



### **NWCCD Mission**

NWCCD welcomes all learners, empowers student success, and encourages and strengthens community development.

### **NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT - BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

#### **Minutes**

#### **Special Meeting**

**September 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

**Padlock Ranch Conference Center**

#### **Trustees Present**

Debra Wendtland, Chair  
Tracy Swanson, Vice Chair  
Bob Leibrich, Treasurer  
Ward Cotton  
Chuck Holloway

#### **Trustees Absent**

Gary Koltiska, Secretary  
Elaine Olafson Henry

#### **Advisory Board Representative Present**

Cindy Kremers, Chair, SC in Johnson County Advisory Board

#### **Advisory Board Representative Absent**

#### **Administration Present**

Dr. Walt Tribley, President  
Craig Achord, Vice President of Administrative Services & CFO  
Jennifer Crouse, Vice President of Student Affairs & Sheridan College Foundation Executive Director  
Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Wendy Smith, Vice President of Community Engagement, Strategic Communications & PIO  
Robert Briggs, Associate Vice President for Institutional Research

#### **Others Present**

Clint Langer, NWCCD Board Counsel  
Erin Kilbride, Executive Director Whitney Benefits Foundation  
Roy Garber, President of Whitney Benefits Board of Directors  
Nadine Gale, Secretary of Whitney Benefits Board of Directors  
Bob Berger, President of Sheridan College Foundation  
Hector Martinez, Sheridan Press  
Kevin Koile, Sheridan Media

#### **Recorder**

Dylan Branson

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call – Special Meeting**

Chair Wendtland called the Special Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. There was a quorum.

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. **Approval of Agenda** – Chair Wendtland requested a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Leibrich moved, and Trustee Swanson seconded. The motion carried.

4. **Public Comments** – There were no public comments.

## 5. New Business

President Tribley presented a Power Point called *Strategic Planning to 2030*, outlining the funding context and goals for Sheridan College through 2030. The presentation highlighted the graduation rates at local school districts and the resulting importance of reaching outside of Sheridan County for enrollment. President Tribley introduced proposed initiatives supporting this, including the Smart-Start Campus Living idea and the Borderless Benefits Package idea.

Vice President Achord explained the five-year budget assumptions that were made in creating the strategic plan.

President Tribley and cabinet members answered clarifying questions from attendees regarding enrollment statistics, the Gillette College separation, and recruiting initiatives.

Attendees separated into three breakout groups that were facilitated by cabinet members and Dr. Tribley. They rotated through stations representing the goals of the draft strategic plan and discussed topics related to them:

“Goal A: Increase enrollment, retention, and completion by recruiting and supporting students throughout their academic journey from enrollment to graduation.”

“Goal B: Ensure the readiness of our College to serve a diverse array of students by providing broad and holistic support, both in and out of the classroom.”

“Goal C: Strengthen pathways for students into the local and regional workforce from kindergarten to college.”

The group reconvened for discussion of the potential for reinstating an athletic program. Attendees discussed if more public discussion was necessary regarding the costs of an athletic program in the context of anticipated loss of revenue from enrollment in Gillette. It was noted that in previous years the president and board have indicated that they will wait until the College has operated for one year following the complete fiscal separation from enrollment in Gillette before deciding about reinstating the athletics program. Trustee Wendtland summarized that this continues to make sense and that if the athletics program is reinstated in the future, it will require community support. Attendees discussed the current state of campus life and numerous opportunities that students have for participating in activities.

Trustee Wendtland requested further comments from attendees. President Garber stated that this is an economically challenging time for the state of Wyoming. He said that they are finishing up the legacy program, which did not meet the expectations they had hoped for. He expressed appreciation for the thoughtfulness and direction in the strategic plan to 2030 that was presented. He noted that Sheridan College is an important revenue producer for the local economy. He encouraged the College to continue to establish partnerships within the community and commented on the potential for matching funds. He stated that Whitney Benefits looks forward to continuing to work with the College in the future.

## 6. Adjourn

Chair Wendtland adjourned the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Koltiska".

Gary Koltiska  
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra Wendland".

Debra Wendland  
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Chair