



EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2020

The EWC Board of Trustees met at 4:00 pm in the Delores Kaufman Board Room in a work session. Members present were Bob Baumgartner, Judith Bartmann, Randy Adams, Tom John McCreery, John Patrick, Kurt Sittner and Jim Willox. (Mike Varney absent)

Special Presentation

Dr. BJ Semler gave a presentation on a project that he was involved in titled, "Torrington Tales and Trails", featuring Mr. Larry Cundall.

Board Discussion and Swearing in members

Chairman Baumgartner introduced the newly appointed Board member, Mr. Kurt Sittner. Mr. Sittner and the reelected members, Bob Baumgartner, Judith Bartmann, Mike Varney, and Randy Adams recited the Oath of Trustee members, and were welcomed back to the Board.

Nominations were accepted for the position of Secretary to the Board. Mr. Mike Varney and Mr. Randy Adams were nominated. Trustee Bartmann moved to nominate Trustee Varney. Trustee Adams seconded the nomination. The Board members voted by paper ballot. Official ballots were tallied and Trustee Adams was elected by a 5 to 1 vote.

Trustee Bartmann stated that she would like to remain the BOCES Treasurer and the WACCT representative for a 2-year term. Trustee Adams and Trustee McCreery stated they would be interested in filling the other position in WACCT. Trustee Bartmann stated that WACCT would like to have more Trustee input. Through discussion, Trustee McCreery stated that he would be honored to be on the WACCT Board.

The Trustees discussed representation of the Board members to the Foundation Board of Directors. Currently, Mr. Baumgartner and Mr. McCreery are current representatives. Trustee Patrick suggested Trustee Adams would be a great addition to the Foundation.

The Board proceeded to dinner at 5:00 pm.

Open Meeting

During the Open Forum, several staff provided comments about their opposition to the dissolution of Board Policy 3.17 Annual Early Retirement. Ms. Dixie Kroenlein, representing Staff Alliance, Dr. Kate Steinbock, representing Faculty Senate, Mr. Aaron Bahmer and Ms. JoEllen Keigley also provided statements and information regarding this policy as well.

Mr. Joseph Randolph, a current EWC Student, addressed the Board with his frustrations and information regarding the reopening of the college with face-to-face classes instead of on-line presentations. He also provided the Board with a petition of 68 signatures for the purpose of changing the decision to move classes back to face-to-face instruction.

ACTION: Trustee Adams moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Trustee McCreery seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Update

Dr. Travers informed the Board about the Cares money the college has received and how it is being expended. An informational packet with senators and representatives names and contact information was handed out to each board member so they can contact legislators and advocate for EWC.

Consent Agenda

ACTION: Trustee McCreery moved to approve the Consent Agenda, with the Addendum. Trustee Bartmann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda included:

- Minutes from the November 10, 2020, Board Meeting
- The Academic Calendars for: Fall 2022 - Spring 2023 - Summer 2023
- The resignations of:
 - Dr. Heidi Edmunds, Vice President for Academic Services
 - Ms. JoEllen Keigley, Testing and Career Center Coordinator
 - Ms. Shana Vogel, Cook
 - Dr. Edwin Bittner, Professor and Program Director the Veterinary Technology Dept.
 - Ms. Suzey Delger, Nursing Program Director

- The Designation of Depositories: Points West Bank, Pinnacle Bank, First State Bank, U.S. Bank, Platte Valley Bank, Converse County Bank, and related signatories.
- The Designation of the Torrington Telegram as the College District's Official Newspaper.

ACTION ITEMS

- Trustee Patrick moved to approve the December Financial Report. Trustee McCreery seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Comment: Trustee McCreery asked what some of the Cares money was being used for. Mr. Wilkes responded with technology needs, food service improvements, student computers, Zoom capabilities in 15 classrooms and 5 in Douglas, docking stations, surge protectors, back up drivers, and cleanable furniture that can be sanitized.

- Trustee Patrick moved to approve the Scholarship and Grants Budget for FY 2022. Trustee Bartmann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. There were changes in the amount to be capped at 15 credits. There was also a cut to the athletic section and an increase to the Foundation scholarships.

Comment: Trustee Patrick stated that it looked like the increase was a big cost, but we get money back from the State. Trustee Patrick would like to see those numbers. Mr. Wilkes will get these figures and present them at a later date. The funds would show up on the state appropriations budget.

- Trustee McCreery moved to appoint Mr. Kwin Wilkes, Vice President of Admin Services as the Assistant Treasurer to the Board. Trustee Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Trustee Patrick moved to ratify the decision to dissolve Board Policy 3.17 Annual Early Retirement Program, as part of the budget cut recommendations set forth in the November 10, 2020, meeting. Trustee Bartmann seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 to 1.

