
Western Dakota Technical College prepares students to be highly-skilled professionals through accessible, career-focused programs to improve their lives, while adapting to community workforce needs and positively impacting our economy.

The Western Dakota Tech Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 8:15 a.m., at the Western Dakota Tech campus in the Pennington County Room. The board trustees in attendance included: Tenise Chapman, Lynn Kendall, Linda Rabe, Jeff Rieckman, Mike Roesler, Andy Scull, and Dr. Steve Willard. Absent with notice: Andrea Powers. WDTC leadership staff included: Kirk Easton, Dr. Kendra Ericson, Donna Hanks, Tiffany Howe, Kelly Oehlerking, and Debbie Toms. Others present included: Kathi Maxson, Jill Elder, Missy Ginsbach, Julie Penney, Noelle Simmons, and Dave Viall.

8:00 a.m. – Breakfast

8:15 a.m. – Board Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Willard called the meeting to order at 8:15 am with call to order and roll call.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda by Kendall, seconded by Rieckman. Motion Carried (6-0).

3. **OATH OF OFFICE**

Judge Heidi Linngren administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed board member Chapman and reappointed board member Willard.

4. **SINCE DIE FOR PURPOSE OF ELECTING BOARD CHAIR**

The meeting under Willard's leadership was adjourned for President Ericson to facilitate the formal election of the Board Chair for 2026-27.

President Ericson thanked Dr. Willard for his service as Chair.

5. **ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR**

Willard nominated Roesler for 2026-27 Board Chair and that a unanimous vote be cast and all nominations cease. Seconded by Rieckman. Motion Carried (7-0).

6. **ELECTION OF BOARD VICE CHAIR**

Chairman Roesler called for nominations for the 2026-27 Vice Chair.

Rabe nominated Powers for 2026-27 Vice Chair, seconded by Kendall. Rieckman nominated Willard for Vice Chair, seconded by Scull. Board members briefly discussed the nominations. A ballot vote was conducted. Powers received two (2) votes, and Willard received five (5) votes. Willard was elected as the 2026-27 Vice Chair.

7. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Chairman Roesler asked if any trustee had potential conflicts. None were disclosed.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

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9. **APPROVAL ITEM: CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. [Minutes from June 10, 2026 Meeting](#)
- b. [Bills to Pay](#)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Willard, seconded by Scull. Motion Carried (7-0).

10. **APPROVAL ITEM:** Annual Review of [Open Meeting Laws](#) - Acknowledgement (SDCL 1-25-13)

Motion made by Scull and seconded by Rieckman to approve the Acknowledgement of the Open Meeting Laws. Motion Carried (7-0).

11. **EX OFFICIO MEMBER UPDATES**

- a. Foundation – Dave Viall, Foundation Chair, shared that they recently interviewed two potential new board members. The Foundation submitted the [monthly update](#).
- b. Faculty Representative – Absent.
- c. RCAS Representative – Absent.
- d. Student Representative – Absent.

12. **FINANCE REPORT**

- a. [Personnel Disclosure per SDCL 6-1-10](#)
- b. [FY27 Annual Salary Report](#)

Kathi presented the monthly financial report. The monthly personnel disclosure and the FY27 salary report was shared.

13. **PRESIDENT REPORT**

President Ericson provided updates and solicited discussion on the board appointment process and legislative updates, and the RFP approval process. The consensus of the Board was that when the College issues a request for proposals (RFP) for competitive purposes that is not required by the state, the Board will be informed when the RFP is issued, and Board approval will be sought before awarding the contract to the selected vendor. State required RFPs will continue to follow the existing two-step approval process, with Board approval required before the RFP is advertised and again before awarding the contract.

14. **RETREAT ITEMS**

- a. New Board Member Orientation

Chair Roesler facilitated an overview of Board member responsibilities and procedures, with additional input provided by Board members.

- b. Break

- c. Campus Master Plan Presentation

President Ericson shared the status of the Campus Master Plan progress and college discussion that has occurred thus far. Jeremy Altman with Architecture Incorporated

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presented on the Campus Master Plan Update including the project scope, trades facility study, process timeline, a two-phase approach, and next steps.

d. Executive Session - President's 2025-26 Evaluation

Motion by Willard, seconded by Rabe, to enter Executive Session at 11:12 a.m., per SDCL 1-25-2(1) Discussing the qualifications, competence, performance, character or fitness of any public officer or employee or perspective public officer or employee and SDCL 1-25-2(4) Preparing for contract negotiations or negotiating with employees or employee representatives. Motion Carried (7-0). Kirk Easton, Interim Executive Vice President, remained in attendance.

The Executive Session concluded at 12:21 p.m.

e. Lunch Break

f. Strategic Planning

Foundation board members Joana Wiseman, Zach Greager, and Keith Robbennolt attended the afternoon session.

i. Current Strategic Plan 2021-26

Kelly Oehlerking, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success, presented an update on institutional goals, highlighting those that were met, partially met, and not met. Enrollment and full-time equivalent (FTE) trend data was reviewed.

ii. SWOT

President Ericson presented SWOT response themes from the internal and external survey.

iii. Marketing Strategy

Debbie Toms, Vice President for Data Strategy and Enrollment, presented information on digital ads and new and upcoming advertising activities. Quarterly analytics will be shared.

iv. New/Expanding Programs

Tiffany Howe, Vice President for Teaching & Learning, presented on potential program expansions, and potential new programs in trades and healthcare,

Rieckman left the meeting at 3:02 pm.

v. Mission Statement

The Consensus of the Board is they support condensing the Mission Statement. The leadership team will work on identifying the target audience and will work with the college campus to review the Mission Statement.

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Retreat Wrap-up & Discussion - President Ericson concluded the retreat and stated that she anticipates bringing an update back to the Board by March 2027.

15. **AGENDA ITEM SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING**

No suggestions at this time.

16. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

August 12, 2026 | 11:30 AM | Pennington County Room

17. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board did not enter Executive Session.

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

Willard moved, seconded by Rabe, to adjourn at 3:46 p.m. Motion Carried (6-0).



Board Chair