EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

EWC Dolores Kaufman Board Room

Attendance

Present:

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

Absent:

Members: Jim Willox, Doug Mercer

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair VanMark called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chair VanMark called for approval of the agenda.

Moved by: Bob Baumgartner; seconded by: Katherine Patrick

Motion Carried

3. Introductions

4. Public Comment

5. Administrative Reports

5.1 **Personnel Updates:**

HR Director Catherine Conard

HR Director Catherine Conard introduced Shanna Vargas as the Assistant Financial Aid Director, noting her credentials and previous service at EWC and Western Wyoming College. Ms. Vargas expressed her gratitude to the board.

- Faculty Updates: HR noted that eight new faculty members are currently onboarding.

5.2 **Financial Report:**

Interim CFO Ron Laher

Interim Chief Financial Officer Ron Laher reviewed overall college reserves. Fund 22 holds $1.4M (including EHEE reserves). Fund 70 holds $2.8M and Fund 71 holds $3.1M for capital

and maintenance projects. Fund 19 reflects a required negative $16M entry for state-managed post-employment benefit estimates.

- Revenue received totaled $4.6M (25% of the $18.5M annual budget), largely due to front-loaded state appropriations ($3.2M) and tuition/fees ($1.5M). Tuition and fee revenue grew 13% over last year, representing approximately 10% enrollment-driven growth.
- A board work session with Chief Laher will be scheduled to evaluate cost-of-attendance data and debt retirement at a future date.

5.3 **President's Report:**

Dr. Jeffry Hawes

Dr. Hawes presented updates regarding the proposed statewide cloud migration for the Colleague system. EWC maintains a cautious position citing data migration complexity and staffing readiness. CIO Elka Dane, Dr. Hawes, and VP Patrick Coral will present a full internal evaluation at the September or October board meeting.

- Campus Facilities: Facilities and grounds staff were recognized for summer maintenance, including dorm carpet replacements and campus upkeep.

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chair VanMark called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Moved by: Rick Vonburg; seconded by: Julie Newman

Motion Carried

6.1 **Approval of Minutes**

Board of Trustees Work Session July 14, 2026.pdf

Board of Trustees July 14, 2026.pdf

6.2 **Ratification of July 2026 Expenditure Report**

BR #11.pdf

6.3 **Ratification of Shanna Vargas - Assistant Financial Aid Director**

BR #12.pdf

6.4 **Ratification to Continue Arete End Point Security Contract through Fiscal Year 2029**

BR #13.pdf

7. Board Approval of Action Items:

7.1 **Approval of Contract Amendment with Dr. Jeffry Hawes**

BR #14.pdf

Chair VanMark called for a motion to approve the contract extension.

Moved by: Bob Baumgartner; seconded by: Rick Vonburg

Motion Carried

Chair VanMark then requested Legal Counsel Tim Bush to create the new contract extension.

7.2 **Approval of MOU for Dual and Concurrent Enrollment**

BR #15.pdf

UPDATED Example Dual and Concurrent MOU 26-27.pdf

Chair Van Mark called for a motion to approve the MOU.

Moved by: Julie Newman; seconded by: Katherine Patrick

Motion Carried

Trustee Sittner had questions regarding the financial reimbursement model in the MOU. Dr. Farley was able to explain the new regulations the State is operating under and Trustee Sittner was satisfied with her response.

7.3 **Approval of EWC Strategic Goals for Fiscal Years 2027 though 2030**

BR #16.pdf

Chair VanMark called for a motion to accept the Strategic Goals and Plan for the College.

Moved by: Katherine Patrick; seconded by: Bob Baumgartner

Motion Carried

8. Department Reports

8.1 **Construction Trades Update**

Converse County Advisor: Jim Willox

9. Trustee Topics

Chair Van Mark Chair highlighted the selection of a new gymnasium floor design .

Dr. Hawes announced the in-service scheduled for August 18 and invited the Board to attend.

Executive Assistant Lynda Dean reminded Trustees VanMark, Newman, and Vonburg that the reelection filing deadline is August 24 for the open board seats.

10. Recommendation to move into Executive Session:

(a) A governing body of an agency may hold executive sessions not open to the public:

(xii) To consider, discuss and conduct safety and security planning that, if disclosed, would pose a threat to the safety of life or property;

Chair VanMark called for a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:47 pm.

Moved by: Rick Vonburg; seconded by: Bob Baumgartner

Motion Carried

(a) A governing body of an agency may hold executive sessions not open to the public:

(xii) To consider, discuss and conduct safety and security planning that, if disclosed, would pose a threat to the safety of life or property;

Chair VanMark called for a motion to exit from Executive Session at 7:24 pm.

Moved by: Julie Newman; seconded by: Katherine Patrick

Motion Carried

11. Adjournment

Chair VanMark called for a motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm.
Moved by: Rick Vonburg; seconded by: Kurt Sittner

Motion Carried

Jackie Van Mark, Chairman

Robert Baumgartner, Secretary

Lynda Dean, Executive Assistant