WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held an Informal Board meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at Western Nebraska Community College, Alliance Campus, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue, in the City of Alliance, in the County of Box Butte, in the State of Nebraska, as per the publicized notice in the Star-Herald Tuesday, October 6, 2026.

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

AREA BOARD

Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales	Present
Mark A Kaufman	Absent
Allan D. Kreman	Present
Starr Lehl, Vice Chair	Present
Lori J. Liggett	Present
Coral E. Richards	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr.	Absent
Marjorie A. Schmidt	Present
Monica R. Shambaugh	Present
John P. Stinner, Chair	Present

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales informed the Board secretary that she would be unable to attend the meeting due

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

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

BOARD CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS
Chair Stinner 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 Stinner announced that the Board reserves the right to enter a closed session if deemed necessary for any item on the agenda per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Review Contents of Consent Calendar
    a. Agenda
    b. Excuse Absent Board Member(s) Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Richards
    c. Minutes
        1. July 15, 2026, Informal Meeting
        2. July 15, 2026, Regular Meeting
2. **Claims:** May 2026
    a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - $3,216,708.34

b. WCCA Restricted Fund – $37,730.54
c. WCCA Federal Fund - $1,855.22
d. WCCA Agency Fund - $1,235.00
e. WCCA Loan Fund – N/A
f. WCCA Plant Fund - $4,501.44
g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - $131,690.13

3. City Planning Commission Reports – No reports
4. Approval of Consent Calendar
5. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

Kaufman MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. SECONDED by Savely. The vote was, Yes: Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Richards. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (May and June)
Kaufman MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Lehl for $19.00 and Liggett for $182.70. SECONDED by Shambaugh. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Kaufman, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: Lehl, Liggett. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Richards. Motion carried.

Shambaugh MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Savely for $130.50 and Schmidt for $185.60. SECONDED by Kreman. The vote was, Yes: Lehl, Liggitt, Shambaugh, Kaufman, Kreman, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: Savely, Schmidt. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Richards. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT
Resignation(s)
1. Isabella Jaramillo, TRIO SSS Specialist II, Effective August 6, 2026
2. Robert Ommen, Maintenance Coordinator II, Effective August 7, 2026

Appointment(s)
No Appointments

Kaufman MOVED to approve the President's Personnel Report as presented. SECONDED by Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Liggitt, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Richards. Motion carried.

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Bid: Retirement Investment Advisory Services

Tabulation

Company	City/State	Total Amount
HUB International	Omaha, NE	$55,000 (3 years)
Prime Financial	Omaha, NE	$55,000 (3 years)

Bid: Retirement Investment Advisory Services (cont.)
It was the recommendation of the selection committee to accept the bid amount of $55,000 with Prime Financial.

The retirement consultant RFP committee recommended moving forward with fiduciary equivalent services through Prime Capital Retirement. Both proposals were very similar in cost and services offered. The demonstrated willingness and ability of Prime Financial to provide on-site training and employee support was a determining factor in the committee's recommendation.

Schmidt MOVED to approve the Retirement Investment Advisory Services bid. SECONDED by Shambaugh. The vote was, Yes: Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Richards. Motion carried.

Reports & Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee

First Read (once reviewed by the Board, moves to second read)

BP-221Academic Freedom

AP-221.01Academic Freedom – Grievance Procedure

WNCC recognizes the vital role of academic freedom in a democratic society and is committed to a learning environment where the freedom to learn and the freedom to teach are honored and protected. An infringement of academic freedom constitutes an "adverse effect," therefore, all provisions and terms of College policies and procedures and the current Negotiated Agreement are applicable to resolving questions or concerns regarding academic freedom.

BP-429 Workers' Comp

AP-429.01 Workers Comp

This policy establishes principles for employee worker's compensation insurance. The purpose of the procedure is to establish protocol to ensure compliance with Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act, facilitate recovery from occupational injury or illnesses, and provide modified duty employment, thereby reducing workers' compensation costs.

BP-440 Remote Work

AP-440.01 Remote Work Procedure for Staff

The purpose of this policy is to establish conditions under which WNCC may approve work arrangements for certain positions when such arrangements support the College's mission and operational programmic needs.

Second Read (requires Board approval)

BP-304 Purchasing Approval

Savely MOVED to approve the Second Read of BP-304 Purchasing Approval. SECONDED by Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Shambaugh, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Savely, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Richards. Motion carried.

BP-551 Confidentiality of Student Records

Shambaugh MOVED to approve the Second Read of BP-551 Confidentiality of Student Records. SECONDED by Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Shambaugh, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Richards. Motion carried.

Reports & Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee (cont.)
BP-620 Attendance in Classes
Kaufman MOVED to approve BP-620 Attendance in Classes. SECONDED by Liggett. The vote was, Yes: Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Richards. Motion carried.

