



WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Meeting

January 21, 2026

Wenatchee Campus, Maguire Center – TEAMS Webinar

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Trustees Present:

Paula Arno Martinez, Chair
Wilma Cartagena
Phylicia Hancock Lewis
Tamra Jackson
Steve Zimmerman (*regular meeting only*)

Also Present:

Cabinet Members
Faculty and Staff

TRUSTEE STUDY SESSION – 10:00 am

INTRODUCTION

Clint Strand, Executive Director of the Foundation, was introduced to the Board.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMUNICATION

Trustee Paula Arno Martinez will be the only trustee attending the ACCT Legislative Summit; her travel and expenses will be covered by ACCT. Trustee Tuesday included updates on SBCTC legislative priorities and the current federal landscape.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Dr. Garza provided a brief enrollment update. President Harrison will serve as co-chair of the Enrollment Strategic Growth Taskforce alongside Ellia Sablan Zebedy.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of December 2025, approximately one-third of the budget has been expended. Instruction remains the largest cost center and is currently on track. Vice President Steve Ward expressed confidence in the college's financial position. The next phase will include reviewing spending trends and meeting with vice presidents for further discussions.

Steve Ward also presented Policy 600.101: Operating Budget Development and Monitoring for first read. Current reserve policies require maintaining reserves equal to 40% of the operating budget (approximately \$16 million). Institutions with strong reserve levels are better positioned to invest in strategic initiatives that generate long-term returns.

ACCREDITATION

Trustees received the Mission Fulfillment Self-Evaluation Report in advance and had the opportunity to ask questions.

In August 2025, WVC submitted documentation to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) regarding program suspensions. Decisions to pause programs were based on matriculation, annual FTE counts, transfer rates, and number of degrees granted. A memo was shared with staff in April 2025; however, the program pauses have generated concern among employees, which has been reflected in area planning discussions.

INFORMATION ONLY

WVC administration is implementing an articulated pathway for pre-allied health students through the Associate in Arts Direct Transfer Agreement Major Related Program (DTA-MRP) in Pre-Nursing.

This pathway streamlines preparation for Basic BSN programs by ensuring students complete prerequisite coursework required for admission to participating baccalaureate institutions. The pathway also aligns with prerequisites for other allied health programs. Participation enables students to access financial aid, helping reduce barriers and expand educational opportunity.

POLICY FIRST READ

The following policies were presented for first read:

- NEW - 300.385 Academic Credit for Prior Learning at WVC
- NEW - Graduation Policy
- NEW - Placement Policy
- UPDATE - 500.090 Workplace Civility and Respect
- RESCIND - 500.115 Ethical Conduct Conflict of Interest Standards
- RESCIND - 500.150 Salary Schedules
- NEW - 500.520 Relocation Compensation

ACTION ITEMS FOR REVIEW

Trustees reviewed action items scheduled for the regular board meeting. These policies were previously reviewed at the November 2025 meeting.

Sabbatical requests will be discussed in executive session. Lisa Harger reminded trustees that Professor Angela Russell's approved sabbatical from 2025–2026 will be honored during the upcoming academic year.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Linda McKay (North Central Educational Service District 171) and Henry Strom (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) presented on the collaboration with WVC related to the John McCoy (lulilas) Since Time Immemorial Curriculum.

The study session adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustees entered executive session at 2:05 p.m. for 30 minutes to discuss personnel matters, as permitted under RCW 42.30. The executive session concluded at 2:35 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: 3:00 P.M.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CONSENT AGENDA

November 19, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

Trustee Phylicia Hancock Lewis moved that the consent agenda be approved. The motion was seconded by Paula Arno Martinez and carried unanimously.

MOTION NO 2412

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

The following new employees were introduced:

- Sandra Sanchez Avila, Program Specialist
- Virginia Bernal, Program Specialist
- Greg Sparling, Athletic Director
- Tiffany Halverson, Custodian
- Mark Walvra, Custodian
- Jasmin Mejia Avalos, MESA/AHEC Program Coordinator

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

SPECIAL REPORTS

AHE President Report

Did not add to his written report.

WPEA

Not present.

ASWVCO (Omak)

Submitted a written report.

ASWVC (Wenatchee)

Submitted a written report.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATES

Cabinet members provided brief updates, including:

- The Foundation is starting the annual spring appeal.

ACTION: Action items were reviewed in detail during the board work session

Adoption of new policy: Transfer Credit

Moved by Paula Arno Martinez; seconded by Phylicia Hancock Lewis; unanimously approved.

MOTION NO 2413

Board Policy Manual Revision

Moved by Tamra Jackson; seconded by Phylicia Hancock Lewis; unanimously approved.

MOTION NO 2414

Sabbatical

Recommendations for sabbatical leave follow the process outlined in AHE Contract. The professional development committee received applications from faculty seeking professional (sabbatical) leave during the 2026-2027 academic year. The applicant is Karen Keys, math instructor, requested leave during the 2026-2027 academic year and Rebecca Hargrove, English instructor for the 2026-2027 academic year.

The committee carefully reviewed, considered, and evaluated the applications according to the guidelines of the sabbatical leave. The committee came to a decision to recommend a full-year sabbatical leave for Karen Keys beginning fall quarter of 2026, ending spring quarter of 2027 and a full-year sabbatical for Rebecca Hargrove beginning fall quarter of 2026, ending spring quarter of 2027.

Moved by Tamra Jackson to approve sabbatical leave for Karen Keys; seconded by Paula Arno Martinez; unanimously approved.

MOTION NO 2415

Moved by Paula Arno Martinez to deny sabbatical leave for Rebecca Hargrove; seconded by Phylicia Hancock Lewis; unanimously approved.

MOTION NO 2416

3:14 PM

Secretary

Date

Chair

Date