



District No. 15
Wenatchee, Washington

WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Board Meeting

February 16, 2022 – 3:00 P.M.

WTI 2310/Zoom

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Trustees Present:

Tamra Jackson, Chair
Steve Zimmerman, Vice Chair
Wilma Cartagena
Paula Arno Martinez
Phylicia Hancock Lewis

Also Present:

Cabinet Members
Faculty Members
Students

CALL TO ORDER: 3:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW TRUSTEE

Phylicia Hancock Lewis was appointed by Governor Inslee to serve on the Wenatchee Valley College Board of Trustees. Her appointment to the board became effective February 8, 2022, for a term ending September 30, 2026. Trustee Hancock was raised in Omak where she worked as a Nurse Practitioner in Family Practice for 25 years. She is a Faculty Clinical Instructor and preceptor for the University of Washington School of Nursing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **January 19, 2022, Regular Board Meeting and January 25, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes**

MOTION NO. 2381

Steve Zimmerman moved that the minutes of January 19, 2022, regular board meeting and, January 25, 2022, special board meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Paula Arno Martinez and carried unanimously.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

2. **Student Debt Relief/CARES Funding**

Wenatchee Valley College is canceling \$353,131 in student tuition debt accumulated during the pandemic.

WVC is using institutional Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) to cancel student debt for 556 students who attended classes spring quarter 2020 through summer quarter 2021. All of these students have unpaid tuition or fees at WVC. The average amount of canceled tuition debt is \$635.

The U.S. Department of Education encouraged institutions to use their HEERF funds to cancel student debt to support students facing challenges due to the pandemic. WVC is one of a growing number of community colleges in Washington state using HEERF funds for student debt.

In addition to debt cancellation, WVC has distributed over \$3 million in emergency relief grants using CARES, CRRSA and ARP federal funding.

3. **Emergency Operations Center**

Wenatchee Valley College partnered with the Chelan County Emergency Management to house the region's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in the new Mish ee twie near the Jack and Edna Maguire Conference Center. This high-tech space (2,500 sq. ft) serves as a base of operations when regional disaster planning or emergency operations are required.

In January, the EOC was activated to help with the surge of the Omicron variant of COVID as it impacted our region. Region 7 is made of up Okanogan, Kittitas, Chelan, Douglas and Grant counties. This recent EOC activation was specifically for Chelan and Douglas Counties. The EOC was used to help plan, organize and deploy resources and staffing to prevent the collapse of critical infrastructure or community services due to the highly contagious Omicron variant. Members also helped with resource distribution and surge planning for health care facilities, public utilities, long-term care facilities, school districts, public works and childcare centers. The EOC worked directly with Confluence Health, CVCH, Chelan Douglas Health District and Chelan County Emergency Management.

The EOC liaison relationship has proven to be a good partnership for WVC.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

4. **Introduction of Employees**

Regan Bellamy, Executive Director of Human Resources introduced Waleed Muhammad, Economy Faculty; Branwen Schaub, Math Faculty & Isabela Rodriguez, College Navigator.

SPECIAL REPORTS

5. **Mason Renslow, ASWVC Wenatchee President**

Mason Renslow provided the board with an update on ASWVC sponsored on-campus and virtual events.

6. **Monique Samuels, ASWVC Omak Vice-President**

Monique Samuels updated the trustee on events that happened at the Omak campus and shared about the Women's History Month event with author Wendy Fox in March.

7. **Wendy Glenn, Chief Steward WPEA**

Wendy Glenn Chief Steward of WPEA had no concerns to report.

8. **Patrick Tracy, AHE President**

Patrick Tracy shared that there are two faculty members interested in presenting to the board to share their experiences, challenges, and accomplishment.

STAFF REPORTS

9. **Brett Riley, Vice President of Administrative Services**

In addition to Mr. Riley's board report, he shared that roofing repairs in Mish ee twie had begun.

10. **Dr. Tod Treat, Vice President of Instruction**

Dr. Treat's reviewed his board report.

11. **Dr. Chio Flores, Vice President of Student Services**

Dr. Flores did not add to her written report.

12. Dr. Jim Richardson, President

In addition to Dr. Richardson's written report, he acknowledges that WVC is one of few places that is honoring the valley's culture through the building names, something that Our Valley Our Future recognizes as a need.

ACTION

13. President Replacement

Discussion:

Trustee Arno Martinez expressed gratitude to the staff that attended the listening session. It was clear that everyone is requesting transparency in the process. WVC is a unique college and it needs someone to address the unique needs to continue serving our tribes and the work of a Hispanic Serving Institution.

Trustee Cartagena reviewed the notes from the listening session and it was evident that the staff had a strong leaning to have an external consultant conduct the search. There is a need to ensure that the trustees are meeting the obligations to serve the community.

Trustee Zimmerman shared that it was clear that staff wanted an external, inclusive, and comprehensive search. He looked at what the role of the Board of Trustees is and what it is in the best interest to have a national external search conducted by an external consultant.

Trustee Jackson reflected on the listening sessions and the role of the Board of Trustees, there is a need to be transparent and having an external search consultant would be in the best interest.

MOTION NO. 2382

Steve Zimmerman moved to direct Human Resources to seek an external search consultant for the recruitment of candidates for the president position. The motion was seconded by Paula Arno Martinez and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

ADJOURNMENT – 3:31 P.M.

Secretary

Chair