

Miles Community College
Board of Trustees
Minutes
August 25, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. August 25, 2025, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Tara Andrews, Jeff Okerman, Jamie Ogolin, Jenna Janshen, and Ryan Jones. The following Trustees were excused: Garret McFarland and Debbie Morford. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedge, Richard DeShields, Rita Kratky, Nancy Aaberge, Jerry Olson, Dirk Schmidt, Jessica Lofland, and the MCC Resident Assistants: Rylie Schlepp, Addison Sanders, Hunter Hauck, Brock Lopez, and Donnie Haney.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment was given.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Slinger said the Welcome Wagon BBQ will be held on Wednesday, August 27 at 5:00 p.m. The first day of classes will be Thursday, August 28. On Friday, August 29, the MCC Foundation will be presenting Nursing scholarships to our Nursing Students in rooms 106 and 107.

REPORTS:

- A. Enrollment Services:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Enrollment and Educational Support Services Erin Niedge provided additional updates: We concluded our final SOAR session today, with participation from 30 students.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Student Engagement & Auxiliary Services Richard DeShields provided the following updates: Our residence halls have reached 100% occupancy. Facilities and IT projects in the residence halls, Centra, and the Café are nearing completion. The Welcome Wagon move-in went very well.
- B.a. Athletics:** In Athletic Director Jerry Olson's absence, VP DeShields provided the following updates: The Pioneer Golf Scramble was held last weekend with 20 teams participating. The Baseball Hall of Fame is scheduled on September 6 at the Town & Country Club. The Athletic Hall of Fame is scheduled on September 13 at the Town & Country Club, and the Pioneer Palooza is scheduled on October 18 in the Centra. He also gave a fundraising update. On Saturday, August 23, our volleyball team split with Carroll College JV.
- 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: Our IT and Facilities departments were stellar in preparing the campus for the ready of students.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Academic Affairs Rita Kratky provided the following updates: We are working with faculty members to finalize class scheduling.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger provided the following updates: The semi being purchased for the CDL program is currently in Billings, undergoing inspection at the dealership. The ACEN site visit is scheduled for October 26 – 28, 2026, with the self-study report due by August 25, 2026. Additionally, MCC has been selected as one of only five community colleges nationwide to participate in the Fund Development Academy through the Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA). This will significantly support the growth and effectiveness of our Institutional Advancement division. He also discussed fundraising techniques and strategies.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Trustee Jones moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Trustee Okerman seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Enrollment Update:** Vice President Niedge provided an update on summer and fall enrollment. End-of-term numbers for Summer 2025 show a 16% increase over Summer 2024, with more than 91 FTE. As of this morning, prior to the final SOAR session, Fall 2025 enrollment stands at 403.7 FTE, which is 11% ahead of the same point last year. Headcount has reached 750, marking an 18% increase year-over-year. An update was also provided on enrollment trends by student type.

- B. **Nursing Program NCLEX Update:** President Slinger reported that the 2025 Nursing program graduated 26 students. Of those, 18 have taken the NCLEX exam, with 14 passing to date. Eight students have yet to complete the exam. He also provided an overview of the State Board of Nursing's required pass rate benchmarks, as well as the three distinct methods the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) uses to evaluate pass rate compliance. In addition, President Slinger discussed current pass rates and outlined strategies for improvement moving forward.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Ogolin reported that the committee reviewed the budget and noted there were no unexpected issues. MCC was able to contribute additional funds to the reserve account. The committee also discussed potential dates for the upcoming Board of Trustees retreat.
- B. **Old Business:** None
- C. **New Business:** None

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Okerman reported that the committee received updates on staffing, New Employee Orientation, Jenzabar, and changes to state statute language regarding Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention. In response, MCC staff will add language to the MCC policy to align with the state policy. This revised policy will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval in September.
- B. **Old Business:** None
- C. **New Business:** None

QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Janshen shared that the committee received an update on the Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) and discussed the Executive Team retreat and the recent NCLEX results.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Nursing Program Update – NCLEX Scores
- B. NWCCU Mid-Cycle Visit
- C. Introduction of the MCC Volleyball Team - September

Adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

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

Chair

Secretary