

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS'
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 25, 2023**

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at Fort Omaha Campus, Building 21, Room 112.

Chair Uhe asked the Recording Secretary to the Board to call the roll:

Members Present:

Brad Ashby, Vice Chair
Kristen DuPree
Adam Gotschall
Phillip Klein
Theresa Love-Hug
Linda McDermitt, Assistant Secretary
Maureen Monahan, Treasurer
Zach Reinhardt
Fred Uhe, Chair
Tammy Wright

Members Absent:

Ron Hug

Also Present: Randy Schmailzl, College President

Agenda Item 1c—Pledge of Allegiance

Uhe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 1d—Announcement of Posted Location of Open Meetings Act

The Chair reported that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act had been posted on the room doors.

Agenda Item 1e—Recording of Notice of Public Meeting

The Chair reported on the Notice of Public Meeting and stated the following:

1. *Proof of Publication, pursuant to Policy 10503 of the Board of Governors, in the form of an affidavit of an employee of the Omaha World-Herald, a newspaper of general circulation within Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties, Nebraska to the effect that notice of this meeting was published in that newspaper on March 15, 2023, and on the Omaha World-Herald website Omaha.com from March 15 - 21, 2023.*

2. *Affidavit of College employee Julie Lanxon, to the effect that a copy of the published Notice of Meeting was transmitted to each member of the Board of Governors, on March 15, 2023, in a manner specified by Policy 10503 of the Board of Governors.*

The notice of the meeting stated that an agenda for this meeting, kept continually current, was available for public inspection at the principal office of the Board of Governors, Building No. 30, 30th and Fort Streets, Omaha, Nebraska, by making prior arrangements by calling 531-622-2415.

Agenda Item 2—Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 3—Discussion

Agenda Item 3a—Strategic Planning Discussion

Mission Achievement Plan (MAP)

Cathy Brown, director of planning and projects, presented the background and process of the College's annual mission achievement plan (MAP) and how it is used to create the budget. Brown showed the Board members how they can access the MAP on MCC's website. The MAP results are from a collaborative process that pairs collegewide priorities with strategies to meet them. Priorities for FY 2022-23 are: (a) Path Forward, (b) partnerships and programs, (c) operational excellence, and (d) future stability and growth. Once complete, the MAP is connected to the budget system, wherein cost center managers link each budget request to one of the MAP priorities. A comprehensive MAP and a proposed budget are the end goals to support MCC's priorities and best use available resources.

Uhe asked if there are challenges in the process. Brown stated having the four priorities established before the process begins makes it clear where resources need to go. She said her biggest challenge is meeting with everyone and having the necessary conversations to make sure MAP is a comprehensive document. Wright asked if departmental budgets are built on pre-established budget allocations. Schmailzl answered that the process is designed to document why a dollar is needed, but it is not that prescriptive. Various meetings are held to dissect requests with the goal to minimize duplication. This is a cleansing process as to why we do what we do, and it is also a communication tool. If a request is not funded, it is tagged for future budget or grant consideration. Brown stated if a request does not clearly fit into a must-have category, more justification may need to be provided. Monahan asked what the approach would be if major cuts would need to occur. Brown stated the process would remain the same, and identifying priorities would be more important. McDonnell added that college leadership has always been intentional looking at the budget and are careful on the front end. Donors and grant funding help fill the gaps.

Gotschall asked if faculty are hesitant to ask for needed items for their programs. Schmailzl stated that faculty are encouraged to make a budget request and not worry about the money. McDonnell added that faculty are strategic with their requests and are not reluctant to ask.

Ashby proposed slimming down the August and September Board meeting agendas to allow more time to discuss the proposed budget. Uhe explained there is time set aside in the August meeting agenda for budget discussion. McDermitt added that Board members have the opportunity to learn about the College and ask questions on their own time. Ashby added that the budget has swelled during his time on the Board. Schmailzl commented that we do have to account for everything (including grants and capital projects that involve significant donations). McDermitt commented that if a Board member has a question about the budget, they should call Schmailzl for clarification. She added that by the August Board meeting Board members should have their questions answered as the College needs to operate within required timeframes to stay in compliance with the state. Schmailzl commented this an area he is willing to work on. Gotschall commented that last year he appreciated receiving the synopsis to help understand the full report. Uhe added that MCC essentially uses a zero-based budget, where each year's requests are considered anew. He reminded Board members that when they receive the budget book to contact him or Schmailzl if there are questions. He added that transparency is very important to how the College operates.

