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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

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Gillette College – Pronghorn Center

Trustees Present

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

Trustees Absent

Shelley Wilson Kinnison

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 Tribbley, President
Janell Oberlander, Vice President of Gillette College
Cheryl Heath, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Jen Crouse, Sheridan College Foundation Executive Director & 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

Brady Fackrell
Ashleigh Snoozy
Senator Jeff Wasserburger

Angie Laakso
Jennifer McArthur
Josh McGrath

Ethen Wolf
Richard Derrick Kimble
Grace Henderson
Brian Worthen
Sydney Prather
Alex Ayers
Richard Cisneros
Brian Yeager
Tre Hendrickson
Gina Kidneigh

Zach Milliron
Susan Serge
Maddi LeClair
Kindall Seamands
Scott Durgin
Kristin Young
Mark Christensen
Kurt Mason
Hannah Smithson

Recorder

Andrea Morgan

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – Regular Meeting

NWCCD Board Chair, Walt Wragge called the regular meeting of the NWCCD Board of Trustees to order at 6:33 p.m. and asked if there was a quorum. There was a quorum.

2. 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.

3. Consent Agenda

- Regular Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2020
- September 2020 Financials
- September 2020 Check Register
- Employee Hires and Exits

Chair Wragge reviewed the items that made up the consent agenda. He asked if anyone would like to have one of the items removed for further consideration. Hearing none, he requested a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Trustee Leibrich moved and Trustee Wendtland seconded. Chair Wragge called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

4. President’s Report – Dr. Walt Tribley

a. General Updates

Dr. Tribley thanked the staff in Gillette for their good work in setting-up the meeting. He also thanked the Gillette College Foundation for organizing a wonderful dinner for the Gillette College Advisory Board and student leaders prior to the meeting. He noted it was a sparkling example of how a community supports its college and its students. He also noted that everyone he could see in the Pronghorn Center was wearing a mask and his appreciation for the attention to safety.

Dr. Tribley reported that the District has been operating using an early warning, rapid response team process. When a student or employee is known to be positive for COVID-19, there is a 4-1-1

text sent to leadership followed by an immediate Zoom meeting. The staff are empowered to take action to keep the district safe.

NWCCD employees: There are 6 employees with a positive result or pending test.

NWCCD students: There are 8 active positive cases across the district, 5 in Sheridan and 3 in Gillette. In the residence halls, there is 1 active case in Sheridan and another student in quarantine. There are no positive cases in the Gillette College residence halls and no students in quarantine.

Dr. Tribley outlined the academic calendar. The last day of in-person classes is scheduled to be November 24. After Thanksgiving, students will finish the fall semester remotely. The last day of the semester is December 10. From Thanksgiving break through January 4, the NWCCD campuses will be closed with academic services provided to students remotely. Spring semester will begin January 18. Spring break was moved to the end of the semester in hopes of mitigating infection and keeping our students safely on our campuses. This effort is for now and not forever. NWCCD is learning to live with this virus. Please stay vigilant and help us to keep our doors open.

On census date (12% into the semester), NWCCD enrollment was down 15%, which is better than the 20% budgeted.

b. District Division Update

Dr. Tribley reviewed the timeline of meetings related to the application submitted by Campbell County to support Gillette College becoming its own district, including the two listening sessions held by the WCCC and the Legislative Task Force on Community College Funding and Governance meeting. The next step is the compilation of a report by WICHE, an agency hired by WCCC to produce analysis on this topic. During a special meeting in Cheyenne on November 20, the WCCC will deliver their decision as to whether or not they approve Campbell County's application. If approved, the process moves to the legislature for approval, then back to Campbell County to the people. During the task force meeting, there was discussion about legislation and options for community college funding solutions.

Trustee Wendtland asked Dr. Tribley how NWCCD compares to other colleges in the state related to enrollment. Dr. Tribley stated that NWCCD is behind Casper and LCCC in enrollment.

5. Campbell County School District Partnership Update – Dr. Alex Ayers, Superintendent – Information.

Dr. Ayers reported that the relationship between NWCCD and specifically Gillette College remains strong. Dr. Ayers praised the partnerships among governmental agencies within the community. Westwood High School has been located on the GC campus for 7 years promoting access to post-secondary education. For the first time, a student will graduate from both Westwood and Gillette College at the same time. Likewise, several Campbell County High School students will also earn their associates degrees from GC. Dr. Ayers noted that GC enrollment counselors help to support and advise students. Dual and concurrent enrollment continues to increase and 24% of students who graduate from a Campbell County high schools attend GC. Dr. Ayers thanked the BOCHES Director, Senator Wasserburger. Dr. Ayers acknowledged the partnership with AREA 59 and the YES House. There were no questions.

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

Mr. Palmer recognized the GC Advisory Board members in attendance and thanked them for their service. He thanked the staff of GC for all the work that went into the set-up for the recent meetings. He thanked CWC for hosting a forum as well as the select legislative committee for holding a meeting and allowing Campbell County participants to take part in it. Mr. Palmer reminded everyone that Friday, October 23 is the deadline for submitting comments via the WCCC website.

