

**CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes**  
**February 15, 2024**

Public notice of the time and place of the Central Community College Board of Governors' meeting was given in advance to the board members, college administrators and the five daily newspapers within the 25-county area. The agenda was available to the public in the college president's office and on the CCC website, [www.cccneb.edu](http://www.cccneb.edu). The college adheres to the Open Meetings Act, a copy of which is available in the college president's office.

The meeting was held in the Hall Student Union, Cottonwood Room, at Central Community College-Hastings, 550 S. Technical Blvd., Hastings, Nebraska.

All supplemental documents from this meeting are available at:  
<https://meeting.sparqdata.com/Public/Organization/CCC>.

Chair Rita Skiles called the Feb. 15, 2024, meeting to order at 1 p.m., with 11 board members present.

**ROLL CALL**

Aerni – present	Keller – present
Borden – present	Novotny – present
Buss – present	Pirnie – present
Cowan – present	Quick – present
Davis – present	Skiles – present
Heiden – present	

**POLICY ITEMS**

Attorney Katie Sharp installed the 2024 board officers:

- Tom Pirnie, Chair
- Linda Heiden, Vice Chair
- Linda Aerni, Secretary
- Roger Davis, Treasurer

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Pirnie asked college representatives to introduce guests and staff members.

**REVIEWING CLAIMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Jason Buss will review the claims prior to the March 21, 2024, board meeting in Grand Island.

**REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

Pirnie asked board members for items in the consent agenda they would like to move to discussion of consent/action items.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Consent items included:

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1. Agenda for Feb. 15, 2024.
2. Minutes of the Jan. 18, 2024, Board of Governors meeting.
3. Claims for the period from Jan. 1 through Jan. 31, 2024.
4. Financial report as of Jan. 31, 2024.
5. Purchases: None.
6. Personnel: None.

MOVED BY BORDEN, SECONDED BY NOVOTNY to approve the claims, with the exception of payments to themselves, and also to approve the other consent items.

Aerni – aye	Keller – aye
Borden – aye	Novotny – aye
Buss – aye	Pirnie – aye
Cowan – aye	Quick – aye
Davis – aye	Skiles – aye
Heiden – aye	

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

**PARNERSHIP/OWNERSHIP**

**CCC Foundation Report**

Executive Director Traci Skalberg highlighted the following:

- The consolidated assets of the CCC Foundation and Warren and Velda Wilson Foundation was \$45.1 million as of June 30, 2023.
- The foundation awarded \$1,069,847 in scholarships and \$1,060,434 in other support in 2022-23.
- Future support includes the following: pledges receivable, \$2,617,775; restricted gifts, \$2,041,062; and Generations of Impact campaign, \$12,500,000.
- Updates were given on the Hastings, Columbus and Kearney major gifts campaigns; Pirnie Inclusive Playground; employee and yearend appeals; and community giving days.
- Upcoming events include a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Pirnie Inclusive Playground in Grand Island on May 1 and Pro-Am Golf Tournament on Sept. 16 at Lochland Country Club in Hastings.

**Hastings Campus Report**

Scott Pathway Director Brett Wells reported that the Summer Bridge was a success and that the 16 graduating Scott Scholars will be going to the Scott Foundation in Omaha for two days. The

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Scott Scholars from all participating institutions have been invited. He introduced the following students:

- Jackson Neal of Lincoln is a first-year Scott Scholar who is studying heating, air conditioning and refrigeration. He said he didn't know what he wanted to do after high school. During a tour of the Hastings Campus, he was introduced to the Scott Pathway by Wells and instructor Dale Long. He said the program has given him the opportunity to participate in activities, learn different skills, meet people he wouldn't have otherwise met and form good relationships. The scholarship allows him to focus on the work at hand without having to worry about how to pay for the class. He will use the skills he has learned in his summer internship and then in his work.
- Enoch Dixon of Hastings is a second-year Scott Scholar who is studying construction. He said that during his first semester at CCC-Hastings that he did the bare minimum to get a grade. That changed after he became a part of the first Scott Scholar group. He said the program changed his outlook on life, that he's now motivated and cares about his education. He believes in showing up, not making excuses, holding himself to a higher standard and competing to be the best version of himself. After he graduates from CCC, he plans to study construction management and business at a four-year school and then open his own business.

Also addressing the board were Mary Lanning Healthcare employees Susan Meeske, chief development officer, and Carol Hamik, director of nurse recruitment. They talked about a partnership between Mary Lanning, CCC and Hastings Public Schools that has brought certified nursing assistant (CNA) classes to Hastings High School. CNA is a high-paying entry point to most healthcare fields.

Meeske said Phase 1 of the development plan was to raise money for an onsite lab at Hastings High School and for scholarships because it's important that price not be a barrier to students taking the CNA class. Phase 2 will be expanding the scholarship fund and offering additional onsite college classes such as medication aide, phlebotomy technology, introduction to health sciences, medical terminology, and anatomy and physiology.