Modernization of IT Systems

Bob Goeman, incoming chief information officer, presented on the IT modernization project, with particular emphasis on the student information system (SIS). He explained how this process will merge resource management, student service, and the student information system into one integrated system. Technology has changed a lot over the last 25 years and now is the time to understand where we are going. The current system needs to be modernized for the sake of students.

Goeman reviewed the five outcomes of modernization and explained why and what is being considered. They are: (a) student life cycle support; (b) one-stop shop for student information; (c) centralized platform; (d) integrated data dashboards; and (e) improved automation to reduce manual processes. The end goal is to make it easier for students to navigate and for the College to communicate with them seamlessly. The maintenance of student records needs to ensure data are valid and reliable and information is efficiently passed along. The cloud will be considered from the security and efficiency standpoints. The online fee payment system needs to be rich and meet standards.

Goeman reviewed the decision-making timeline. The college is currently doing its due diligence with three vendor candidates, including additional demos focused on the college's specific questions and cases, plus references from the IT and subject matter expert perspectives. The college will also consider the total cost of ownership, including software, personnel, and training over time. All this information will be compiled into a score that will result in a recommendation to the Board in a couple months.

Gotschall asked how a wide area network (WAN) works and if it affects how different software works. Goeman stated that MCC has 76 miles of fiber that provides flexibility to the College. Schmailzl mentioned that the WAN allows IT to use whatever they want without running up the price. DuPree asked about post-implementation service agreements in the request for proposal (RFP). Goeman replied that the vendors were

asked to describe this process in the RFP. The integration process will take three to five years. DuPree asked if students will be involved in the process and provide input. Brown commented that students attended demos with each vendor and gave feedback and will continue to give input. Wright asked if the selected vendor will increase the firewall or just increase the speed. Goeman said he hoped the firewall in place now is as valid as the firewall moving forward. Gotschall asked if the apps allowed to be used on MCC's WAN can be limited, even on personal devices, to limit security risks. Goeman said yes, apps can be limited. He stated that around every corner is a vulnerability, so it is important to limit risk and remediate faster, better, and stronger. In the academic world, there is a need for academic freedom, so MCC's IT system must have the openness to get people what they need, while the risk is kept to a minimum.

Schmailzl mentioned this is a multimillion-dollar opportunity for the budget, and many people will have an opinion. MCC is still operating with a system initially established in 1989. MCC was the first community college to sign on with Datatel (now Ellucian). Funds have not always been available to invest in the vendor's most current improvements. The time, resources, and expertise have not always been available, as they are today. The Board will need to analyze the budget and answer questions because of the large dollar figure. He added that MCC deserves this modernization and has a need for top systems for the work and activities conducted. Schmailzl does expect some staff will be upset due to the amount of change. The modernization will be a long-term project. Schmailzl stated this will require the Board, administration, staff, and community to work together. Uhe requested the Board be provided a six-month security report during the transition. Wright asked if the selected vendor will have two-factor authentication. Goeman stated that MCC currently has multi-factor authentication and is currently in the process of ensuring all students, staff, and faculty are set up.

Campus and Master Planning

Holland Basham Architects were hired a year ago through the RFP process to assist with this phase three planning. Schmailzl provided an overview of the first two master plans, which were filled with change. This third master plan will focus primarily on the western portion of the campus, dual enrollment, and other opportunities to set up the College for the next fifty years. The schedule and next steps were reviewed. The master plan will be brought back to the Board in the near future to review the components. The input sessions have included students, staff, and community members and were held at each campus and center. The collected information will be synthesized and brought back to the Board to discuss. Common themes that have come out of the input sessions were shared. One of the themes is the future of in-person versus online education. Schmailzl discussed possibilities for the Sarpy Center, Applied Technology Center (ATC), and Elkhorn Valley (EVC) campuses. MCC is getting a broker opinion of value (BOV) for all locations to fully understand the value of the current assets for future decision making.

Gotschall mentioned a former student was asking about remote options to allow flexibility for sickness, weather, work schedules, etc. Board members shared several suggestions to consider. McDonnell answered that MCC currently has five learning modes. The question being discussed is what does in-person look like going forward and can the

model be flexed? McDermitt thanked the staff and administration for continuously learning and growing in education delivery to help students be successful. Reinhardt asked why a BOV was chosen instead of a full appraisal. Schmailzl said it was due to bonding and a requirement in the RFP. Brown added a BOV is the initial step for discovery and could lead to a full appraisal later.

A real estate utilization strategy is underway to help understand the dynamics of corporate partnerships and funding, state legislation, state law, and different types of partnerships to meet workforce needs. Schmailzl shared some possible types of partnerships that would be feasible at the various campus locations, including the new Sarpy property site.

