



**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA**

**MINUTES of PUBLIC HEARING,  
SPECIAL HEARING, and REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, September 10, 2020**

Prior to convening the meeting, Chairperson Anderson led the assembly in pledging their allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

12705

Roll call was taken with a quorum present.

**AREA BOARD**

Steve Anderson, Chairperson.....	Present
Arlan Kuehn, Vice-Chairperson .....	Absent
Julie Robinson, Secretary.....	Present
Del Ames .....	Present
Donovan Ellis.....	Present
Dr. Terry Nelson .....	Present
Dirk Petersen.....	Present
Jeffrey Scherer .....	Present
Nicole Sedlacek .....	Present
Carol Sibbel .....	Present
Gene Willers .....	Present

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Leah A. Barrett, President  
John Blaylock, Executive Vice President  
Amanda Nipp, Vice President, Student Services  
Paul Feilmeier, Vice President, Technology Services  
Scott Gray, Vice President, Administrative Services  
Dr. Tracy Kruse, Associate Vice President, Development and External Affairs  
Dr. Michele Gill, Interim Vice President, Educational Services  
Coleen Bressler, Executive Director, Administrative Services  
Jim Curry, Director of Public Relations  
Diane Reikofski, Executive Assistant to the President  
Carlos Villarreal, II, Student Leadership Association (SLA) president  
Lauren Wagner, *Norfolk Daily News*

Cody Ronnfeldt, WJAG/KEXL/KQKX Radio  
Chris McKibbon, Director of Budgeting

12706

The Northeast Community College Board of Governors met for the Official Public (Budget) Hearing regarding the 2020-2021 College budgets on Thursday, September 10, 2020. Notice of the Budget Hearing, Budget Summary, and Notice of the Special Hearing to Set the Final Property Tax Request were published in the *Norfolk Daily News* on Saturday, September 5, 2020. Chairperson Steve Anderson declared the Public (Budget) Hearing convened at 4:02 p.m., in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center, located on the campus of Northeast Community College.

12707

Coleen Bressler, Executive Director, Administrative Services, presented information on the General Operating Budget, Building Improvement Budget, Accessibility Barrier Removal/Haz Mat Budget, and Self-Supporting Funds Budgets for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

12708

At 4:16 p.m., there being no further discussion on the proposed budgets, Chairperson Anderson declared the Public (Budget) Hearing adjourned.

12709

Chairperson Anderson convened the Official Special Hearing at 4:16 p.m. and Mrs. Bressler presented information on the setting of the Final Property Tax Request for 2020-2021.

12710

At 4:19 p.m., there being no further discussion on the Final Property Tax Request for 2020-2021, Chairperson Anderson declared the Official Special Hearing adjourned.

12711

The Northeast Community College Board of Governors met for its regular session Board Meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2020 in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center, located on the campus of Northeast Community College. Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the *Norfolk Daily News* on Friday, September 4, 2020 and on the Northeast Community College website. Chairperson Anderson convened the Regular Meeting at 4:19 p.m.

12712

Gene Willers MOVED to adopt the Agenda of the September 10, 2020 Regular Meeting as distributed. Del Ames SECONDED the motion.

**Voting Yes:** Ames, Anderson, Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, and Willers

**Voting No:** None

**Absent:** Kuehn

**MOTION CARRIED**

12713

Chairperson Anderson advised that a copy of the Open Meetings Law is posted on the tables at the back of the room. No constituents were in attendance to address the board with a public comment.

12714

Nicole Sedlacek MOVED, and Donovan Ellis SECONDED the motion to approve the Minutes of the August 13, 2020 meetings as follows:

1. Regular Meeting
2. Student Success Committee Meeting
3. Governance Committee Meeting
4. Finance Committee Meeting

**Voting Yes:** Anderson, Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Willers, and Ames

**Voting No:** None

**Absent:** Kuehn

**MOTION CARRIED**

12715

Carlos Villareal, SLA president, reported that SLA is currently meeting weekly via Zoom. Next Thursday, they will be hosting a trivia game on Constitution Day. A social media campaign is being created to encourage students to view and complete the 2020 census. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, SLA will participate in the Student Leadership Development Series (SLDS) to understand where they stand as individuals and learn how to work together and promote the campus.