BP-710 Alcohol and Controlled Substances
Schambaugh MOVED to approve BP-710 Alcohol and Controlled Substances. SECONDED by Kreman. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Kaufman, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Richards. Motion carried.

Policy Repeals
610.1400.79 Programs of Study
610.1500.82 Occupational/Technical Education
610.1600.82 Transfer Program
610.1700.79 Evening Classes
610.1800.79 Developmental Studies
610.1900.79 Community Services Education
610.2000.79 Special-Training and Apprenticeship Programs
610.2100.79 Cooperative Work Experience

These policies have been incorporated into other Board policies as part of the ongoing policy review and consolidation process. Through the continued efforts of the Board Policy Committee and Kimberly Reichert, to streamline and update the Board's policies. Several policies have been consolidated to improve clarity, eliminate redundancy, and maintain a more efficient policy framework.

Savely MOVED to approve the repeal of the following policies: 610.1400.79 Programs of Study, 610.1500.82 Occupational/Technical Education, 610.1600.82 Transfer Program, 610.1700.79 Evening Classes, 610.1800.79 Developmental Studies, 610.1900.79 Community Services Education, 610.2000.79 Special-Training and Apprenticeship Programs, 610.2100.79 Cooperative Work Experience. SECONDED by Kaufman. The vote was, Yes: Lehl, Liggett, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Kaufman, Kreman, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Richards. Motion carried.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS
Student Report
Alexis Dart, presently a WNCC student was present and was asked to share information about herself. She is currently a student at WNCC who recently graduated with a bachelor's degree from Utah State University. She is currently taking two non-degree-seeking courses at WNCC—Conversational Spanish and Spreadsheets—to strengthen skills that complement her professional focus. She began her coursework just a few days ago.

Faculty Report
There was no faculty report.

WNCC Foundation
Jennifer Reisig, Foundation Executive Director stated that the Foundation is committed to partnering with the College and doing what it can to provide additional support during this period of financial shortfall.

One of the most significant steps the Foundation has taken is paying off the debt it owed the College related to the 2018–2019 construction project. Strong investment performance over the past several years has allowed the Foundation to grow its assets while maintaining a conservative investment strategy. The Foundation's Board determined that this was an appropriate time to use some of those resources to fulfill its obligation to the College.

The Foundation is also examining how existing funds can be used more fully and strategically. This includes reviewing scholarship funds to determine where Foundation scholarships could help backfill institutional scholarships, allowing the College to redirect institutional resources to other needs. The Foundation is also exploring opportunities to expand the use of a significant education scholarship endowment. Established through the estate of two educators, the fund was broadened in 2020 to support students pursuing elementary, secondary, and early childhood education. The endowment has now grown to more than $900,000. While it currently provides $1,000 annually to every qualifying education major with at least a 3.0 GPA, the Foundation is beginning conversations about whether some of the fund's available resources could also help support education programs at the College. Any expansion would continue to honor the intent of the donors while providing meaningful assistance to the College.

In addition, the Foundation Board has approved using investment gains rather than unrestricted funds to cover the Foundation's share of staff salaries this year. This will preserve more unrestricted dollars that could potentially be available to address emerging needs at the College.

The Foundation is also taking a more strategic approach to its Faculty and Staff Opportunity Grant program. Rather than funding individual projects through the normal application process this year, the Foundation is pausing the program and working with College leadership to determine how those resources can be directed toward the College's highest priorities.

The Foundation is further leveraging the College's 100th anniversary as an opportunity to generate additional support. It is seeking $100,000 in matching commitments for its year-end appeal, with the goal of raising another $100,000 from donors and generating $200,000 in total support. The majority of year-end gifts will benefit the Foundation's Greatest Need Fund, which provides flexibility to respond to the College's most pressing needs. The Foundation has already identified approximately $150,000 in potential matching commitments and is actively working with donors to reach the $100,000 goal.

The Foundation's investments are overseen by a Finance Committee consisting of investment professionals, bankers, and community members with relevant expertise. The committee operates under an established investment policy that emphasizes diversification and a conservative approach. The policy limits equity investments to no more than fifty percent of the portfolio, with the remainder diversified among investments such as bonds and cash. The Foundation's investments are currently managed through Vanguard, and the portfolio is reviewed regularly. The Finance Committee provides quarterly updates to the Board, while the Foundation has the ability to rebalance investments when appropriate and respond more quickly if market conditions require a decision between regular meetings.

WNCC Foundation (cont.)
The Foundation is also preparing for the 15th Annual Monument Marathon. Approximately 460 runners are currently registered, representing 41 states, with the race five weeks away. While this year's registration may not surpass last year's record of 669 participants, reaching 602 runners would make it the second-largest race in the event's history.

