



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

Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Sheridan College – Whitney Center for the Arts – Room 235

Trustees Present

Tracy Swanson, Chair
Ward Cotton, Secretary
Bob Leibrich, Treasurer
Tom Ringley

Trustees Absent

Gary Reynolds
Elaine Henry, Vice Chair
Chuck Holloway

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
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
Dr. Bobbie Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer

Others Present

Clint Langer, NWCCD Board Counsel Kevin Koile

Recorder

Andrea Morgan

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – Regular Meeting

Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There was a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

Trustee Ringley moved to amend the agenda to delete item #5 Department Spotlight. Trustee Cotton seconded. The motion carried. Trustee Ringley moved to approve the amended agenda. Trustee Cotton seconded. The motion carried.

4. Consent Agenda

Regular Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2026
July 2026 Financial Report
July 2026 Check Register

Employee Hires and Exits

Trustee Leibrich moved to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Cotton seconded. The motion carried.

5. Department Spotlight – Removed from the agenda (see item 3).

6. President's Report – Dr. Walt Tribley

- a. **District Division Update** – Nothing new to report.
- b. **Science Building Update** – Making progress. The project is on time and on budget. Tours available.
- c. **SCJC Center for Higher Education Update** – The project has been approved by the State Building Commission. The steering committee met, and there were several members added including Trustees Cotton and Ringley. Other new additions included Whitney Benefits board members Roy Garber and Tom Belus and Executive Director Erin Kilbride. The committee discussed site challenges and solutions for building there. The original concept was to build a 15k sq. ft. building for a 40-50 year building that can grow and change with the community. However, with a \$7M budget, the building would have only been 9k sq. ft. Because the building should be larger to achieve the goals and vision for space, the cost will increase. The budget will need to increase to be approximately \$12M. The College has the funding available but will seek additional sources as well. Trustee Leibrich asked if the building will be on the state maintenance schedule. Dr. Tribley reported it will not be because there will be no state money requested for the building. The Sheridan College Foundation will receive the title for the building. This allows the Foundation to retain an asset in exchange for providing a \$3.5 million gift to help fund the project. Also, transferring title to the Foundation their asset is protected. The College will receive access and the rights to operate the facility.
- d. **General Updates** – Dr. Tribley reported a great opening day of the semester yesterday which included the All-Employee Breakfast and State of the College Address. Chair Swanson echoed the positive sentiment and encouraged Trustees to attend in the future.

7. Johnson County Advisory Board Report (SCJC) – Cindy Kremers, Chair

Mrs. Kremers commended the progress made by the steering committee. She described the building site and its relationship to the slope of the property for the sake of visibility. She also mentioned that there will be water runoff, but that there are plans to mitigate it. Community members are excited by the project and ready to help. There is one more SCJC enrollment event happening before the start of the Fall Semester, and scholarships for SCJC students will be awarded soon.

Sheridan College Foundation Report (SCF) – Jen Crouse, Executive Director

Eliason Financial holds the SCF endowment, which is approximately \$44M, the highest it's ever been. SCF awarded \$1.5M in scholarships last year; \$450k was awarded for housing scholarships. The SCF raised \$804k for housing scholarships. Sheridan College is at a 7-year high in housing occupancy. SCF has raised \$124k toward the \$200k match available for SCJC scholarships. Every donor that gives to the foundation has an account and will receive an annual report. SCF continues to recruit student partners for its leadership program.

8. Organization Reports – There are no organization reports in May, June, July, or August.

9. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

10. Key Monitoring Reports

- a. **Mission and Vision Review / Affirmation** – Dr. Tribley offered the opportunity to the Board to review or revise the mission or vision. He explained next steps should there be changes. There were no comments or changes recommended by the Board.
- b. **Overview of Title IX and Clery Act Report** – Dr. Bobbie Murray provided a high-level overview of Title IX and Clery Act. She summarized the handout provided and discussed the training offered for staff, faculty, and students. When necessary, Title IX investigations are conducted by D. Stafford and Associates, independent and experienced consultants.

- c. **Community College Survey of Student Engagement (SSI)** – AVP Briggs summarized the SSI survey methodology and the results for Sheridan College participants. He highlighted the factors that influenced students' enrollment. Cost continues to be a priority for students, but they also listed financial aid, academic reputation, geographic setting, and personalized attention before enrollment as influential in their decision to enroll at Sheridan College.

11. Unfinished Business – None

12. New Business

a. Science Center Loan – Information

VP Achord spoke to the Board about an opportunity for a funding mechanism for the science building. He reported that the Sheridan College Building Authority may take out a cash-secured loan on behalf of the College at a low interest rate for \$10M. The College currently earns 3.6% in interest on its account, and the interest rate charged for the loan would be 4.91%. The difference is 1.31%. This allows the College to retain its cash on hand. Dr. Tribley further explained that the College has the funds for construction without the loan, but faces many changes in the near future, including the loss of revenue from NWCCD courses being taught in Gillette, along with a possible loss of some property tax revenue. The College would be paying interest for the security of having cash and time to payoff the loan. Trustee Leibrich asked if there is an opportunity to take out a tax exempt loan. VP Achord responded that while possible, he believes that would increase the interest rate on the loan.

- 13. Adjourn** – Chair Swanson reminded the Board that the next Regular Meeting is on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 2:00pm, an earlier start time, to accommodate the candidate forum for those running for the NWCCD Board of Trustees. He also reminded the Board of the Board Retreat scheduled on August 26, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at Sheridan College.

Respectfully Submitted:



Ward Cotton
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Secretary



Tracy Swanson
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Chair