

**Waukesha County Technical College
District Board Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2026 - 5:00 PM
Richard T. Anderson Education Center, C051/C057**

Present:

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

Absent:

Stephanie Reisner, Board Member
Rob Ewing, Board Member
Jamie Stahulak, Board Member
Brian Baumgartner, Chairperson

Also Present:

Richard Barnhouse
Jennifer Hagen
27 guests

REGULAR MEETING

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

II. Public/Staff Remarks*

III. Delegates to be Heard

A. WCTC Foundation Report – Robyn Ludtke

- The WCTC Foundation awarded over \$440,000 in scholarships in 2025–2026, representing a \$125,000 increase (35%+ growth) from the prior year, reflecting strong expansion in financial support for students.
- A scholarship breakfast with 100+ attendees (donors, students, community members) highlighted the impact of these funds, with scholarship recipients recognized at graduation with a light blue cord.
- Three WCTC Foundation board members terms are ending: Anita Rodriguez Cordero, Nick Dillon, and Dan Wolfram.

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

- A.** Dr. Barnhouse welcomed everyone to the May WCTC District Board Meeting.

- B. Dr. Barnhouse attended the gBeta Spring Showcase that featured 5 AI companies spinning out of the Applied AI Lab.
- C. The first students in the Applied AI Associate Degree program are graduating on Saturday.
- D. Associate Dean Alli Jerger and an AI student were interviewed this afternoon by local TV news.
- E. Dr. Barnhouse hosted 3 Town Halls this spring semester to connect and engage with staff. He will continue to host these quarterly.
- F. Dr. Barnhouse attended the inauguration of Eric Baumgartner as President of MSOE last month.
- G. The President of Carthage College and President Kenosha Area Business Alliance visited campus last week.
- H. Dr. Barnhouse and staff attended the Milwaukee Business Journal Power Breakfast featuring the new CEO of Harley-Davidson Artie Starrs last week.
- I. WCTC staff and public attended the Child Development Center golf outing last week to raise funds for the center.
- J. Dr. Barnhouse attended a luncheon with the Outstanding Students this semester.
- K. Jennifer Hagen will send the Annual Board Evaluation survey to Board members later this week.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- A. Minutes dated April 28, 2026
- B. Accounts Payable Summary April 2026
- C. 38.14 Contract Report April 2026
- D. Approval of Hire Report

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

VI. Action Items

- A. **Resolution Awarding the Sale of \$3,100,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026B – Kristine Golz**
 - This is the final of three borrowings planned for this fiscal year.
 - Jordan Masnica from Baird reported on the bids this morning. Received 5 bids with a winning bid of 2.8346% with FHN Financial Capital Markets.
 - The college's AAA rating was reaffirmed.
 - Funding will be used for construction of building additions, building renovations, and movable capital equipment in academics and operations.

Amanda Busche motioned to award the sale of \$3,100,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, series 2026B, receiving a second from Ryan Clark. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

B. Construction Bid Approval S205/S207 Interior Design – Rich Haen

- WCTC has a need to renovate ~2,014 sq. ft. of Interior Design spaces (S205–S207) to create modern, flexible, technology-enhanced studios, increasing capacity from 18 to 24 students and supporting hands-on learning.
- Project funded through capital borrowing; construction is planned from May 26, 2026, through October 2, 2026.
- Six bids were received; recommendation is to award the project to Allcon Construction LLC as the lowest responsible bidder.

Mike Cady motioned to award the S205/S207 Interior Design Renovation project to the lowest responsible bidder, Allcon Construction LLC, with a total construction cost of \$364,833, receiving a second from Amanda Busche. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

C. 2025/26 Budget Amendment – Kristine Golz and Rich Haen

- WCTC is seeking approval for FY26 budget modifications to support Phase II of the mechanical infrastructure project, including increased capital expenditures, use of capital reserves, recognition of \$256,000 in rebate revenue.
- Approved reallocation of \$28,000 for Student Leadership Council funded outdoor recreation amenities and student lockers, with corresponding fund transfers and expenditure authority.
- Recognized \$31,900 in donor-restricted funds to support equipment purchases across academic areas.
- Rich Haen gave an update on Phase I of the mechanical infrastructure project:
 - Phase I nearly complete and under budget: Major infrastructure upgrades (electric cutovers, boilers, chillers, HVAC equipment) are 99.9% complete, delivered slightly under budget, with significant procurement savings (~50% discounts on key equipment).
 - Phase II focuses on modernization and reliability: Upcoming work emphasizes sustainable, efficient, and redundant standalone heating and cooling systems, with construction starting July 2026 and full completion targeted for June 2027.

- Strong financial return expected: Phase II is projected to generate \$90K–\$100K in annual savings, supported by energy efficiency gains and ~\$209K in incentives, reinforcing a positive ROI.

Ryan Clark motioned to approve the 2025/26 budget modifications, receiving a second from Amanda Busche. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

D. Construction Bid Approval Q Building Pieper Power Applied AI Center – Second Floor Addition – Rich Haen

- Approved bid for construction of a 12,960 sq. ft. second-floor addition to the Q Building to support IT and applied technology programs, including classrooms, collaboration spaces, and offices.
- Project funded through fundraising and capital borrowing; construction scheduled from June 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027, with scope adjustments made to bring costs within budget.
- Awarded contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Corporate Contractors Inc.

Mike Cady motioned to award the Q Building Second Floor Addition, Pieper Power Applied AI Center project to the lowest responsible bidder, Corporate Contractors, with a total construction cost of \$5,500,000, receiving a second from Ryan Clark. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

E. Selection of Nomination Committee for 2026/27 District Board Officers – Courtney Bauer

- Nominating Committee Volunteers
 - Amanda Busche
 - Ryan Clark
 - Mike Cady

Barb Dittrich motioned to approve the Recommendations for Nomination Committee for 2025/26 Board officers, receiving a second from Courtney Bauer. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

VII. Presentation/Discussion

A. Update of 2026/27 Budget – Kristine Golz

- Kristine Golz gave a presentation that framed the preliminary budget outlook for the upcoming fiscal year, including capital projects for 2026/27, capital budget for 2026/27 with comparison to previous years, and planned capital funding including projected reserves and changes in

debt issuance.

VIII. Ryan Clark motioned to convene into Closed Session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(b)(c) and (e) Wisconsin State Statute at 5:49 pm:

- A. Mike Cady seconded the motion
- B. **Unanimous roll call vote**
- C. Discussion was held on Consideration of Public Employment Matters Related to Operational Staffing Needs.
- D. Discussion was held on Base Wage Agreement.
- E. Discussion was held on Applied Intelligence (AI Spin Out) Competitive Strategy.
- F. Ryan Clark motioned to reconvene into open session, receiving a second from Amanda Busche.
- G. **Unanimous roll call vote.**
- H. The open meeting reconvened at 6:21 pm.
- I. Mike Cady motioned to approve the Base Wage Agreement, receiving a second from Ryan Clark. Approved, carried unanimously.
- J. Barb Dittrich motioned to approve the creation of the Applied Intelligence Institute, receiving a second from Amanda Busche. Approved, carried unanimously.

IX. Adjournment – Courtney Bauer

- A. Ryan Clark motioned to adjourn the meeting, receiving a second from Mike Cady. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jennifer Hagen
Sr. Executive Assistant to the Board

Signed: 

Ryan Clark, Board Secretary/Treasurer