

**NORTHWEST COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

July 15, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President MS. TARA KUIPERS; Vice President/Secretary MS. DENISE LAURSEN; Treasurer MR. BOB NEWSOME; and Trustees MR. JOHN HOUSEL, MR. R.J. KOST, and DR. MARK WURZEL.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** DR. LARRY TODD

**OTHERS PRESENT:** MS. LISA WATSON, President; MR. DAVE ERICKSON, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs; MR. TOM HAVRON, Vice President for Student Services; MS. JILL ALLEN; MS. JILL ANDERSON; MR. DUSTIN DICKS; MS. TRACY GASAWAY; MR. MARK GRANT; MS. CHRISTI GREAHAM; MS. LAURA GWINN; MS. CAREY MILLER; MR. DENNIS QUILLEN; MS. LISA SMITH; MS. LINDA SPOMER; MR. MARTIN STENSING; MS. SHELBY WETZEL; and MS. KELI BORDERS, Executive Secretary to the President and Board of Trustees.

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Tara Kuipers called the regular meeting of the Northwest College Board of Trustees to order on Monday, July 15, 2024, at 4:04 p.m. in the Yellowstone Building.

**A APPROVE THE AGENDA:** President Watson requested that the agenda be amended to include a proposal under New Business to purchase two semi-tractors for the CDL program.

**A motion was made by Trustee Kost and seconded by Trustee Wurzel to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

**A CONSENT AGENDA:** **A motion was made by Trustee Wurzel and seconded by Trustee Kost to approve the consent agenda.**

Trustee Housel expressed appreciation for the creative use of an incentive for employees to participate in the various parades. He feels the parades offer an excellent opportunity for the College to be visible in the community.

In response to a question from Trustee Housel, President Watson stated that the multi-phased card reader project will install card readers on the exterior doors of buildings to manage access as needed, especially on weekends and after hours. A multi-phase cameras project will focus on cameras on exterior doorways. Over time, cameras will be added to parking lots and other areas of utilization. Policy is forthcoming. Overall, it is part of campus-wide efforts to improve security and safety across campus.

President Watson reminded the Trustees that during the pandemic, the College invested in replacing all cores and hardware on almost all doors to update and be consistent. She considers these improvements Phase I of an ongoing project to improve campus security. There will be many phases of improvements, and Major Maintenance funds can be utilized for academic buildings. The College will have to fund Residence Life buildings.

Trustee Housel stated that he was very impressed by the academic performance of the various athletic teams, as described in the Student Services report.

In response to a question from Trustee Housel, President Watson stated that when all international students are entered, and coaches have finalized their scholarship offerings and letters of intent, the out-of-state enrollment will increase accordingly. It is expected to be similar to last year.

In response to a question from Trustee Housel, President Watson stated that federal regulations regarding digital privacy are causing web browsers to eliminate the use of “cookies,” which reduces the College’s ability to monitor the effectiveness of the digital marketing campaigns.

Carey Miller added that information on the changes comes from all directions, and new developments are constant. The major platforms are working to develop new methods that meet federal regulations yet still provide information to advertisers. Carey continues to monitor the situation closely and hopes to bring alternative solutions to the Board soon.

In response to a question from Trustee Laursen, Carey stated that the delay in launching the new website is mainly due to miscommunications between the vendor's sales team and the development team. The project manager has since been replaced, and the website is scheduled to launch in October. The mid-fall launch date makes more sense than the beginning of the semester when students and staff are busy using the website. Carey plans to share web pages with the Board and the campus community before it launches.

President Kuipers referenced President Watson's report regarding WACCT launching an initiative to examine the return on investment of community colleges statewide. The project is a worthwhile investment because it will allow us to quantify and communicate accurately the value that community colleges bring to the state. President Watson stated that the community colleges agreed it was worth investing some of their funds into the study. There will be a statewide report, and each college will receive a report for their area.

President Watson congratulated and thanked the Foundation for hosting the Livestock Judging Alumni Reunion. It was an incredible event with a fantastic group of people who shared stories, judged livestock, and raised over \$50,000, which the Foundation matched to create a \$100,000 endowment for livestock judging.

Trustee Laursen said she enjoyed the Classic Car Show and seeing the students on campus for the All-State Marching Band enjoying the event.

**Motion carried, and the consent agenda, including the minutes of the June 10, 2024, regular meeting, was approved.**

**DISCUSSION/  
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

FY2024 Policy Update Review

President Watson stated that the College has had many focuses in the past year and has not concentrated on policy updates. However, various policies are being worked on and will be coming before the Board this upcoming year.

Title IX Policy update

Upon invitation from President Watson, Laura Gwinn, Title IX & Clery Coordinator/Policy Specialist, stated that on April 19, 2024, the Biden Administration released new Title IX regulations that would go into effect August 1, 2024. In May, twenty-six states filed litigation opposing the regulations. Fourteen states have received temporary complete injunctions; twelve states have pending litigation; ten have not implemented directives from their state governors; and fifteen have filed amicus briefs in support.

Wyoming joined Kansas in a lawsuit that states the Department of Education overstepped its authority by redefining sex to include gender identity and sexual orientation. A temporary complete injunction was issued, including all new regulations and not just the contested language. It is temporary until a trial can be heard to determine if it will be a permanent injunction.

Laura stated that in anticipation of the regulations becoming effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, but knowing there was pending litigation, the College developed a committee of six individuals who have developed a draft policy that reflects the new regulations. While the proposed regulations changed 70-80% of the 2020 regulations, the committee worked hard to complete the draft policy. If the injunction is overruled, the College can comply quickly.

The College is required to follow the 2020 regulations until the courts make a decision. While the regulations are not ideal, they provide a safe environment for students and employees. Many variables could affect the outcome, such as the election, the Department of Justice or the Department of Education could appeal the injunctions, and the Supreme Court could also step in. In the meantime, the College will watch closely and be ready if the new regulations are implemented.

President Watson stated that before the 2020 regulations came out, the College added the role of Title IX Coordinator to the Vice President for Student Services. The 2020 regulations dictated that institutions assign an individual to that role. Laura Gwinn's hiring into the position was a positive change for the College, as it ensured a commitment by the College to educating students, training employees, and providing supportive measures.

Laura stated that in 2020, the Trump Administration went through the rulemaking process in defining Title IX regulations. Before that, the Department of Education, through the Office of Civil Rights, had a proposal for the rules for Title IX, but they didn't have the full force of the law. Now, they are a federal regulation and can be argued in court. Legally, there are more due process protections now, which takes a full-time person to manage.

President Watson stated that the College would continue to operate under the existing regulations. If the injunction is lifted or the election outcome changes things, the College is prepared to move forward with the new policy.

Trustee Housel expressed his appreciation to Laura for her thorough explanation.

## **CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM**

The Citizens' Open Forum convened at 5:00 p.m. No citizens requested to address the Board; therefore, the Citizen's Open Forum adjourned.

### **A UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There were no unfinished business items on the agenda.

### **A NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **CDL Semi Tractors Purchase**

President Watson stated that seeing the CDL program grow and serve our students and communities is exciting. For instance, this past year, the College worked with Lovell High School and is working with Powell High School to add the CDL program option for students. Greybull, Thermopolis, and Cowley schools recently contacted the College to request options for starting the program in their schools. Managing the different locations could be challenging.

President Watson stated that Dennis Quillen, Dave Erickson, and Christi Greaham have worked diligently to find and evaluate used trucks to meet the program's needs. Two trucks were needed, as the College's lease is up on one of its units. This would allow the College to have three trucks to meet the growing demand.

President Watson explained that the College has a Hathaway Excellence in Higher Education Endowment to fund faculty lines, supplies, education, and equipment for Career and Technical Education. The College has focused on

using the money for faculty salaries but has also been saving, knowing there would be ongoing program needs. The growth of the CDL program necessitates investment in equipment and instructors to support the demand.

President Watson apologized for the need to move quickly on the purchase and stated that vehicles with the right mileage and in favorable condition are sold quickly. These trucks have not been used in the oil field or a mining operation. They are in good shape and have been used strictly for over-the-road operations, so they are in prime condition for long-term utilization.

Christi Greaham stated that adding the third truck allows instruction to continue when maintenance is being done or repairs are needed.

