinner reported there was discussion regarding the Governor's office plan to call for a special session. A few legislators will not be available, so there would not be a hundred percent participation, but there is a procedure at the front end of the session that allows the vote to be pulled from thirty-three down to thirty. Discussion would be regarding moving taxes to the sales tax side for property relief. Some legislators have commented they will not be in favor of that proposal.

Discussion also included the anticipated eight million dollars of State funding. If the State cannot fund the eight million, and the College does not receive the three percent (based on enrollment), the alternative will be to go to the taxpayer for that funding. This funding plus many other factors will need to be considered when putting together a budget.

### **Western Nebraska Community College Foundation**

Ms. Reisig stated she would like to share additional information about an alumna that Ms. Haun and Ms. Sheffield shared information about during the last meeting. Joann was in the class of 1972 which was at that time, Nebraska Western College. She was raised in Nashville and flunked out of her first semester at a four-year school. Her parents had moved to Scottsbluff and told her they would continue to support her if she attended WNCC, so she reluctantly decided to attend the community college. Shy and introverted, she found instructors and an environment that helped her become involved and begin to believe in herself. After a stint in journalism, she graduated from medical school in 1985. She finished her career as a chief medical officer at a major hospital in the Pacific Northwest, focusing on palliative and hospice care. Recently diagnosed with terminal cancer, she concentrates on the quote, "living well,

### **Western Nebraska Community College Foundation (cont.)**

rather than living long." Ms. Reisig shared that recently, she had the opportunity to meet Joanne who is leaving a large unrestricted gift to the Foundation. This story, fifty-two years later, shows that WNCC is still having an impact on people.

Currently, \$97,050 has been committed to the Monument Marathon in sponsorships with one hundred-twenty runners registered. Both of these items are trending above what is typical for these numbers. On Monday, May 20, the 2024 Monument Marathon kick off press conference is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. at Platte Valley Companies. It is an opportunity to thank PVC for their title sponsorship for the thirteenth year in a row. Panelists will be students who have benefited from funds raised through this event.

The WNCC Foundation Visionary Donor reception is scheduled June 11, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Visionary Donors are those who have given \$25,000 or more to the WNCC Foundation in their lifetime.

### **President Comments**

President Dart shared the graduation ceremony was very nice. It was a great day with two hundred twenty-eight graduates, which was up from last year. The Nurse's pinning ceremony was also nice. A good number of nurses will soon enter the healthcare field. The day ended with the GED graduation, which was an emotionally touching ceremony. It was a great day and a culmination of all that has happened this past year.

This past Tuesday, faculty and staff from all three campuses gathered for an appreciation lunch and to recognize the excellence of our faculty and staff. A forty-year award was received by Frank Alfaro, thirty-year award was received by Cathy Bornschlegl, twenty-year award was received by Amy Winters, and ten-year awards were received by Allison Reisig, Dave Nelson, and Mike Mitchell. Faculty employee of the year was awarded to Patsy Yeager, Professional Employee of the year was awarded to Mark Rein, and Support Staff of the year was awarded to Micah Findley and Sue Gompert. Cougar Strides Wellness Team conducted drawings throughout the lunch and gave away several health-related items. As always, the food was excellent.

Preparation for another academic year includes enrollment for the upcoming semester. Many who attended the last semester have registered and high school students and incoming students have started registering. Dual Enrollment and changes in test score requirements for some courses will allow additional students to register.

Discussion has begun regarding Career and Technical Education programs and the number of spots that can be opened for dual enrollment students. It is a delicate balance when ensuring there are enough spots for traditional and non-traditional college students.

President Dart reported throughout the summer, construction is scheduled on all three campuses. Pioneer Hall refresh and Harms Center project, on the Scottsbluff campus, Powerline program room addition in Alliance, and Aviation program engine start room addition in Sidney.

### **Board Member Comments**

In response to an inquiry regarding the residence hall laundry issue shared at the last meeting, Ms. Koski stated the matter has been discussed and over the summer will be reviewed to see what can be done.

Chair Anderson welcomed Ms. Liggett to the Board of Governors and thanked her for having interest to serve on the Board.

Chair Anderson reported it was great to see over two hundred people graduate from WNCC. The enthusiasm and pride displayed by friends, family, faculty and staff was touching.

Chair Anderson thanked President Dart, Dr. Wilson and all faculty and staff involved in the planning and preparation for the event. It was a wonderful ceremony as was the Nurses' pinning. WNCC makes a difference, and now, over two hundred people are ready to enter the workforce or transfer onto other institutions.

Ms. Richards shared she and Mr. Kreman presented the Board of Governors' award at the student awards ceremony. It was an honor to recognize such an impressive group of students.

Chair Anderson reminded Board members the June Board meeting will be located at the Alliance Campus. A tour of the Alliance campus and the Powerline facility will be scheduled.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

1. NCCA Third Quarter Meeting  
August 12, 2024  
Lincoln, NE
2. NCCA Fourth Quarter Meeting and Annual Conference  
November 3 and 4, 2024  
Northeast Community College, Norfolk, NE

**Next Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, June 19, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Western Nebraska Community College Alliance Campus, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue, Alliance, NE.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:50 p.m.

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Karen S. Anderson, Chairperson

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Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary