



# Regular Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Gillette College

9/18/2024 11:30 AMMDT

@ Tech Center, 3251 South 4-J Road

## **Attendance**

### **Present:**

Members: Teri Anderson, Alison Gee, Josh McGrath, Larry Smith, Tracy Wasserburger, Nello Williams

Guests: Dave Horning, Ashilynn Keetley, Angie Laakso, Susan Monaghan, Fetuao Tapasa, Jeff Wasserburger, Makayla Yelenich

Administration: Heidi Gross, Elly Henning, Maggie Longo, Janell Oberlander, Barry Spriggs

Faculty: Lisa Arhart, Martin Fashbaugh

Staff: Tony Campese, Vince Davis, Dennis Gilbar, Travis Grubb, Chrisondra Kern, Megan Shears, Jim Stratton, Lindsay Wakefield, Kjersti Waldemar, David Wolfe

### **Absent:**

Members: Robert Palmer

#### I. Call to Order

Chair McGrath called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

 [Motion Agenda 9-13-2024.doc](#)

#### A. Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Smith led the pledge.

#### B. Roll Call

There is a quorum.

#### C. Additions/Deletions to Agenda for Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Dr. Oberlander requested the removal of Pronghorn Athletic Hall of Fame from the agenda because it will be discussed next month.

### **Motion:**

Chair McGrath requested a motion to approve the Agenda, with the removal of the Pronghorn Athletic Hall of Fame, for the Regular GCCD BOT meeting held today, Wednesday, September 18, 2024.

Motion moved by Alison Gee and motion seconded by Nello Williams. Motion carried.

#### D. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of GCCD Regular BOT Meeting held on August 21, 2024

 [Regular Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

2. Minutes of GCCD Executive Session held on August 21, 2024

3. Staffing Report

 [Staffing Report 9-3-2024.docx](#)

4. August 2024 Financials

 [Finance Pack August.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Chair McGrath requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the Regular GCCD BOT Meeting held today, Wednesday, September 18, 2024.

Motion moved by Alison Gee and motion seconded by Tracy Wasserburger. Motion carried.

II. For the Good of the District

This morning the American Legion National Commander is on campus and Brian Yeager was awarded the American Legion Commanders Medallion, only one in the state. Dave Horning is celebrating 23 years of practicing law in Gillette.

A. Faculty of the Month for September, Lisa Arhart

Dean Fashbaugh introduced Lisa Arhart as Faculty Spotlight for the month of September. She is skilled at helping students feel less scared about writing and gain confidence. She leads the Creative Writing Club and that club has been very active over the past few years. Lisa shared that English can be scary and she spends a lot of time helping her students feel safe. She aims to be the teacher her mom wants her to be.

B. Staff of the Month for September, Vince Davis

Jim Stratton introduced Vince Davis who has been an MSHA instructor since 2023. He has built up the virtual reality program in his time as well. He has been working with Area 59 and helping the 6th graders with their virtual tours and also a member of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force. Vince shared that it is important to meet the changing needs of our students and AI is the next step in the phase of advancement and he's excited to be part of using new and innovative ways to teach.

C. Student of the Month for September, Makayla Yelenich

Lisa introduced Makayla Yelenich who is the Creative Writing Club treasurer who is a secondary education major also works full-time. Lisa finds her a very impressive young woman and wanted to share her with everyone. Makayla shared that she used to work at the YES House and that helped her decide that she wanted to teach because she connected with the kids that were going through tough times. She was also greatly inspired by her son's adoptive parents who are educators. She plans to continue her education at Black Hills State University.

D. Energy City Voices Introduction and Performance

The group of 16 performed 2 songs and introduced themselves.

E. Resident Assistants Introduction

David Wolfe, Director of Housing and Residence Life, introduced Shane, Mia, Ellie, Jazz, Abby. The RAs shared the training they went through and shared that they get to connect so much with students. Conflict resolution, communications skills and time management are all areas they've grown in through their role as an RA.

F. Good News from the Trustees

Trustee Williams' grandson is going to FBI school and his other grandson Jack is now building trails at the Grand Canyon.

