

**Miles Community College**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes**  
**August 28, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., August 28, 2023, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Jamie Ogolin, Garret McFarland, Jeff Okerman, Ryan Jones, and Tara Andrews. The following Trustees were excused - Debbie Morford and Jenna Janshen. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Richard DeShields, Rita Kratky, Nancy Aaberge, Erin Niedege, Jessica Lofland, John Pawlak, Traci Glasscock, Jayton Julian, Jessen West, Arin Eaton, Spencer Searcey, Tyann Graham, Rylee Deming, Alex Hopfauf, and Dirk Schmidt.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**IMPORTANT DATES:** President Slinger highlighted the following: Introduced new employees.

**REPORTS:**

- A. Enrollment Services Management:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Enrollment and Educational Support Services Erin Niedege reported on the following: As of the Quottly registration cut-off, we have 52 students from Quottly partner campuses enrolled in a total of 176 credits. Thanked all the employees who helped at the fair booth. Financial Aid office – thanked Dolly and Danielle for working through the new changes on how financial aid will be disbursed. As of August 1st, we have taken over the MACO 4- Havre District's Adult Education program. HRDC- Havre will house the physical classroom for our students but we will be doing all the instruction remotely.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Student Engagement Richard DeShields reported on the following: Housing numbers are down 5 students from last year. These numbers are still above our budgeted numbers. Invited Trustees to the Welcome Back BBQ on Thursday, August 31. For our Day of Service on September 15, we will be delivering care packages to the Veterans at the VA hospital. Austin Kountz will be attending the BOT meetings as the Chair of the Student Senate. Dining is fully staffed.
- B. a. Athletics:** In Athletic Director Olson's absence, Dean DeShields reported on the following: We had 20 teams at the Pioneer Scramble. The Volleyball game on September 5 has been canceled. The baseball alumni game will be held on September 9. Volleyball is currently playing on the road. Thanked Holy Rosary Hospital for providing breakfast and lunch for the volleyball team during the month of August. On October 28 we will be holding an athletic fundraiser to support our teams & programs.
- C. Administrative Services and HR:** In Dean Kylene Phipps's absence no additional report was given.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, VP of Academic Affairs Rita Kratky reported on the following: Today is the first day with Faculty on contract. We are in the process of filling the SBDC Director position.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger reported on the following: We kicked off the year with convocation and were very happy with the professional development by Shawna Heiser, which was well received by faculty and staff. We will be hosting the Board of Public Education meeting on campus September 13 – 15. As a result of hosting the Montana Board of Public Education, officials from the Dennis & Phyllis Washington School of Education at the University of Montana have reached out and asked to meet with us regarding the development of an Education Transfer Pathway similar to what we have in place with Dickinson State University. The CCSSE survey has been done and will be brought to the Board in October. One of the responses that he was very excited about was that 92% of MCC students said they would recommend MCC to family or friends.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Introduction of RAs:** RAs were introduced to the Trustees.
- B. Summer/Fall Enrollment:** Dean Niedege gave a snapshot of the fall enrollment as of today our FTE is 327.9 which is down 3.21% from last year. We expect to be flat as

we head into the start of term. Headcount has been trending up. Our headcount was 583 last year and she expects to exceed that number this year. Our general education application deadline for degree-seeking students is September 30. We have 27 students registered for SOAR. Our applications are up from last year at 702 compared to 694 last year. We continue to get high school applications for Pioneer Express from high schools in the area.

- C. **Close-the-Loop Presentation – Skyfactor:** Jessica Lofland discussed the Skyfactor Benchworks Assessment Resident Survey that was done in January 2023. This assessment focuses on improving retention, student success, and the quality of the college experience. There were 289 institutions that participated in this assessment. We had 116 MCC students respond for an 82.9% response rate. We rank in the top 99% overall satisfaction for Dining Services, Safety & Security, and Community Environment. We rank in the top 98% in overall satisfaction for learning in Sense of Community and Sustainability. We rank in the top 99% for overall program effectiveness with Dining Services, Safety and Security, Facilities, and Diverse Interactions.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Andrews reported Director of Business Services Nancy Aaberge is still closing out the year and we will have a report next month.
- B. **Old Business:** None
- C. **New Business:** None

**HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee McFarland reported there are position searches still in the process. New employee orientation and Convocation went well.
- B. **Old Business:**
  - a. Calendar (second reading)

***Trustee McFarland moved to accept the calendar as presented. Trustee Okerman seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

- C. **New Business:** None

**QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Jones reported they discussed the enrollment update, public education meeting, and the update with the collaboration with UM for the Education program

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- A. Athletic Department Strategic Plan

Adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

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Chair

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Secretary