
Western Dakota Technical College prepares students to be highly-skilled professionals through accessible, career-focused programs to improve their lives, while adapting to community workforce needs and positively impacting our economy.

The Western Dakota Tech Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 11:30 am, in person at the Western Dakota Tech campus in the Pennington County Room. The meeting was also available virtually via Teams. The board trustees in attendance included: Tom Brunner, Brad Heltzel (via Teams), Lynn Kendall, Curt Pochardt, Andrea Powers, Linda Rabe, Mike Roesler, Andy Scull, and Dr. Steve Willard.

Absent with notice: None.

WDTA leadership staff attending included: Christine Goldsmith, Kelly Oehlerking, and Debbie Toms (via Teams).

Others present included: Jordan Cook, Andrew Kapelewski, Diana Newman, Noelle Simmons, and Pam Stillman-Rokusek.

Board Development 11:30 am

Lunch and Board Networking

Board Meeting – 12:00 pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Chairman WILLARD called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm with a roll call to order.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
POWERS moved, and RABE seconded to approve the December agenda. MOTION CARRIED via roll call vote (9-0).
3. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
WILLARD asked if any trustee had potential conflicts. None were disclosed.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
WILLARD asked if there were any public comments, none were expressed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
Acting President, Christine Goldsmith, shared updates on tasks, initiatives, preliminary spring 2025 enrollment, and the [HR Update](#).

There was discussion regarding two RCAS parcels and a next step was identified to request a meeting to discuss this.

6. **FINANCE REPORT**
Christine Goldsmith presented the monthly finance report.
 7. **FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**
-

Western Dakota Technical College prepares students to be highly-skilled professionals through accessible, career-focused programs to improve their lives, while adapting to community workforce needs and positively impacting our economy.

The Foundation Vice Chair, Jordan Cook, shared the following updates.

- a) The Foundation Executive Director search is planned to resume in January 2025.
- b) They are working through the process to respond to potential developers for on-campus student housing.
- c) The Foundation has obtained legal counsel to assist with housing.
- d) They continue to work on moving forward with a Capital Campaign.

8. **DISCUSSION ITEM**

- a. Board of Trustees Composition, Ex-Officio Members, and Board Policies

The Board discussed potential ex-officio members. The Board policy will be updated to add ex-officio members and will be presented for review at a future meeting.

9. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. APPROVAL ITEM: [Minutes from November 13, 2024 Regular Meeting](#)
- b. APPROVAL ITEM: [Bills to Pay](#)
- c. APPROVAL ITEM: Advertise RFP – [Mobile Simulation Bus](#)
- d. APPROVAL ITEM: Extend Current [2021-2026 Strategic Plan](#) by One-Year, to 2027

Motion by BRUNNER and seconded by POCHARDT, to approve the Consent Agenda.
MOTION CARRIED via roll call vote (9-0).

10. **APPROVAL ITEM: EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES, RECOMMENDATION OF SEARCH FIRM AND BUDGET**

The Search Committee provided a synopsis of the proposals received and they recommended moving forward with Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates (HYA), and to establish a budget to not exceed \$50,000.

Motion by POWERS, seconded by BRUNNER, to authorize the Board Chair to engage and sign a contract with HYA to facilitate the search for a college president and to establish a budget to not exceed \$50,000 for all expenses related to the search. MOTION CARRIED via roll call vote (9-0).

11. **AGENDA ITEM SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Chairman WILLARD asked if there were any agenda item suggestions for the next meeting. POCHARDT shared an interest in having a discussion on legislative planning in the next meeting.

12. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled as follows: January 8, 2025 | 11:30 am | Pennington County Room

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board did not enter Executive Session.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

BRUNNER moved and SCULL seconded to adjourn at 1:17 pm. MOTION CARRIED via roll call vote (9-0).

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

11:30 a.m.

Pennington County Room

Western Dakota Technical College prepares students to be highly-skilled professionals through accessible, career-focused programs to improve their lives, while adapting to community workforce needs and positively impacting our economy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Chair

DRAFT