

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA

**INFORMAL MEETING
MINUTES**

September 20, 2023

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held an Informal meeting at 10:30 a.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 publicized notice in the Star-Herald on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

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

Roll Call

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.

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales arrived at 10:40 a.m.

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.

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

Community Comments

Chair Klemke asked for comments from the community. Pursuant to Board Policy BP-101, Chair Klemke reminded community members who wish to make comments that each speaker will be limited to a five-minute presentation. There were no comments.

New Board Member Question/Answer Session

Chair Klemke introduced Ms. Marjorie Schmidt and Ms. Misty Curtis, whose appointments will be approved at the 1:00 p.m. Regular Board meeting. Mr. Kelly, College attorney will administer the Oath of Office following approval of the appointments. Chair Klemke asked meeting participants to introduce themselves and share information about themselves.

Budget Review

Ms. Lynne Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services presented 2023-2024 budget information.

2023-2024 operating budgets for Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) will be presented at a Public Hearing prior to the regular Board meeting on September 20, 2023. In addition to a budget hearing, either a separate special tax hearing or participation in a joint public hearing is required. Following the September budget hearing the Board will be asked to approve the budgets as presented at the WCCA Regular Board of Governors meeting.

Due to legislative changes to state statute §77-1631 through §77-1634, WNCC meets the criteria requiring participation in a Joint Public Hearing (JPH). The JPH is in lieu of the special tax hearing. The JPH is September 20, 2023 at 6:05 p.m. in the WNCC Judy Chaloupka Theater. Requirements of the JPH include attendance of at least one elected official from each participating subdivision and one designated individual to present at the hearing. Additional board members may attend as a quorum of elected officials does not constitute a meeting as defined by section 84-1809 of the Open Meetings Act. The Board will be asked to set the 2023-2024 tax request at the October 4, 2023 meeting.

The Nebraska Community College Aid Act provides the state aid distribution to the respective community college areas. Community college system funding for 2023-2024 is \$111,939,172, an increase of \$2,134,842. WNCC will receive a \$116,456 state aid formula increase from the previous year budgeted amount. Based on dual credit full-time equivalent enrollments, Western will receive \$57,707 less dual credit aid resulting in a total state aid increase of \$58,749. With a 7.99% increase to property valuations, maintaining the general fund operating levy rate at \$0.079275, results in the levied net property tax revenue increase by approximately \$863,014. The inclusion of miscellaneous taxes, results in a net increase in restricted revenues (state aid and property taxes) of \$922,438 over the previous year budget.

The capital improvement levy rate is set at \$0.02 for 2023-2024 plus \$0.001208 for debt service. The debt service levy is exempt from the established levy limits. The total property tax levy for all funds is 10.0483 cents which is a decrease from the 10.0576 cents in 2022-2023. The taxes on a \$200,000 home would be \$200.97 per year.

All budgets have been updated based on Board discussions from June through August and to reflect actual beginning balances, actual property valuations, and certified state aid. The 2023-24 final budget requests are:

	2022-2023	2023-2024
General Operating Budget	\$28,985,677	\$29,305,609
Building Improvement Budget	<u>\$32,644,045</u>	<u>\$ 9,354,341</u>
Total Tax Supported Budgets	\$61,629,722	\$38,659,950
Self-Supporting Funds Budget	<u>\$25,054,902</u>	<u>\$26,105,597</u>
Grand Total of all Budgets	\$86,684,624	\$64,165,541

Board Member Work Session with President Dart

President Dart mentioned that at the August Board meeting, discussion involved scheduling Board training during the Informal meetings. President Dart shared a survey he drafted listing training options that might be beneficial. Board members were encouraged to review the document and add additional training suggestions.

President Dart stated that additional professional development for the Board is important and will assist them with being the best Board member possible. The plan is to draft a training schedule for the next year and bring forward for consideration. The idea is simple, he or the experts can attend the meeting and present or explain information regarding a particular topic and answer any questions that may surface.

Board Member Comments

There were no Board member comments.

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at the conclusion of the Budget Hearing and no earlier than 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 11:52 a.m.

F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary