



**EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
EWC Dolores Kaufman Board Room

Attendance

Present:

Members: Randy Adams, Bob Baumgartner, Doug Mercer, Katherine Patrick, Kurt Sittner, Jackie VanMark, Rick Vonburg, and Jim Willox

Absent:

Members:

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman VanMark called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chairman VanMark called for approval of the Agenda:

Trustee Baumgartner noted that in Section 8.1, the Peterbilt was inconsistently identified as both a 589 and a 579. This clerical error was corrected to ensure accuracy. Following this, Chairman VanMark called for a renewed motion for approval.

Moved by: Katherine Patrick

Seconded by: Bob Baumgartner

Motion Carried

3. Approval of the Minutes

Board of Trustees January 13, 2026 Minutes.pdf

Chairman VanMark called for approval of the January 13, 2026 minutes as presented

Moved by: Rick Vonburg

Seconded by: Bob Baumgartner

Motion Carried

4. Introductions

Executive Dean Debbie Ochsner formally introduced Angel Chavez, who has been awarded the Shaping Wyoming's Tomorrow Award, sponsored by the Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees.

The Dean highlighted Mr. Chavez's significant contributions to the campus community, specifically noting:

- Academic Excellence: Maintaining high standards within the Business Administration program.
- Leadership: Active involvement and service in Phi Theta Kappa and the Student Senate.

Mr. Chavez addressed the Board, expressing his gratitude for the recognition and his appreciation for the educational opportunities provided by EWC.

- Graduation: Mr. Chavez is set to graduate in May 2026 with an Associate of Business Administration. He plans to transfer to Chadron State College to pursue a bachelor's degree and become a Project Manager for bridge construction.

It was noted that Mr. Chavez will be formally honored and receive his award during the upcoming Legislative Session in Cheyenne this week.

5. Public Comment

6. Administrative Reports

President's Report

Dr. Hawes reported on a recent foundation meeting held with potential donors regarding the Douglas Construction Tech program and construction of the facility on the Douglas Campus.

- Dr. Hawes outlined the formal approval process for the new curriculum: the EWC Curriculum Committee in February, the

Board of Trustees in March, and the Wyoming Community College Commission in April, followed by final approval from the Higher Learning Commission.

- Vice President of the Douglas Campus Margaret Farley explained that the curriculum development focuses specifically on vertical construction (buildings) rather than horizontal infrastructure (roads and bridges) at this time. Once this curriculum is established expansion will be the next goal.
- Advisor Jim Willox noted that the construction building remains on schedule for completion by the end of December and highlighted the potential for expanded programming to meet emerging workforce needs beyond residential housing.

Dr. Hawes discussed ongoing community engagement efforts regarding the proposed rodeo facility expansion.

- Advisor Jim Willox inquired about specific community concerns raised during the process.
- Dr. Hawes explained that primary concerns include groundwater impact, road capacity, student access, lighting, animal types to be housed, and the number of animals to be housed. The college and foundation are currently compiling a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for public release to address these topics.
- Trustee Doug Mercer asked for clarification on the types of animals to be housed at the facility. Dr. Hawes confirmed the site would accommodate horses and rough stock, with designs meeting all regulatory and animal welfare requirements for rodeo operations.

Dr. Hawes presented a report regarding USDA compliance and the status of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

- Dr. Hawes shared that a new IACUC committee structure has been established with the required membership and informed the Board of the new committee membership.
- He reported that all six critical deficiencies identified by the American Veterinary Medical Association have been successfully resolved. The four remaining major deficiencies are on track to be addressed by the fall semester.
- Dr. Hawes noted that once these IACUC requirements are met, all necessary college accreditations will be fully up to date.

Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer Kwin Wilkes presented the college's financial status as of December 31, 2025 (mid-year)

- Fund 10 (operational): \$17,898,916 budgeted with \$12,331,013 (69%) received, expenses at \$8,333,050 (47% of budget).
- Fund 12 (auxiliary): \$1,974,143 budgeted with \$1,888,658 (96%) received, expenses at \$982,548 (50% of budget).

Fund balances were reviewed across all college accounts

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chairman VanMark called for approval of the Consent Agenda

Moved by: Bob Baumgartner

Seconded by: Katherine Patrick

Motion Carried

- 7.1 Ratification of Expenditure Report:
Board of Trustees Meeting Section 6.2
BR #88.pdf
- 7.2 Ratification of the Contract with Cheryl Heath, CPA, for
Financial Evaluation Services
BR # 89.pdf

8. Board Approval of Action Items

- 8.1 **Approval for Purchase of Peterbilt 589 Truck:
Board of Trustees Work Session Section 3.2**
Approval of the purchase a 2016 Peterbilt 589. Price not to exceed \$48,000. Funds for this purchase are from profits earned within the CDL program.
BR #90.pdf
Chairman VanMark called for Approval of the purchase of a Peterbilt 589.

Moved by: Bob Baumgartner

Seconded by: Rick Vonburg

Motion Carried

8.2 **Approval of Fund Transfer:**

Approval for Eastern Wyoming College to transfer \$272,810.57 to the Eastern Wyoming College Foundation to support state-matched fundraising efforts for the Douglas Campus Expansion in Douglas, Wyoming, and the Rodeo and Livestock Facility Expansion in Torrington, Wyoming.

BR #91.pdf

Chairman Vanmark called for approval of the Fund Transfer to EWC Foundation:

Advisor Jim Willox inquired regarding the exact dollar amount and the specific purpose of the transfer. Dr. Hawes explained that the amount represented funds donated to the Foundation which were subsequently matched by the State. Because the State directed the matching funds to the College rather than the Foundation, this transfer was necessary to make those funds available for the Foundation's intended use.

Moved by: Rick Vonburg

Seconded by: Randy Adams

Motion Carried

9. Department Reports

10. Trustee Topics

Trustee Vonburg spoke about the recent Wyoming Academic Challenge hosted by the EWC college library, featuring top high school students from across the state. He was very impressed with the Students from Wyoming and the hosting from EWC for the statewide event.

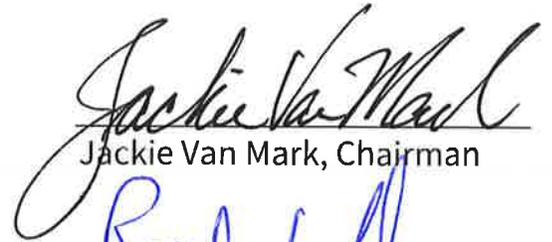
11. Adjournment

Chairman VanMark called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 pm

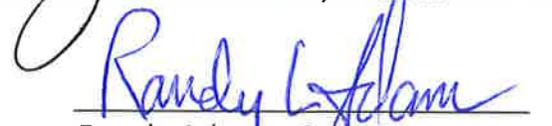
Moved by: Katherine Patrick

Seconded by: Rick Vonburg

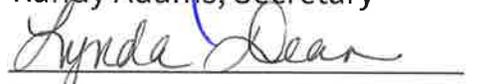
Motion Carried and adjourned



Jackie Van Mark, Chairman



Randy Adams, Secretary



Lynda Dean, Executive
Assistant