

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**INFORMAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 4, 2023**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held an Informal Board meeting at 10:38 a.m. on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 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, September 26, 2023.

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

**QUORUM**

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

**COMMUNITY 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.

There were no public comments.

**NEW BOARD MEMBER QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION**

Chair Klemke explained that prior to the start of the September Informal Board meeting, a condensed onboarding session was scheduled with newly appointed Board members, Ms. Curtis and Ms. Schmidt. As follow up to that meeting, Ms. Curtis and Ms. Schmidt were asked if they had additional questions or concerns. Ms. Curtis and Ms. Schmidt responded that at this time, they did not have any questions.

## **BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services, reported that part of the discussion today is related to the request for approval of a resolution setting the property tax request for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Ms. Koski explained that valuations of property are established by the county assessor in each of the twelve and a half counties in the WNCC service area. Across the state, multiple prescribed variables establish those valuations. One item in particular that impacts valuations is the sale price of property within each county's area.

Discussion was initiated regarding maintaining or lowering the property tax request. Ms. Koski explained that if a change was requested, a second Budget Hearing would be required because the total tax request would need to be revisited. The hearing would be scheduled prior to the November 15, 2023 Regular Board meeting.

A reduction based on leaving the general operating fund at 7.9275, but reduce the capital fund from 2 to 1.8 cents, would be a 1.65% reduction in the levy. Any type of operational salaries or instructional needs would be intact within the general operating fund.

Chair Klemke explained that no action would be taken at the Informal meeting, this was simply an opportunity for Ms. Koski to share information and for discussion of the property tax request.

## **BOARD MEMBER WORK SESSION WITH PRESIDENT DART**

President Dart shared a schedule of proposed trainings for Board members. The trainings will be offered by President Dart or designee on topics that are of general interest or importance to Board members. The trainings will be offered during the Informal Board meetings.

The first training session focused on the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA). The NCCA is composed of the six Nebraska community colleges which are broken up into six different community college areas. Five of the six community colleges are members of the NCCA.

The Association has a ten-member board and each of the five colleges that are part of the association have two members on the Board. In addition to the Board members, the college presidents also attend the meetings and are available to provide input about the college they represent. The executive director, Ms. Courtney Wittstruck acts as a lobbyist, so her goal is to form relationships with elected officials to understand what is happening in the legislature. During the legislative session, information is shared about the bills along with the priorities for the community colleges. Ms. Anderson, one of the NCCA board members, added that Ms. Wittstruck is leading the colleges to become proactive rather than reactive. It is important that the impact of the community colleges is recognized.

President Dart reminded Board members that the NCCA Annual Conference is scheduled November 5 and 6, 2023 in North Platte, NE.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 1:00 p.m., Coral E. Richards Boardroom, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Scottsbluff, NE

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:52 a.m.

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F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson

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Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary