



Regular Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Gillette College

4/16/2025 9:00 AMMDT

@ Tech Center, 3251 South 4-J Road

Attendance

Present:

Members: Teri Anderson, Ellis Day, Josh McGrath, Robert Palmer (remote), Larry Smith, Tracy Wasserburger, Nello Williams

Guests: Tamara Atkins and the GALI Class, Scott Durgin, Dave Horning, Brynna Kahl, Susan Monaghan, Madison Pfeil, Joan Sowada, Peytonn Suchor, Fetuao Tapasa

Administration: Elly Henning, Heidi Gross, Roger Humphrey, Anne Larsen, Maggie Longo, Barry Spriggs

Faculty: Martin Fashbaugh, Jeremy Blazek, Miranda Finn, Troy Miller, Christina Redman

Staff: Brit Brown, Renee Collins, Debbie Craig, Sam Griffis, Holly Hofer, Brandi Martin, Shantel Moore, Lindsay Wakefield

I. Call to Order

 [Motion Agenda 4-16-2025.doc](#)

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Day led the pledge.

B. Roll Call

There is a quorum.

The Gillette Area Leadership Institute class of 2024 was introduced by Tamara Atkins and they shared their names and where they work. A question was asked about where the Enzi Building would go and discussion was had about the needs for more classroom space and updated labs.

C. Additions/Deletions to Agenda for Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Motion:

Trustee Smith moved to update section IX, Executive Session, to add pursuant to statute 16-4-405 (ix) on matters concerning litigation to which the governing body is or may be a party and to consider or receive information classified as confidential by law (attorney-client privilege).

Motion moved by Larry Smith and motion seconded by Tracy Wasserburger.

Motion carried.

Motion:

Chair McGrath requested a motion to approve the Agenda as amended for the Regular GCCD BOT meeting held today, Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

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

D. Approval of Consent Agenda for Wednesday, April 16, 2025

1. Minutes of GCCD Regular BOT Meeting held on March 19, 2025
 [Regular Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes 3-19-2025.pdf](#)
2. Approval of BOT Executive Session Minutes Held on March 19, 2025
3. Staffing Report
 [Staffing Report 4-1-2025.pdf](#)
4. March 2025 Financials
 [Finance Pack March.pdf](#)

Motion:

Chair McGrath requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the Regular GCCD BOT Meeting held on, Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

Motion moved by Larry Smith and motion seconded by Teri Anderson. Motion carried.

II. For the Good of the District

A. Good News from the Trustees

Trustee Williams shared that Casino Night was a lovely event. Trustee Day said the SkillsUSA competition had a great turnout and a lot of high school participation which was wonderful. Trustee Smith said the rodeo teams are doing well and the last rodeo is 2 weeks away.

B. Coca Cola Award Winner (Brynna Kahl) - Miranda Finn

Miranda Finn introduced Brynna who was one of 150 students to be picked for this national Phi Theta Kappa scholarship. Brynna has an industrial electricity degree from Gillette College and is now pursuing her English degree. She's a first generation college student and hardworking single mom who is excelling in her classes and she will be the PTK President next year.

C. Phi Theta Kappa All-Wyoming Academic Team Members (Brynna Kahl, Madison Pfeil) - Miranda Finn

Brandi Martin shared that Madison Pfeil is involved on campus with Phi Theta Kappa and the Science Club and graduating this spring in Biology with plans to move onto the South Dakota School of Mines with the hope to some day be a wildlife biologist.

D. Staff of the Month for April (Brit Brown) - Samantha Griffis

Samantha introduced Brit and shared she's up for any challenge and a great new addition to the library staff. Students and staff seek her out and we're so pleased to have her on the team. Brit shared that she has loved working here for the past few months and it is her favorite job she's had so far.

E. Student of the Month for April (Peytonn Suchor) - Christina Redman

Christina shared that Peytonn is excelling in his classes and is willing to help, arrives early and constantly shows his integrity in everything he does. Even as a new dad he shows up wide eyed and bushy tailed and ready to learn. Peytonn shared that his teachers are the real stars and give all the students a place to excel.

F. Faculty of the Month for April (Holly Hofer) - Dean Wakefield

Dean Wakefield shared that Holly is a graduate from our nursing program and has been an employee with Gillette College for 2 years now. She completed her Masters degree in 15 months and is working on her Certified Nurse Educator certificate. She is one of the most efficient workers with an infectious good nature. Holly shared that she is born and raised here and is so thankful that her son is planning on getting his education through Gillette College in the fall of 2026.

Chair McGrath asked Teri Anderson to discuss the new artwork in the Tech Board Room and Teri introduced Joan Sowada, the artist of the pieces. Joan shared that she appreciated the commission and had a lot of fun doing it. She loves the visually interesting aspects of the college and there's always something new to look at. Trustee Wasserburger shared that the pieces captured our college in such a beautiful way. President Oberlander shared that the trustees personally funded this artwork.

III. Organizational Reports

A. President's Report - President Oberlander

Dr. Oberlander shared that she attended the Phi Theta Kappa Catalyst conference last week and it was a phenomenal event for students. The Higher Learning Commission meeting also went well and there was a good conversation with our accreditation liaison with very good feedback on our work so far.

