Waukesha County Technical College
District Board Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2026 - 5:00 PM
Richard T. Anderson Education Center, C051AB

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

Absent:
Mike Cady, Board Member
Brian Baumgartner, Board Member

Also Present:
Richard Barnhouse
Jennifer Hagen 17 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
      - The Student Leadership Council is exploring the purchase of two vehicles to support student travel, events, and Student Life operations.
      - SLC launched a new Instagram account to promote events and increase student engagement.
      - The annual Versiti Blood Drive resulted in 27 units of blood collected from student donors.
      - Fall programming includes a Children's Halloween Party, Thankful Lunch, Cookies & Cocoa, and other student-focused seasonal events.
      - SLC is working on planning the spring semester events.
IV. **President's Report – Dr. Richard G. Barnhouse**

- Dr. Barnhouse welcomed everyone to the October WCTC District Board meeting.
- Dr. Barnhouse and Andy Palen visited Washington DC last month to talk with Wisconsin members of Congress.
- Team from WCTC visited UW-Stout Polytechnic last month. Discussions included AI, quantum, and humanoid.
- Dr. Barnhouse discussed with Secretary Miller from Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) humanoid robotics and making sure industries in the Midwest can compete globally.
- Dr. Barnhouse attending a Wisconsin Manufacturing Commerce meeting at FoxConn last month.
- Dr. Barnhouse has been meeting with local businesses to determine workforce and industry needs. Recently met with R and R Insurance, including one of their employees who is finishing his AI degree at WCTC.
- Dr. Barnhouse participated in the latest meeting of the PhD program advisory council at Carroll University.
- Dr. Barnhouse met with the former COO of Rivian and founding member of Slate Auto.
- Dr. Barnhouse participated in a President panel at the District Boards Association quarterly meeting last week.
- Dr. Barnhouse is focusing his efforts on college culture.
- WCTC was awarded Partnership of the Year from Journey 21 at last week's gala event.
- Dr. Barnhouse attended Chancellor Gibson's inauguration at UWM last month.
- Dr. Barnhouse and a team from WCTC met with the fundraising partner McDonald Schaefer for the YMCA of Greater Waukesha County.
- The college has developed relationship with Purdue University, including partnering in several grants.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

A. Minutes dated September 8, 2026
B. Accounts Payable Summary September 2026
C. 38.14 Contract Report September 2026
D. Annual Security Report and Biennial Review
E. Resolution of Technical College Annual Board Officials Subject to State Code of Ethics
F. 2025/26 Vendor Volume Report
G. Out-of-State 38.14 Contract Approval
H. Approval of International Travel
I. Approval of Hire Report

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

VI. Action Items

A. Resolution Awarding the Sale of $5,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026C – Kristine Golz

- Request for approval of the sale of $5 million in General Obligation Promissory Notes to fund capital projects, equipment, and technology investments.

Rob Ewing motioned to award the sale for the issuance of $5,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, receiving a second from Barb Dittrich. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

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

- Request for authorization to issue $5 million in General Obligation Promissory Notes to fund School of Health remodel, capital equipment, and technology projects.

Barb Dittrich motioned to approve the issuance of $5,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, receiving a second from Maria Wadina. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

C. Resolution to Approve 2026/27 Tax Levy – Kristine Golz

- Strong property value growth resulted in 3.95% decrease in WCTC's mill rate.

Ryan Clark motioned to approve the 2026/27 Tax Levy, receiving a second from Amanda Busche. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

D. Resolution to Modify the 2026/27 Budget – Kristine Golz

- Aligns the 2026/27 budget with final tax levy and state aid revenues while funding key college priorities.

Ryan Clark motioned to approve 2026/27 budget modification, receiving a second from Erin Thompson. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

E. Resolution to Modify the 2025/26 Budget – Kristine Golz

- Updates the 2025/26 budget to align grant funding, fund transfers, and capital reserve needs.

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

F. Construction Bid Approval Q Building Remodel of First Floor – Rich Haen
- Renovate Q Building's lower level for flexible classrooms, offices and improved accessibility.
- Construction runs November 2026–April 2027.

Rob Ewing motioned to award the 5830DF - Q Building Lower Level Classroom and Office Renovation Project to the lowest responsible bidder, Corporate Contractors, Inc, receiving a second from Erin Thompson. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

G. Construction Bid Approval H Building Nursing Renovation Project – Rich Haen
- Renovates H Building to modernize nursing and healthcare training spaces, expand capacity, and support program growth.
- Construction planned from November 2026 through July 2027.

Maria Wadina motioned to award the 5830DC - H Building Nursing Renovation project to the lowest responsible bidder, Corporate Contractors, Inc, receiving a second from Ryan Clark. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

H. Construction Bid Approval S Building AJN Restroom and Locker Room Renovation Project – Rich Haen
- Renovates the AJN Center restrooms and adjacent locker rooms to improve accessibility, functionality, code compliance, and support for current instructional programs.
- Construction is expected to run from November 2, 2026, through April 30, 2027.

Maria Wadina motioned to award the 5830DA – S Building AJN Restroom and Locker Room Renovation project to the lowest responsible bidder, Catalyst Construction, receiving a second from Ryan Clark. **Approved, carried unanimously.**

VII. Presentation/Discussion

A. Modern College 2025/26 Year End Report Out – Dr. Brad Piazza and Katie DeRemer
- 2025/26 progress was positive, with most milestones completed and unfinished work carrying forward.
- Highlights include two AI transfer agreements, HLC draft contributions, and approval for the Applied Intelligence Institute spinout.
- Continuing priorities include AI articulation agreements, degree authority, long-term budget planning, and ERP modernization.

VIII. Adjournment – Courtney Bauer

A. Amanda Busche motioned to adjourn the meeting, receiving a second from Erin Thompson. 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