

LABETTE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Board of Trustees Minutes
March 12, 2026

The Board of Trustees met at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at the Cardinal Event Center.

Members Present

Greg Chalker
Becky Dantic
John "JR" Keene
Rod Landrum
Montie Taylor
David Winchell

Others Present

Dr. Mark Watkins	Dr. Jason Sharp	Leanna Doherty	Kelly Kirkpatrick
Dr. Ken Elliott	Haley Walker	Lindi Forbes	Hannah Kennedy
Kevin Doherty	Harrison Hall	Carl Hoskins	Rebeka Crawford
Tom Brungardt	Dr. Dee Bohnenblust	Kylan Turner	

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 Winchell moved to approve the revised meeting agenda as presented. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Regular & Special Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Chair Landrum asked for corrections or additions to the March 12, 2026, regular meeting minutes, the March 16, 2026, special meeting minutes, and the March 20, 2026, special meeting minutes. There were none. Trustee Chalker moved to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Winchell seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

Reports and/or Board Discussion

Faculty Senate Report: None

Student Government Report: Harrison Hall, Student Life Associate, gave a report on the recent and upcoming student government activities and events.

Administrative Report:

Comparison of Expenditures to Budget - The March financial report was placed on the tables. At the end of March, we were 75% through the year. The general fund was 72% expended, and the post-secondary technical education fund was 70% expended. Vice-President Doherty invited questions from the Trustees.

Facilities – Kevin Doherty, Director of Facilities, reported that P1 would be starting on the second floor of the Zetmeir building on April 20.

He also reported they are currently working in-house on several painting projects, as well as removing the locker room floor epoxy to prepare for repainting.

President's Report:

Dr. Mark Watkins gave an update on the state legislature funding for the 2026-2027 academic year.

He also reported that there has been nothing received on the HLC visit as of yet.

Dr. Mark Watkins invited the Board members to attend the upcoming Distinguished Faculty Award Luncheon on April 22, 2026, at 12:30 p.m., in the Cardinal Event Center.

Old Business (ACTION, INFORMATION, OR DISCUSSION ITEMS)

2026-2027 Tuition & Fees

Trustee Winchell moved to approve a \$10 per credit hour increase in tuition for all residency categories for 2026-2027. The President recommends no change in fees and continuing to designate 50% of fees for scholarships. Trustee Keene seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-1.

Executive Session

Trustee Chalker moved to recess into executive session at 5:57 p.m. for 10 minutes for personnel matters for non-elected personnel. To protect the privacy interests of an identifiable individual.

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

At 6:07 p.m., Trustee Chalker moved to extend the executive session for 5 minutes. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

At 6:12 p.m., Trustee Chalker moved to extend the executive session for 5 minutes. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:17 p.m.

New Business (ACTION, INFORMATION, OR DISCUSSION ITEMS)

Program Reviews

Dr. Jason Sharp, Tom Brungardt, Rebeka Crawford, and Dr. Dee Bohnenblust presented the Comprehensive Program Reviews for Chemistry, Exercise Science, Nursing, and Pre-Pharmacy. Trustee Dantic moved to accept all four program reviews. Trustee Winchell seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

New Staff Employment Letters

Trustee Winchell moved to approve the new staff employment letters for Ryan Arnold, Custodian, at a salary of \$26,886/year, starting 3/23/26; and Julie Johnston, Food Services Associate, at a salary of \$31,576/year, starting 4/6/26.

Trustee Keene seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Bills

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

Faculty Retirement

Trustee Winchell moved to approve the release of Elizabeth Stoneberger and Kimbra Beachner from their contracts and accept their Letters of Retirement. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

Program Discontinuation

Trustee Keene moved to approve the discontinuation of the Physical Therapist Assistant program of study. Trustee Winchell seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

New Administrative Contract

Trustee Dantic moved to approve the Administrative Employment Contract for Sonia Gugnani, Dean of Instruction & Distance Learning, at a salary of 79,456/year, starting July 13, 2026. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

Executive Session

Trustee Chalker moved to recess into executive session at 6:44 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 5-0.

The following were invited to participate in the executive session: Dr. Mark Watkins, Dr. Jason Sharp, Leanna Doherty, and Haley Walker.

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Executive Session

Trustee Chalker moved to recess into executive session at 6:49 p.m. for 10 minutes, matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a person as a student, except that any such person shall have the right to a public hearing if requested by that person. To protect the privacy rights of an identifiable student. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

The following were invited to participate in the executive session: Dr. Jason Sharp, Leanna Doherty, Kelly Kirkpatrick, and Haley Walker.

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Public Comment

Chair Landrum reminded everyone about the upcoming Auction for Scholarships on April 17.

Adjournment

Trustee Dantic moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Trustee Chalker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 6-0.

Heidi Flora, Clerk of the Board

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