**District No. 15**

**Wenatchee, Washington**

**WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board Meeting**

June 11, 2025

Lucy Covington Government Center, Nespelem

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Trustees Present:

Paula Arno Martinez

Phylicia Hancock Lewis

Tamra Jackson

Also Present:

Cabinet Members

Colville Business Council Members

Tribal Members

**ABSCENT**

Wilma Cartagena (excused)

Steve Zimmerman (excused)

**BOARD WORK SESSION – 10:00 am**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**WELCOME**

**LANGUAGE/COLLEGE IN THE CLASSROOM**

**College in the Classroom** is now in its eighth year. Cal Goolsby shared that students take pride in their native language and commended them for their efforts in sharing and preserving it.

Tammy James expressed interest in further strengthening the program. The success of College in the Classroom is due in part to the inability to offer Running Start because of the mountain pass. She would like to see more high school students have the opportunity to earn both high school and college credits.

**HIGH SCHOOL+ UPDATE**

Calleigh LaFountain was introduced as the new instructor for the **High School+ program in Nespelem**. This program allows Adult Basic Education students to earn high school credits and graduate with a high school diploma. Since Instructor LaFountain’s start in January, four students have graduated, and two more are close to completion.

Brief updates were also provided on the following programs:

* **Early Childhood Education**
* **Natural Resources**

**POST TENURE REPORT**

Kestrel Smith, American Indian Indigenour Studies Faculty, presented on her post tenure work.

**UPDATES**

* **Strategic Plan:** Tammy James reported on the integration of the tribal strategic plan into Wenatchee Valley College’s plan. President Harrison emphasized the need for greater intentionality in this work.
* **Indian Education Summer Teaching Institute:** Trustees were informed that the Summer Teaching Institute is returning for the first time since 2016. Over 100 participants have registered. Jean Armstrong will deliver the opening session.
* **Native American Classic:** Tammy James expressed interest in continuing Coach Vargas’ vision. Elders will participate by sharing tribal and Indigenous history with student-athletes.

**ACTION/SECOND READ**

**2025-2026 ASWVC & ASWVCO S&A Budget**

Members from the Wenatchee and Omak Student Government presented their role in developing the 2025–2026 ASWVC Budget.

**Continued Spending Resolution**

Due to uncertainty at both the state and federal levels, the 2025–2026 budget has not yet been finalized. Brett Riley reported that he will continue to monitor developments, noting that a limited budget is expected in the fall, with a major variable being the outcome of deliberations in the state senate. Mr. Riley also informed the Board that the college has an outstanding repayment of $1.7 million resulting from an accounting error dating back to 2021.

Chair Paula Arno Martinez requested a detailed report on the 2021 error and asked that Fred Negahbat, Fiscal Budget Analyst and Internal Auditor, provide his assessment.

Fred Negahbat explained the issue resulted from double billing and a lack of reconciliations following the transition to ctcLink in 2021. CLA was contracted to perform the reconciliations and discovered the error. Mr. Negahbat emphasized that, had reconciliations occurred in 2021, the issue would have been identified at that time. However, resources were not available to complete the reconciliation following the transition to ctcLink.

At the request of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Negahbat presented two possible options for repaying the $1.7 million overpayment:

1. **Reserve Funds** – Cover the repayment directly from reserves.
2. **General Fund** – Use general fund dollars, with the understanding that additional support may ultimately be required from reserves.

Mr. Negahbat recommends option two as he noted that the June payroll has not yet been distributed.

**TRUSTEE COMMUNICATION**

This year’s ACCT Leadership Congress Conference will be in New Orleans. The annual ACCT Conferences are an important opportunity for trustees to participate in collaboration with colleagues across Washington State and to review key policy issues. All trustees have expressed interest in attending.

Board Chair Paula Arno Martinez currently serves as the President-Elect of Washington State’s Association of College Trustees.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER: 3:31 P.M.**

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**May 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Trustee Phylicia Hancock Lewis moved that the minutes of the May 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Tamra Jackson and carried unanimously.

MOTION NO. 2398

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Dr. Faimous Harrison, President**

President Harrison stated that he will continue reviewing the financial audits. He expressed support for Mr. Negahbat’s recommendation to use reserve funds to address the financial error, contingent upon receiving a detailed analysis.

**Brett Riley, Vice President of Administrative Services**

In addition to Mr. Riley’s written report, she invited the trustees to attend the CTEI Groundbreaking ceremony.

**Dr. Tod Treat, Vice President of Instruction**

Dr. Treat did not add to his written report.

**Dr. Diana Garza, Vice President of Student Affairs**

Dr. Garza did not add to her written report.

**Lisa Turner, Interim Executive Director of Human Resources**

In addition to Ms. Turner’s written report, she shared that $31,000 of professional development funds were awarded thanks to the Wenatchee Foundation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments

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

**2025 - 2026 ASWVC & ASWVCO Student & Activity Fee Budget**

The 2025–2026 Student and Activity Budget was presented to the Board for a first reading during the May work session, where trustees had the opportunity to ask additional questions.

Trustee Tamra Jackson moved to approve the 2025-2026 ASWVC & ASWVCO Student & Activity Fee Budget**.** The motion was seconded by Trustee Hancock Lewis and carried unanimously.

MOTION NO. 2399

**2025 – 2026 Student Tuition and Fees**

The 2025-2026 25 Tuition and Fees set forward by the state were reviewed in detail during the board work session.

Trustee Tamra Jackson moved to approve the 2025 – 2026 Student Tuition and Fees. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hancock Lewis and carried unanimously.

MOTION NO. 2400

**2025 – 2026 Tuition and Fee Waivers**

The 2025-2026 25 Tuition and Fees Waivers were reviewed in detail during the board work session.

Trustee Tamra Jackson moved to approve the 2025 – 2026 Tuition and Fee Waivers. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hancock Lewis and carried unanimously.

MOTION NO. 2401

**Continued Spending Resolution**

With our 2024-25 approved budget expiring June 30, the college requests temporary spending authority from the board to allow essential college services to continue until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting in September.

The Board tabled the action item, deferring it to a special meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT – 3:40**

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Secretary Date Chair Date