Waukesha County Technical College
District Board Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2026 - 5:00 PM
Richard T. Anderson Education Center, C051/057

Present:
Courtney Bauer, Chairperson
Ryan Clark, Vice Chairperson
Amanda Busche, Secretary/Treasurer
Michael Cady, Board Member
Barb Dittrich, Board Member
Erin Thompson, Board Member
Brian Baumgartner, Board Member
Rob Ewing, Board Member
Maria Wadina, Board Member

Absent:
Mike Cady, Board Member

Also Present:
Richard Barnhouse
Jennifer Hagen 21 guests

REGULAR MEETING

I. **Call to Order – Courtney Bauer 5:00 pm**
   A. Pledge of Allegiance
II. **Public/Staff Remarks***
   A. None
III. **Delegates to be Heard**
   A. Student Leadership Council – Isabelle Erickson
      - Student Leadership Council (SLC) representative will come to every Board meeting as a change from last year when they came once per semester.
      - SLC added lockers for Esthetician students and new games including ping pong and foosball.
      - Upcoming events include Fall Fest, blood drive, Energy Hour, Wellness Wednesdays, and Crafternoon.
      - Welcome Week featured free coffee, lunch, and pizza for students, plus a coffee truck at Waukesha Campus.

- SLC is recruiting new members after recent graduations, with a focus on community and student support.

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

- Dr. Barnhouse welcomed everyone to the September WCTC District Board meeting.
- Dr. Barnhouse and Laura Krohn presented on Artificial Intelligence at the Independent Business Association of Wisconsin meeting this summer. Many businesses are looking for assistance with implementing AI.
- Dr. Barnhouse was a guest on a segment with radio personality Ben Yount on AM 1130 in July. He discussed AI programs at WCTC.
- WCTC hosted Lenovo and NVIDIA on campus last month for an AI summit for Higher Ed.
- Dr. Barnhouse met with the new CEO of the YMCA of Greater Waukesha County to discuss the YMCA on the Pewaukee campus.
- The WTCS President's Association is hiring a consultant to create communication strategy and advocate for the 16 technical colleges.
- Dr. Barnhouse bring to the Board at a future meeting a recommendation regarding the District Boards Association (DBA) and the college's continued participation in DBA.
- Dr. Barnhouse recently met with the President of Lakeland and the Chancellor of UW-Parkside to collaborate.
- Dr. Barnhouse has been meeting with different businesses in the district to re-engage with business and industry and determine their workforce needs now and in the future.
- Dr. Barnhouse congratulated Robyn Ludtke, Executive Director of the WCTC Foundation on being awarded a Milwaukee Business Journal Woman of Influence.
- Dr. Barnhouse attended the visitation for Paul Farrow, alumnus of the college and former Waukesha County Executive. The college will honor County Executive Farrow in the future.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

A. Minutes dated July 13, 2026 – Annual Organizational Meeting
B. Minutes dated July 13, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
C. Accounts Payable Summary July 2026
D. Accounts Payable Summary August 2026
E. 38.14 Contract Report July 2026
F. 38.14 Contract Report August 2026
G. Out-of-State 38.14 Contract Approval
H. Approval of Hire Report
I. Approval of International Travel

Ryan Clark motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items, receiving a second from Brian Baumgartner. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

VI. Board Self Evaluation – Courtney Bauer

- Seven Board members participated in the recent self-evaluation.
- The evaluation supports the Higher Learning Commission process and encourages ongoing discussion and input.
- Overall results show the Board is working well together and received a high satisfaction rating.

VII. Action Items

A. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of $5,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026C, of Waukesha County Area Technical College District, Wisconsin, and Setting the Sale of the Notes – Kristine Golz

- WCTC's 2026/27 budget includes a plan to issue $13 million in general obligation promissory notes for capital expenditures.
- The Board is being asked to authorize $5 million in notes for remodeling, site improvements, and capital equipment/technology.
- This is the first of three planned borrowings this fiscal year; the Board will be asked in October to award the winning bid.

Brian Baumgartner motioned to approve the issuance of $5,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, receiving a second from Erin Thompson. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

VIII. Presentation/Discussion

A. Waukesha Campus Presentation – Melissa Wegner

- Melissa Wegner, Manager of Campus and Community Relations, presented on the WCTC Waukesha Campus.
- The campus drives student retention through connection — welcoming spaces, front-line staff engagement, and targeted support programs like the Campus Cupboard, accommodated testing, Student Leadership Council (SLC) events, Academic Advising, intercampus library delivery, and Career Connections.
- There is a renewed emphasis on employee engagement on the Waukesha Campus.
- The Waukesha Campus can become a regional hub anchored around opportunity, support, belonging, and connection.

IX. Amanda Busche motioned to convene into Closed Session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(b) and (c) Wisconsin State Statute at 5:38 pm:

A. Ryan Clark seconded the motion
B. **Unanimous roll call vote**
C. Discussion was held to discuss Faculty Dismissal.
D. Amanda Busche motioned to reconvene in open session, receiving a second from Ryan Clark.
E. **Unanimous roll call vote**
F. The open meeting was reconvened at 5:44 pm.

Dr. Barnhouse updated the Board with an additional comment from the President's Report that he forgot to mention.

- Dr. Barnhouse shared information that a report was recently released by the Universities of Wisconsin System comparing funding of the WTCS System and the UW System. Dr. Barnhouse will be doing an op-ed in the Waukesha Freeman regarding the report.

X. Adjournment – Courtney Bauer

A. Brian Baumgartner motioned to adjourn the meeting, receiving a second from Barb Dittrich. Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

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

Signed: Amanda Busche
Amanda Busche, Board Secretary/Treasurer