Jim Thibodeau, associate vice president for compliance and general counsel, has recently been in contact with the county assessor to remove the Sarpy property from tax rolls, now that the development process has begun. Beginning next year property taxes will not need to be paid on this property. Gotschall asked why agricultural status was lost on the property because being a higher education institution agriculture may be something considered in the future. Thibodeau stated agricultural land is not allowed inside city limits and the land category changed when the City of Papillion annexed the area of land.

Since the two main campuses have already been addressed through prior master plans, Schmailzl provided an overview of various “outer loop” MCC sites and discussions that are occurring regarding how to re-energize and best utilize the spaces.

A conceptual study was shared to help the Board members see possibilities at the new Sarpy site. Schmailzl discussed options and mentioned that discussions with the City of Papillion, donors, and corporations are happening. He added that industry conversations have revealed the regional drawing power of strong community college training programs, which supports potential relocation of certain programs. A public-private housing arrangement like the one at UNO’s Aksarben campus could be used to provide affordable housing for students. This property will also need to have a maintenance building, central plant, classroom buildings, and administration buildings. The City of Papillion will take the lead to fund the major roads through the property.

Gotschall asked if commercial businesses leasing College property could be incentivized to hire MCC students. Schmailzl said that is a topic that has come up in discussions as these companies will need workers. Gotschall asked if the ATC could be repurposed for the microchip training. Schmailzl answered that yes, the ATC could be repurposed; however, he stressed the College will not be involved in selecting or managing the microchip factory locations; rather, MCC could provide supplemental training at MCC sites. Wright inquired about how soon the Sarpy property will be ready for operation. Schmailzl said the property needs to be platted. Within a year a corner of the property and roads constructed could start, but funds need to be raised. It is possible the property could be fully developed in 25 years. DuPree mentioned she likes the possibility of student housing. Schmailzl talked briefly about the Scott housing at Aksarben where

MCC students in the Toyota T-Ten program are currently housed. McDermitt asked if Marriott would be interested in building a site and partnering with hospitality/culinary programs. She added it is important to not take donors for granted. Uhe commented there are lots of opportunities in the area, and hospitality is definitely a needed industry.

Path Forward

Tom McDonnell, vice president for academic affairs, provided a contextual overview of today's *Path Forward* initiative. Path Forward, is a multi-year journey to recalibrate systems to make success the default for students. This is a college-wide initiative to support both credit and non-credit students. McDonnell explained that when we started the initiative, we knew that students fell into three broad categories: those with clear goals, those with vague goals, and those who wanted to figure out their goals. Today, thanks to Path Forward improvements, we can better identify students' goal-clarity levels and offer them better guidance. The IT modernization project is part of this effort to ensure students receive the technology-enabled supports they need and want. Path Forward also aligns with the Board's priorities for all students to feel supported and welcome. Path Forward has four principles: simplify educational pathways, help students get on a path, help students stay on their path, and ensure students are learning. When Path Forward began, half the students were in the general studies degree program, and now students are making more purposeful selections, leading to better completion rates. McDonnell provided an overview and progress update on each principle. Gotschall thanked McDonnell and shared his experience as a student. McDonnell said one focus area is academic transfer, a more appropriate alternative to the general studies degree that is not designed to transfer to other institutions. DuPree asked what percentage of students who do not return in a given year return at a later time. McDonnell answered some students job out or transfer out before they earn a degree. MCC has a partnership with UNO so that students who meet MCC's resident requirements can subsequently transfer UNO credits back to MCC to receive their associate's degree – a success for all involved.

2023-2024 Budget

Schmailzl covered the early considerations for the 2023-24 budget. He compared revenue considerations as projected in the 2022-23 budget book with revenue considerations if LB783 were to pass. The tuition and fee history was reviewed. He said a recommendation for the two-year tuition plan will be presented for the Board's approval at the April Board meeting. It is up to the Board to set the tuition and fee rates. The Board had no questions about the budget.

Agenda Item 3b—Legislative Updates

Schmailzl provided a legislative update and noted that LB783 was designed to eliminate property tax levies for community colleges. After many conversations since the committee hearing, the most recent amendment would allow the Board to maintain their authority, keep the two-cent capital tax levy active, and allow the community colleges to approve a tax levy if the state fails to provide full funding. Gotschall asked what the issue is with continuing with the tax credit. Schmailzl responded that people did not like

requesting a tax credit after already paying their taxes. LB783 did not get prioritized, so the most recent amendment would need to be added to another bill. Board members asked clarifying questions to better understand the amendment and its implications.

