

EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
Boardroom Douglas Campus

Attendance

Present:

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

Absent:

Members: Randy Adams and Jim Willox

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman VanMark called the meeting to order at 5:44 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chairman VanMark called for a motion to approve the Agenda

Moved by: Bob Baumgartner; seconded by: Rick Vonburg

Motion Carried

3. Approval of the Minutes as Distributed

The Board unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

4. Introductions

5. Public Comment

6. Administrative Reports

6.1 Eastern Wyoming GEAR UP Presentation:

Director Chelsea Ballard

GEAR UP Director Chelsea Ballard presented comprehensive updates on program performance and achievements.

- **Year 1 Results (August 2024 - July 2025)**

- Served 385 students (350 required), exceeding target
- Delivered over 3,000 hours of service.
- 9 freshmen attended in fall, 8 persisted to spring.
- 56% of seniors completed FAFSA (up from 35% when she started).
- 52% of parents/guardians received financial aid services (45% required).
- Attributed success to staff presence in high schools, personalized family engagement, and robust FAFSA nights at every high school.
- Vice President of Student and Academic Services John Hansen noted the

program is now meeting and exceeding benchmarks never hit before at EWC.

- **Year 2 Progress (August 2025 - July 2026)**
 - Currently served 364 students with over 2,030 hours of service.
 - 10 freshmen attended in fall, 8 persisted to spring (more local students than previous year).
 - 64% of seniors completed FAFSA (one more needed to hit 65% objective for first time ever).
 - 59% of parents/guardians received financial aid services.
 - Chelsea noted that adding Kathy Peters as GEAR UP coordinator has enabled more direct school service and family outreach.
- **Citizenship Documentation Challenge**
 - Chelsea Ballard noted that UW rolled out new requirement in December 2025 to collect citizenship status forms for all federally funded program participants.
 - Given deadline of April 1, 2026 to obtain signed forms or out-process students. This required extensive parent engagement through calls, electronic submissions, mailings, and drop-offs.
 - GEAR UP successfully collected 368 forms (exceeding 350 requirement), and only had to out-process 10 students.

The EWC GEAR UP Program is leading initiatives across the state.

6.2 **Eastern Wyoming College Facilities Update:**

Vice President Patrick Korell

Vice President of Administrative Services Patrick Korell provided detailed update on windstorm damage and reconstruction plans.

- **Damage Assessment**
 - March 12, 2026 windstorm destroyed approximately 55-60% of the gym activity center roof.
 - The original roof consisted of 7 layers: granular top material, foam boards, tar paper, and 2.5-3 inch tectum base. Tectum is 40-50 year old product, currently only available in Europe.
 - The wind event shook entire college, required lockdown and tornado protocol.
 - There is currently visible sky through multiple spots in gym ceiling.
- **Temporary Protection Measures**
 - VP Korell explained that the college has engaged 3 separate companies to install temporary roofing protection. The most recent temporary roof cost \$15,000.
 - Facilities Director Tom Popilek and crew have maintained tarps inside gym, managed water and debris removal. The college ordered dumpsters, crews worked overtime and weekends for cleanup.
- **Engineering and Testing**
 - The college has hired an engineer to evaluate weight load capacity of the structure. A "Mule Hide" product expert conducted stress test on tectum

(400 pounds per square foot requirement), the Tectum passed the load test but failed the adhesion test.

- The failure of the Tetum led to the decision for complete roof replacement rather than a roof overlay.
- **Replacement Plan**
 - EWC has selected Shank Roofing from Scottsbluff NE, a family business with historical knowledge of the building and the roof.
 - The new roof will feature 18 gauge steel decking with a Mule Hide EPDM roof system with 30 mil membrane.
 - The roof will carry a 20-year warranty with 110 mph wind resistance.
 - The interior will have a white painted underside with insulated ribbing for sound dampening, this new material has sound dampening properties similar to current tectum.
 - The roof will meet current R30 code requirements.
 - VP Korell stated the main roof project will have a cost of \$478,000.
- **Construction Timeline and Process**
 - The start date will be Monday April 26, 2026. It is an estimated 10-day project. A crane will be on premises for 8 days lifting 30x3 foot steel panels.
 - Fire protection, HVAC, and electrical systems will be temporarily secured to joists during replacement. Local contractor Pittman Electric will be handling interior electrical work
- **Additional Repairs and Costs**
 - VP Korell explained that sub roofs and side areas need resealing, the college is still evaluating the scope.
 - The boiler stack replacement will be \$13,000.
 - The steel ribbed roofing on side needs complete replacement (cost TBD).
 - In addition there is sidewalk damage repairs needed.
 - VP Korell stated the total project estimate will be \$750,000-\$800,000 including all repairs.
- **Insurance Coverage**
 - VP Korell explained the college's Insurance Policy has a \$250,000 deductible or 2% of building value.
 - EWC is working to structure all the work as a single claim to minimize deductible impact. Travelers Insurance has assigned this to their major claims division. Three Travelers representatives conducted comprehensive site assessment on Easter Monday.
 - Policy includes code upgrade coverage.
 - Trustee Sittner asked for confirmation that the damaged concrete and ground-level work were included in the single claim.

President's Report

There was no Presidential Report this month.

Financial Report

Vice President of Administrative Services Patrick Korell addressed financial reporting.

- VP Korell requested board accept financial reports as presented into record without formal

presentation.

- The Financial Records were accepted into record.

VP Korell announced that after 8 years CFO Kwin Wilkes will be leaving EWC in early May

- CFO Wilkes has accepted a position at another college.
- The Board of Trustees thanked CFO Wilkes for his service.
- CFO Wilkes expressed appreciation and stated he will miss the team.

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chairman VanMark called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Moved by: Rick Vonburg; seconded by: Bob Baumgartner

Motion Carried

7.1 Ratification of Expenditure Report for February 2026

BR #95.pdf

8. Board Approval of Action Items

9. Department Reports:

Community Education Quarterly Report

Community Education Quarterly Report.pdf

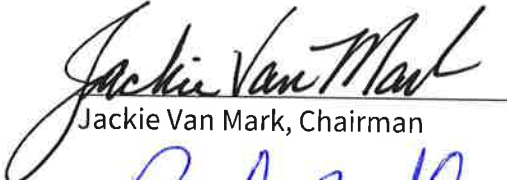
10. Trustee Topics

Trustee Patrick requested a monthly update from Advisor Jim Willox be added to the agenda for the Douglas Campus Construction Trades Expansion.

Trustee Sittner commended Coach Zach Smith. The Golf program is achieving exceptional results under Coach Zach Smith's leadership. Both men's and women's teams are performing at high levels and noted the ladies golf team in it's second year is winning tournaments handily.

11. Adjournment

Chairman VanMark called to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 pm.


Jackie Van Mark, Chairman


Randy Adams, Secretary


Lynda Dean, Executive Assistant