VP Oberlander echoed thanks to staff and IT for support in hosting recent meetings. GC has been in discussions with Campbell County Commissioners in regard to a Department of Energy grant for the Powder River Basin. The grant is related to rare earth minerals and GC will facilitate conversation with stakeholders on this and other topics such as the Carbon Valley Ecosystem. The GC Rodeo team was granted grazing land north of Gillette for grazing of practice stock. VP Oberlander is looking forward to discussing a partnership with the cemetery. GC recognizes and appreciates community partnerships.

Kristin Young gave a presentation on GEAR Up Wyoming. GEAR Up (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) promotes access for low-income 7-12 graders with support programs for first year students at any Wyoming college. They offer fee waivers, advising, enrollment support, career and degree exploration, financial aid support, and more for students. The grant is funded through the U.S. Department of Education. Ms. Young explained benchmarks and outcomes for NWCCD related to their nine objectives in serving the tri-county area. Ms. Young highlighted several GEAR-Up students who won prestigious scholarship awards. Ms. Young discussed the *#WhyApply* campaign, which is a project and focus for the GC chapter of PTK to increase enrollment.

Brian Yeager, Veterans Advisor for Gillette College reported that during spring of 2020, there were 0 withdraws and a 90% completion rate among veterans at Gillette College. With new metrics, strong support, and a focus on new partnerships, Gillette College veterans have excelled. VA Disability Services support will now be available through the GC Veterans Center. Mr. Yeager thanked the Kuehne Foundation, the American Legion, Wyoming Veterans Commission, Department of Wyoming, Student Affairs, TRIO, leadership, and students.

Kurt-Eric Mason, President of the Student Veterans Association spoke about the incredible support and advocacy of Brian Yeager and the Veterans Services Center at Gillette College.

Trey Hendrickson, Vice President of the Student Veterans Association spoke about his positive experience as transfer student as well as the excellent work of Brian Yeager in helping him to obtain his military benefits in order to complete his two associate degrees.

Chair Wragge recognized the outstanding work of Brian Yeager.

Mr. Yeager added to his report that GC has been granted permission to found its own American Legion Post. The charter was completed on 10-20-2020. Post number 307 will be named after Brian Bland from Newcastle, WY.

Senator Wasserburger reported that the BOCHES revenue stream is slightly higher than last year. The spring semester was difficult. Dual and concurrent enrollment declined due to COVID-19 and the inability to visit with students in-person to assist them with enrollment. Enrollment is down about 20%. Meetings have now resumed, and enrollment should recover.

Johnson County Advisory Board Report – Cindy Kremers, Chair

SCJC Pro-metric testing dates are set through June 2021. The SCJC CNA course took place earlier this month. The Amy Holt senior center also held a successful CNA class on the SCJC campus. SCJC will have two Zoom mobile carts soon to facilitate distance learning classes. SCJC will host the academic and student affairs leadership retreat this week. The concurrent enrollment MOU was signed last week, and new applications for students have been completed. MSHA classes are underway at the SCJC campus. There were no questions.

Gillette College Foundation Report – Heidi Gross, Executive Director

Ms. Gross reported that it has been a very busy fall for the GCF. This week, Ms. Gross finished the annual appeal, which will be mailed to 9500 households. Soon, she will complete the annual endowment report and website report. This fall, two major fund raising events netted \$100k. Ms. Gross thanked the foundation board members for their hard work. Thursday, 10/22 the GCF will recognize donors with a reception. There were no questions.

Chair Wragge commended Ms. Gross on her good work with the foundation.

Organization Reports

Student Senate – Derrick Kimble, President

Mr. Kimble reported that he is a first year, diesel technology student from Montgomery County, MD. He has enjoyed his time in Wyoming so far. He appreciates the assistance of his classmates and student executive team. Mr. Kimble chose Gillette College specifically for the diesel program. The Pronghorn Perseverance campaign provided students t-shirts with a throwback rodeo team logo. Student Senate is helping to host Trunk or Treat and the Pumpkin Walk. Mr. Kimble reported being honored to participate and give comments in the listening session on October 10. Mr. Kimble introduced his executive team each of whom gave their reason for attending Gillette College. The executive team includes: Student Senate Vice President, Hannah Smithson; Student Senate Liaison, Zachary Milliron; Student Senate Treasurer, Ethen Wolf; Student Senator, Kindall Seamands; Student Senator, Sydney Prather; Student Senator, Maddi LeClaire.

Mr. Wragge thanked President Kimble for his report and stated that it was great to meet the executive team.

7. Public Comments – Chair Wragge paused and asked if anyone wanted to make a public comment. There were no public comments.

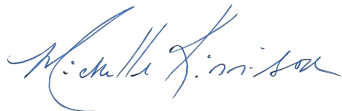
8. Unfinished Business – None

9. Key Monitoring Reports – None

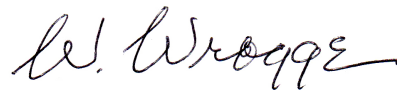
10. New Business – None

11. Adjourn – Chair Wragge announced that the next NWCCD Board of Trustees meeting would take place on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 in the WCA, Kinnison Hall. He wished good luck to those running for a trustee seat in the general election. He wished everyone health and wellness. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Michelle Wilson Kinnison
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Secretary



Walter Wragge
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Chair