President Barrett reported that the United States Department of Education requires institutions who receive financial aid to celebrate Constitution Day.

A report from President Leah Barrett included the following:

- Enrollment at Northeast Community College is holding steady compared to this same time in 2019. Northeast's Institutional Research Office reports 10th day Fall 2020 unduplicated enrollment compared to the 10th day of Fall 2019 was nearly the same at 4,567 students versus 4,576 – a difference of minus 0.2%. Institutional Research reports the number of first-

time freshmen students experienced a slight dip of 7%, while the number of early college students increased 16% compared to last year. Northeast is looking to see continued growth in enrollment as the semester unfolds through additional early college and non-degree seeking students, other courses that will be held during the second eight-weeks, and an intersession that will be offered between the fall and spring semesters.

- In reaction to the civil unrest that has gripped the nation this summer, Northeast is addressing issues of inclusion, diversity, and equity to ensure that everyone feels welcome on all campuses. Following a series of dialogue sessions over the summer, a group of faculty and staff members were appointed to serve on IDEA (Inclusion Diversity, and Equity Alliance) to continue to look at developing strategic processes around these areas. The group's work will delve into several areas, including a review of policies and procedures to determine if there are barriers to anyone achieving success through their studies or work, ensure that the college is welcoming to all, and make certain that Northeast is celebrating different cultures among those on campus and through the curriculum.
- Northeast's Nexus Campaign to construct new agriculture facilities has received generous donations from supporters over the past month. This includes \$500,000 from TC Energy and the TC Energy Foundation; \$450,000 from the Sunderland Foundation; and a \$50,000 pledged from Cornerstone Bank, headquartered in York.
- The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services has granted a \$2.3 million continuation of the Health Profession Opportunity Grant, which funds Project H.E.L.P. (Health Education Laddering Program). Northeast's Project H.E.L.P. assists income-eligible Nebraskans with educational and training opportunities to prepare them to enter and advance in high-demand, well-paying healthcare jobs. At Northeast, participants in Project H.E.L.P. receive support services such as intensive success coaching, scholarships, laptop checkout, scrubs, transportation assistance, resume/interview preparation, and job placement assistance.
- Retirements include Alan Darnall, automotive technology instructor; Calvin Lamprecht, automotive technology instructor; Maureen Baker, director of student conduct; Verna Ferris, custodian; Jean Stacken, custodian.
- Governor Pete Ricketts has appointed Colleen Barnes, criminal justice instructor, to the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice. The Coalition makes recommendations to the Nebraska Crime Commission on juvenile justice issues, oversees the state's compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, as well as the Nebraska Juvenile Services Act, and prepares annual reports on those activities for the governor and Legislature.
- Northeast Community College has welcomed five new faculty members this fall. They will teach in the divisions of agriculture, math and science, applied technology, and business and technology. New instructors include Stacy Anderson, Norfolk, business; Dr. Kassie Ketteler, Foster, veterinary technology; Joseph Ottis, Norfolk, automotive technology; Todd Pfeil, Norfolk, utility line; and Eric Ternus, Norfolk, drafting.
- Approximately 80 people, with social distancing protocols in place, attended Northeast Community College's 2020 Health Conference at the O'Neill Community Center. Four speakers presented at this year's conference on topics that included medical hypnotherapy, nursing licensure, cancer and nutrition and compassion fatigue, among others. The health conference has been submitted to the Midwest Multi-state Division for approval to award nursing contact hours.

