



Gillette Community College District
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 11:30 a.m.
Gillette College Tech Center, Pronghorn Board Room

Trustees Present

Robert Palmer, Chair
Olin Oedekoven, Vice Chair
Alison Gee, Treasurer
Tracy Wasserburger, Secretary
Josh McGrath
Nello Williams
Frank Stevens

Trustees Absent

Administration Present

Janell Oberlander, Interim President
Heidi Gross, Executive Director of Gillette College Foundation
Anne Larsen, Vice President of Administration, Chief Financial Officer

Others Present

Dave Horning, Legal Counsel
Renee Collins, Staff
Mark Anderson, Staff
Ellen Peterson, Area 59
Jeff Wasserburger, State Senator
Jake Goodrick, Reporter, Gillette News-Record
Kelly Derryberry, Faculty
Beau Corkins, Faculty
Megan Baumeister, Tilt Shift
Derrick Kimble, Student

Recorder

Elly Henning

Call to Order Regular Meeting of the Gillette Community College District Board of Trustees

Chair Palmer called the Regular Meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. There was a quorum. Chair Palmer led the pledge.

- a. Additions/Deletions to Agenda



Dr. Oberlander requested that the Foundation report be presented before the For the Good of the District. Chair Palmer requested a motion to amend the agenda as such. Trustee McGrath moved, and Trustee Williams seconded. The motion carried.

b. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Palmer requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Gee moved, and Secretary Wasserburger seconded. The motion carried.

1. Gillette College Foundation Executive Director Report – Heidi Gross

Heidi Gross gave the following updates:

- a. Casino Night is already hugely successful with over 75 silent auction items and trustee auction items in a live event. 50 tables have already been sold which is as many as last year with a month to go. They have added 6 more black jack tables.
- b. The Foundation Board approved a proposal with Tilt Shift Marketing for new branding.
- c. The Foundation has sent out an RFP for auditing and tax services to 3 local accounting firms and one in Cheyenne that will be due in June. Eide Bailey won't provide those services anymore.
- d. Dr. Oberlander, Ms. Gross and Brian Yeager met with Kuehne Foundation in Sheridan about a very sizable endowment for Veterans Scholarships. They are considering splitting the endowment between NWCCD and GCCD and if that happens it would be over a \$1 million gift. There are 57 veteran students at GC.
- e. The College Foundation also received a \$35,000 grant for non-traditional students from the Daniels Fund Foundation.
- f. There has been no update on the EDA grant.

For the Good of the District

Area 59

Ellen Peterson shared a video of Area 59 activities over the last year. She celebrated her 1 year anniversary being the director a few weeks ago. Area 59 is working on dual enrollment with YES House and Westwood students. Those students are shadowing the 4 major programs (Diesel, Machining, Electrical, and Welding) in the Tech Ed program at the College and spending a day at all of those classes. At the end of the program they will participate in a resume writing workshop and have mock job interviews. They also provide 3d printing and modeling and summer camps are coming up. Area 59 is operating a Verizon Achievers program for 6, 7 and 8 graders. 7 local robotics teams will compete internationally. They run an after school program with Learn and Grow once a week to use applied technology. 17 veterans are using their services. Area 59 requested 1% funds to continue supporting the veterans program. They continue to offer maker classes and teacher workshops for drones. They are working on a University of Wyoming partnership for a MakerAccess pass. Ms. Peterson invited trustees to tour anytime. Their information can be found at www.Area-59.com and their facebook page.

Board Celebrations

Trustee Williams shared that the Thunder Basin Bolts boys were basketball state champs for the first time. His son Rory Williams is Coach of the Year and his grandson is Player of the Year.



Secretary Wasserburger welcomed her 8th grandchild on Wyoming Day, March 7.

Dr. Oberlander noted that Elly Henning has started as her Executive Administrative Assistant and that today is also her birthday. Anne Larsen has been in her new role as the Vice President of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer for 3 days.

Chair Palmer thanked Carol Seeger for her staunch support of Gillette College and her work for the City and County. He has looked up to her professionalism over the years.

Dr. Oberlander shared that Dr. Sandra Caldwell, Executive Director of the WCCC, had hip replacement surgery and that the hospital has a new CEO that will start in May.

Organizational Reports

1. Interim President's Report – Janell Oberlander

Interim President Oberlander shared the following updates:

- a. The legislative session is wrapped up and 2 bills that impacted the College were passed. HB31 created the Wyoming Tomorrow's endowment. Senator Wasserburger has worked diligently on these scholarships for adult learners and it was funded at 10 million but needs to reach 50 million before scholarships can be awarded. This bill had strong support from the business industry. SF43, was the election bill for new college Boards of Trustees. This legislation establishes when trustees need to be re-elected. Nov. 2024 is the next election for trustees. Senator Wasserburger added that the top 4 vote getters receive a 4 year term and the bottom vote getters get a 2 year term.
- b. Dan Anderson is the new Workforce Services director in Gillette. There are excellent opportunities to expand the College's partnership with that organization.
- c. Staffing update: Grace Henderson, Asst. Student Life and Housing Director, is going to graduate school and will be leaving after the academic year. Jenna Waldner, Administrative Assistant to the Foundation, submitted her resignation last week and will be working for a company remotely. The Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs position has first round interviews this Friday for 3 candidates. VP Larsen, Travis Grubb, Susan Serge, and Jessi Maurer are interviewees. VP Larsen has drafts of Human Resources positions to fill.
- d. Commencement planning has commenced. Full itinerary to be provided.
- e. The Penny Power campaign is underway and Dr. Oberlander and Chair Palmer were invited to be part of it. Dr. Oberlander can't lobby or advocate for the tax but she can tell stories about how 1% funding has impacted the College.
- f. The college is close to getting approval for the state retirement program. Dr. Oberlander had discussions with a TIIAA-Cref representative yesterday.
- g. Now that VP Larsen is on board Dr. Oberlander will turn her focus to policy work. The GCCD policies will mirror NWCCDs due to accreditation.
- h. Under VP Larsen an RFP will be forthcoming for a new auditor.

2. Gillette College Advisory Board Update – Chair Worthen

Dr. Oberlander gave the following updates on behalf of Chair Worthen:



The last meeting focused on the branding review with Megan Baumeister. The board's only concern was how the roll out would look and what it would cost. The advisory board has one open position but they're operating under the bylaws.

3. Student Senate Update – Derrick Kimble

Derrick Kimble gave the following updates:

On Feb. 24 the Student Senate executive team and Susan Serge traveled to Cheyenne. They met Senator Wasserburger for dinner, toured the capitol and met with Lachelle Brant and Kate Barlow of the Governor's staff, as well as Erin Taylor, the Wyoming Community College Commission lobbyist, in addition to attending sessions on the House and Senate floor. Senator Wasserburger introduced them on the Senate floor and they met Speaker Barlow and got to go up to the golden dome.

Old Business

IT Proposal

1. The committee is nearing the decision on the company the college is going to hire. VP Larsen is getting up to speed and doing follow up calls with companies. She will bring a proposal at the next meeting. VP Larsen shared that after her follow up calls with the companies she is in agreement with what the rest of the group is leaning toward. It is a big and expensive project but with these amazing facilities the College needs an IT system in place to get where we're going.
2. **HLC Annual Conference** – If Trustees are interested let Dr. Oberlander know. Access will be available following the conference for online viewing.

New Business

Exhibit D – Dr. Oberlander

The MOU between NWCCD and GCCD is finalized. It outlines commencement and other special events. Chair Palmer asked for a motion to ratify Exhibit D as presented. The motion was moved by Trustee Gee and seconded by Vice Chair Oedekoven. Trustee Gee added that this is an important exhibit as we move into the commencement season and important to recognize student achievement and not focus on the transition. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

1. Budget Finance – Trustee Gee

Trustee Gee had an initial kick off meeting with VP Larsen yesterday to discuss moving forward. They are researching the mill levy and timing for a full budget timeline. They are gathering historical budget information. There will be an internal meeting in May to pull information and start working on a granular budget. There will also be a tentative budget workshop on May 17. They are trying to build in some lead time and hoping to be ready to have a public hearing at the June meeting to prepare to submit tentative information to the County. They are trying to get all the pieces together. Chair Palmer is open to more



workshops if it would help the process. Trustee Gee, Trustee McGrath and Trustee Stevens are on the Budget Committee. They are working on bringing on a consultant intimately involved with the rules to help onboard VP Larsen with budget timeline.

2. Negotiation Committee – Chair Palmer

Exhibit C -The committee is meeting on a weekly basis and getting closer on Exhibit C which would transition the staff over the next 18 months. The goal is for Exhibit C to be on the April agenda.

Exhibit B – The committee is meeting on a weekly basis. The committee consists of Dave Horning, the City, the County, the hospital and NWCCD as they work through existing leases. Trustee Gee added that both sides are working toward making the transition successful and weekly meetings are keeping the momentum going.

3. GCCD Branding – Trustee McGrath

- a. The committee has gone through a very lengthy and thorough process. Mark Anderson helped compile the team from the college including students, the public, and the advisory board. Feedback has been resoundingly good. The campus signs are outdated even without a rebranding in mind. The committee did not change the Pronghorn logo currently being used but the College does need a seal for the accreditation process. Trustee McGrath added that most companies rebrand and change logos every 5-7 years.
- b. Megan Baumeister with Tilt Shift presented a visual proposal of logos, seals and icons. Mark Anderson said short term costs will be relatively inexpensive. In the future the College should design a whole master plan and go building by building to change signage but there is time for that down the road. Megan suggested doing a legal check for a trademark search and then to register it as a trademark. Chair Palmer tasked the committee with checking out copyright and trademark issues and then having the proposal on the April meeting agenda for a vote.
- c. A school song already exists and Trustee McGrath is working to find a composer for a fight song.

4. Accreditation – Chair Palmer

On behalf of Vice Chair Oedekoven, who had to leave the meeting at 12:57 p.m., Chair Palmer alerted the Trustees that Vice Chair Oedekoven may have a quiz for some of them to take. He encouraged trustees to read the trustee book. Dr. Oberlander discussed the newly added Board self assessment sheets that were added to the packets and should be filled out at the adjournment of each meeting going forward.



Upcoming Events/Activities

March 18, 19, 20 - Gillette College Home Rodeo, Dr. Oberlander will attend.

March 21-25 - Spring Break, campus closed March 24, 25

March 22 – Legislative Wrap Up, Dr. Oberlander will attend.

April 8, 9 - SkillsUSA Competition

April 9 - Gillette College Foundation Casino Royale

April 21 - Wyoming Community College Commission meeting

May 7 - Gillette College Booster Club Golf Tournament

May 13 - Gillette College Commencement Day

4:30 pm College boards dinner

7 pm Commencement ceremony

July 13 - WyoGives Block Party at the College

Chair Palmer adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Submitted by:

Tracy Wasserburger
GCCD Board of Trustees, Secretary

Robert Palmer
GCCD Board of Trustees, Chair