

**Miles Community College**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes**  
**April 27, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. April 27, 2026, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Tara Andrews, Garret McFarland, Jeff Okerman, Jamie Ogolin, Jenna Janshen, Ryan Jones, and Debbie Morford via phone. The following Trustee was excused: None. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Nancy Aaberge, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedege, Dimitria Harding, Richard DeShields, Dirk Schmidt, Jerry Olson, Garth Sleight, and Star Reporter Hunter Herbaugh.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No Public Comment was given.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** President Slinger recognized Garth Sleight and the amazing work that he has done during the last 40 years of his service at MCC. He invited everyone to the HiSET graduation on Thursday at 7:00 p.m., the Nurses Pinning ceremony on Friday at 3:00 p.m., and the Distinguished Alumni Reception on Friday at 5:30 p.m. at the T& C Club. Graduation is on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in the Centra.

**REPORTS:**

- A. Enrollment Services:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Enrollment and Educational Support Services Erin Niedege provided additional updates: HiSET graduation will take place on Thursday evening. Fall enrollment remains open and ongoing; however, we are currently slightly behind this time last year. Freshman enrollment will begin following the SOAR session in June. Traci Glasscock has distributed graduation cords to high schools participating as Opportunity Realized partners.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Student Engagement & Auxiliary Services Richard DeShields provided additional updates: Fall housing occupancy has shifted slightly, with one additional returning student and a decrease of 13 new students. We are undertaking several significant housing projects in coordination with the Facilities Department. Additionally, a new cleaning crew has been hired to provide residence hall cleaning services in May. Summer residence hall occupancy is currently exceeding budgeted projections. We are also in the process of reviewing rates for the Centra. Tori McClelland has been recognized by Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) with two awards for her achievements. Chrystean Logan has been honored as Volunteer of the Year. An update was also provided regarding the current Student Senate officers.
- B.a. Athletics:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Jerry Olson provided the following updates: The Reverse Raffle generated \$23,800. The baseball team will host a best-of-three conference series this Saturday and Sunday. The softball team will travel to Minneapolis for the playoffs, with competition beginning Thursday. The MCC home rodeo was highly successful this past weekend, with ticket sales exceeding last year's total by \$700. Shea Moreno has been hired as the new Softball Coach, and Alex Fodness will serve as the new Men's Basketball Coach.
- C. Administrative Services and HR:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Administrative Services and HR Kylene Phipps provided the following updates: We are pleased to report that all open searches have been successfully filled. Additionally, lighting in the Centra has been upgraded to improve the facility.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dimitria Harding provided additional updates: Nursing students recently completed an NCLEX predictor exam. Last year, the program achieved a 57% pass rate; this year, that rate increased to 86%, reflecting the positive impact of improvements implemented over the past year. Based on established benchmarks, students who pass the predictor have approximately a 95% likelihood of passing the NCLEX. We are also pleased to share that the interim Director of Nursing has been appointed to the permanent role, providing important stability for the program. Appreciation is extended to the Trustees for their approval of the LPN-to-RN bridge program, which is already generating strong application interest. Additionally, the Medical Assistant Certificate of Applied Science has been submitted to the Academic Standards Committee, with a planned launch in Fall 2027. Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to Garth Sleight for 40 years of dedicated service and support to MCC.

- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger provided the following updates: The Eastern Montana Career Summit, hosted in partnership with the Montana High Tech Business Alliance, was highlighted. The event brought 250 middle and high school students to campus, along with 20 employers, providing valuable career exploration and engagement opportunities. Miles Community College also hosted a lunch for the Montana Association of County Superintendents statewide conference. VP Erin Niedege and Traci Glasscock delivered presentations to attendees. Guests were also given campus tours, showcasing MCC's programs and facilities.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Close the Loop: NWCCU Mid-Cycle Update:** President Slinger discussed the Mid-Cycle visit. We learned about processes, better use of our data collected, and also how to improve our report for our Year Seven visit.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Jones reported that they received a budget from CFO Aaberge. They were also given updates on the audit and on the NWCCU Mid-Cycle visit.
- B. Old Business:**
- a. **Permissive Medical Levy Resolution (second reading)**

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

- C. New Business:** No New Business

**HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. Chair Report:** All of the employee searches have been closed. Discussed the employee satisfaction survey and the President's evaluation tool.
- B. Old Business:** No Old Business
- C. New Business:** No New Business

**QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:**

- A. Chair Report:** Discussed the upcoming events and the NWCCU visit. We also discussed the ACCT retreat in May.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CONSENT AGENDA:** VP Harding discussed the consent items that are being brought forward tonight.

***Trustee McFarland moved to accept the Academic Affairs Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Okerman seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

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Chair

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Secretary