Hohman updated the Board on the 30th Street car wash property. A public hearing, separate from a regular Board meeting, will need to be held 30 days before closing, but Board members need not attend. Updates will continue to be shared with Board.

Agenda Item 3c—Demographic Data for Districts

Pat Crisler, chief of staff, pointed out the annual data report provided by the College's Institutional Research department, reflecting statistics for the 2021-22 academic year. Wright asked about the pie charts showing student goals, specifically the number of students listed as "undecided." Crisler noted that those percentages should begin shifting over time as the Path Forward initiative improvements have time to work.

Agenda Item 3d—Board Policy 60205 Personnel Appointments and Separations

Thibodeau introduced potential procedural changes the administration would like to make to Board Policy 60205, so it aligns more directly with state law. Thibodeau shared some history and concerns regarding the monthly resolutions brought to the Board reflecting personnel appointments and separations. He differentiated between information required by state law and what is required by Board policy. Administration would like the Board to consider ceasing the practice of listing appointments of administrative/professional employees, listing salaries, and listing separations and to delegate authority to the College President to accept resignations. The next step would be to follow the amendment process which requires two readings and Board approval on final revisions. Several Board members mentioned it would be nice to see who is coming and going as information rather than as a resolution that requires Board action. McDermitt agreed this is an opportunity to omit information that is not legally required. DuPree stated that her initial reaction is that transparency in salary information is a good thing. Thibodeau said there are a lot of objective factors considered when determining an employee's salary, that are not reflected on the current resolution. Uhe mentioned the Board has access to the hiring and salary data if requested.

Agenda Item 4—Adjournment

MOTION: Klein moved to adjourn the meeting; Reinhardt seconded the motion.

Kristen DuPree, yes
Adam Gotschall, yes
Phillip Klein, yes
Theresa Love-Hug, yes
Linda McDermitt, Assistant Secretary, yes
Maureen Monahan, Treasurer, yes
Zach Reinhardt, yes

Fred Uhe, Chair, yes
Tammy Wright, yes
Brad Ashby, Vice Chair, yes

Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Adam Gotschall, Secretary, Board of Governors

Date

**AFFIDAVIT OF TRANSMISSION OF NOTICE OF
MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA**

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) SS
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

Julie Lanxon, being first duly sworn upon oath deposes and states as follows:

1. That pursuant to direction received from the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area, I caused the following Notice to wit:

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area will hold a workshop on Saturday, March 25, 2023, commencing at 9:00 o'clock AM, at the Fort Omaha Campus, 32nd & Sorensen Parkway, in the Mule Barn, Building 21, Room 112, Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, which meeting will be open to the public.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area will meet on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, commencing at 6:30 o'clock PM, at the Fort Omaha Campus, 32nd & Sorensen Parkway, in the Mule Barn, Building 21, Room 112, Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, which meeting will be open to the public.

Agendas for such meetings, kept continually current, are readily available for public inspection at the principal office of said Board of Governors, 30th & Fort Streets, Building 30, Omaha, Nebraska, during normal business hours.

Fred Uhe
Chair, Board of Governors

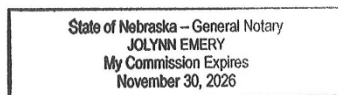
to be published in *Omaha World-Herald* on March 15, 2023; and that the order to said newspaper was made by electronic transmission on March 13, 2023.

1. That on March 15, a copy of such Notice was addressed and sent by e-mail or, if so requested, by personal delivery to each member of the Board of Governors.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Julie Lanxon

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 15th day of March, 2023



Jolynn Emery
Notary Public



AFFIDAVIT

State of Washington, County of Whatcom, ss:

I, Leo Hentschker being of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath, hereby depose and say that I am agent of Column Software, PBC, duly appointed and authorized agent of the Publisher of Omaha World Herald, a legal daily newspaper printed and published in the county of Douglas and State of Nebraska, and of general circulation in the Counties of Douglas, and Sarpy and State of Nebraska, and that the attached printed notice was published in said newspaper on the dates stated below and that said newspaper is a legal newspaper under the statutes of the State of Nebraska.

PUBLICATION DATES:
15 Mar 2023

NOTICE NAME: 03 2023 Wkshp and Meeting Notices

PUBLICATION FEE: \$50.03

Leo Hentschker
(Signed)

VERIFICATION

State of Washington
County of Whatcom

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me on this: 03/15/2023

[Signature]

Notary Public

This notarial act involved the use of communication technology

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Fred Uhe
Chair, Board of Governors

KELSEY D KLEVENBERG, (3) 15 - Wednesdays, ZNEZ
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF WASHINGTON
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COMMISSION EXPIRES 10/19/2026