



NWCCD Mission

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

NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

Regular Meeting & Public Hearing

Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Sheridan College – Whitney Center for the Arts – Room 235

Trustees Present

Tracy Swanson, Chair
Elaine Henry, Vice Chair
Ward Cotton, Secretary
Bob Leibrich, Treasurer
Chuck Holloway
Gary Reynolds
Tom Ringley

Trustees Absent

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, Sheridan College Foundation Executive Director
Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Micah Olsen, Interim Vice President of Student 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 Hector Martinez Kevin Koile
Please see sign-in sheet for full list of those who signed in.

Recorder

Andrea Morgan

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – Regular Meeting
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Trustee Cotton moved to approve the agenda. Trustee Holloway seconded. The motion carried.
4. **Consent Agenda**
 - Regular Meeting Minutes – March 17,
 - 2026 March 2026 Financial Report

- March 2026 Check Register
- Employee Hires and Exits

Trustee Henry moved to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Ringley seconded. The motion carried.

5. President Recommends Faculty for Tenure – Action

Dr. Tribley and Dr. Castillo-Garrison introduced the tenure processes and those being considered for tenure.

a. Tyler Julian

Dr. Tribley recommended Tyler Julian for tenure. Chair Swanson requested a motion to approve. Trustee Cotton moved, and Trustee Henry seconded. The motion carried.

b. Kevin Moore

Dr. Tribley recommended Kevin Moore for tenure. Chair Swanson requested a motion to approve. Trustee Henry moved, and Trustee Ringley seconded. The motion carried.

c. Angel Sparkman

Dr. Tribley recommended Angel Sparkman for tenure. Chair Swanson requested a motion to approve. Trustee Holloway moved, and Trustee Reynolds seconded. The motion carried.

6. Service Learning TRiO Trip to Peru – Joseph Aguirre

Joseph Aguirre introduced the TRiO service learning trip and the students and staff who participated. Each student described their gratitude for the experience, cultural learning, service project, and lauded its significant impact on their lives as Sheridan College students.

7. Strategic Plan Spotlight – Student Focused - Goal C: Strengthen pathways for students into the local and regional workforce from primary and secondary schools through college to the workforce. Many faculty and staff involved in the work related to Goal C presented to the Board to give explanation of and context for their work benefiting students and the institution. The Board engaged in discussion and asked questions related to the strategic plan Goal C work.

8. Organization Reports

a. Faculty Senate (FS) – Ms. Sandy reported that FS has completed its review and revision of the faculty handbook and is now working to fill seats for committees.

b. Student Government Association (SGA) – Ms. Stomprud reported that the students put a hold on the initiative related to providing gaming equipment in the residence halls. Elections for SGA executive board members are tomorrow, 4-22-2026. SGA hearing requests for student fee allocations and will allocate funds. She thanked the Board, and Chair Swanson expressed their appreciation for her service to the students at Sheridan College. Dr. Tribley reported that Ms. Stomprud was selected to speak on behalf of the students at commencement.

9. President's Report – Dr. Walt Tribley

a. District Division Update – Dr. Tribley reported that GCCD presented its argument to become a candidate at the HLC Institution Actions Committee, a subcommittee. In the likely event that they recommend candidacy, the HLC will vote on their candidacy in June 2026 at which point they will apply to be fully accredited. GCCD anticipates receiving accreditation in the fall of 2027.

b. Science Building Update – The legislature provided the state portion of the funding for the science center, 55% of total cost. By moving forward with level II design before securing state funding, the College saved approximately \$1.6M in inflation cost. The bids came in lower than the amount budgeted. The additional funds will be used on the alternate projects to further augment the building project. He described the possible alternate projects. There are some continued concerns about funding related to property taxes and revision of the funding allocation model. He invited anyone with concerns to discuss them with him. He announced the groundbreaking event on May 13 at 4:30PM and anticipated construction completion in 2028. Trustee Leibrich weighed in with his support for the

expenditure and efficiency of spending now rather than waiting. Kent Andersen gave an overview of the general plans for construction, parking, deliveries, traffic and walking routes to buildings, etc. Dr. Tribley reported that one small parking lot will permanently be removed and replaced by greenspace.

