



## Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

Board of Governors-Northeast Community College Area

6/11/2026 9:00 AMCDT

@ Northeast Community College, South Sioux City Extended Campus, 1001 College Way, South Sioux City, NE 68776

### **Attendance**

#### **Present:**

Members: Del Ames - Secretary, Board of Governors, Steve Anderson - Member, Board of Governors, Diane Davies - Member, Board of Governors, Donovan Ellis - Chairperson, Board of Governors, Terry Nelson - Member, Board of Governors, Julie Robinson - Member, Board of Governors, Carol A. Sibbel - Member, Board of Governors, Pat Wojcik - Member, Board of Governors

#### **Absent-Excused:**

Members: Dirk Petersen - Member, Board of Governors, Jeffrey Scherer - Member, Board of Governors, Nicole Sedlacek - Vice-Chairperson, Board of Governors

#### **Staff:**

Leah Barrett - President, Scott Gray - Vice President, Administrative Services and General Counsel, Charlene Widener - Vice President, Educational Services, Amanda Nipp - Vice President, Student Services, Tracy Kruse - Vice President, Development and External Affairs, David Cone - CIO, Mike Walkowiak - Vice President, Human Resources & Organizational Development, Lindsay Spiegel - Director, Institutional Effectiveness, Jennifer Greve - Executive Director of Marketing and Recruitment, Diane Reikofski - Executive Assistant and Board Recording Secretary

#### **Guests:**

Katie Towler-Director-Extended Campus-South Sioux City, Kristy Sandman-Associate Director-Extended Campus-South Sioux City, Gage Weller-Custodial/Maintenance Technician-SSC, Jessie McCormick-Early College Navigator, Kristi Rastede-English instructor, Brenda Sale-Business and Community Engagement Liaison, Faye Kilday-Dean of Center for Teaching and Learning, Courtney Wittstruck-NCCA Executive Director, Avery Carl-Norfolk Daily News

1. Round table discussion with constituents (9:00-10:30 a.m.)

A roundtable discussion was held with constituents in the South Sioux City area. Results of the Gap Analysis were reviewed three years ago, and an update was

provided on the work being done to meet workforce needs. Discussion was held to identify additional opportunities to work together in the South Sioux City region.

2. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING (Presenters: Donovan Ellis)

Chairperson Ellis convened the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Presenters: Donovan Ellis)

Chairperson Ellis led the assembly in pledging their allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

4. OPEN MEETINGS ACT (Presenters: Donovan Ellis)

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 126 of the South Sioux City Extended Campus and on the Northeast Community College website. Also available in Room 126 is a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act which is accessible to members of the public.

5. CONSENT AGENDA (Presenters: Donovan Ellis)

**APPROVE** the Consent Agenda including:

- **Adopt** the Agenda of the June 11, 2026, meeting. Official Notice of the meeting is posted on the Northeast Community College website, published in the [Dakota County Star](#) on May 28, 2026, and published in the [Norfolk Daily News](#) on Saturday, June 6, 2026.
- **Approve** [Minutes of the May 14, 2026](#) meeting.
- **Approve** [Minutes of the May 18-19, 2026](#) meeting.

 [Board of Governors meeting-Minutes 05.14.2026.pdf](#)

 [Board of Governors Meeting - Special Meeting-Minutes 05.19.2026.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. (Julie Robinson voted yes via voice vote.)

Motion moved by Diane Davies and motion seconded by Carol A. Sibbel. Voting yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Nelson, Robinson, Sibbel, and Wojcik. Absent-Excused: Petersen, Scherer, Sedlacek. MOTION CARRIED.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

6.1. Monitoring Report(s) (Presenters: Leah Barrett)

[EL-09, Organizational Integrity  
Monitoring Report Summary](#)

 [EL-09 Organizational Integrity 06.2026.pdf](#)

 [Animal Care Program 2025 26.pdf](#)

 [Animal Use Protocols IACUC 2025 26.pdf](#)

Dr. Leah Barrett presented the monitoring report, [EL-09, Organizational Integrity](#), reporting operations are conducted in a lawful, ethical, and transparent manner. The report affirms compliance with applicable laws, regulations, accreditation standards, and Board policy. Ethical conduct, accountability, and responsible resources are reinforced expectations. Two reports of fraudulent or improper acts were submitted to the Human Resources office that have been or will be addressed. Provisions are also in place for reporting concerns, with protection against retaliation.