Hamik said that 10 of the 12 students who started the first CNA class in spring 2023 completed it. All 12 students who started the second class in fall 2023 completed it. This spring, HPS is offering a hybrid class in addition to the in-person class. There are 12 students in the in-person class and 10 students in the hybrid class. Four of the students in the hybrid class are interested in radiology. She pointed out that Mary Lanning currently has 11 open radiology positions.

## **DISCUSSION OF CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS**

### **Capital Improvement Budget**

Craig Boroff gave an overview of the projects included in the capital improvement budget. The College President asked for tentative approval of the 2024-25 capital improvement budget so these projects can be started. Official approval of the budget is set for September.

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MOVED BY NOVOTNY, SECONDED BY DAVIS to give tentative approval to the capital improvement budget.

Aerni – aye	Keller – aye
Borden – aye	Novotny – aye
Buss – aye	Pirnie – aye
Cowan – aye	Quick – aye
Davis – aye	Skiles – aye
Heiden – aye	

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

**Red Cloud Education Hub**

Dr. Chris Waddle said 45 people showed up for a community meeting about CCC having more of a presence in Red Cloud. After touring a couple of different sites, the college settled on a renovated building on the northeast corner of the intersection of highways 136 and 281. The plan is to make this an educational hub that would serve Franklin and Superior in addition to Red Cloud. The 1,500 square-foot would provide space for a good-size classroom in the back and an open area in the front.

MOVED BY SKILES, SECONDED BY DAVIS to allow the College President to enter into a lease agreement, not to exceed three years, to establish an educational hub in Red Cloud and engage in purchasing equipment and furniture and hiring necessary personnel to implement community-driven programming.

Aerni – aye	Keller – aye
Borden – aye	Novotny – aye
Buss – aye	Pirnie – aye
Cowan – aye	Quick – aye
Davis – aye	Skiles – aye
Heiden – aye	

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

**REPORTS**

**Student Success Report**

Dr. Candace Walton presented information from the Voluntary Framework of Accountability, which gets its data from a six-year cohort (students who started in fall 2016) and a two-year cohort (students who started in fall 2020).

- Central’s students continue to outperform IPEDs national average.

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- Central's students who arrive with a planned program/career direction complete their program in shorter time and higher rate.
- Evidence of the pandemic and economic changes may be appearing in the data.
- Central's students who are exploring higher education and transfer out achieve high success rates.
- Student enrollment behavior has changed over the years and Central remains a flexible, reliable, and local option for our community.

**Dr. Gotschall's Report**

Dr. Gotschall reported the following:

- Following free drop/add, CCC's spring enrollment continues to be up from Spring 2023 in both headcount and FTE.
- NCCA Legislative Day is Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the Capitol in Lincoln. Meetings may begin as early as 7 a.m., with conclusion by noon.
- Doug Pauley, Jerry Muller, two high school instructors and I will give a presentation on the iMec grant project as a top 10 finalist for the national Bellwether Award for innovation in workforce development. The program involves 13 high schools in our service area. Since Fall 2021, 275 students have enrolled in 433 courses with 30% attending CCC following high school graduation. Presentations, instructor training and/or equipment have been shared with high schools or colleges in 13 states and the District of Columbia.
- I attended the Nebraska State Chamber meeting and Hall of Fame banquet honoring the Hornady family and Sid Dinsdale. Great showing from the Grand Island area and presentations included two related to workforce initiatives in Nebraska.
- Faculty members Michael David and Dan Gompert and I attended the AACC Workforce Development Institute where national foundation, federal representatives and corporate partners shared ideas and efforts to collaborate resources. We were there because of the Metallica Scholars and Microsoft/Cyberskills for All grants. Many sessions regarding advanced training and education in AI, cybersecurity, early college, instructor recruitment and networking with industry reps. Hopefully the National Education Director from Snap On will visit CCC this summer based on this conference interaction.
- I continue to meet with community representatives from Holdrege and Red Cloud regarding expanded or new space for CCC in their communities.
- CCC-Columbus hosted Congressman Mike Flood's Workforce Housing Summit with strong attendance and positive comments from the congressman and others regarding our hospitality.
- Several CCC and CCC Foundation representatives attended the Kearney Chamber annual meeting. I interacted with Senator Ricketts who also attended the event.
- I met with the CCC Foundation and representatives from multiple Omaha-based foundations this past month regarding future opportunities for funding and community development.