In response to a question from Trustee Housel, Christi stated that while these trucks have approximately 400k miles on them, she estimates that they could handle another 500k miles without any significant problems. The Kenworth truck currently in the program has over 800k miles. The rolling chassis can easily manage upwards of one million miles.

In response to a question from Trustee Housel, President Watson stated that the College's leased truck costs \$2500 per month, which is very reasonable. However, the owner is not interested in leasing the truck further and wishes to sell it.

President Watson stated that when the College purchased the first truck, it had to find a separate insurance policy. It was challenging to find the right coverage since the truck was for educational purposes and would not have the same wear and tear as a long-haul or mining truck. The current \$12,700 per year cost is paid for through revenue generated by the program.

In response to a question from Trustee Housel, Christi stated that the new trucks can be used for Class B training. Instead of dropping the trailer every time a company needs Class B training, a truck will be available.

In response to a question from Trustee Housel, Christi stated CTD has not marketed the program extensively. The program is at capacity; therefore, if advertised, the College may be unable to keep up with demand. If participation slowed, the College could adopt a more aggressive marketing approach.

In response to a question from Trustee Housel, Christi stated that the federal testing laws are changing, which means there will be enough room in the yard next to the Armory for the maneuvers required during testing. She hopes the new laws will become effective in October. Even if the trucks need to be parked outside, room remains for testing.

Trustee Housel said he is pleased with the program's growth and ability to meet local, regional, and state needs.

President Watson stated that each respective BOCES has supported the Lovell and Powell students enrolled in the program. She is interested in the other area schools' visions for the program. The College does not have the resources to offer CDL training to several high school students as a dual enrollment class and because the program is not for credit, the College receives no funding from the state.

President Watson stated that businesses continue to send employees to be trained through Northwest College's program. She expressed her appreciation to Christi for her work in building and maintaining relationships and developing an excellent reputation in the region and state.

**It was moved by Trustee Wurzel and seconded by Trustee Kost to approve the purchase of two Peterbilt 389 semi-tractors, not to exceed \$215,000. Motion carried.**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS  
FEEDBACK TO CITIZENS'  
OPEN FORUM TOPICS:**

August 12, 2024, upcoming:

- Review vendor contracts
- Review Residence Life Master Plan
- Review Citizens' Open Forum procedure
- Schedule Fall Board Retreat
- Other TBD

President Watson stated that she would send the Residence Life Master Plan to the Trustees for their review before the August meeting.

President Watson stated that the College will hold input sessions for faculty and staff on master planning at the beginning of the school year. Development of the new Master Plan will be conducted in-house with the help of Point Architects, who was originally contracted to assist with the Plan.

President Watson invited the Trustees to consider whether they would like to hold a study session related to idea generation or send her their thoughts individually. She said she would send the 2014 Master Plan and suggested they review the Executive Summary.

President Watson noted that the College has achieved many of the objectives of the 2014 Master Plan. While the original Plan called for moving CTD to the Frisby Building from Trapper West, acquiring the 14,000-square-foot Armory Building better serves programmatic needs. All that remains from the original plan is the NPA Building.

President Watson stated that a great way to start the Master Planning work is to review the Residence Life Plan. She stated that Trustees should consider the date of the Residence Life Plan when reviewing it and realize that the College was experiencing budget cuts. The College's mindset regarding some of the objectives has changed since then.

President Kuipers requested that President Watson send the Residence Life Master Plan and the 2014 Master Plan and asked the Trustees to review them and consider how they can best participate in the master planning process.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next Board meeting, August 12, 2024, 4:00 p.m., Yellowstone Building  
State of the College Address, August 19, 2024, 8:30 a.m., Yellowstone Building  
Kick-off Weekend, August 17-20, 2024, NWC campus  
First day of fall classes, August 21, 2024, NWC  
Paint the Town Red, August 23, 2024, 4:00 p.m., Powell  
WCCC Meeting (special) August 23, 2024, 8:30 a.m., Riverton  
Joint Education Committee, September 26-27, 2024, Casper  
Joint Appropriations Committee, September 26-27, 2024, Casper  
WCCC meeting, October 2-3, 2024, 8:30 a.m., Rock Springs

**A ADJOURNMENT:**

**The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.**