III. Organizational Reports

A. President's Report - Dr. Oberlander

As of September 16 we have 1,228 students enrolled and those numbers continue to rise as concurrent students get enrolled.

The Enzi Building RFQ is out and submissions are due Thursday. The evaluation of those submissions will happen between September 19-24 and then interviews will happen in early October. The covenants on the 6.4 acres of land for the building have been removed. The Foundation campaign consultant has been on campus to lay the foundation for the upcoming capital campaign.

Amanda Hauck graduated from the Gillette Area Leadership Institute and Kelsey Baker, nursing coordinator, is in this year.

NCLEX pass rate unofficial numbers are 22 graduates passed on the 1st try, 2 passed on the second time, 1 hasn't passed and 1 hasn't tested.

The Pronghorn Remodel for ECV is on the Wyoming Community College Commission agenda for October with work to hopefully start after the basketball season.

The board should discuss their annual evaluation and retreat and finalize a date at the October board meeting.

B. Gillette College Advisory Board Report - Chair Angie Laakso

Chair Laakso shared the industry report from the ranching industry from Cameron Smith. He shared that north of town there has only been 1 inch of rain since the month of June. Not many ranchers carry insurance for fire disasters and there is a fund set up by the State of Wyoming but there is not much left in that fund. Several ranchers got a lot of the ground burnt up and some of the cattle as well. The elk habitat has also been burned. Cattle prices are at a record high price currently but expenses are also at record high prices. Trustee Smith shared that hay is difficult to bring in because some of it may not qualify to come into the state if it contains invasive seeds.

C. Student Senate Report - President Fetuao Tapasa

Ashilyn Keetley, Student Senate Vice President, introduced Fetua Tapasa, the new Student Senate President. The Senate established 3 core goals for the year. Providing support and feedback as they help build Gillette College by continuing office hours, and supporting clubs and organizations by having presence at club meetings and helping with events. They will work to establish presence on campus to advocate for Student Senate and highlight resources. 7 candidates ran for senate office and there were 59 votes total.

D. Director of Marketing and Strategic Communications Report - Maggie Longo

Summer was busy as we re-branded past events and got new rack cards and flyers ready for the year. The new CRM system is being utilized with all the students our recruiter is meeting at high

school fairs. The website has evolved with 29 new subpages including program showcase pages. Website traffic January - September is up 28% and time engagement is up 11%. Social media has an 88% reach. The Bridge Lighting ceremony post reached over 10,000 people.


E. Pronghorn Athletic Hall of Fame - Dr. Oberlander


IV. Old Business

V. New Business

A. A2A Discussion - Chair McGrath

A group of people have been meeting for 8 months, Assess 2 Action, headed up by the Wyoming Business Council with the goal of continuing economic development in Campbell County. The purpose is to try to help economic development to have more stable funding going forward to help Gillette. Trustees should review the responsibilities laid out for the college. This is a draft and has not been approved by any entity.

 [ECED MOU \(City, County, College\) 9.4.2024 workshop edits incorporated clean.docx](#)

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B. Ratification of Gillette College Advisory Board member, Sam Saunders - Chair Angie Laakso

Angie read Sam's bio.

 [Sam Saunders Bio.docx](#)

**Motion:**

Chair McGrath requested a motion to ratify the new Advisory Board member, Sam Saunders.

Motion moved by Alison Gee and motion seconded by Teri Anderson. Motion carried.

VI. Committee Reports

A. WACCT

Trustee Smith shared that the budget has been sent out to everyone and the board will meet October 2.

B. Art Committee

Trustee Smith, Anderson and Wasserburger have met to discuss working with a local artist to fill the board room wall space highlighting the bridge in an artistic fashion. They will be gathering proposals and will report back.

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Upcoming Events

- A. September 23, 2024 - Accreditation/A2A Workshop - 5:30 p.m.
- B. October 2-3, 2024 - Wyoming Community College Commission/Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees Meetings - Western Wyoming College
- C. November 8, 2024 - Energy City Voices Fall Festival Performance, 6-8 p.m. - Tech Center

IX. Adjourn

**Motion:**

Chair McGrath requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion moved by Teri Anderson and motion seconded by Nello Williams. Motion carried.

