Miles Community College
Board of Trustees
Minutes
May 18, 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, Jamie Ogolin, Jenna Janshen, and Ryan Jones. The following Trustees were excused: Garret McFarland, Jeff Okerman, and Debbie Morford. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Nancy Aaberge, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedge, Dimitria Harding, Richard DeShields, Dirk Schmidt, Jerry Olson, Shujie Slinger, and Star Reporter Hunter Herbaugh.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment was given.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Slinger thanked Dr. DeShields for attending the Board of Regents meeting in his absence, as he will be in Helena attending the Montana Nonprofit Association Board meeting before traveling directly to Great Falls for the Board of Public Education meeting. He also expressed his appreciation to Dr. Harding for representing the college at the Economic Development meeting in Billings. President Slinger also discussed the upcoming ACCT Summer Trustees Retreat, scheduled for May 27 at the Miles City Hotel and Suites.

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: No updates to the written report were given. VP Niedge expressed her appreciation to all staff members who assisted with the graduation ceremony. She also thanked the faculty for submitting grades early, which enabled Registrar Carla Cummins to promptly post final grades in Jenzabar.

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: VP DeShields provided an update on housing occupancy and expressed his appreciation to the Facilities Department for their continued work in the residence halls and the Centra in preparation for the upcoming fall semester.

B.a. **Athletics:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Jerry Olson provided the following updates: Athletic Director Olson thanked Intermountain Health for providing meals for the athletic teams while the Café was closed. He reported that the baseball team lost its opening game but rebounded with a victory over Dawson. The team was later defeated by Williston, the tournament champion, which will advance to regionals. The softball team finished as runner-up after falling in the championship game. The rodeo team will have two athletes competing at the CNFR in June. Coaches are also preparing for upcoming summer camps. August 22 has been scheduled for the Pioneer Scramble.

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: No updates to the written report were given.

D. **Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dimitria Harding provided additional updates: VP Harding discussed the new Agricultural Programs Associate-to-Bachelor's Degree articulation agreements with MSU Bozeman that will take effect this fall. She noted that the initiative was led by agricultural faculty member Kim Gibbs.

E. **President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger provided the following updates: President Slinger reported that he and the other two community college presidents met with representatives from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) to discuss the community college funding formula. The goal of these discussions is to establish an agreed-upon base funding amount in advance of the upcoming legislative session. During the meetings, early calculations regarding supplemental funding and reversions were also shared. He also recognized and thanked OCHE staff for their ongoing assistance with the budget process. President Slinger noted that supplemental funding for this year is scheduled to be received on July 15.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- **A. Enrollment Update:** VP Niedge provided an update on summer and fall term enrollment, noting that both headcount and FTE are slightly higher compared to the same point last year. She also reported that SOAR sessions are showing strong participation, with 35 students currently registered for the June 11 session and plans to cap enrollment at approximately 50 students.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Ogolin reported that the committee reviewed the budget status report, noting that it appears slightly skewed due to timing factors; however, overall finances remain in good standing when those timing considerations are taken into account. The committee also discussed the draft fiscal year 2027 budget, as well as updated state budget figures. He further shared information about a new national initiative, *The Proud Sponsor*, which is aimed at rebuilding public confidence in higher education. Trustee Ogolin also expressed appreciation to the hospital for providing meals for student-athletes. He noted that there are no action items being brought forward at this time.
- **B. Old Business:** No Old Business
- **C. New Business:** No New Business

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

- **A. Chair Report:** Trustee Ogolin reported that the committee discussed staffing updates and the employee satisfaction survey. He noted that more than 72% of full-time faculty and staff have completed the survey, with additional responses still being received. Annual performance evaluations are currently underway. Human Resources staff are also planning TGIF sessions for the summer. The college has entered the second phase of the Jenzabar implementation. Additionally, Policy 600.11.6, *Use of the Ag Advancement Center (AAC)*, is being presented for first reading. The policy is intended to mirror the existing Centra policy regarding Trustee, employee, and their family use. The 2027–2028 academic calendar is also being brought forward for first reading.
- **B. Old Business:** No Old Business
- **C. New Business:**
  - **a. Policy 600.11.6, Centra and AAC Indoor Arena Use:**
  - **b. 2027-28 Academic Calendar (first reading)**
  - **c. Oath of Office:** Ryan Jones and Jamie Ogolin each took the Oath of Office. Garret McFarland is scheduled to take the Oath of Office at the June meeting.
  - **d. Election of Trustee Officers:** Trustee Ogolin presented the Committee's proposed slate of officers.

Trustee Ogolin moved to accept that slate of officers as follows: Garret McFarland as Chair, Jeff Okerman as Vice Chair, and Jenna Janshen as Secretary. Ryan Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

  - **e. Committee Assignments:** The committee assignments will be done at a future meeting.
  - **f. Conflict of Interest Disclosures:** Trustees were given the Conflict of Interest forms and were asked to return them to Candy Laney.

QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:

- **A. Chair Report:** Jenna Janshen reported that the committee discussed the ACCT Board of Trustees retreat, the state budget, general business development efforts, and community and regional partnerships. The committee also viewed the *Proud Sponsor* campaign video.

With this being the final meeting for Tara Andrews as Chair, President Slinger recognized her for her leadership, vision, dedication, and service to MCC during her tenure as Chair.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Due to the fact that not all Trustees' evaluations of President Slinger have been submitted, the Executive Session will be postponed to the June meeting. Trustee Ogolin requested that Trustees complete their evaluations as soon as possible and notify Trustee Andrews once they have been submitted.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, June 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

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Chair Secretary