

**LABETTE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Board of Trustees Minutes**  
**May 21, 2026**

The Board of Trustees met at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at the Cardinal Event Center.

**Members Present**

Greg Chalker  
Becky Dantic  
John "JR" Keene  
Rod Landrum  
Montie Taylor  
David Winchell – arrived at 5:31 p.m.

**Others Present**

Dr. Mark Watkins	Dr. Jason Sharp	Kelly Kirkpatrick	Dr. Ken Elliott
Theresa Hundley	Ross Harper	Lindi Forbes	Kevin Doherty
Harrison Hall	Randee Baty	Sean Frye	

Heidi Flora recorded the minutes.

**Adoption of Revised Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Chair Landrum asked for changes or additions to the revised meeting agenda. There were none. Trustee Dantic moved to approve the revised meeting agenda as presented. Trustee Taylor seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Chair Landrum asked for corrections or additions to the April 9, 2026, regular meeting minutes. There were none. Trustee Chalker moved to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

**Executive Session**

Trustee Chalker moved to recess into executive session at 5:30 p.m. for 15 minutes for personnel matters for non-elected personnel. To protect the privacy interests of an identifiable individual. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

The following were invited to participate in the executive session: Dr. Mark Watkins, Dr. Jason Sharp, and VP Kelly Kirkpatrick.

At 5:45 p.m., Trustee Chalker moved to extend the executive session for 10 minutes. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

At 5:55 p.m., Trustee Chalker moved to extend the executive session for 10 minutes. Trustee Keene seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:05 p.m.

## **Executive Session**

Trustee Chalker moved to recess into executive session at 6:05 p.m. for 15 minutes for personnel matters for non-elected personnel. To protect the privacy interests of an identifiable individual. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

The following were invited to participate in the executive session: Dr. Mark Watkins, Dr. Jason Sharp, and VP Kelly Kirkpatrick.

At 6:20 p.m., Trustee Chalker moved to extend the executive session for 10 minutes. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

At 6:30 p.m., Trustee Chalker moved to extend the executive session for 5 minutes. Trustee Taylor seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:35 p.m.

## **Reports and/or Board Discussion**

**Faculty Senate Report:** None

**Student Government Report:** Harrison Hall, Student Life Associate, gave a report on the recent Student Government and Admissions activities and events, including year-end award ceremonies.

**Administrative Report:**

**Comparison of Expenditures to Budget** - The April financial report was placed on the tables. At the end of April, we were 83% through the year. The general fund was 80% expended, and the post-secondary technical education fund was 79% expended. The Board was asked to contact VP Doherty with any questions.

**Facilities** – Kevin Doherty, Director of Facilities, reported that P1 was on campus and started work on the Zetmeir Building on Monday. Kevin stated that he believes this job will go smoothly.

**President's Report:**

Dr. Watkins thanked the Board members for their attendance at the recent commencement ceremonies and pinnings. As well as the Distinguished Alumni and Cardinal Citee receptions. He also thanked the city of Parsons for the use of the stage for commencement at no cost and all the LCC employees for their support.

He also discussed the "Reduced Credit Hour" Bachelor's degree that the state of Kansas is considering. This degree will allow students to finish school and get into the workforce more quickly, as well as reduce costs.

Dr. Watkins reported that there are currently 19 community colleges in Kansas that belong to the Kansas Association of Community Colleges (KACC) and that there are also several technical colleges requesting to join. He said there have been ongoing discussions regarding the pros and cons of this.

Dr. Watkins reminded all in attendance that the college would be closed on Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day.

Dr. Sharp gave an HLC update. He reported that the final report has been received and that there is a timeframe to mid-June to provide any responses, which he stated he will be working on. He said we can expect the final approval somewhere around August or September.

### **New Business (ACTION, INFORMATION, OR DISCUSSION ITEMS)**

#### **Faculty Contract Approval**

Trustee Winchell moved to approve a faculty contract for Elizabeth Riggs, Assistant Professor of English, at a salary of \$50,727/year, starting in the fall of 2026. Trustee Taylor seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

#### **New Staff Employment Letters**

Trustee Keene moved to approve the new staff employment letters for Jaelen Milus, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach, at a salary of \$26,294/year, starting 4/13/26; and Macey Allison, Admissions Recruiter, at a salary of \$30,317/year, starting 6/15/2026. Trustee Winchell seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

#### **Approval of Bills**

Trustee Chalker moved to approve the Claims Register. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

#### **New Position Approval**

Trustee Dantic moved to approve the new Faculty Position of Allied Health. Trustee Chalker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

#### **Public Comment**

Trustee Winchell commented that he thought the recent commencement ceremonies went very well, and both Trustee Keene and Trustee Taylor agreed.

Trustee Chalker congratulated Foundation Director, Lindi Forbes, on exceeding the goal for this year's Auction for Scholarships.

Chair Landrum said that he thought Dr. Trinity Davis was an excellent choice for this year's Cardinal Citee award.

Trustee Taylor asked about attendance at this year's PHS Scholarship Banquet. VP Kirkpatrick replied that personnel from Admissions were in attendance to present scholarships.

#### **Executive Session**

Trustee Chalker moved to recess into executive session at 7:08 p.m. for 5 minutes for matters relating to employer-employee negotiations, whether or not in consultation with the representative or representative of the body or agency. To protect the institution's right to the confidentiality of its negotiating position and the public interest. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

The following were invited to participate in the executive session: Dr. Mark Watkins and Dr. Jason Sharp.

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:13 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Trustee Winchell moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

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**Heidi Flora, Clerk of the Board**

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