

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**PUBLIC HEARING/PROPOSED BUDGETS
MINUTES
September 20, 2023**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Public Hearing for presentation of Western Community College Area 2023-2024 Proposed Budgets at 1:02 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, in the Coral E. Richards Boardroom, at Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, located at 1601 East 27th Street, in the City of Scottsbluff, in the County of Scotts Bluff, in the State of Nebraska, as per the Notice of Budget Hearing and Budget Summary published in the Star-Herald, on Wednesday, September 12, 2022.

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, Vice Chairperson Present
Margaret R. Crouse Present
Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales Present
F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson Present
Allan D. Kreman Present
William M. Packard Present
Coral E. Richards Present
R. J. Savely, Jr Present

QUORUM

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

BOARD CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Klemke entertained a motion for approval of the agenda. Dr. Crouse MOVED the agenda be approved as presented. SECONDED by Mr. Savely.

The vote was, Yes: Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Savely, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

EXCUSE ABSENT BOARD MEMBER(S)

Chair Klemke reported that all Board members were present.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/2023-2024 WCCA BUDGETS

Pursuant to Section 13-501 to 13-513, R.R.S. and Section 85-1517, R.R.S., Chair Klemke declared the Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following budgets and consider amendments relative thereto open at 1:02 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED 2023-2024 BUDGETS

Chair Klemke asked Ms. Lynne Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services, to present the Western Community College Area proposed 2023-2024 Budgets.

Ms. Koski explained that as the College plans and develops the budget, it is important to keep in mind that the budget needs to support the mission and that includes providing learning opportunities for students in our service area, which is essentially twelve and a half counties in the Panhandle of Nebraska.

In preparing the budget, levy and budget lids are considered. The levy must not exceed the difference between 11.25 cents and the rate levied for the capital improvement funds per \$100 of taxable property valuation for operating expenditures. Pursuant to State Statute §77-1631 through §77-1634, property tax requests greater than allowable growth percentage (2% plus real growth percentage) are required to participate in a Joint Public Hearing.

The budget lid pursuant to State Statute §13-518 through §13-522 limits Restricted Funds Revenue, which are State Aid and Property Taxes. This sets a base limitation of 2.5% plus growth in full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment exceeding 2.5% and allows for 1% additional authority with 75% Board approval of members constituting a quorum authorized to conduct business (Attorney General opinion 17-006, December 28, 2017).

2023-2024 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

The following factors affect Operational Funding.

- Increase (decrease) in tuition rates per credit hour
 - \$0 resident
 - \$0 dual credit (CollegeNow)
 - \$15 non-resident and \$7 border states (CO, SD, WY)
- Credit hours projected at 29,886, 1.44% less than FY23 actual
- 7.99% WNCC Area valuation increase
- Funding formula - State Statute 85-2234, specifies state aid distribution
 - \$2,134,842 (2% increase) certified community college system aid
 - \$116,456 WNCC certified state aid increase
 - \$(57,707) Dual Credit state aid decrease (LB1008, 2020 and LB380, 2021)
 - Board approved 1% budget lid override August 16, 2023 (This is not the approval of additional expenditures, just provides the authority to receive either state aid or property taxes should there be a change mid-year.)

The Operating Revenue Budget is summarized by the source of revenue, the prior year budget, the proposed budget and the percentage of the total budget for each source. The General Operating 2023-2024 budget increased by \$319,932 over the previous year.

- Factors affecting operational expenditures include \$815,415 reduction and reallocation of existing budget to fund:
 - New academic programming – Construction Trades
 - Dean of Health Sciences and Enrollment Management Exec. Director positions
 - Software applications – Electronic college catalog, Online system accessibility, international student processing

- Negotiated total compensation agreement 4%
- Economic factors
 - Supply chain limitations
 - Utilities
 - Property and liability insurance
 - Compensation study

The total proposed Operating Expenditure Budget is \$29,305,609 with a total dollar Increase (Decrease) of \$319,932. This represents an Increase of 1.10% over the prior year's budget.

