

# Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham

Laidlaw 143

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

2:00 p.m.

- **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Wendy Bohlke officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were trustees Jeff Fairchild, Rebecca Johnson, John Pedlow and Teresa Taylor, constituting a quorum. Others present included President Hiyane-Brown; Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services; Barry Robinson, Vice President for Instruction; James Siegel, Vice President for Student Services; Julie Nicholl, Assistant Attorney General; and Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for the Office of the President.

Chair Bohlke began with a land acknowledgement to recognize and pay respect to the Coast Salish Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

## ACTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

- Trustee Johnson moved to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Taylor and the **motion was approved.**
- Chair Bohlke announced that there is a designated time for public comment on the agenda.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### ➤ Consent Agenda

Minutes of March 15, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting.

Chair Bohlke stated: "If there are no objections, item in the consent agenda will be adopted." As there was no objection, this item was adopted.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Chair Bohlke called for public comment. She announced a 15-minute public comment period with 2 minutes allocated to each person.
- There was no public comment.

## **ACTION ITEM**

- **Proposed 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic calendars – Becky Rawlings, Executive Director for Human Resources**

Trustee Taylor move to approve the proposed 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic calendars. It was seconded by Trustee Johnson and was unanimously approved.

## **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

- President Kathi extended a congratulations to Trustee Pedlow for getting confirmed by the Washington State Senate.
- President Kathi shared that additional input was solicited. Stephen Shields, consultant, met with individual board members to solicit input. Sarah Simpson along with members of the strategic planning core team met with several college committees to solicit additional input on specific feedback received during Professional Development Day. The Core Team will further refine the draft based on the input collected and shared with campus.
- The Executive Director for Diversity Equity Inclusion recruitment did not result in hiring. The College has decided to take a pause and hire a consultant to complete the work needed to comply with requirements in the legislation.
- The State board and presidents continue to advocate for funding support for our system, a comprised budget could be released by April 14, 2023. There was serious concern for funding gap for compensation. If the budget get passed as is, the college would be looking at a gap of over \$873,000.
- President Kathi shared a statement as required by the Unfair Labor Practice Settlement Agreement between Whatcom Community College and Whatcom Community College Federation of Teachers#351.
- A recent the Seattle Times’ publication of the AP article, [“Waste of time’: Community college](#)

[transfers derail students.](#)” was critical of our community and technical colleges. Paul Francis, Executive Director of the State Board of Community & Technical Colleges, submitted a letter to editor in response to the article noting the work of the two-year system in supporting student success and meeting workforce needs.

- ➔ President Kathi was invited to a private roundtable discussion between Senator Maria Cantwell, NSF Director Sethuranman Panchanathan, and local university leaders to discuss science and technology investment priorities and relevant NSF programs. The event was hosted by University of Washington on its campus. She shared that NSF Director Panchanathan acknowledged the incredible work of WCC’s NCyTE.

## REPORTS

- ➔ **WCCFT** - Anna Wolff, President  
Wolff noted that members of AFT across the state advocated for priorities regarding compensation and wrap around services for students.
- ➔ **Administrative Services** – Nate Langstraat, Vice President  
Langstraat shared that the State Board approved support for the college’s ground lease with the Bellingham School District.
- ➔ **Instruction** – Barry Robinson, Vice President  
Robinson noted huge fluctuation in enrollment number within a couple weeks due to fraudulent applications by individuals trying to get student email account to access support and free goods for students.

## DISCUSSION/ITEMS OF THE BOARD

- ➔ **ACT Spring Conference – May 15-16**  
Chair Bohlke shared that she attended Trustees Tuesdays hosted by ACT and they have been informative and look forward to the ACT Spring Conference.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ➔ At 2:40 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a closed session of the Board for twenty minutes as provided in RCW 42.31.110, to discuss collective bargaining and a Executive Session immediately after the closed session,... and to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to litigation or legal risks of a proposed action or current practice the agency has

identified when public discussion of the litigation or legal risks is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency...

Chair Bohlke announced that action was not anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Vice Presidents Nate Langstraat and Barry Robinson, Executive Director Rafeeka Kloke and Assistant Attorney General Julie Nicoll and Drew Nishiyama.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 2:55 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 2:55 p.m.

### ADJOURNMENT

➤ There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.



5/10/2023

---

Chair of the Board

---

Date



5/10/2023

---

President and Secretary of the Board

---

Date