

MINUTES OF MEETING
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020
TELECONFERENCE

Members Present: Caleb Frostman, Douglas Holton, Sr., Becky Levzow, Terry McGowan, Rodney Pasch, Cooper Richason, Carolyn Stanford Taylor, Kelly Tourdot, S. Mark Tyler, Stephen Willett, Mary Williams.

Members Absent: Eve Hall, John Schwantes.

System Office Staff Present: Dan Arneson, Judy Barbian, Hilary Barker, Terese Craig, Monique Currie, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Stephanie Glynn, Nickelle Haffey, Mandy Johnson, Mark Johnson, Tou Ya Khang, Colleen Larsen, Colleen McCabe, Katy Pettersen, Anna Richter, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Conor Smyth, Kyle Stahl, Brandon Trujillo, Julie Tyznik, Ann Westrich, Angela White, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Bruce Barker, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Vernon Jung, Angie Lawrence, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Brian Litza, Susan May, Fox Valley Technical College; Bryan Albrecht, Gateway Technical College; Rick Anderson, Karen Brzezinski, Bobbi Damrow, Nikki Garrity, Ryan Huser, Kim Johnson, Mandy Lang, Shelly Mondeik, Luke Mroczenski, Bradley Russell, Chris Severson, Missy Skurzewski-Servant, Deb Stencil, Chris Stines, Angie Susa, Mike Vilcinskas, Mid-State Technical College; Danielle Bergner, Janice Falkenberg, Vicki Martin, Matt Schneider, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Richard Nelson, Nicolet Area Technical College; Lori Weyers, Northcentral Technical College; Mohammed Bey, Jeff Rafn, Kathryn Rogalski, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; Jason Wood, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College; Kaylen Betzig, Waukesha County Technical College; Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Mark Mandler, Helen Pullen, Wisconsin Department of Health Services; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; John Will, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College; Ann Ilagan, Wisconsin Student Government.

Board President Levzow called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Conor Smyth revisited instructions to help ensure a smooth meeting. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

Board President Levzow recognized Ann Ilagan, Mid-State Technical College student and Wisconsin Student Government President, who is in attendance of the meeting.

Board President Levzow thanked Mid-State Technical College (Mid-State) President Dr. Shelly Mondeik and her team for helping to feature Mid-State during the meeting. President Mondeik welcomed the Board and shared a brief update on Mid-State's pandemic response.

ITEM A: Approval of the July 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Stanford Taylor, that the July 8, 2020 meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM B: Report of the Board President

Board President Levzow shared that the colleges continue to educate and graduate students throughout Wisconsin, having first-hand experience by welcoming two new technical college graduates at Meriter Hospital in Madison, one from Blackhawk and one from Chippewa Valley.

Board President Levzow thanked Board members who served on the Budget Development and Strategic Directions Work Groups. Levzow also thanked System President Foy for her regular updates for the Board, and thanked staff for communication being shared in WTCS In-Brief.

Levzow asked Board members to mark their calendars for November 2, at 7:00 pm for the WTCS Ambassador YouTube Premiere event. The YouTube Premiere will follow an adapted, virtual leadership development experience for the Ambassadors earlier that day. Mr. Smyth will promote access information.

Finally, Levzow expressed appreciation for the organizers of the WTCS Virtual 5K Run/Walk, saying it was a great concept for a morale builder.

Virtual Board meetings will now include multiple breaks. If Board members have other suggestions for improving virtual meetings, they can contact Board President Levzow or Julie Drake.

Dr. Hall's Board of Regents report for July and August were included in the Board folders for review.

ITEM C: 2021-2022 Board Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Board Member Frostman, seconded by Board Member Holton, to adopt the WTCS Board meeting schedule for 2021-2022. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM D: Report of the System President

All 16 WTCS colleges have gone to great lengths to create safe and effective learning environments this fall. Approaches vary and changed in real time based on public health guidance and the communities served. The colleges continue to have a robust web presence to share up-to-date information with stakeholders. Additional information will be shared during the Presidents' Association report.

The System's work on its "Commitment to Progress" in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion continues, including:

- A "Leadership for Equity" panel discussion featuring national speakers Dr. Michael Baston, President of Rockland Community College, and Dr. Bill Scroggins, President of Mt. San Antonio College.
- An "Equity in the Classroom" webinar series, hosted by WTCS and sponsored by the 60 Forward initiative, planned for early November.
- The national "Reskilling and Recovery Network," launched by the American Association of Community Colleges and the National Governors Association and supported by the Lumina and Siemens Foundations. The Network will link Governors' offices, 2-year colleges and workforce leaders to help workers navigate transformational economic changes caused by the pandemic and address equity disparities that have increased during the economic and health crisis.

Following the Board's July meeting, the U. S. Department of Education approved WTCS' "Ability to Benefit" plan. Ability to Benefit is a federal provision that provides adults the opportunity to complete a high school

credential while starting college at the same time, with the option to access federal financial aid. In Wisconsin, more than 295,000 adults age 18 – 64 don't have a high school diploma, leaving many families below the poverty line. WTCS Associate Vice President Terese Craig and her team led the successful planning process.

ITEM E: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association (DBA) Executive Director Layla Merrifield updated the Board on recent activities.

The DBA Summer Meeting was held in a virtual format on July 24, highlighting K-12 partnerships.

The DBA Annual planning meeting took place August 28 in a hybrid of in-person and virtual participants. Merrifield thanked Presidents Foy and Mondeik for attending and helping to align trustee efforts with the System and the Presidents Association.

Merrifield again thanked System President Foy and the System Board for including DBA on the Biennial Budget Development work group.

ITEM F: WTCS Presidents' Association

Mid-State Technical College President Shelly Mondeik, current President of the Association, updated the Board on recent activities.

The Presidents continue to focus on addressing pandemic-related changes to college operations, along with the effect on enrollments. The colleges continue to follow CDC guidelines and those of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and local health departments, while also emphasizing shifting student support services in a way that meets the needs of students learning primarily online.

The colleges also continue to focus on equity and inclusion, including taking advantage of the System-presented "Working As One" webinar series, for which every college president offered a video message of support in a production partnership with the colleges' Marketing Consortium. In addition, Presidents are working with System President Foy and Merrifield to advocate for the colleges in the Capitol.

Board member Richason asked about morale among college faculty and staff. Mondeik reported that despite unprecedented disruption and difficult circumstances around the pandemic, morale remains relatively high. Faculty and staff are focused on students and on supporting one another.

Board member Pasch praised the colleges' response and student focus. Board member Williams noted her appreciation for a Mid-State student scholarship video referenced by Mondeik, who will share the link with Board members.

After a brief break the Board resumed at 8:55 a.m.

ITEM G: Mid-State Technical College Presentation

Mid-State President Dr. Shelly Mondeik noted that the college opened in 1913 with the mission to deliver programs and apprenticeships that would transform the regional economy in the eight counties served by Mid-State. The college currently enrolls approximately 7,000 students – making it one of the System's smaller colleges – in in-demand programs including manufacturing, health care and Information Technology. Mondeik detailed the college's core values, also noting the college's work with incarcerated populations.

The college takes pride in serving Wisconsin Rapids, Marshfield, Stevens Point, Adams-Friendship and the surrounding communities. Mondeik noted the current emphasis on assuring that students can continue to learn and complete programs during the pandemic, providing emergency grants when needed and maintaining the goal of delivering uninterrupted education in 2020-21.

Mondeik introduced Mid-State Civil Engineering graduate Luke Mroczenski, the college's 2020 WTCS Ambassador. Mroczenski is currently an adjunct faculty member at Mid-State, teaching pre-algebra courses and serving as an academic coach while he pursues a master's degree online. He was previously a graduate of UW-La Crosse.

As WTCS works to renew its Strategic Directions for the next five-year period, Board President Lezvow asked Mroczenski what he and other students need from education providers in the next five years.

