



Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

Board of Governors-Northeast Community College Area

4/10/2025 11:00 AMCDT

@ O'Neill Extended Campus, 505 E. Hwy. 20, O'Neill, NE 68763

Attendance

Present:

Members: Del Ames, Steve Anderson, Diane Davies, Dirk Petersen, Julie Robinson, Jeffrey Scherer, Nicole Sedlacek, Carol A. Sibbel, Pat Wojcik, Leah Barrett (remote), Scott Gray, Charlene Widener, David Cone, Mike Walkowiak, Lindsay Spiegel, Jerry Guenther, Diane Reikofski

Guests: Merri Schneider, Director of Extended Campus O'Neill; Taylor Bockman, Administrative Assistant O'Neill Extended Campus; Amber Marcellus, Nebraska Math Readiness Project (NMPR) Regional Coordinator; Paola Watson, ESL instructor-O'Neill; Michela Keeler-Strom, Dean of Academic Outreach; Lilliam Hoerle, Northeast student; Jaycee Reynolds, Northeast student; Alana Hoefer, Northeast student; Melissa Vosika, Northeast student; Brooklyn Kumm, Northeast student; Jace Rosenkrans, Northeast student; Bill Eby, Custodian/Maintenance Technician

Absent:

Members: Donovan Ellis, Terry F. Nelson

1. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

The Northeast Community College Board of Governors met for its regular session Board Meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2025, in Rooms 104/105 of the O'Neill Extended Campus, 505 E. Hwy. 20, O'Neill, NE 68763.

Chairperson Jeff Scherer convened the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Scherer led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Julie Robinson arrived at 11:10 a.m.

3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Pursuant to Nebraska Statute Section 84-1412, the public is advised that a copy of today's agenda and all reproducible printed material which will be discussed at today's meeting is located in Room 104/105 of the O'Neill Extended Campus and on the Northeast Community College website. Also available in Room 104/105 is a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act which is accessible to members of the public.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVE the Consent Agenda including:

- **Adopt** the Agenda of the April 10, 2025 meeting. Official Notice of the meeting is posted on the Northeast Community College website, published in the [Holt County Independent](#) on Thursday, March 27, 2025, and published in the [Norfolk Daily News](#) on Saturday, April 5, 2025.
- **APPROVE** Minutes of the March 13, 2025 meeting.
- **SECOND READING** and **APPROVAL** of **REVISIONS** to:
 - E-00, [Global Ends](#).

 [Board of Governors Meeting-March 13, 2025 Minutes .pdf](#)

 [E-00, Global Ends.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion moved by Pat Wojcik and motion seconded by Diane Davies.

Voting Yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Wojcik. Voting No: None. Absent: Ellis and Nelson. MOTION CARRIED.

5. BOARD EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

5.1. Educational Services Report

5.1.1. O'Neill Extended Campus overview (Guests: Merri Schneider, Director of Extended Campus, O'Neill)

 [O'Neill Extended Campus overview.pdf](#)

 [2022-2023 EC Matriculation Data.pdf](#)

 [2023-2024 EC Matriculation Data.pdf](#)

Staff at the O'Neill Extended Campus were introduced. Merri Schneider, Amber Marcellus, and Paola Watson provided a history of the O'Neill Extended Campus since it opened in 1996 and reported on the expansion of the Nebraska Math Readiness Project (NMRP), Dual Enrollment, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

6. Lunch

At 12:07 p.m., Chairperson Scherer declared the meeting recessed for lunch. As part of the Ownership Linkage activities, staff and students from the O'Neill Extended Campus joined the Board of Governors and administration for lunch.

Chairperson Scherer reconvened to the regular session at 1:08 p.m.

7. BOARD EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

7.1. Student Services Report

7.1.1. Commencement-Friday, May 9, 2025 (Presenters: Charlene Widener)

In the absence of Amanda Nipp, Dr. Charlene Widener provided a reminder that three commencement sessions will be held on Friday, May 9, 2025. Board members are asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to the 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., or 3:00 p.m. sessions and meet in Room 105 of the Cox Activities Center.