The Foundation is focused on building a strong volunteer team and ensuring another successful race weekend. Last year's event generated $81,390, and the Foundation hopes to achieve a similar level of support this year.

The reach of the Monument Marathon continues to grow beyond the local community. Runners have encountered fellow participants and race supporters across the region and country, including one runner who was recognized for wearing a Monument Marathon shirt while participating in a race in Utah. These stories demonstrate the growing awareness of the event and its importance to the Foundation and College.

Through debt repayment, strategic use of scholarship and unrestricted funds, donor engagement, investment stewardship, and successful fundraising events such as the Monument Marathon, the Foundation is actively seeking creative and responsible ways to support the College during a challenging financial period. Its goal is to use available resources thoughtfully while honoring donor intent and strengthening the College's ability to serve its students.

Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA)
Starr Lehl, Board Representative to the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA), reported that the August NCCA Board meeting was held in Kearney, which reduced travel for the western area members.

The primary topic of discussion was the upcoming budget. The NCCA is continuing to work toward alignment with Metropolitan Community College (Metro), the one Nebraska community college that is not part of NCCA, to ensure that the two organizations are coordinated in their budget requests and priorities.

Ms. Lehl also reported that NCCA currently has a surplus and plans to use a portion of those funds to cover the full cost for individual college student attendance at future PTK events. The goal is to utilize the surplus while providing opportunities for continued learning and professional development. The funding will be available regardless of the number of students each college sends.

Lehl further reported that WNCC will be host the NCCA annual conference October 4–5. Board members were encouraged to mark the dates on their calendars, as several engaging activities and events are being planned.

President Comments
President Dart reported that faculty are fully engaged in the start of the academic year and expressed enthusiasm about the energy and activity across the college.

The college recently hosted Senator Pete Ricketts at the Scottsbluff campus. During his visit, he toured the Health Sciences expansion and renovation project, which was supported by federal funding reappropriated during his tenure as governor. He also met with first- and second-year nursing students and students in the Surgical Technology program and expressed his appreciation for the college's work. Discussions also addressed current federal funding challenges, including the continued funding of Pell Grants and TRIO programs.

President Comments (cont.)
President Dart thanked Chadron State College for its continued partnership with WNCC. Chadron State remains one of the college's top two transfer institutions, and the President emphasized the value of having a four-year institution within the college's service area.

The college also recently held its Centennial kickoff event, which featured the premiere of a Centennial video. The video will be shown during an upcoming board meeting. A complete schedule of Centennial events is available on the college's website. Centennial commemorative cups were also distributed to employees.

President Dart reported strong fall enrollment growth. With approximately ten0 days remaining before the census date, enrollment had surpassed 1,800 students for the first time since 2018. Current enrollment stood at approximately 1,812 students, compared with 1,825 in fall 2018.

Enrollment increases were reported across the college: Alliance Campus: 6% increase, Online enrollment: 22% increase, Scottsbluff Campus: 10% increase, Overall enrollment: 8% increase, Dual-credit enrollment was slightly below last year's record level but was expected to increase during the remaining days before the census. President Dart anticipates that the college would finish above 1,800 students at census.

It was also clarified that dual-credit courses are offered at no cost throughout the college's service area, including homeschool students, with limited exceptions for courses offered outside the service region.

In response to questions regarding identification and building access, the President explained that most academic and classroom buildings remain open-campus facilities and do not require individuals to authenticate identification upon entry. Residence halls have separate access controls, with security measures in place for residents and authorized visitors.

The college continues to evaluate building security and access points. An extensive camera system is in place and was instrumental in initially identifying an individual involved in a recent incident near campus. The individual did not enter any college buildings.

Board Member Comments
There were no Board member comments.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

1. **2026 NCCA Board of Directors Fourth Quarter Meeting and Annual Conference**
   Sunday, October 4, 2026, Scottsbluff Hampton Inn
   Monday, October 5, 2026, WNCC John N. Harms Center

2. **2026 ACCT Leadership Congress**
   October 21-24, 2026
   Hyatt Regency, Chicago, Illinois

3. **2027 ACCT Community College National Legislative Summit**
   February 7-10, 2027
   Marriott Marquis, Washington DC

Upcoming Meetings and Events (cont.)

4. **2027 ACCT Leadership Congress**
   October 13-16, 2027
   Mariott Philadelphia Downtown
   Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

***Follow links to access information.**

WNCC Athletics

WNCC Performing Arts

WNCC Athletic and Academic Calendar

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 1:00 p.m., Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:39 p.m.

John P. Stinner, Chair

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary