

**Miles Community College  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes  
May 23, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., May 23, 2022, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Jeff Okerman, Jamie Ogolin, Ryan Jones, Debbie Morford, Garret McFarland and Tara Andrews. The following Trustee was excused: Jenna Janshen. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedge, Nancy Aaberge, Sarah Kloewer, Rita Kratky, Jay Wiebers, Dirk Schmidt, and Star Reporter Ashley Wise.

Chair Ryan Jones called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Sarah Kloewer thanked the Trustees for their support over the last 13 years. She has accepted a position at Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska starting July 1, 2022

**IMPORTANT DATES:** President Slinger discussed the following: Introduced our new IT Director Dirk Schmidt. Executive Team has scheduled their retreat for June 7 & 8.

**REPORTS:**

- A. Enrollment Services:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Enrollment Management and Educational Services Erin Niedge reported on the following: Dean Niedge thanked Trustees who participated in graduation and thanked all staff that helped with graduation. Learning Center was approved for the Adult Learners grant they applied for through OPI and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. We will find out the amount of this grant in July.
- B. Student Engagement:** In the absence of Dean DeShields, no addition to the written report included in the Board packet was given.
- B. a. Athletics:** In the absence of Dean DeShields and Athletic Director Olson, no addition to the written report included in the Board packet was given.
- C. Administrative Services and HR:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Administrative Services and HR Kylene Phipps reported on the following: Extended our congratulations to Melinda Lynnes on her retirement. Holly Selk has been hired to fill this position. Sarah Kloewer will be leaving us, but will be on staff through the end of June. Sarah's English position has been posted and closed. The search committee is now reviewing the applications. VP Kratky and Dean Phipps are working together on looking at the eLearning and the Associate Dean of Instruction components of Sarah's responsibilities. They are also looking at how to create that into another position on campus and how it will be funded. We are moving forward with the head Women's Volleyball Coach. Café is getting an upgrade with new paint and new upholstery. On May 6, she received notice that the Infrastructure Advisory Commission recommended that our round two ARPA Water & Sewer grant move forward for funding. The Governor will review the applications at the next Infrastructure Advisory Commission meeting in June and then they will officially announce the awards following the receipt of funds from the US Treasury.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Academic Affairs Rita Kratky reported on the following: We are finishing the Perkins grant, working on finalizing summer enrollment in classes, and working with third party testing with our CDL program
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger reported on the following: The Board of Regents passed a resolution to lift the 25% cap on Credit for Prior Learning. Credit for Prior Learning is when students come to the college from industry or military with some sort of credential. Students can apply to get academic credit for those prior learning experiences. This helps accelerate them getting a certificate or degree. Previously NWCCU had a 25% cap, but lifted their limit several years ago. OCHE has now followed suit and lifted their cap as well. This will not help enrollment, but will help students to move forward to get a degree or certificate. However, this process will take quite some time to implement. Regent Breanna Rogers is the new chair of the Board of Regents. President Slinger was invited to Glasgow to attend a meeting with Governor Gianforte regarding our Workforce Solutions program. The Governor is very supportive of this program. President Slinger received a phone call today from Senator Tester's field representative. The Senator will be in Miles City on Friday and has invited President Slinger to a lunch meeting. President Slinger invited Trustees to attend this luncheon. President Slinger gave his personal thank

you to Trustee Jones for working this him during Trustee Jones tenure as Board Chair.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

***Trustee Andrews moved to approve the consent agenda. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Summer/Fall Enrollment Update:** Dean Niedege gave an enrollment update to Trustees. MCC summer enrollment is down for the summer with 41 FTE's. We continue to get non-degree applicants for online science classes, but not in the volume that we have seen in previous years. As of today, fall enrollment is 111.27 FTE, which is ahead of this point last year by about 17.5%. Our headcount for fall is 147, we are up about 14% from last year. Our June SOAR is expected to have very good numbers. Continuing numbers of students is very strong. We have significantly more applications than we had last year at this time. In fact, we have more applications now than we had at the beginning of fall semester last year.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Trustee Ogolin reported on the budget report, spending is within the current budget. With lower enrollment, we had planned for shortages with the tuition and fees. Revenues are down, but a lot of this still reflects the timing of when some of the funding arrives, it is lagging behind our annual spending. There are six weeks to get these balanced, so spending has been cautioned until dual enrollment monies, the Permissive Levy, and retirement funds, which arrive at the end of May, and the general fund mill levies money are received. The total of these funds is approximately \$320,000. Nothing was of concern. When or if any balancing needs to occur the fee funds can offset any shortages and any excesses can be used to cover end of the year expenditures, add to the reserves, or pay down debt.

- A. Chair Report:**  
**B. Old Business:**  
    **a. Permissive Medical Levy Resolution (second reading):**

***Trustee Ogolin made a motion to accept the Permissive Medical Levy Resolution as presented. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

- C. New Business:**  
    **a. CDL Training/Testing Location Resolution:** Due to the deteriorating conditions at the current testing lot at the Plaza, the college is requesting authority to purchase materials and labor to build a new testing training lot at the Workforce Readiness Center. They are looking to enlarge the lot at the Workforce Readiness Center to move our testing facility to our lot. The resolution is under the limit that we would need to get bids. The recommendation of the resolution is over \$20,000 but under \$80,000 from the Building Reserve fund to resurface all or part of the lot that has been measured to move our testing facility to our site. We are asking Trustees to waive the second reading.

***Trustee McFarland moved to waive the second reading of the CDL Training/Testing Location Resolution. Trustee Andrews seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

***Trustee Morford moved to accept the CDL Training/Testing Location Resolution. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion.***

***Funds from the Building Fund are designated to handle the expense of this project. Trustee Ogolin thanked MCC staff for calling the neighbors and letting them know what we were planning instead of them reading it on the agenda.***

***Motion passed.***

**HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:** Trustee McFarland said they discussed staffing. Asked Trustees to fill out their Conflict of Interest forms and fill out the Trustee Self-evaluation when it is sent out. Kylene will send Trustees the President's evaluation form.

- A. Chair Report:**  
**B. Old Business:**  
**C. New Business:**

- a. **Oath of Office:** Trustee Morford and Trustee Andrews took the Oath of Office.
- b. **Election of Trustee Officers:**

**Trustee McFarland made a motion to elect the following as the slate of officers:**

- i. Chair Jamie Ogolin*
- ii. Vice Chair Tara Andrews*
- iii. Secretary Jenna Janshen*

**Trustee Okerman seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

- c. **Committee Assignments:** Trustee Ogolin will contact Trustees and make committee assignments by the August Board of Trustee meeting.

**QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:**

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Morford said the committee was briefed on the community college funding formula, which has already been approved, but the community colleges are looking at the current cost per FTE, which is \$6,000. They will be looking at some of their peer colleges in the area to see what they are getting per FTE. They will ask the state legislators to consider increasing this amount. President Slinger has been working with OCHE on possibly considering increasing the cost per FTE to \$7,000 or \$8,000. They had a brief update on the accreditation report. The committee was also briefed on the PBA process, the strategic plan, and outreach.

**ACADEMIC CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Academic Consent Item:** VP Kratky discussed the items on the Academic Consent agenda to be voted on this evening.

**Trustee Jones moved to approve the Academic Consent agenda as presented. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- A. Athletic Department Strategic Master Plan
- B. MCC Strategic Plan
- C. Meat Processing

Adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, June 27, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

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Chair

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Secretary