Mroczenski shared four points: leveraging technology to increase accessibility; getting that technology (hardware, Wi-Fi) into students' hands, as well as instruction in how to use it; maintaining inclusion as a focus, creating a welcoming campus environment; and emphasizing and prioritizing life ("soft") skills in education.

Board member Holton asked what, as a new instructor, has been the biggest challenge. Mroczenski said that it can be challenging to meet individual learners' needs, which vary widely.

Board President Lezvow presented the WTCS Board's *Futuremaker Partner* award to Aspirus Riverview Hospital and Clinics, with President Chris Stines and Chief Nursing Officer Kim Johnson on-hand with Mondeik to receive the award. The partnership between Mid-State and Aspirus has endured and thrived for more than three decades, with Aspirus staff currently serving as members on seven different Mid-State program advisory committees and offering clinical spots and scholarships to Mid-State students.

Lezvow asked Stines how he sees the hospital's education needs changing over the next five years. Stines cited the importance of education institutions' ability to adapt with the employers, and to adopt the technology that now drives health care delivery. He also talked about the shift from in-patient to outpatient delivery, and the importance of life skills that Mroczenski had cited, specifically mentioning customer focus and managing stress.

Board Member Frostman left the meeting.

ITEM H: 2021-23 Biennial Budget Request

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra shared the budget schedule and thanked Board Members Lezvow, Holton, Tyler, Williams and

WTCS Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo provided the Board an overview of the 2021-23 biennial budget request for fire service certification. WTCS is requesting an increase of \$50,000 to the WTCS firefighter training state operations appropriation, which is funded from the 2% fire dues program, in each year of the biennium to acquire up-to-date fire certification software. Board Members Holton and Williams voiced support for the request and encouraged Board Members to support it.

WTCS Policy Advisor Monique Currie provided the Board an overview of the Regulatory Relief request, a non-fiscal item that requests statutory changes to eliminate or modify the frequency of seven different reports identified in the budget paper, which would create efficiencies and reduce administrative costs. Board Members Tyler and Lezvow encouraged Board Members to support this request.

Currie then provided an overview of the System's Rebuilding the Economy, Expanding Opportunity request. WTCS is requesting \$12 million in GPR funding in 2021-22 and \$12 million in 2022-23. These funds would be

used for grants to district boards to provide education and academic support for approximately 2,000 technical college students each year of the biennium. The initiative also requests elimination of the statutory requirement that the WTCS Board and University of Wisconsin (UW) Board of Regents approve the expansion of Associate of Arts or Associate of Science programs at WTCS colleges.

Board Member Tyler acknowledge Currie's efforts in writing a complex budget paper. Board Member Willett noted that the Associate Degree topic has come up before, without consensus. President Foy noted changes in the higher education landscape, in Wisconsin and nationally, including students' needs and expectations.

It was moved by Board Member Williams to approve the 2021-23 WTCS Biennial Budget request for submission to the Department of Administration, seconded by Board Member Holton. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM I: WAT and Apprenticeship Grant Guidelines

WTCS Grants Manager Tou Ya Khang provided an overview of the guidelines for WAT and Apprenticeship grants for 2021-22.

Updates and changes made to the FY 2021-22 grant guidelines for Apprentice related instruction include:

- revised triannual report due dates; and
- addition of information regarding the WTCS "Apply Portal," the System's new automated grant administration system.

Updates and changes made to the FY 2021-22 grant guidelines for WAT include:

- updated application due date;
- updated deadline for grant recipients to submit a formal budget revision to de-obligate unused FY 2021-22 funds; and
- addition of information regarding the WTCS "Apply Portal," the System's new automated grant administration system.

It was moved by Board Member Tourdot, seconded by Board Member Tyler, to adopt the funding categories for the WAT and Apprenticeship grant programs for fiscal year 2021-22, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

After a brief break, the Board resumed at 11:00 a.m.

ITEM J: Consent Agenda

It was moved by Board Member Williams, seconded by Board Member Richason, that the Board approve the program and facilities development requests as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM K: Milwaukee Area Technical College –Review Lease of Facilities in Downtown Milwaukee

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the proposed lease of facilities for student housing in downtown Milwaukee.

It was moved by Board Member McGowan, seconded by Board Member Williams, that the Board finds the Milwaukee Area Technical College's proposed lease of facilities for student housing in Downtown Milwaukee as reasonable. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM L: Chippewa Valley Technical College – Review New Construction and Remodeling in Eau Claire

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon introduced the first of a two-phase review at the CVTC West Campus region. It reflects the majority of funding approved by voters in the spring 2020 referendum.

CVTC President Bruce Barker provided an overview of the two projects up for review: Construction of Transportation Education Center for auto technicians, auto collision repair and other transportation-related programs; and the Emergency Services Education Center for law enforcement, criminal justice, fire services, fire medic and paramedic/EMT programs.

Board Member Holton asked if the Emergency Services facility will be certified to test firefighters for area departments. Barker assured it would. Board Member Williams thanked President Barker on behalf of those in the region from whom she's heard who have been seeking expanded truck driving training.

It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Holton, that the Board find the concept for Chippewa Valley technical College's proposed construction of a Transportation Education Center and an addition to, and remodeling of, the Emergency Services Education Center in Eau Claire as reasonable.

ITEM M: Teaching and Learning – Overview of EMS Programs

WTCS Education Director of EMS and Protective Services Programs Tim Weir was joined by Mid-State Technical College Associate Dean Rick Anderson, Fox Valley Technical College EMS Program Chair Brian Litza, and Helen Pullen of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The panel provided the Board with an overview of current opportunities for individuals to participate in initial and ongoing EMS training.

Weir gave an overview of state EMS and WTCS overview, noting that WTCS is a member of the State EMS Advisory Board. Pullen stated that the partnership between WTCS and DHS-EMS is structured under Wisconsin Administrative Code and a Memorandum of Understanding.

The panelists detailed that during the pandemic, WTCS, individual technical colleges and DHS have taken steps to identify and address barriers that students may encounter, develop an alternate exam process, adopt an online cognitive examination process for EMT and Advanced EMT, and implement contingency plans to meet accreditation requirements.

A specific milestone is that Wisconsin developed the first virtual EMT exam in the country. Since June, more than 530 EMT candidates tested using new technology and a new exam format. Exam processing time was decreased from 10 days to 1-3 days and most candidates received results in less than 24 hours, allowing them to apply for state licensure.

Panelists noted that the current focus in EMS is on diversifying the field, the significant increase in online education, no-cost online EMS instructor education, the use of portfolios to support Credit for Prior Learning and career pathway progression, and alternate clinical experiences and high-fidelity simulation in response to COVID-19 and limited access to clinical sites.

ITEM N: Strategic Directions Development – 2021-2025

WTCS Director of Strategic Advancement Conor Smyth recognized Board Work Group members Frostman, Hall, Pasch, Schwantes, Stanford Taylor, Tourdot and Tyler for the additional time they committed to helping advance the System’s Strategic Directions for 2021-2025.

The WTCS “Future Priorities” survey, designed to gather stakeholder input for the Board’s consideration, went live in early August. As of mid-September, more than 1,100 individuals had submitted responses, including students, employers, Board members, college leaders, faculty, college and System staff, community partners, taxpayers and others. The survey is live through September 30.

Board Members Stanford Taylor and Pasch recognized Smyth for his leadership in this process, noting that words in a document only have meaning to the extent they reflect the discussions throughout the process. Work Group members Stanford Taylor and Pasch believe they do.

The Board will be asked to approve the renewed set of Strategic Directions – including Mission, Vision and Values – at its November meeting.

ITEM O: Legislative Update

Due to time constraints, a written legislative update will be sent to the Board.

ITEM P: Announcements/Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 11, 2020 beginning at 8:00 a.m. It will be hosted in a virtual format and feature Northcentral Technical College.

It was moved by Board Member Williams, seconded by Board Member Pasch, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Drake
Recording Secretary