

**Miles Community College**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes**  
**July 25, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., July 25, 2022, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Jeff Okerman, Jamie Ogolin, Jenna Janshen and Ryan Jones. The following Trustees were excused: Tara Andrews, Debbie Morford, and Garret McFarland. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Richard DeShields, Erin Niedge, Nancy Aaberge, Jerry Olson, Dirk Schmidt, and Star Reporter Kamryn Pitcher.

Chair Jamie Ogolin called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**IMPORTANT DATES:** President Slinger discussed the following: President Slinger will be traveling on Wednesday to Lewistown regarding the Workforce Solutions program. He will be interviewed on the radio during their county fair and will meet with Regent Southworth to update him on MCC and the Workforce Solutions program.

**REPORTS:**

- A. Enrollment Services:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Enrollment Management and Educational Support Services Erin Niedge reported on the following: We are heading into the busy time of year where we are still getting enrollment in for fall while simultaneously gearing up for the next recruitment cycle.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Student Engagement & Auxiliary Services Richard DeShields reported on the following: Housing occupancy is quite full with about 13 beds still open. We are making arrangements to accommodate any overflow if we overreach our numbers. We have signed a five-year contract with MVN Technology for cable services on campus. We are in the process of hiring three dining staff positions. Dean DeShields will be traveling for some of our commitments with Healthy Montana program. He will also be traveling to Missoula for Campus Compact next week.
- B. a. Athletics:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Jerry Olson reported on the following: We have had a busy month filling coaching positions. Appointed softball Assistant Coach Erica Dick as the head coach. We hired Victoria Wiens as the Volleyball coach. Wrapped up third Women's Basketball candidate interview today. The Pioneer Golf scramble is scheduled for August 27 at the Miles City Town & Country Club. Athletic teams are still doing very well with national GPA ratings. Athletic fundraising is underway. Summer Centra usage has been 45 to 50 people. However, with the high school having their gym floor redone these numbers do not reflect the high school students who have been practicing in our gym.
- 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: We have a number of positions in different stages of the search process. We do have a new English instructor, Charles Denning. We are moving forward with the ARPA Grant for the water and sewer project.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In the absence of VP Kratky, no addition to the written report included in the Board packet was given.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger reported on the following: We received our official reaffirmation of our Seven Year accreditation with NWCCU. Working with Sidney Health Center on developing their Workforce Solutions Program. HRH is also going to schedule a meeting to develop their Workforce Solutions program.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

***Trustee Janshen moved to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Fall Enrollment Update:** Dean Niedge reported that this coming fall compared to the last two years we are sitting at 245 FTE, which is about a 14% jump in FTE compared to last year. She does not think the 14% will hold, but we should still be up in enrollment for fall. We are also well ahead in continuing students. We are

watching new athletes still coming in, retention, and continuing enrollment that usually come in August. We are only doing four SOAR sessions rather than five. Students are really taking advantage of the virtual SOAR sessions, especially the international students. There are about 30 students registered for the August SOAR session. They are keeping an eye on non-retained students. Our headcount is currently 324, which is about 24% over last year. We should have record high fall to fall retention this year. Trustee Ogolin said that the reason we have high retention is because of Student Services and Learning Center staff and it shows year after year. Great work.

- B. Nursing Update:** We have 22 Nursing graduates with 12 of 14 have passed on their first try. We are at 85% pass rate as of today. Of the 8 who have not taken the NCLEX, just over half are still taking the practice KAPLIN tests through MCC. The others have purchased a testing program they are practicing on. Trustee Ogolin said he appreciates hearing that the staff has reached out to these students and know where they are in the testing process.
- C. Skyfactor:** Dean DeShields discussed the Skyfactor survey results, which is a housing satisfaction survey. MCC has received very high results from this survey.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- A. Chair Report:** Status report was all in line and balanced. There will be some times at the end when there is surplus. This surplus can be used to pay a reversion, add to the reserves, which there is a limit on what we put in reserve, or to pay down debt. Our committee was more interested in paying down debt as appropriate and then saving in reserve as appropriate on last year's budget. This year's budget is strong with no change from the first reading of the proposed budget. The budget is conservative based on enrollment figures. Reversion and inflation have been built into this budget.
- B. Old Business:**
- C. New Business:**
  - a. General Fund Budget (second reading):**

***Trustee Jones moved to accept the budget as presented. Trustee Okerman seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

**HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:** Trustee Janshen said the committee discussed staffing and the President's evaluation. During the Executive Session Trustees will be discussing the President's contract. TGIFs are going well. Updated on the Office of Civil Rights compliance review of our website and online platform accessibility, which is due on August 10. There was no complaint to the OCR but MCC was randomly selected for the review.

- A. Chair Report:**
- B. Old Business:**
- C. New Business:**
  - a. Committee Assignments:**
  - b. Board of Trustee Retreat:**
  - c. President's Contract:**

#### **QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:**

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Okerman said the committee was briefed on enrollment and the community college funding formula update as it approaches implementation. They also talked about outreach and the opportunities it is presenting.

#### **ACADEMIC CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

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

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- A. MCC Strategic Plan
- B. Meat Processing
- C. Tour CDL simulator

Went into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.

Reconvened the public meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

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Chair

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Secretary