WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:25 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at Western Nebraska Community College, Coral E. Richards Boardroom, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE, in the County of Scotts Bluff, in the State of Nebraska, as per the publicized notice in the Star-Herald Tuesday, September 8, 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	Absent
Lori J. Liggett	Present
Coral E. Richards	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr	Present
Marjorie A. Schmidt	Present
Monica R. Shambaugh	Present
John P. Stinner, Chair	Present

Mr. Kaufman informed the Board secretary he was unable to attend the meeting due to a business commitment. Ms. Lehl informed the Board secretary she was unable to attend the meeting due to personal commitment.

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) Lehl, Kaufman
    c. Minutes
        1. August 19, 2026, Informal Meeting
        2. August 19, 2026, Regular Meeting

1. August 19, 2026, Informal Meeting
2. August 19, 2026, Regular Meeting

2. **Claims:** August 2026
   a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - $2,220,770.00
   b. WCCA Restricted Fund – $2,628.96
   c. WCCA Federal Fund - $400.00
   d. WCCA Agency Fund - $1,000.00
   e. WCCA Loan Fund – N/A
   f. WCCA Plant Fund - $5,198.75
   g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - $234,061.79
3. City Planning Commission Reports – No reports
4. Approval of Consent Calendar
5. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

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

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (August)
Liggett MOVED to approve the following travel expense: Lehl for $157.28. SECONDED by Shambaugh. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT
Resignation(s)
1. Lissa Eureste, Admissions Specialist II, Effective August 31, 2026

Appointment(s)
No Appointments

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

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2026-2027 WCCA Budgets
General Fund - $30,509,170
Capital/Bond Fund - $8,417,583
Designated Fund - $7,925,494
Restricted Fund (includes loan fund and debt retirement) - $8,993,393
Agency Fund - $387,615
Total Operating Budget - $56,233,255

Schmidt MOVED to approve the 2026-2027 WCCA Budgets. SECONDED by Savely. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Liggett, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

Adoption of Resolution Setting the Tax Request
WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632 provides that the Governing Body of Western Nebraska Community College passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Body of Western Nebraska Community College resolves that:

The 2026-2027 property tax request be set at:

General Fund: $ -
Bond Fund: $178,929.00
Capital Improvement Fund: $3,661,050.76

The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 4.95 percent.

The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property would be 0.020016 per $100 of assessed value.

Western Nebraska Community College proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be 0.020977 per $100 of assessed value.

Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of Western Nebraska Community College will increase (or decrease) last year's budget by -8.92 percent.

Chair Stinner entertained a motion for approval of the resolution setting the tax request.

Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the resolution setting the tax request for 2026-2027. SECONDED by Richards. The vote was, Yes: Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

Declare a Vacancy on the Board of Governors- District 2
Chair Stinner stated that with the resignation of Josh Hanson, the Board has a vacancy in District 2.

Appoint ad hoc Committee to Make Recommendations to Fill District 2 Vacancy
Chair Stinner stated that an ad hoc committee has been appointed to review applications and conduct interviews. The committee members include John Stinner, Starr Lehl, R. J. Savely, Monica Shambaugh, and Marjorie Schmidt. John Stinner will chair the committee.

Advertisements have been arranged and the deadline for submission of applications is October 7, 2026.

Reports & Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee
Second Read and Approval

BP-221Academic Freedom
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.

Reports & Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee
Second Read and Approval

BP-221Academic Freedom (cont.)
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.

Richards MOVED to approve Board Policy BP-221 Academic Freedom. SECONDED by Shambaugh. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

BP-429 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.

Schmidt MOVED to approve Board Policy BP-429 Workers' Comp. SECONDED by Richards. The vote was, Yes: Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

BP-440 Remote Work
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.

Richards MOVED to approve Board Policy BP-440 Remote Work. SECONDED by Savely. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

Request for Sale and Use of Alcohol at a College Sponsored Event
Centennial Trivia Night at Flyover Brewery, Scottsbluff, NE (October 18, 2026)

President Dart explained that whenever a college-sponsored event is scheduled at a venue where alcohol sales are part of the event, Board approval is required. Although the college does not sell or receive proceeds from the sale of alcohol, alcohol is being sold at the venue during the college-sponsored event.

Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the sale and use of alcohol at a college sponsored event, which is the Centennial Trivia Night scheduled at the Flyover Brewery in Scottsbluff, NE. SECONDED by Shambaugh. The vote was, Yes: Liggett, Richards, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Stinner. No: Savely. Abstain: Kreman. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

Request for Sale and Use of Alcohol at a College Sponsored Event
Powerline Reunion at Golden Hour BBQ, Alliance, NE (October 21, 2026)

Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the sale and use of alcohol at a college sponsored event, which is the Powerline Reunion scheduled at the Golden Hour BBQ in Alliance, NE. SECONDED by Shambaugh. The vote was, Yes: Liggett, Richards, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Stinner. No: Savely. Abstain: Kreman. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

Initiation of Collective Bargaining (Contract Period 2027-2028)
Chair Stinner reported that the Board had received correspondence from the NWCEA (Nebraska Western College Education Association) requesting the initiation of collective bargaining on behalf of the certified staff of the Western Community College Area, including faculty members, division chairs, degreed library staff, and counselors. Chair Stinner entertained a motion to approve the initiation of collective bargaining for the 2027–2028 contract period.

Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the initiation of collective bargaining for the 2027-2028 contract period. SECONDED by Shambaugh. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Liggett, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

Student Report
WNCC student Muhammed Bittaye reported that Cougar Council will meet on Mondays from four to five p.m. The plan is to conduct student activities every month. Muhammed shared events scheduled thus far.

- A leadership training is scheduled for September 24.
- A bonfire is planned for October 10 during one of the games.
- A visit to the Sidney campus is planned for October 24.
- Cougar Council will collaborate with College Council on its centennial event.
- Cougar Council will also collaborate with PTK on its college project.

Faculty Report
On Saturday, September 12th, Dr. Patrick Newell hosted a three-and-a-half-hour all-state chorus audition preparation clinic for Panhandle-area high school students. Twenty-two students from five schools participated.

In May, Newell led the second annual Sweetland Singing Institute in Tuscany, an initiative established following his spring 2024 sabbatical. Participation nearly tripled from the inaugural institute, with students attending from the United States, Guatemala, and Germany. Master teachers included Claudia Hallmeier, recognized as Germany's first musical theater performer. Newell is already accepting reservations for the next institute, scheduled for summer 2028. Ms. Hallmeier's daughter and her boyfriend, Marvin, are now music students at WNCC.

Also in May, thirteen WNCC students participated in a Nebraska Global Leadership-sponsored study abroad experience in Greece, administered by Patrick Newell and taught by Violette Briggs. Students visited archaeological sites and museums, spent a day on the island of Aegina, and hiked trails near Corinth and Olympia. A memorable highlight was the impromptu wedding of WNCC students Nathan Schick and Eliana Eichner, who, with assistance from tour guides, were married by Nathan's father via Zoom on a beach in Tolo. Among the five colleges in the consortium, WNCC again had the largest number of participating students.

September 20–26 marks National Surgical Technologists Week, recognizing surgical technologists as essential members of the healthcare team. They play a critical role in maintaining sterility, promoting patient safety, and ensuring surgical procedures meet the highest standards of care.

Faculty Report (cont.)
The Associate of Health Information Management program at Western Nebraska Community College has received continuing accreditation for seven years from the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). The comprehensive review recognized the program's substantial compliance with the 2026 Health Information Management associate degree accreditation standards.

NCCA Report
Chair Stinner reported that he attended both an executive meeting and a public meeting, where internal matters and proposed legislation were discussed. He also reviewed the community college proposal for the current biennium.

The main upcoming NCCA event is scheduled for October 4–5. The Sunday session will be held at the Hampton Inn in Scottsbluff, with an all-day meeting at the John Harms Center on Monday.

WNCC Foundation Report
Jennifer Reisig, Foundation Executive Director reported that the marathon is gaining momentum, with volunteer training underway. 520 runners are currently registered; a number organizers hope will reach 600 by the end of next week. Ms. Reisig expressed appreciation for the college and broader community's support in bringing the event together.

Runners are coming from forty states, providing an opportunity to showcase the area while raising funds for students. Ms. Reisig noted the excitement surrounding the event and the chance for visitors to enjoy the community during their stay.

President Comments
The President recognized the significant work taking place across the college, beginning with the Foundation. With the Foundation's busiest time of year coinciding with the college's centennial celebration, staff are managing numerous initiatives, including the upcoming marathon, a major fundraiser that also brings positive recognition to the college and provides scholarship support for students.