Operating Expenditures are summarized in two ways:

1. Program Classification - percent of each category of total budget (2023-2024)
 - instruction (32%)
 - academic support (13%)
 - student services (12%)
 - institutional support (32%)
 - physical plant (10%)
 - student financial support (1%)
2. Object of Expenditure - percent of each category of total budget (2023-2024)
 - personnel services (66%)
 - travel (2%)
 - operating expenses (29%)
 - capital outlay (3%)

2023-2024 BUILDING IMPROVEMENT/BOND SINKING BUDGET

Ms. Koski continued with review of the Building Improvement/Bond Sinking Fund.

State Statute 85-1517 authorizes property tax levy up to 2 cents per \$100 valuation for fiscal years beginning July 1, 2013.

The total proposed Building Improvement/Bond Fund proposed budget is \$9,354,341.

New buildings/renovations include:

- Prior Year Carry-over Projects:
 - Main Building A Pod Reno \$1,938,650
 - Student Commons (PIT) Utility Upgrade \$1,320,505
 - Maintenance/Repair \$756,935
- 2023-2024 Building and Renovation Projects:
 - Debt Service/Lease Purchase \$1,137,002
 - Facility Fee Expenditures \$2,557,053
 - Career and Technical Education Facilities \$551,517
 - External/Internal Improvements \$1,092,679

The total Building Improvement Budget Summary for the WNCC campuses (Alliance, Scottsbluff, Sidney)

- Improvements/Debt Service
 - ▶ Funded by
 - Carry Forward Balance \$5,685,741
 - Property Tax Revenue \$3,127,528
 - Other Revenue \$442,795
 - Student Facility Fee \$98,277
- Total Resources \$9,354,341

2023-2024 Tax Supported Funds Budget Summary

Ms. Koski presented a summary of the 2023-2024 Tax Supported Funds Budget.

The 2022-2023 Operating Budget was \$28,985,677 compared to the 2023-2024 proposed budget of \$29,305,609; the 2022-2023 Building Improvement Budget was \$32,644,045 (includes \$22,730,000 non-tax revenue) compared to the 2023-2024 proposed budget of \$9,354,341, the 2022-2023 Tax Supported Budgets totaled \$61,629,722 compared to 2023-2024 proposed budgets in the amount of \$38,659,950.

Tax Levy Summary

The prior year valuation compared to the current year is a 7.99% increase. The tax request, just over \$1,000,000 or a 7.89% increase and the total levy requirement is down slightly from the previous year is 10.0483 cents for \$100 of property. A \$220,000 property, with the 7.99% increase applied means the College would be asking for an additional \$16.00 per year.

Self-Supporting Budgets

Ms. Koski presented the Self-Supporting Budgets, which are non-tax funds. The total proposed budget is \$26,105,597.

Designated Funds are auxiliary enterprise accounts such as food service, bookstore, and residence halls as well as some educational areas (\$7,778,148).

Restricted Funds include items that are restricted to a specific purpose by an external party and include federal student aid/grants, federal loan pass-through fund, state and federal HEERF and ARPA funds, and retirement of debt (\$17,894,339).

Agency Fund includes student clubs and organizations (\$433,110).

Funded by projected revenue of \$22,383,023, with a carry forward balance of \$3,722,574.

In conclusion, Ms. Koski stated that tax supported budgets advance the 2023-2027 Strategic Master Plan:

- Re-envisioning Student Success
- Re-envisioning Academic Excellence
- Re-envisioning Community Partnerships
- Re-envisioning Institutional Vitality

Public Comments

Chair Klemke asked for comments from the community. Pursuant to Board Policy BP-101, Vice Chair Anderson reminded community members who wish to make comments that each speaker will be limited to a five-minute presentation.

One community member attended the Budget Hearing.

Close Public Hearing

Chair Klemke declared the 2023-2024 Proposed Budgets Public Hearing closed at 1:21 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at the conclusion of the Budget hearing and approximately 1:30 p.m., Coral E. Richards Boardroom, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:23 p.m.



F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson



Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary