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Our Mission

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

NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Executive Session, 5:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting & Public Hearing, 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference Platform

Trustees Present

Walt Wragge, Chair
Robert Leibrich, Vice Chair
Debra Wendtland, Treasurer
Shelley Wilson Kinnison
Norleen Healy
Bruce Hoffman
Gary Koltiska

Trustees Absent

Advisory Board Representatives Present

Cindy Kremers, Chair, Johnson County Advisory Board
Robert Palmer, Chair, Gillette College Advisory Board

Advisory Board Representatives Absent

Administration Present

Dr. Walt Tribley, President
Janell Oberlander, Vice President of Gillette College
Cheryl Heath, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Jen Crouse, Sheridan College Foundation Executive Director & Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
Estella Castillo-Garrison, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Heidi Gross, Gillette College Foundation Executive Director
Wendy Smith, Associate Vice President for Strategic Communication & Public Relations
Jennifer McArthur, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources

Others Present

Hayden Heaphy, NWCCD Board Counsel

Dennis Zezas

Precious Oyewole, Sheridan College SGA President
Michael Carver, Faculty Senate President

Joel Moline
Pat Blair, Sheridan Media

Recorder

Andrea Morgan

1. Executive Session

NWCCD Board Chair, Walt Wragge explained that the Board was in executive session beginning at 5:30 p.m.

2. Adjourn into Regular Meeting

Chair Wragge asked for a motion to adjourn the executive session regarding a personnel matter as outlined in W. S. State 16-4-405(a)(x) at 6:08 p.m. to reconvene a regular meeting of the NWCCD Board of Trustees.

Bob Leibrich moved and Gary Koltiska seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to Order and Roll Call – Regular Meeting & Public Hearing

Chair Wragge asked for a roll call. There was a quorum. Chair Wragge reminded those in attendance that they may comment or ask questions using the chat feature throughout the meeting or public hearing.

4. Agenda Additions/Deletions

Chair Wragge asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none; the agenda was accepted as presented.

5. Consent Agenda

Chair Wragge asked if there were any items on the consent agenda to be held out. Hearing none, Chair Wragge asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Shelley Kinnison moved and Bruce Hoffman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. President's Report – Dr. Walt Tribley

Dr. Tribley publicly thanked the District for all they have done in response to COVID-19. Dr. Tribley acknowledged Janell Oberlander for her work in Gillette, Dr. Garrison for her work in academics, VP Crouse over student services, Cheryl Heath over administrative services, and Wendy Smith for her work with District communications. Dr. Tribley thanked the foundation directors, Heidi Gross and Jen Crouse for helping to provide relief funds for students. Dr. Tribley thanked the advisory committees for their ideas and support. NWCCD success is a team effort.

NWCCD still faces challenges. We do not have enough PPE or cleaning supplies to fully re-open. We are taking steps to evaluate and acquire supplies to re-open.

Dr. Tribley intended to share information about the 2020 student award winners but was unable to do so due to technical difficulties. Dr. Tribley will share the documents with the Board once able to do so.

3D printing of PPE has been happening in Area 59 and in Sheridan. Our faculty and students have done amazing work. Whitney Benefits contributed a 3D printer to this effort. The Sheridan College Foundation also purchased 3D printers for Sheridan College. People are pitching in and helping even in these uncertain economic times.

There are rising costs related to health insurance for the community colleges. These increases have been communicated to NWCCD employees. The human resources department has offered trainings to help employees understand the changes and how to utilize the open enrollment period to choose a plan that best suits their needs.

Many institutions are considering and going to an all online model for delivery of education. Some institutions are adjusting their start dates. We are considering our options. There are many ideas on the table. However, we work within a state system. We will work through what is best for our District. For example, we could open up full time over the summer months, but some students may not be able to participate in this schedule if they have children in the K-12 system. The entire social support structure of our country is based on an agrarian calendar with summers off. We have a lot to consider.

Dr. Tribley stood for questions. There were none.

7. Gillette College Advisory Board Report – Robert Palmer, Chair

Robert Palmer expressed appreciation for being copied on District communications from Dr. Tribley. Mr. Palmer deferred to VP Oberlander for a more specific update on Gillette College.

Gillette College continues its efforts to slowly reopen the campus. GC recognized their exiting student leaders with a small gathering. GC has received equipment purchased by the EDA grant that will support academic programs. The facilities department is working very hard to deep clean the campus. MSHA operations have been approved for a variance to statewide public health orders so that they may conduct training classes in compliance with the guidelines of the governor's office and NWCCD. GC is working on getting Area 59 opened up as well as summer camps, but these efforts are ongoing. The Pronghorn Center will be shut down for floor resurfacing and will reopen mid to late June. VP Oberlander thanked everyone for their support and stood for questions. There were none. Chair Wragge thanked VP Oberlander for her good work.

Johnson County Advisory Board Report – Cindy Kremers, Chair

The fall enrollment for SCJC is 17 students compared to 11 last year at this time; the goal is 50 students. SCJC works with high school counselors to register students for dual enrollment courses. The SCJC Advisory Board decided not to hold the Rope for Knowledge Scholarship Fundraiser this year. Instead, the funds will be available by withdrawing them from the endowment. Graduation ceremonies are taking place outside in Johnson County on the football

fields with squares marked out for social distancing. Ms. Kremers expressed SCJC Advisory Board's appreciation for being included in District communications. She stood for questions. There were none.

