

**Miles Community College  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes  
March 27, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., March 27, 2023, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Ryan Jones, Debbie Morford, Jeff Okerman, Garret McFarland, Jenna Janshen, and Tara Andrews. The following Trustees were excused: Jamie Ogolin. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedge, Rita Kratky, Nancy Aaberge, Sam Giordanengo, Jeff Brabant, Mike O'Connell, Baseball team, Jay Wiebers, and Star Reporter Ashlie Wise.

Vice Chair Tara Andrews called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**IMPORTANT DATES:** President Slinger reported he will be in Denver next week for AACC. Congratulations to our three Board members who have been reelected by acclamation.

**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 had Advising day last week and as of today we have 47 FTE for fall. Last year we had 55 FTE at this time. We are at 18 FTE for summer enrollment. We are only four days into registration. Trustee Okerman asked about workstudy and if we give money back for the lack of workers can we get that money back if we increase our workers? Dean Niedge said that it has been so underutilized that it will be hard to make that up. Some of the students are athletes and it's hard to get them jobs or other students are working off campus. This is not unusual across the United States.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Student Engagement Richard DeShields reported on the following: Our occupancy numbers are very similar to last year. We have hired our RAs for next year. We had our homecoming spirit week. Cowtown Classic exceeded its numbers from last year. Baseball and softball are planning to play on Wednesday and this weekend. Our rodeo is coming up on April 20-23. This year our rodeo will be four days.
- B. a. Athletics:** In Athletic Director Olson's absence no additional report was given.
- C. Administrative Services and HR:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean Phipps reported on the following: Two additions to the HR section of the report, we are in the process of posting two faculty line positions. With Coach Brabant retiring that gave us the opportunity to identify needs for the IT programs. Nancy Swope said she would take some of his classes. This faculty line will now be used to hire an Education faculty. The ARPA water and sewer project is underway and they will be here on Wednesday to tour our facility.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, VP Rita Kratky reported on the following: We are moving forward with getting the National Science grant submitted. We are in the process of wrapping up the spring semester.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger reported on the following: Thanked the Board members for the mini retreat. HB2 has passed off the floor of the House and has moved to Senate Finance and Claims Committee and will be heard this Thursday and Friday. We are hearing no movement against the funding formula as submitted. New HB888 has been submitted which is asking for one-time-only funding for workforce development academic programs at the three community colleges. If this passes we will get an additional \$200,000 for the expansion of some of our workforce academic classes. FVCC has requested \$500,000 for the development of a dental hygiene program, and DCC has requested \$300,000 for electrical and plumbing programs. He attended the Young Farmers and Ranchers etiquette dinner last week. This weekend we hosted a high school rodeo at the AAC.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

***Trustee Janshen moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

***McFarland moved to approve the claims. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. **Introduction of Baseball Team:** Coach Brabant and Assistant Coach O’Connell introduced the baseball team.
- B. **Opportunity Realized:** President Slinger gave an update as of today we have seven high schools that are now partners in this program. By fall we would like to have 10 partner schools and by spring we would like to have 20 partner schools. We met with two more schools today and we have a second meeting scheduled in April with CCDHS. This summer a non-profit in Helena, American Jobs for American Youth, has been doing courses through Helena College. They will be enrolling some of their students in our summer classes for Career Exploration. Which is a great boost for our summer enrollment. He participated in a panel discussion for Leadership Montana. He discussed our Opportunity Realized program. One of the participants is employed by Atomic Industries in Billings, which services the oil and gas industry. They would like to enroll their employees in our class. This could be a great opportunity to share with industry partners.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Andrews asked Nancy Aaberge to report. Director Aaberge said we are trending the same as last year and we are ahead of the game.
- B. **Old Business:**
- C. **New Business:**
  - a. **Permissive Medical Levy Resolution, first reading:** We have a community forum on April 17 and will bring the resolution forward to the April meeting.
  - b. **Centra Boiler Resolution, first reading:**

**HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee McFarland said that everything is going well with positions being posted and searches moving forward.
- B. **Old Business:**
- C. **New Business:**

**QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Jones said that President Slinger covered HB2 during the meeting.

**ACADEMIC CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. **Academic Consent Items:** VP Kratky discussed the items being brought forward for approval.

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

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- A. Athletic Department Strategic Plan
- B. MCC Strategic Plan
- C. Meat Processing
- D. Tour CDL simulator
- E. Update on Nursing Program

Adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

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Chair

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Secretary