

**Miles Community College**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes**  
**March 23, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. March 23, 2026, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Garret McFarland, Jeff Okerman, Jamie Ogolin, Jenna Janshen, Debbie Morford, and Ryan Jones. The following Trustee was excused: Tara Andrews. Also present were President Ron Slinger via Zoom, Candy Laney, Nancy Aaberge, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedege, Dimitria Harding, Richard DeShields, Dirk Schmidt, Baseball Head Coach Guevara with the MCC Baseball team, Athletic Director and Softball Head Coach Olson with the MCC Softball team, and Star Reporter Hunter Herbaugh.

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The softball and baseball teams were introduced to the Board of Trustees. President Slinger reported he was invited to Dr. Tessman's inauguration at MSU. The next etiquette dinner is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Town & Country Club. The home rodeo will take place April 23–26 at the AAC and Champion Arena.

**REPORTS:**

- A. Enrollment Services:** VP Niedege reported advising for fall is well underway.
- B. Student Engagement:** VP DeShields reported that residence hall occupancy is at 85% for the spring semester, with fall projections closely matching last year's levels. A professional cleaning company will be hired in May to conduct a comprehensive cleaning of the residence halls, while institutional staff will continue to provide spot cleaning throughout the summer. Several large-scale projects are scheduled for completion over the summer months. Additionally, Tori McClelland has been selected for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society All-USA Team and will receive her award at the American Association of Community Colleges Conference on April 13, 2026. She was also named a PTK New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar and will be recognized during the week of March 25 in Baltimore, Maryland.
- C. Athletic Report:** Athletic Director Olson reported that both basketball teams won their first-round playoff games but were eliminated in the second round. He also provided updates on the softball and baseball programs. The rodeo team will attend its first spring rodeo on April 2 at MSU, and the college's double rodeo is scheduled for April 23–26. Reverse Raffle tickets remain available for purchase. Volleyball camps have been scheduled. Both the men's and women's basketball programs have generated additional fundraising revenue through the Cowtown Classic Tournament, though those amounts have not yet been reflected in the totals. Additionally, four candidates are being interviewed this week for the head softball coach position.
- D. Administrative Services:** VP Phipps reported that interviews for the math instructor and head softball coach positions are taking place this week, and the search process for the men's head basketball coach is moving forward. The Nursing and Allied Health Program Advisor and HR Coordinator positions are currently posted, along with the AAC Student Staff position.
- E. Academic Affairs:** VP Harding reported that the NWCCU report has been officially submitted. Interviews for math instructor positions are underway. Concurrent enrollment continues to grow, with additional course offerings planned, and the adjunct faculty pool is also expanding.
- F. President's Report:** President Slinger expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed to the preparation of the NWCCU report and noted a very positive meeting with the chair of the accreditation group. While in Helena, he attended a reception at the Governor's Mansion, where the Governor conveyed strong support for the work being done at MCC. He also attended meetings of the Interim Education Committee and the Interim Legislative Budget Committee, during which he was invited to speak on the community college funding formula. Additionally, he reported that 146 students were named to the fall President's Honor List.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

***Trustee Okerman moved to approve the consent agendas as presented. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. **Close the Loop: NWCCU Accreditation Mid-Cycle Visit:** President Slinger discussed the report that we submitted and the process that will occur during our mid-cycle visit.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Ogolin reported that the committee met on Friday and reviewed the budget status report. The current budget position mirrors that of last year; however, it does not yet reflect one-time or supplemental funding from the state. The Permissive Medical Levy resolution will be brought forward for first reading, along with the Connor's Stadium Resolution, which proposes a \$15,000 contribution toward the replacement of support structures. We will be requesting a waiver of the second reading. As SDI will be involved in the project, Trustee Janshen will abstain from voting on this item.
- B. **Old Business:** None
- C. **New Business:**
- a. **Permissive Medical Levy Resolution (first reading):** No action taken
  - b. **Connor's Stadium Resolution (first reading):** President Slinger explained the rationale for bringing the resolution forward. Due to construction issues and safety concerns, the City of Miles City has requested assistance with the cost of installing new support structures for the grandstand at Connor's Stadium. The MCC baseball team plays all their games at Connor's Stadium.

***Trustee Ogolin made a motion to waive the second reading of the Connor's Stadium resolution. Trustee Okerman seconded the motion. Trustee Janshen abstained. Motion passed***

***Trustee Okerman made a motion to accept the Connor's Stadium resolution as presented. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. Trustee Janshen abstained. Motion passed***

**HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Okerman reported that they were briefed on several staffing positions. The satisfaction survey will be distributed soon. They also discussed the resolutions presented at the meeting. No action items are being brought forward.
- B. **Old Business:** None
- C. **New Business:** None

**QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Janshen reported that resolutions, legislative updates, and updates to the funding formula were discussed. It was noted that NWCCU will not be requesting a meeting with the Trustees. The committee also discussed the growth of the Foundation since President Slinger assumed office.

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

***Trustee Janshen moved to accept the Academic Affairs Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Ogolin 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, April 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

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Chair

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Secretary