

**Waukesha County Technical College
District Board Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2026 - 5:00 PM
Richard T. Anderson Education Center, C051/C057**

Present:

Brian Baumgartner, Chairperson
Ryan Clark, Secretary/Treasurer - remote
Courtney Bauer, Board Vice Chairperson - remote
Amanda Busche, Board Member
Jamie Stahulak, Board Member
Michael Cady, Board Member
Rob Ewing, Board Member

Absent:

Stephanie Reisner, Board Member
Barb Dittrich, Board Member

Also Present:

Richard Barnhouse
Jennifer Hagen

15 guests

REGULAR MEETING

I. Call to Order – Brian Baumgartner 5:00 pm

II. Public/Staff Remarks*

III. Delegates to be Heard

A. Student Leadership Council

- Focusing on serving food this semester to get students to events.
- Hosted a First Gen student panel to discuss their experience at WCTC.
- For the rest of the semester, programming includes Paint and Sip, Smoothie Bike, and Blood Drive.

B. Introduction of District Ambassador for 2026/27 – Caleb Bryant

- Caleb Bryant left a career in banking to study Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence full-time at WCTC.
- He was selected as the 2026-27 WCTC District Ambassador, where he will represent the college and participate in a statewide leadership program across the Wisconsin Technical College System.

- Caleb Bryant is involved in extra-curriculars, participating in the Applied AI Lab, serving as the AI liaison for the IT Club, and managing an AI newsletter for students.
- Caleb expects to graduate in 2027 and is already working part-time to train AI models and plans to begin a new career in tech.

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

- A. Dr. Barnhouse welcomed everyone to the April WCTC District Board Meeting.
- B. Dr. Barnhouse thanked everyone for attending this rescheduled meeting.
- C. The TCS10 legislation that has been discussed at previous meetings was vetoed by the Governor earlier this month.
- D. The second-floor addition of the Q building was approved at the WTCS Board meeting in March.
- E. The WTCS President's Association has been discussing how to create more advocacy at the State Capitol for the WTCS colleges.
- F. Dr. Barnhouse met with Pat Goss from the District Boards Association on April 7. Mr. Goss is meeting with each college as he begins his new position as Executive Director.
- G. College staff met with Senator Rob Hutton regarding use of AI and automation in his business Kettle Moraine Coatings.
- H. The Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families the WCTC Child Development Center last month.
- I. Dr. Barnhouse has been attending events to meet with gubernatorial candidates to learn their ideas regarding higher education and the WTCS. He met Missy Hughes last month.
- J. WCTC hosted an event on tariffs, importing, and exporting in conjunction with the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce.
- K. Dr. Barnhouse met with Rockwell Automation and welcomed them to the county as they build a new location in New Berlin.
- L. Dr. Barnhouse shared that he authorized the dissolution of the insurance trust used to create DMI insurance consortium. The trust was empty and had not been touched in years.
- M. Dr. Barnhouse and Kristine Golz met with PNC bank earlier this month.
- N. Dr. Barnhouse and several staff attended the Laugh for a Smile event last week. This is a fundraiser for the Community Smiles dental clinic for low-income families.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- A. Minutes dated March 10, 2026
- B. Accounts Payable Summary March 2026
- C. 38.14 Contract Report March 2026

Rob Ewing motioned to award the bid for the G Building Electric Project to the lowest responsible bidder Wil-surge Electric, receiving a second from Amanda Busche.
Approved, carried unanimously.

VII. Presentation/Discussion

A. 2026/27 Budget Update – Kristine Golz

- FY 2026–27 budget assumptions include planned capital projects, stable debt service, and levy planning based on 1.0% net new construction and an estimated 3% property valuation increase.
- Capital planning focuses on facilities, infrastructure, and technology, supported through multiple funding sources (debt issuance, investment earnings, grants, equipment sales, and fund balance) to fully fund the capital budget.
- Property tax impact remains modest and competitive, with no change to the debt service levy, a relatively low total mill rate compared to peer technical colleges, and only minor changes for the typical homeowner.

B. Applied AI Lab Next Phase – Laura Krohn, Kristine Golz, and Michelle Skinder

- The Applied AI Lab is defining its business model around three product lines: workforce training, startup accelerator cohorts, and industrial research.
- A startup-phase risk analysis has been developed covering five key risks (strategic dilution, resource starvation, slow execution, cultural friction, and reputational risk), each with mitigation strategies and an activation timeline.
- Legal formation of a new 501(c)(3) entity is underway, with governance documents addressing board composition, fiscal controls, shared services with the college, and IRS compliance — targeting a full presentation to the District Board in May 2026.

VIII. Adjournment – Brian Baumgartner

- A.** Rob Ewing motioned to adjourn the meeting, receiving a second from Jamie Stahulak. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jennifer Hagen

Signed: 
Ryan Clark, Board Secretary/Treasurer

- D. Approval of Hire Report
- E. Board Policies Review, Policy 2.3
- F. Board Monitoring Report 2025/26 Third Quarter Financials

Mike Cady motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items, receiving a second from Rob Ewing. Approved, carried unanimously.

VI. Action Items

- A. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,100,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026B, of Waukesha County Area Technical College District, Wisconsin – Kristine Golz

- This is the final of three borrowings planned for this fiscal year.
- Funding will be used for construction of building additions, building renovations, and movable capital equipment in academics and operations.

Amanda Busche motioned to authorize the issuance of \$3,100,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, receiving a second from Jamie Stahulak. Approved, carried unanimously.

- B. Resolution to Modify 2025/26 Budget – Kristine Golz

- WCTC has a need to modify the budget due to increase institutional revenues and related expenditures for donated funds, modify transfers and expenditures for Student Leadership Council furniture purchases, and adjust institutional revenues and debt service expenditures.

Rob Ewing motioned to modify the 2025/26 budget, receiving a second from Mike Cady. Approved, carried unanimously.

- C. Presentation and Bid Approval G Building Electric Project – Rich Haen

- WCTC is seeking project approval to support the relocation of the Dual Enrollment Academy Tool and Die/CNC program from the Q Building to the G Building.
- This project includes installing electrical distribution infrastructure in the G Building.
- There were 2 bidders for the project, for a total of \$142,400.

Ryan Clark motioned to approve the G Building Electric Project, receiving a second from Jamie Stahulak. Approved, carried unanimously.