Comment: Trustee Patrick expressed that the board does not like to make this kind of decision, and expressed that ending the early retirement program, it does not result in a loss of jobs.

Comment: Trustee Willox stated that the need is now and the burden is later. Financially it is the right decision to protect the body of EWC.

Comment: Trustee McCreery expressed that he feels very strongly that this decision should not be made and feels this is going back on promises that were made to employees.

- Trustee Patrick moved to appoint Board representatives Bob Baumgartner, Tom John McCreery and Randy Adams to the Foundation. Trustee Bartmann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

FINAL READING BOARD POLICIES

- Trustee Adams moved to approve the Final Reading Board Policy 2.4 Serious Infectious Illness. Trustee McCreery seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Trustee Bartmann moved to approve the Final Reading Board Policy 2.6 Acceptance of Gifts by Eastern Wyoming College and EWC Foundation. Trustee Patrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee McCreery moved to approve the Final Reading Board Policy 2.7 Facility Naming. Trustee Patrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Adams moved to approve the Final Reading Board Policy 2.9 Media Relations. Trustee Bartmann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee McCreery moved to approve the Final Reading Board Policy 3.5 Employment and Service outside the College. Trustee Patrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Mr. John Hansen updated the Board on Institutional Development. Mr. Hansen stated that the stock market is rebounding and holding steady. We are currently working on a new phone

system for the college, working on getting Blackbaud Software to improve the Foundation fundraising and communication aspect, installing more Zoom technology to the college. The Foundation is looking to add 10 new members. They are hoping to have an open house in April for ATEC. Mr. Hansen also wanted to express his heartfelt sympathy for Mr. Andrew Castro that passed away. He was part of the Food Service team, and will be greatly missed.

- Dr. Margaret Farley updated the Board on the Douglas Campus. Dr. Farley wanted to thank the Board for the turkeys that were given to the employees. Currently, they are finishing the semester and busy rearranging spaces to create safe environments.
- Mr. Keith Jarvis updated the Board on the Construction and Major Maintenance. The ATEC exhaust air issues in the wet lab have been identified and is in the process of getting fixed. The projects that are progressing are: the access control installation of the cabling in phase II, vet tech lab 104, fire alarm installation and the addition of devices in the Science wing.
- Dr. Kate Steinbock updated the Board on the Faculty Senate. Dr. Steinbock stated that EWC is offering the substitute teaching certificate program during the spring semester.
- Ms. JoEllen Keigley updated the Board on Staff Alliance. Ms. Keigley stated that the new president for staff alliance is John Hansen, Vice President is Dixie Kroenlein, Secretary Sue Schmidt, Treasurer, Jamie Sullivan, Professional staff representative is Aaron Bahmer, Parliamentarian is Holly Lara, and the Classified representation is Holly West. This year we are not doing the traditional holiday carry in, but have decided to have a Secret Santa activity.
- Mr. Roger Humphrey updated the Board on Academic Services and Student Services. The Academics department is busy updating and completing the course schedule, and following up with students that have not registered yet. Roger wanted to express his thanks for both sides, Academics and Student services, for working so hard. We will have a spring following up with the Strategic plan, integrating into the strategies, and aligning up initiatives. Roger thanked the Board for the Turkeys.
- Ms. Tami Afdahl Updated the Board College Relations Update. Tami stated that the college decided to cancel Sagebrush and Roses this year due to COVID. Last week, the marketing directors and Commission were called in to review WICHE grant dollars and do a large digital campaign. The commission is using CLARUS and all the community Colleges in Wyoming will be working on this in December and January.
- Ms. Holly Lara updated the Board on Human Resources. Currently, 3 positions are being advertised, Lead cosmetology program director, Custodian and Cook. Open enrollment closed for insurance. Changes will take place in the Dec. Payroll and changes take effect Jan. 1. State of Wyoming supply of vault COVID test available to employees. Employees self-report. Employees are doing correctly. Andrew Castro lost. Helped lancer basketball team. Thank you for turkeys.

TRUSTEE TOPICS

Trustee Bartmann informed the board regarding her work with WACCT. Chairman Baumgartner thanked Judith for her hard work and dedication on this WACCT committee. Judith stated that they have done extensive research on the State statutes. She has also been involved in a sub-committee discussing sustainable funding and various ways the community colleges could come get funding.


With no more business on the agenda, Trustee Patrick moved to adjourn the meeting and move into Executive Session. Trustee Bartmann seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session to conduct Dr. Travers president's evaluation.

Submitted by:



Robert Baumgartner, Chair



Randy Adams, Secretary



Sally Watson, Executive Assistant