The Foundation is also playing an important role in the centennial celebration by helping develop historical displays throughout the service region, including exhibits at the Legacy of the Plains Museum, the Sidney campus, and the museum in Alliance. Mary Sheffield and others have contributed significantly to these efforts. A centennial coffee table book is also nearing completion, with order forms now available. The President also recognized the many faculty and staff members serving on centennial committees, including Misty Curtis; Allison Judy, Pauline Newman, Audrey, Murphy and others who are providing leadership and support for the celebration. The book will serve as a lasting artifact celebrating the college's 100-year history.

The President highlighted the successful reaccreditation of the Health Information Management and Health Information Technology programs. Faculty members Nicole Danielzuk and Carolee Fisher played key roles in the process and participated as pilot faculty in the development of curriculum aligned with new accreditation standards. Their work places the programs at the forefront of accreditation efforts and provides an example for other programs across the country.

Attention was also drawn to the upcoming NCCA events, with a banquet scheduled for the 4th and a conference on the 5th. Performing arts students will provide entertainment at the banquet, while the conference will feature Jee Hang Lee, CEO of ACCT, as keynote speaker.

President Comments (cont.)
Katie Thurber, Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Labor, will lead a session, and Joseph Young, representative from the Nebraska State Chamber, along with Owen Palm and Zach Karpf, will participate in panels.

President Dart reported that fall enrollment has increased by more than 8 percent, representing the largest fall enrollment since at least 2017. The increase has resulted in full classes and increased workloads across faculty and support offices, including Student Services and the Business Office.

President Dart also recognized an unprecedented achievement in supporting students through the college's nonpayment process. Through coordinated efforts led by Sue Gompert in the Business Office and involving Financial Aid, Admissions, Student Success and Advising, and other areas, the college did not drop a single student for nonpayment during the applicable process. It was noted that this achievement demonstrates the college's commitment to its belief that every student matters, particularly during a time of budget pressures and challenges.

Board Comments
Chair Stinner thanked Ms. Koski and her staff for their work on the budget and the ongoing audit. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of the entire staff, noting that they had done a marvelous job and that work was moving in a positive direction. While acknowledging that the budget seemed to overshadow everything else, he said he appreciated the positive momentum.

Executive Session – 2027-2028 Collective Bargaining (NWCEA)
Chair Stinner entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the 2027–2028 NWCEA collective bargaining negotiations.

Liggett moved pursuant to Section 84-1410 of the Reissue of the Revised Statutes, known as the Nebraska Public Meetings Law, that the Board hold a closed session with College attorney, Jerry Ostdiek, President Dart, Board Secretary, Susan Verbeck, Lynne Koski, Lisa Gion, Pauline Newman, and Nancy Hall for the purpose of discussion of 2027-2028 Collective Bargaining.

She further move this closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of individuals, and that strategy sessions with respect to Collective Bargaining are specifically authorized by the Nebraska Public Meetings Law.

SECONDED by Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

Chair Stinner proclaimed the Executive Session open at 1:53 p.m.

Open Meeting
Chair Stinner proclaimed the regular meeting open at 2:16 p.m.

2026-2027 Collective Bargaining Appointments (NWCEA)
WCCA Board Negotiators
Jason Ossian, College Attorney
Lisa Gion, Associate Vice President of Human Resources
Lynne Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services

2026-2027 Collective Bargaining Appointments (NWCEA)
WCCA Board Negotiators (cont.)

Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the assignment of the WCCA Board negotiators. SECONDED by Richards. The vote was Schmidt, Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

WCCA Board Observers
R. J. Savely, Marjorie Schmidt, Nancy Hall, Pauline Newman.

Richards MOVED to approve the assignment of the WCCA Board observers. SECONDED by Savely. The vote was Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Liggett, Richards, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: Savely, Schmidt. Absent: Kaufman, Lehl. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

2026 NCCA Board of Directors Fourth Quarter Meeting and Annual Conference
Sunday, October 4, 2026, 4:30 p.m. Scottsbluff Hampton Inn
Monday, October 5, 2026, 7:30 a.m. WNCC John N. Harms Center

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

13th Annual Alumni and Friends Banquet
5:00 p.m., Saturday, October 24, 2026
Scottsbluff County Club
RSVP to alumni@wncc.edu by October 15

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

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

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, October 21, 2026, 1:00 p.m., Western Nebraska Community College, Alliance Campus, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue, Alliance, NE.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:21 p.m.

John P. Stinner, Chair

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary