

**Waukesha County Technical College
District Board Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2026 - 5:00 PM
Classic Room, A161**

Present:

Courtney Bauer, Board Vice Chairperson
Ryan Clark, Secretary/Treasurer
Rob Ewing, Board Member
Amanda Busche, Board Member
Barb Dittrich, Board Member

Absent:

Stephanie Reisner, Board Member
Jamie Stahulak, Board Member
Michael Cady, Board Member
Brian Baumgartner, Chairperson

Also Present:

Richard Barnhouse
Jennifer Hagen

21 guests

REGULAR MEETING

I. Call to Order – Courtney Bauer 5:00 pm

II. Public/Staff Remarks*

III. President's Report – Dr. Richard G. Barnhouse

- A.** Dr. Barnhouse welcomed everyone to the March WCTC District Board meeting in the Classic Room.
- B.** Argonne National Laboratory visited the Applied AI Lab on February 11.
- C.** WCTC has been invited to join the Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute (NMDSI). WCTC staff attended the Elevating and Accelerating AI Excellence in Southeast Wisconsin on February 12 at NMDSI.
- D.** Dr. Barnhouse is the incoming chair of Higher Education Regional Alliance (HERA). HERA is a group of all 17 colleges and universities in southeast Wisconsin.
- E.** WCTC attended the WMC Focus on Manufacturing event at the Pfister on February 20.
- F.** The Culinary and Fire/EMS departments hosted their second annual Smoke and Sizzle event. The event is a cooking competition between local fire departments.
- G.** Dr. Barnhouse has been meeting with public officials recently. He has met with gubernatorial candidates Tom Tiffany, Mandela Barnes and Joel Brennan as well as Wisconsin Supreme Court candidate Chris Taylor, Senator Mary Felzkowski, and Representative Amaad Rivera-Wagner.
- H.** Dr. Barnhouse attended an event hosted by the Greater Milwaukee Urban League featuring NVIDIA founder Dwight Diercks on February 25.
- I.** WCTC hosted the spring Open House on February 26 and saw record attendance.
- J.** Dr. Barnhouse and President's Executive Cabinet hosted a Town Hall last week for all college employees to attend on the X Matrix.

- K. Dr. Barnhouse is a member of the advisory board for the PhD program at Carroll University and attended a meeting on March 4.
- L. Dr. Barnhouse testified at the Wisconsin State Senate public hearing on the Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges on Assembly Bill 750 on March 4.
- M. Dr. Barnhouse and other staff attended the La Casa de Esperanza gala event on March 7. Dr. Barnhouse serves on the Legacy Board and Brad Piazza and Angie Todd serve on the Board of Directors.
- N. Dr. Barnhouse attended the First Business Bank board meeting on February 18 and presented on Artificial Intelligence.
- O. Dr. Barnhouse attended Business and Professional Coalition: Creative Industries, Economic Returns, and Talent Attraction event at Carthage College on February 19.
- P. The Village of Pewaukee approved the second floor of the Q building.

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- A. Minutes dated February 10, 2026
- B. Accounts Payable Summary February 2025
- C. 38.14 Contract Report February 2025
- D. Approval of Hire Report
- E. Out of State 38.14 Contract Approval

Mr. Clark motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items, receiving a second from Ms. Busche. Approved, carried unanimously.

V. Action Items

- A. Resolution Authorizing the Sale of \$3,750,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026A, of Waukesha County Area Technical College District, Wisconsin – Kristine Golz
 - Jordan Masnica of Baird reported out that 8 bids were received.
 - Loop Capital Markets, LLC had the winning bid with 2.48%. This is the lowest bid in over 3 years.
 - The college has retained an Aaa rating from Moodys.
 - Funding will be used for building roof improvement projects on the G Building and movable capital equipment in academics and operations.

Mr. Ewing motioned to authorize the sale of \$3,750,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, receiving a second from Mr. Clark. Approved, carried unanimously.

- B. Approval of External Audit Services – Kristine Golz
 - Every 5 years WCTC is required to issue an RFP for audit services.
 - WCTC participated in a joint RFP with other college districts.
 - The recommendation is to award the contract to CliftonLarsonAllen for audits covering the fiscal years ending June 30 2026 through 2030. They were the lowest responsible bidder.

Ms. Busche motioned to award the contract for auditing services covering FY26-30 to CliftonLarsonAllen, receiving a second from Mr. Ewing. Approved, carried unanimously.

- C. Resolution Approving Remodel Interior Design Labs S205/S207 – Rich Haen

- Renovation plans focus on modernizing Interior Design Studio S-203/S-205 and Classroom S-207 to better align with current industry standards.
- Upgrades aim to enhance team-based learning, improve classroom technology, and update lighting to mirror professional environments

Mr. Clark motioned to approve the remodel of Interior Design Labs S205/S207, receiving a second from Ms. Dittrich. **Approved, carried unanimously**

D. Presentation and Bid Approval for HVAC Program RTU Project and Fire Training Splash Board Project – Rich Haen

- This project includes the installation of two donated HVAC units for academic purposes and repairs to the wooden splash tower to allow it to be put back into services as an instructional tool for Fire/EMS classes.
- Funding for this project will come from Capital Infrastructure and Operating budgets.

Ms. Busche motioned to approve the HVAC Program RTU Project and Fire Training Splash Board Project, receiving and second from Mr. Ewing.

Mr. Clark motioned to award the HVAC Program On-Grade RTU Project and Fire Training Grounds Splash Tower Improvements project to the lowest responsible bidder, Creative Constructors, LLC, receiving a second from Ms. Dittrich. **Approved, carried unanimously**

VI. Presentation/Discussion

A. 2026/27 Budget Overview Presentation – Kristine Golz

- The 2026/27 budget is shaped by enrollment trends, revenue limitations, and rising costs, with salaries and benefits projected at ~78% of operating expenses.
- Funding is primarily from state aid (51%) and local taxes (20%), with assumptions including no increase in state aid, modest tuition increases (1.0% standard courses; 0.5% AA/AS), and an FTE projection of ~3,340 students.
- Key investment areas include AI initiatives, 3-year programs, ERP implementation, EMS/Paramedic expansion, and exploration of a name change, following a structured budget process from fall planning through board adoption in June.

B. Applied AI Lab Next Phase – Laura Krohn

- The Applied AI Lab is accelerating growth to meet regional economic and workforce needs, respond to emerging technologies, and shape the future of higher education.
- The next phase included early whiteboard planning focused on ecosystem mapping, defining product/service categories, milestones, and a growth path from selling to scaling with margin.
- Near-term focus areas include federal/state grants, workforce and incumbent worker training, consulting, and applied research contracts.

VII. Adjournment – Courtney Bauer

- A. Ms. Dittrich motioned to adjourn the meeting, receiving a second from Mr. Clark.
Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jennifer Hagen

Signed: _____
Ryan Clark, Board Secretary/Treasurer