

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD
Minutes of Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
June 17, 2025

Mr. Bagstad, District Board Chair, called the public hearing and regular meeting of the Board of Western Technical College District to order at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at Western Technical College, Admin. Center, 111 7th St N, Rm 408. La Crosse, WI. Board members present: L. Bagstad, C. Doering III, M. Greendeer-Rave, K. Hennessey, A. Lawrence, K. Peterson, M. Skarlupka, M. Wolf, and R. Stanford, President. Excused: R. Alderson

Notice of the meeting was posted publicly on June 12, 4:53 p.m., and the agenda was distributed to interested persons, sent to the district's official newspaper (The La Crosse Tribune), and distributed to other news media throughout the district in compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 19.81-19.98.

Others present were J. Pintz, W. Hackbarth, R. Hopkins, A. Thornton, J. Heath, C. Heit, J. Lemon, J. Gamer, D. Campo, L. Weilneau (Western employees).

Heit shared highlights of the budget. No public comment.

Bagstad called a recess at 2:12 pm and asked to reconvene at 3:00 pm

3:00 pm board reconvened. Motion by Peterson, and seconded by Doering, to approve the resolution of commendations for MacKenzie, Noel, Weilnu, VanSistine-Yost, Quackenbush, and Lawrence. Motion carried 8/0/0. [attachments a, b, c, d, e, and f.](#)

The board members heard an update on enrollments from VPs Hackbarth, Hopkins, and Thornton; no action taken. J. Gamer provided an update on the college plan for Artificial Intelligence. No action taken.

Lawrence provided an update from the policy subcommittee. No action taken.

Motion Greendeer-Rave, seconded by Hennessey, that the Board approve the following consent items as presented: 1. Minutes – a. May 13, 2025, District Board Meeting, b. Nov 19, 2024 Budget & Facilities Sub-comm. 2. Financial Reports: a. Vendors over \$2,500-May 2025; b. Capital Projects-May 2025, c. General Revenue-April 2025, d. General Revenue-May 2025, e. Dept Summary-April 2025, f. Dept Summary-May 2025, g. Enterprise Summary-April 2025 h. Enterprise Summary-May 2025. 2. Policy a. E0204 Waiting Lists, b. E0716 Hazing Prevention & Response. c. A0119p Policy Development, Review, Revision, Suspension, & Termination. 4. *Personnel Correction: Dana Nybo is Associate Dean, not Dean.* Motion carried 8/0/0.

Motion Skarlupka, second Peterson to approve: 1. Out-of-State Tuition Remission/Waivers. 2. 3-year 2025-2028 Facilities Plan as presented and submit the same to the WTCS Office for record. Motion carried 8/0/0.

Roll call approval: Motion Hennessey, seconded by Lawrence, to approve: Approve and adopt the total salary increase (3%) and the maximum of the salary ranges adjustment (3%) for FY 2025-26. Bagstad, Y; Doering, Y; Greendeer-Rave, Y; Hennessey, A; Lawrence, Y; Peterson, Y; Skarlupka, Y; Wolf, Y. Motion carried. 7/0/1

Roll call approval: Motion Peterson, seconded by Lawrence, to Adopt: Board Approval of the presented FY 2025-26 Budget. Bagstad, Y; Doering, Y; Greendeer-Rave, Y; Hennessey, Y; Lawrence, Y; Peterson, Y; Skarlupka, Y; Wolf, Y. Motion carried. 8/0/0

President's Report: We continue to have meetings and communications with lawmakers. WLDI trainings concluded earlier this month, and the WTCS presidents will be developing a new leadership development program. The Wanek Center of Innovation is on track for the August 19 Grand Opening. Business and Industry Services worked with Mayo to train 12 of their employees in a Medical Assistant program. We recently celebrated those 12 students as they graduated from their program. There is a WTCS board meeting in July. And another special "Thank You" to Angie Lawrence for her years of service to Western.

District Board Chairperson's report: The new DBA president starts next month. Thank you again to Angie!

4:36 p.m. Motion by Lawrence, seconded by Hennessey, to move into closed session. Motion carried 8/0/0.

5:08 p.m. Lawrence motioned and was seconded by Doering to move out of closed session and into open session. Motion carried 8/0/0. Skarlupka motioned, and Peterson seconded, to approve an 8% increase in Roger's salary in his contract with no other changes. Roll call: Bagstad, Y; Doering, Y; Greendeer-Rave, Y; Hennessey, Y; Lawrence, Y; Peterson, Y; Skarlupka, Y; Wolf, Y. Motion carried 8/0/0.

5:10 p.m. Lawrence motioned, and Peterson seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried 8/0/0.


Ken Peterson, District Board Secretary



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Willa MacKenzie**

Whereas, Willa MacKenzie, Academic Intervention Instructor, will retire from Western Technical College on June 23, after completing 16+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Willa MacKenzie has dedicated more than two decades of her life and career to educating justice-involved students, serving as a tireless advocate, innovator, and champion for those often left behind; and

Whereas, Willa has approached this work with unmatched passion, resilience, and courage—teaching in the La Crosse County Jail for over 20 years, building strong relationships with community partners, and launching the foundational programs that today reach five county jails through Western’s Project Proven initiative; and

Whereas, Willa is known for pioneering innovative and healing curricula, including the deeply impactful “Hero’s Journey” class, which helped students reframe their hardships as stepping-stones toward growth, purpose, and redemption; and

Whereas, colleagues across the College and the community have come to know and love Willa not only for her incredible work ethic and honesty, but for her realness—her ability to bring context, challenge assumptions, advocate fiercely, and still be the first to cry (at roughly 1 out of every 3 meetings 😊); and

Whereas, her next chapter continues her commitment to second chances and meaningful work, through her own business, DaaBin, which creates employment opportunities for justice-involved and other higher-barrier job seekers; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Willa MacKenzie for her years of service and her commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Willa many happy and satisfying years in her retirement.

Western Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Lance Bagstad, Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Jeff Noel**

Whereas, Jeff Noel, Security and Access Control Officer, will retire from Western Technical College on June 20, after completing 40+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Jeff has been known throughout his career as the epitome of calm, cool, and collected, bringing a steady hand and thoughtful approach to every task, challenge, and conversation; and

Whereas, Jeff's soft-spoken demeanor, kindness, and ability to truly listen have made him a trusted colleague, respected leader, and a calming presence in an often fast-paced and ever-changing environment; and

Whereas, Jeff approached every assignment with humility and a willingness to learn—whether it was mastering the intricacies of door lock systems or taking on new responsibilities in campus safety—demonstrating initiative and an enduring commitment to the College's well-being; and

Whereas, under Jeff's leadership and dedication, the College's safety program grew in scope, strength, and credibility, helping to ensure a more secure and prepared environment for students, faculty, and staff; and

Whereas, Jeff's vast institutional knowledge, gained over four decades of service, made him a go-to resource for a wide range of issues, and his perspective and counsel were consistently sought and valued by his peers; and

Whereas, Jeff will be missed for his maturity, professionalism, and quiet leadership, as well as for the respect he offered—and earned—from all corners of the College community; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Jeff Noel and for his years of service and his commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Jeff many happy and satisfying years in his retirement.

Western Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Lance Bagstad, Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Linda Weilnau**

Whereas, Linda Weilnau, Information System Support Team Lead, will retire from Western Technical College on June 30, after completing 23+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Linda has been the very definition of rock solid—a dependable, reliable, and detail-oriented team member whose work has been trusted across the College for its accuracy, thoroughness, and excellence; and

Whereas, her incredible organizational skills and her eye for the smallest detail ensured that tasks were not only completed but completed flawlessly, and her helpful spirit made her the go-to person for countless colleagues over the years; and

Whereas, Linda's trustworthiness and complete dedication to the mission and people of Western were evident in everything she did, day in and day out, over the course of her tenure; and

Whereas, Linda's baking has achieved legendary status within the College—most notably when she kept the entire PowerCampus team in cookies for an entire year in 2012—her sweet treats were as thoughtful and generous as the person who made them; and

Whereas, beyond her professional strengths, Linda has nurtured close, family-like relationships with her coworkers, serving as a steady presence, a trusted confidante, and, in many ways, a "mother to all"; and

Whereas, Linda's dry sense of humor, quick wit, and calm demeanor brought both levity and grounding to the workplace, and her presence brought comfort and reassurance to those around her; and

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Linda Weilnau for her years of service and her commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Linda many happy and satisfying years in her retirement.

Western Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Lance Bagstad, Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Victor Quackenbush**

Whereas, Victor Quackenbush, Custodian, will retire from Western Technical College on June 30, after completing 13+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Victor consistently demonstrated a solid work ethic, always showing up, following through, and completing every task with thoroughness and attention to detail—never cutting corners, no matter how big or small the job; and

Whereas, Victor took great pride in creating a positive first impression for all who walked through his cleaning zone, understanding that cleanliness and care communicate respect for students, staff, and visitors alike; and

Whereas, Victor promptly reported issues of concern, ensuring that the safety, function, and reputation of the College remained a top priority in his daily work; and

Whereas, over the course of his career, Victor became a true leader—someone both new and seasoned team members could rely on, learn from, and feel comfortable around, thanks to his welcoming nature, humility, and willingness to lend a hand; and

Whereas, Victor's positive attitude, dependability, and caring spirit made him an invaluable member of the team, always willing to step up, take on a task, and do what needed to be done—with excellence and pride; and

Whereas, his legendary skills in the snowplow end loader will especially be remembered and missed during Western winters, when his talents kept our campus accessible and safe; and

Whereas, Victor leaves behind a legacy of quiet leadership, steady service, and sincere care for both his work and the people he worked alongside; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Victor Quackenbush and for his years of service and his commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Victor many happy and satisfying years in his retirement.

Western Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Lance Bagstad, Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Angie Lawrence**

Whereas, Angie Lawrence has served as a member of the Western Technical College District Board for 12 years, from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2025; and

Whereas, Angie has been a thoughtful, articulate, and mission-driven leader, especially in her role on the Policy Subcommittee, where her clarity, insight, and high expectations helped shape sound, student-centered governance; and

Whereas, Angie possessed the unique ability to ask the tough questions—not for the sake of challenge, but in pursuit of deeper understanding and better outcomes—while always maintaining a deep respect and appreciation for the work of others; and

Whereas, Angie's compassion, curiosity, and sharp sense of humor made her an approachable and valued presence on the Board—someone who made others feel seen, respected, and encouraged in their work; and

Whereas, Angie built and maintained positive relationships with fellow Board members, always striving for collaboration, even amid disagreement—embodying the spirit of “agree to disagree” with grace, sincerity, and professionalism; and

Whereas, Angie's experience, wisdom, and voice—marked by a deep appreciation for Western's faculty, staff, and students—will be profoundly missed by all who had the honor of serving alongside her; and

Whereas, her departure represents not just the end of a chapter, but a lasting legacy of service, mentorship, and advocacy for technical education and the power it holds to transform lives and communities; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Angie Lawrence for her years of service as a member of the District Board and extends to her continued best wishes for the future.

Western Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Ken Peterson, Chair