The Wyoming Community College Commission is meeting on campus today with a reception tonight. WACCT meetings are also happening this afternoon. The commencement schedule is provided.

B. Gillette College Advisory Board Report - Chair Scott Durgin

Scott shared that the advisory board is balancing the expectations of members and having more efficient meetings for those who don't have as much time and then also adding sub committees for those that do have time and want to dive deeper into issues and involvement in the community.

C. Gillette College Foundation - Director Heidi Gross

Preliminary numbers for Casino Night look to be that they raised around \$139,000. They added new games and had a lot of positive feedback on the event. The Alumni Committee met and

unanimously agreed that Trustee Day will be the Distinguished Alumni and be honored at the commencement ceremony. Applause all around for Trustee Day! The Foundation Board is working on the strategic plan and should have it finalized. WyoGives is July 16 and the Foundation will be participating again. There is \$126,000 in matching funds still available and there is a year left to get those spent for the match.

D. Student Senate Report - Student Senate President Fetuao Tapasa

Fetuao shared that the Career Readiness event was successful with lots of clubs participating and good student involvement. The Hope Cupboard has been re-stocked with more grab and go options for on campus students. The Student Senate participated in a focus group with Dr. Oberlander and Dr. Spriggs about the Enzi Building and several other topics. The Senate has put forward their ideas for a class gift. Fetuao is going on to serve her church on the mission field for the next 18 months and this is her last report.

IV. Old Business

A. Tuition Update - Dr. Oberlander

NWCCD is instituting in-state tuition for all their students but Gillette College is not, 90% of our students are local. Vice President Larsen has been working out the funding distribution with NWCCD considering that some classes are still only taught in Sheridan but Gillette College students won't get any reduced rates.

V. New Business

A. President's Evaluation - Chair McGrath

Chair McGrath said an email was sent to trustees with a link to fill out a survey by April 27. The discussion will continue at the May meeting.

B. Policy 2000.5 - Institutional Review Board - First Reading

Dr. Oberlander shared that while Gillette College doesn't do its own research, outside entities do approach us for research needs and this policy will help us stay in line with those requests.

 [Policy 2000.5 - Institutional Review Board Policy.docx](#)

Motion:

Chair McGrath requested a motion to approve the First Reading of Policy 2000.5, Institutional Review Board.

Motion moved by Tracy Wasserburger and motion seconded by Ellis Day. Motion carried.

C. Legislative Updates and Required Policy - Dr. Oberlander

Legal Counsel Horning and Dr. Oberlander have been working on action items on bills from the legislative session with policy to be forthcoming to stay in compliance with new laws. Dr. Oberlander is following federal executive orders in case any involve accreditation or the Department of Education issues that impact community colleges.

HB 72 might require procedure work, not policy. HB 172 will require policy and all the community colleges are working on language for those policies to be identical across the state. This will need to be in place by July.

VI. Committee Reports

A. WACCT/WCCC - Trustee Smith and Trustee Day

WACCT is on campus today with 14 other trustees from the other colleges as well as president and it's a great time to show them what we have.

VII. Board Education - Chair McGrath

Chair McGrath shared that the Department of Education is going through some changes regarding DEI and some of it impacts community colleges. He thinks Gillette College can work with all of these changes and still serve students. The Department of Education oversees \$1.6 trillion in student loan debt and they oversee the FAFSA forms. If the DOE closes or shrinks this could disrupt funding and impact the college and future students.

The Commissioners yesterday chose not to take part in the \$1 million match for funds for the Enzi Applied Learning Center. This board needs to take the lead and not partake in thinking that the sky is falling. Let's have a positive outlook on Campbell County. For some historical context, in 2000 the assessed valuation was \$1.6 billion, in 2010 it was \$5 billion, in 2015 it was \$6.2 billion. The assessed valuation has moved up and down and it will continue to move but Campbell County is going to be ok and this board needs to be forward thinking and continue those partnerships.

VIII. Public Comments

IX. Executive Session (pursuant to state statute 16-4-405(iii) and (ix) on matters concerning litigation, attorney-client privilege - No Action Will Be Taken

Motion:

Chair McGrath requested a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 16-4-405(a)(iii) and (ix) on matters concerning litigation to which the governing body is or may be a party and to consider or receive information classified as confidential by law (attorney-client privilege).

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

X. Upcoming Events

- A. April 16-17, 2025 - Wyoming Community College Commission Meetings, Pronghorn Center
- B. April 16, 2025 - Wyoming Community College Commission Reception, 6:30 p.m., Pronghorn Center
- C. May 3, 2025 - Booster Club Golf Classic, Bell Nob
- D. May 9, 2025 - Commencement, Dinner at 4:30 p.m. at Prime Rib, Ceremony at 7 p.m., Pronghorn Center
- E. May 21, 2025 - Legislative Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Tech Center Board Room

- F. May 21, 2025 - Funding Formula Training with Erin Taylor, 9:00 a.m., Tech Center Board Room
- G. May 21, 2025 - Budget Workshop, 10:30 a.m., Tech Center Board Room

XI. Adjourn

Motion:

Chair McGrath requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion moved by Nello Williams and motion seconded by Ellis Day. 1:32 p.m. meeting was adjourned.