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- I participated in the first automotive capital campaign meeting and attended the Grand Island welding facility meeting with industry seeking feedback and input on our new facility.
- I participated in a successful follow-up visit with ACEN, our national accreditor, and received preliminary notification of the recommendation for full reaccreditation. Final approval will not come for six months from the ACEN board, but congratulations to Dr. Pam Bales and the faculty, students, clinical partners and nursing staff who presented a detailed report, interviews and site visits to earn the preliminary recommendation.
- I participated in the quarterly All-College Faculty Senate meeting and led the quarterly President's Quality Action Council meeting with areawide representatives from faculty, staff, administration and students.
- I attended Gov. Pillen's State of the State recap in Grand Island and had interactions at the State Chamber meeting and Hall of Fame banquet.
- I attended the Nebraska Manufacturing Advisory Council meeting held at Kiewit Hall (College of Engineering) at UNL. There are applied research and grant opportunities in engineering which CCC may be able to participate in along with local and state industry partners. I serve as secretary for that group.
- I participated in the quarterly meeting of our Postsecondary International Network (PIN) of which the CCC Foundation and I serve as treasurer and fiscal agent. Current representatives include colleges from the United States, Canada and South Korea.
- I participated in webinars sponsored by the National Science Foundation, Nebraska Math Readiness Project and am seeking to coordinate state support for another national apprenticeship grant with US DOL.

Updates from area vice presidents include:

- The arts, sciences and business faculty met with peers from other Nebraska community colleges to update courses as part of the Nebraska Transfer Initiative. These meetings were hosted in Grand Island.
- A new paraeducator certificate has been approved by Ed Services. Course design will begin this month, and promotion to local districts and ESUs will begin in March. Students who earn the certificate will be qualified for special education, Title I or early childhood programs. They will be MANDT, CPR, and Safe-with-You trained.
- We are now offering ESL in Ord because a local employer requested it for its employees and spouses. We worked with IT to get a WebEx cart set up for students to attend a remote class from the Ord Learning Center.
- The total number of student athletes at CCC this year is 129. Of these, 86 are Nebraska residents with an overall team academic GPA of 3.22 and 1,599 completed credits in the fall semester. We're proud of our student athletes, coaches, staff and administration for these strong outcomes. To date, the teams have assisted in raising over \$29,600 toward expenses.
- CCC has requested to move from our current Region 9 (three colleges) to a larger Region 11. Reasons include increased competitiveness and exposure to teams we see during the

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year and at districts. Region 11 includes Northeast Community College (Norfolk) and several Iowa colleges with whom we compete during the regular season. If accepted, this change could happen for the 2024-25 school year.

- We're seeking to fill entrepreneurship director positions in both Kearney and Hastings. Strong activity continues in both Grand Island and Columbus.
- CCC will participate for the first time in the Nebraska Assessment of College Health Behaviors (NACHB) Survey in Spring 2024 as part of our participation in the Nebraska Collegiate Prevention Alliance. NACHB collects data regarding substance use, student wellness and mental health concerns. Its results are provided through site-specific reports and comparison briefs highlighting differences between our students and those at other participating institutions.
- After add/drop, 130 military-connected students are registered for the term. Veterans Resource Center Director Barry Horner recently attended the NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) Military Symposium. Other Nebraska colleges attending the symposium have reached out to Barry, and reps from UNL, UNO, Central, Metro, Southeast and Northeast will be meeting to discuss what they can do for each other and how they can build a framework for smooth transitions for veterans who are transferring.
- We received notice that the release of FAFSA data to schools won't happen until the first part of March. This is because of the Department of Education updating tables that will result in more students being eligible for Pell Grants. This also gives the Department of Ed an extension for getting information to software providers to have systems updated. We have crafted a timeline around the release of the student record data. The goal will be to have initial financial aid offers to students by mid-April.
- The Columbus Campus Student Engagement Office has implemented a new monthly activity series called "Adulting 101" that provides simple "fast facts" about a topic that students can take with them. February was Grocery Shopping on a Budget, March is Taxes, April is Cooking Simple Meals, and May is Making Friends When You Aren't in College.
- Joan McCarthy and the other Career and Employment staff have posted 125 jobs to the job board since the start of the semester.
- Allie Remm, Grand Island Admissions, has been working on additional collaborations with the Adult Education office to ensure that Adult Education students have a plan and can see that continuing their studies is possible. We will be having a monthly visit to offer resources and support.
- Spring semester Welcome Week activities attracted a significant turnout, with 80-100 individuals interacting daily. The week-long event provided new and returning students with opportunities to connect, explore campus resources, and participate in various activities. Additionally, Student Success hosted a Community Resource Fair with 100-120 students engaging with various community organizations and resources. This event facilitated connections between students and valuable community services, fostering a sense of belonging and support.

The following reports were also submitted for board review:

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- Enrollment Report
- Grants Report
- Purchasing Report

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pirnie requested an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues at 3:18 p.m.

MOVED BY DAVIS, SECONDED BY NOVOTNY that the Board of Governors recess the regular meeting in order to go into executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues.

Aerni – aye	Keller – aye
Borden – aye	Novotny – aye
Buss – aye	Pirnie – aye
Cowan – aye	Quick – aye
Davis – aye	Skiles – aye
Heiden – aye	

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Pirnie reconvened the regular session of the Board of Governors meeting at 3:44 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY BORDEN, SECONDED BY HEIDEN to adjourn.

Aerni – aye	Keller – aye
Borden – aye	Novotny – aye
Buss – aye	Pirnie – aye
Cowan – aye	Quick – aye
Davis – aye	Skiles – aye
Heiden – aye	

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Pirnie declared the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.