7.2. Administrative Services Report

7.2.1. Monthly Financial Report and Paid Bills (Presenters: Scott Gray)

 [Monthly Financial Report-March 31, 2025.pdf](#)

 [Paid Bills-March 2025.pdf](#)

Review was given to the Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes, and corresponding entries, providing a comprehensive review of the monthly financial activities.

7.2.2. Quarterly Financial Update (Presenters: Scott Gray)

 [2025-04-04 - YTD Budget v. Actual - General Fund.pdf](#)

The overall financial projection reflects a deficit for the year. Administration is taking steps to reduce personnel costs and align operating budgets with actual expenses. If full state funding for dual enrollment is not received, future discussions may include potentially charging for dual enrollment in the future. Discussion included the potential impact of changes to dual credit pricing. Board members indicated that even if the College reverted to the \$50/credit hour, it would still be a good value for students.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT on Board Education and Information

Individuals commenting on Board Education and Information are allowed three minutes each. Any member of the public wishing to address the Board of Governors may sign in and comment to the Board at this time.

No constituents were in attendance to address the Board of Governors with a public comment.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1. Governance Committee (Presenters: Dirk Petersen)

 [Board Governance Committee Meeting - March 27, 2025 Minutes.pdf](#)

The Governance Committee met on March 27, 2025 via Zoom.

- Content review was conducted on:
 - EL-07, Compensation and Benefits. Policy content was reviewed and there were no suggestions for revision.
 - EL-11, Land Development and Construction. The content of EL-10, Land Development and EL-11, Construction were reviewed by the Governance Committee. Items that appeared to be duplication were discussed, and the Governance committee recommended combining EL-10 and EL-11 into one policy.

Scott Gray provided a review of the two policies, showing the duplicative language and how it was incorporated into one cohesive policy. The proposed combined policy will be brought forward for first reading consideration at the May 8th Board of Governors meeting.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT on Committee Reports or Items for Decision:

Individuals commenting on Committee Reports or Items for Decision are allowed three minutes each. Any member of the public wishing to address the Board of Governors may sign in and comment to the Board at this time.

No constituents were in attendance to address the Board of Governors with a public comment.

11. ITEMS FOR DECISION

11.1. Monthly Financial Report and Paid Bills Report

APPROVE the Monthly Financial Report for March 31, 2025 and the Paid Bills Report for March 2025. Board members who received reimbursement during the month abstain from voting on those items only:

Ames, Del - \$106.40
Anderson, Steve - \$449.59
Davies, Diane - \$28.00
Ellis, Donovan - \$53.20
Nelson, Terry - \$123.20
Petersen, Dirk - \$341.60
Sedlacek, Nicole - \$110.60
Wojcik, Pat - \$1,642.39

 [Monthly Financial Report-March 31, 2025.pdf](#)

 [Paid Bills-March 2025.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion moved by Diane Davies and motion seconded by Dirk Petersen. Voting Yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Wojcik. Voting No: None. Absent: Ellis and Nelson. MOTION CARRIED.

12. OTHER

Other announcements and birthdays for the month.

Chairperson Scherer acknowledged board and staff member birthdays for the month of April.

13. Meeting Self-Evaluation

Board Meeting Self-Evaluation-April 10, 2025

14. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

14.1. President's monthly update (Presenters: Leah Barrett)

- Dr. Leah Barrett provided an update on legislative priorities, including the nameplate bill which is prioritized and expected to move forward quickly.
- Discussed the Governor's office request for a group to work on discussions related to the Department of Education's devolution. The group came together and made joint communication prioritizing support for Pell grants, FAFSA, and TRIO programs.
- Spoke about her positive experience serving on a panel of presidents during the NASPA Conference.
- Spoke about the potential for a program called Reconnect to help students who started college but never finished.
- Northeast student, Dylan Dubbs, has been selected for the Coca-Cola New Century Scholar for Workforce Development.
- Discussed the need to slow down the Cox Activities Center remodel project and to adjust the timeline to include the addition of sprinklers throughout the facility.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:55 p.m., with no further business to discuss, it was UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY VOICE VOTE to ADJOURN the meeting.