- c. **SCJC Center for Higher Education Update** – See agenda item #10.
 - d. **Notice: Sheridan College will Participate in Perkins V Funding and Activities for the 2026-27 Program Year** – Dr. Tribley reported that the College will be participating in the Perkins V program for the 2026-27 year and beyond.
 - e. **General Updates** – Dr. Tribley announced a few upcoming end of year events. He briefly discussed the Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP). At this time, there are 8 full-time employees who have submitted applications. Some of those positions, but maybe not all will be replaced. He explained there will be a Special Board meeting called shortly after the application deadline to discuss and consideration of the applications via Zoom. There will be no names disclosed when taking action on the applications. Dr. Tribley reported that he will be recommending approval for all applications he has reviewed. Micah Olsen reported the successes of the SC rodeo teams with one rodeo left and anticipated participation in the CNFR. Dr. Tribley asked Ms. Kremers to report on the Joint Board Meeting.
- 10. Johnson County Advisory Board Report** – Cindy Kremers, Chair
- Ms. Kremers discussed the SC arts events at the Johnson County Library. She reported on new scholarships including a president’s scholarship up to \$5k. Advisory board planning and looking for donations for the Golf for Knowledge Tournament. She reported that the community interest courses offered are well received, and they are always looking for new ideas and expansion of those courses offered. She reported that the SCF and NWCCD boards are meeting on Friday to discuss the new SCJC building in Johnson County. There will be financial and enthusiastic support of this project from the City, County, and citizens of Buffalo.
- 11. Public Comments** – Edith Johnson-LaMeres provided information about the Skills USA oil change day as a fundraiser for the Skills USA club and to provide service to the community.
- 12. Key Monitoring Reports** – None
- 13. Unfinished Business** – None
- 14. New Business**
- a. **Academic and Holiday Calendar 2028-29** – Action
- Dr. Tribley reported that the academic calendar meets the requirements for class time. He discussed holidays. Chair Swanson requested a motion to approve the calendar. Trustee Reynolds moved, and Trustee Cotton seconded. The motion carried.
- b. **Public Hearing on One Mill Levy** – Public Hearing
- Chair Swanson opens the Public Hearing. Start time 7:35 p.m. Dr. Tribley offered the opportunity for anyone to speak on the optional 1 mill tax levy being considered by the board. It is the same 1 mill tax levied two years ago, so there is no new or additional tax, but it is optional. There were no comments. Chair Swanson close the Public Hearing. End time 7:36 p.m.
- c. **Approval of One Mill Levy** – Action
- Chair Swanson requested a motion to approve the proposed 1 mill levy. Trustee Henry moved, and Trustee Ringley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion carried. Dr. Tribley thanked the Board for these funds which are critical in the financial support of the College.
- d. **Preliminary Budget Presentation** – Information
- VP Achord presented a very early preliminary budget to the Board as required by statute prior to May 15. He provided a general overview of the community college funding, NWCCD FY26 updated, appropriations

recap, and a preliminary look ahead at the FY27 budget. He anticipates changes to the preliminary figures provided. There were no questions. Dr. Tribley explained the next steps for budget planning and reporting.

e. Composite Financial Indicator (CFI) – Information

VP Achord explained that the CFI is a measurement used by the HLC to determine the financial health of an institution, and NWCCD is financially healthy per this measurement at 7.39 (without GASB 68 & 75) or 5.0 (with GASB 68 & 75).

f. SEEDA DRAFT Preliminary Budget – Information

Mr. Briggs gave a SEEDA financial overview, briefly describing the High Tech Business Park Phase I and II, financial expenditures, and the newly proposed, fulltime SEEDA administrator.

g. Text Alerts to Board, Advisory Board Chair, NWCCD Counsel – Information

Dr. Tribley explained that the Trustees would be signed up to receive emergency communication alerts to their Sheridan.edu email and texts to their phones. Trustees would have to opt out if they do not wish to receive these emergency messages.

15. Adjourn – Chair Swanson adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Ward Cotton
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Secretary


Tracy Swanson
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Chair