The Board of Governors assessed [EL-09, Organizational Integrity](#), and determined that evidence supports compliance with a reasonable interpretation.

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

President's Monthly Update [06.2026](#)

 [President's Monthly Update-June 2026.pdf](#)

Partnerships and Connections include:

- Susan Thompson Buffett Research Meeting.
- NSWERS - transitioning from President to Secretary/Treasurer.
- Continued engagement with 6 Regions, 1 Nebraska.
- Met with Governor Pillen.
- Work-based learning discussion between community college presidents and the Aksarben Foundation Board.

College Updates:

- Kids Collaborative - ready to launch in late August 2026.
- Ongoing Job Training & Safety efforts.
- Student-built homes sold at record price. One home sold for \$250,000 and will be moved to Wakefield. The second home sold for \$221,000 and will be moved to Pilger.
- Antisemitism Executive Order. Procedures and codes of conduct will need to be revised as a result.
- Workforce Pell discussions in Nebraska.
- Skills USA National Competition

- Iker Mendoza received gold in Electrical Construction/Motor Controls
- Connor Korth, Kyle Hubl, and Baster Beutler and Kreighton Simpson received bronze in Team Works.
- Jase Kotrous, Jaxen Halsey, and Brayden Schafer received 4th in Welding Fabrication.
- FBLA was recognized in the Top Ten Collegiate Chapters in the United States
- ELEVATE Apprenticeship Program - Northeast recognized for the CTE Program of the Year with Central and Southeast.

#### Federal Updates

- PELL Grant was expected to have a shortfall. \$16 billion was added to the program. Subsidized loans will be eliminated.
- Government has suggested to eliminate Adult Basic Education and Northeast will continue to advocate for continuance.
- Workforce Pell has been finalized.
- Requirements for data reporting are significant.
- American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) continue to talk about all of their advocacy to include community colleges in the Ag bill.
- Changes happening with the application for federal aid. FAFSA simplification was completed a few years ago. Students who apply now receive instant notification of award amount.
- Encouraged board members to participate in legislative webinars through ACCT.

#### Other

- Board of Governors Summer Retreat is scheduled for July 7 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held at Midwest Bank in Pierce.
- iHub Ribbon Cutting will be held on August 11 at 9:30 a.m.

## 7. BOARD EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

### 7.1. Administrative Services Report

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

CONSIDER the [Monthly Financial Report](#) for May 31, 2026, and the [Paid Bills Report](#) for May 2026. Board members who received

reimbursement during the month abstain from voting on those items only:

Ames, Del - \$319.00  
Anderson, Steve - \$68.15  
Davies, Diane - \$58.00  
Ellis, Donovan - \$295.80  
Nelson, Terry - \$63.80  
Robinson, Julie - \$64.40  
Scherer, Jeff - \$307.40  
Sedlacek, Nicole - \$407.45  
Sibbel, Carol - \$114.55  
Wojcik, Pat - \$651.05

 [Monthly Financial Report-May 2026.pdf](#)

 [Paid Bills-May 2026.pdf](#)

Scott Gray provided a review of the Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes, along with corresponding entries, providing a comprehensive review of the monthly financial activities.

Notable items with the Paid Bills Report include purchases of office equipment and furniture for the iHub, training equipment for the HVAC program, robotics equipment for Robotics program, as well as payment of registration and hotel rooms for students and instructors who participated in Skills USA competition.

**Motion:**

Motion to approve the May 31, 2026 Monthly Financial Report and the May 2026 Paid Bills Report as presented. Board members who received reimbursements during the month abstain from voting on those items only.

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

Voting yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Nelson, Robinson, Sibbel, and Wojcik. Absent-Excused: Petersen, Scherer, Sedlacek. MOTION CARRIED.

- 7.1.2. Use of cash on hand to continue operations of the College. (Presenters: Scott Gray)

Consider authorizing the use of cash on hand to continue operations of the College pending final approval of the 2026-2027 budgets in September 2026.

Because of the cyclical nature of our revenue, Northeast Community College does not receive Community College Future Fund (CCFF) or property tax payments in July or August. The end of the fiscal year occurs at the end of June; however, the 2026-2027 budget will not be approved until September 2026. The funds that are on hand are used to pay bills until the final budget is approved in September.

**Motion:**

Motion to authorize the use of cash on hand to continue operations of the College pending final approval of the 2026-2027 budgets in September 2026.

Motion moved by Carol A. Sibbel and motion seconded by Steve Anderson. Voting yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Nelson, Robinson, Sibbel, and Wojcik. Absent-Excused: Petersen, Scherer, Sedlacek. MOTION CARRIED.

7.1.3. Preliminary Capital Fund Budget discussion (Presenters: Scott Gray)

[Property Tax - Building Fund](#)

 [Property Tax - Building Fund.pdf](#)

Review of the preliminary Capital Fund Budget was provided by Scott Gray. Property taxes in the 20-county service area are expected to increase approximately 5.79% over the previous year.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT on Monitoring Report(s) or Board Education and Information

Individuals commenting on Monitoring Reports or 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)

- Governance Committee meeting notes-[June 2, 2026](#)
- Content Review:
  - [EL-03, Treatment of Employees](#) - no recommendations for revision.

## [Board Self-Evaluation Action Plan](#)

 [Board Governance Committee Meeting - June 2, 2026 Minutes.pdf](#)

 [EL-03 Treatment of Employees.pdf](#)

Governance Committee meet via Zoom on June 2, 2026.

Content review was conducted on EL-03, [Treatment of Employees](#). No changes were recommended.

The next meeting of the Governance Committee is scheduled for August 4, 2026.

### 9.2. Ownership Linkage Committee (Presenters: Pat Wojcik)

Ownership Linkage Committee [meeting notes-May 21, 2026](#)

 [Ownership Linkage Committee-Minutes 2026.05.21.pdf](#)

Ownership Linkage Committee met on May 21, 2026 via Zoom.

Discussion was held regarding the final details of the meeting that was held this morning in South Sioux City with constituents.

### 9.3. Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) report (Presenters: Courtney Wittstruck)

Consider [membership](#) in the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) for 2027.

 [NCCA.Proposed.Budget 2027.pdf](#)

Courtney Wittstruck, NCCA Executive Director, provided a review of the 2026 Legislative Session and reported that the 2027 Legislative Session will be a long session and will not end until June 2027.

Upcoming NCCA activities include:

- August 10th - NCCA Board of Directors-Strategic Planning Workshop
- October 4th - NCCA Annual Awards Ceremony - Scottsbluff
- October 5th- NCCA Annual Meeting

Nebraska's community colleges are required to notify the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) by July 1 if they decide to not be a member the following year. Membership in NCCA does provide value to Northeast and four other community colleges that would not otherwise be affordable.

**Motion:**

MOTION to recommend continued membership in the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) in 2027. (Julie Robinson and Pat Wojcik voted yes via voice vote.)

Motion moved by Diane Davies and motion seconded by Pat Wojcik. Voting yes: Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Nelson, Robinson, Sibbel, and Wojcik. Voting no: Ames. Absent-Excused: Petersen, Scherer, Sedlacek. MOTION CARRIED.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT on Committee Reports:

Individuals commenting on Committee Reports 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. LUNCH (Presenters: Katie Towler, Kristy Sandman)

South Sioux City Extended Campus update

At 12:00 p.m., Chairperson Ellis declared the meeting recessed for lunch.

As part of the Ownership Linkage activities, staff and faculty from the South Sioux City Extended Campus joined the Board of Governors for lunch.

Katie Towler, Kristy Sandman, Brenda Sale, and Jessie McCormick provided an overview of initiatives, efforts, and engagements occurring at the South Sioux City Extended Campus.

Chairperson Ellis declared the public meeting back in session at 12:58 p.m.

12. OTHER

Other announcements and birthdays for the month.

Chairperson Ellis acknowledged staff members observing birthdays during the month of June

13. Closed session for the purpose of legal advice on mitigation of potential claims for the protection of the public's interest.

**Motion:**

At 12:59 p.m., motion to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of legal advice on mitigation of potential claims for the protection of the public's interest, and to reconvene to the public meeting upon the conclusion of discussion.

Motion moved by Pat Wojcik and motion seconded by Carol A. Sibbel. Voting yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Nelson, Robinson, Sibbel, and Wojcik. Absent-Excused: Petersen, Scherer, Sedlacek. MOTION CARRIED.

Reconvened to the public meeting at 2:01 p.m.

14. Meeting Self-Evaluation (Presenters: Donovan Ellis)

Board Meeting Self-Evaluation-[June 11, 2026](#)

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:03 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, it was UNANIMOUSLY PASSED by VOICE VOTE to adjourn the meeting.

16. NOTE: Social gathering at the home of board member, Pat Wojcik.

A social gathering was held at the home of board member, Pat Wojcik.