Gillette College Foundation – Heidi Gross, Executive Director of Gillette College Foundation

The GC Foundation agreed to award \$10,000.00 in funding to GC students which is in addition to the CARES Act funding students received from the College. Ms. Gross reported reaching out to donors and working on the operating budget for next year. The GC Foundation has partnered with other non-profits in Campbell County for the first WYO Gives which will be held on 7-15-2020. The GC Foundation has several events planned for the summer including the annual golf tournament on August 21st, Cocktails and Jazz on September 12th, and a Foamy 5k walk/run on September 1st. She stood for questions. There were none.

8. Organization Reports

a. Faculty Senate – Michael Carver

Michael Carver is the new Faculty Senate President for the 2020-21 academic year. He is a math faculty member on the GC campus. He shared how proud he is of the faculty and how hard they worked to transition to online courses. Faculty are focused on student success. Their effort is impressive and inspirational. He expressed that the faculty miss getting to see their students face-to-face and look forward to some semblance of normalcy when possible. The faculty are thankful for the support they've received from the staff, administration, and the Board.

Chair Wragge expressed the Board's appreciation for the faculty making this transition a success for our students.

b. Student Government Association – Precious Oyewole

Dennis Zezas, previous Student Government Association President introduced the newly elected President, Precious Oyewole. Dennis thanked the Board for their support during his time as president. Chair Wragge thanked Dennis for his service as SGA President and wished him well.

Chair Wragge then welcomed Precious Oyewole as the new SGA President. Precious recapped the most recent SGA meeting in which the students discussed student club budgets and requests for funds for the fall semester.

9. Public Comments

Chair Wragge noted that there were no questions or comments in the chat box and paused to give time for people to input them. None were submitted.

10. Unfinished Business - None

11. Key Monitoring Reports

a. Written Complaint Log Report

Dr. Tribley explained that the written report was included in the packet for the Board. He offered to speak to it should there be any questions or concerns. He acknowledged VP Jen Crouse's presence to stand for questions. Chair Wragge confirmed receipt of the report by the Board. Chair Wragge asked if there were any questions. None heard. Chair Wragge noted that it is good to see that the numbers are decreasing.

12. New Business

a. NWCCD President's Contract – Action Item

Chair Wragge explained that the Board discussed the President's contract in the executive session. Chair Wragge requested a motion on the President's contract for next year. Bob Leibrich moved to extend the current 3-year contract for President Tribley for an additional year to make it another 3-year contract. Gary Koltiska seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Computer Science Pathway Certificate – Information & Action Item

Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison presented the Computer Science Pathway program. She explained that the Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board, the credentialing agency for Wyoming, requested that community colleges provide a pathway for teachers of grades 6-12 to receive a computer science endorsement. The NWCCD computer science faculty packaged together 16-17 credit hours of online courses to fulfill the requirement for endorsement. Teachers who complete the program will also receive a certificate from NWCCD.

Bob Leibrich asked if the certificate would lead to an associate's degree or facilitate transfer to another institution. Dr. Garrison clarified that the program is for credentialed teachers seeking the endorsement for their licensure. They would be able to take our associate's degree program should they want to.

Chair Wragge asked for a motion to approve the Computer Science Pathway Certificate Program. Shelley Kinnison moved and Norleen Healy seconded. There were no questions. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Public Hearing One-Mill Levy – Action Item

The Board Chair recessed the Regular Board Meeting to convene the Public Hearing. Dr. Tribley asked VP Heath to speak to the levy to give context. VP Heath explained that the Sheridan County tax payers voted on the 4 mill which is required to become a community college. The Trustees have the power to levy an additional 1 mill as well as a ½ mill BOCHES. Every even year, administration asks the Trustees to reaffirm and reassess the 1 mill levy, and every odd year, we do the same for BOCHES. With it being an even year, we are asking the Trustees to approve a 1 mill levy for an additional 2 years. This levy is very important to the District for the regular operations and maintenance of the District.

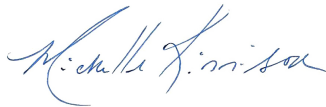
Chair Wragge asked if there were any questions or comments from the public or the Trustees. Bob Leibrich asked for clarification on the levy being assessed in Sheridan County just as with the 4 mill levy. VP Heath confirmed that the 1 mill is only assessed in Sheridan County and only used in Sheridan County. Chair Wragge asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, he requested a motion to levy one (1) mill for two (2) years for the regular support and operations of the College, under the provisions of Section 221-18-303 (B), Wyoming Statutes Annotated, as recommended by Administration.

Bruce Hoffman moved and Norleen Healy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

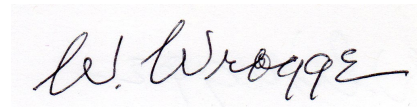
13. Adjourn

Chair Wragge wished everyone a happy Memorial Day and reminded everyone that the next NWCCD Board of Trustees meeting will be on June 17, 2020. He indicated that the meeting may be in-person or it may be via Zoom and that everyone would be notified of the format. He announced that the Board would have a retreat at the home of Trustee Koltiska on June 20, 2020. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Michelle Wilson Kinnison
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Secretary



Walter Wragge
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Chair