- The Career Services Office is hosting its Part-Time Job Fair this year; however, for the first-time ever, it is being held online. The Job Fair began Tuesday, September 1, and will run through Monday, September 14. Students may search through part-time jobs that are available in the area and connect with potential employers virtually.
- Northeast recruiters hit the road during the first week of September visiting area high schools and attending recruitment events. While some schools and events have moved to virtual visits, others are still engaging in face-to-face activities. Northeast continues to offer personal campus tours conducted by Student Ambassadors with 73 tours scheduled for the fall semester. Recruitment staff members are also working with the academic divisions to reconsider how the College offers its Career Days this year. The Health and Wellness division and the Criminal Justice/Human Services departments are in the final stages of planning for virtual career days this fall.
- On Thursday, August 27, the TRIO program held a Parking Lot Party for its students and guests to kick-off the academic year near the Lifelong Learning Center. Thirty-five TRIO students and eight guests gathered in-person with appropriate social distancing and contact tracing procedures in place. Students were able to play tailgate and yard games and traditional tail gate food was served. The Norfolk Virtual Reality Truck was also rented for the students' enjoyment.
- Student activities are in full-swing this year as the Student Activities Council (SAC) entertains students safely while following social distancing guidelines. The annual Welcome Back Picnic was held on August 19, at Hawks Village. Food was prepared by Chartwells with entertainment provided by the Dave Merkel Show. Free t-shirts and hand sanitizer were given to the first 100 current students. Students not attending the actual event still had an opportunity to win a t-shirt and prizes from home through Facebook Live and Instagram Live. Approximately 275 people attended the event. In addition, SAC is engaging students with one another, both in-person and virtually, throughout the semester. So far, in person events such as Lake Day at Skyview Lake and the Red Cross Blood Drive attracted over 70 students to each event. Others, including the virtual scavenger hunt, attracted over 90 students.

12716

Steve Anderson and Gene Willers, NCCA Board of Directors representatives, reported that Steve Anderson will participate in the NCCA Executive Committee in the next few weeks. The 2020 NCCA Annual Conference that was scheduled to be held in Scottsbluff in October has been postponed to 2021.

Conversations have been held with Greg Adams, NCCA Executive Director, who has indicated that the most recent Nebraska legislative session did not have any impact on community colleges.

The ACCT Leadership Congress will be held virtually October 5-8, 2020. All sessions will be available to be viewed after the event.

12717

Julie Robinson MOVED and Carol Sibbel SECONDED the motion to acknowledge and accept the Monthly Financial Report for August 31, 2020 and claims paid in August 2020 as follows:

General Funds.....	\$ 2,794,168.22
Auxiliary Funds.....	\$ 487,072.63
Grants and Contracts.....	\$ 77,455.98
Scholarships and Financial Aid.....	\$ 0.00
Student Loans.....	\$ 1,100.00
Student Clubs.....	\$ 899.45
Other Agencies.....	\$ 19,292.08
Capital Improvement.....	\$ 25,471.09
Restricted Plant.....	\$ 1,862,816.88
Debt Service.....	\$ 0.00
Payroll Fund.....	\$ <u>2,690,875.27</u>
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID.....	\$ 7,959,151.60

**Voting Yes:** Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Willers, Ames, and Anderson

**Voting No:** None

**Absent:** Kuehn

**MOTION CARRIED**

12718

Gene Willers, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, MOVED to approve and adopt the 2020-2021 budgets for Northeast Community College.

- General Operating Budget in the amount of \$49,731,153
- Building Improvement Budget in the amount of \$17,839,751
- Accessibility Barrier Removal/Haz Mat Budget in the amount of \$74,492
- Self-Supporting Funds Budget in the amount of \$37,321,546

Dirk Petersen SECONDED the motion.

**Voting Yes:** Nelson, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Willers, Ames, Anderson, and Ellis

**Voting No:** None

**Absent:** Kuehn

**MOTION CARRIED**

12719

Gene Willers MOVED and Donovan Ellis SECONDED the motion to approve the Property Tax Request as follows:

2019-2020 Property Tax Request	\$31,491,387.77
2019 Tax Rate	0.095000
2020-2021 Proposed Property Tax Request	\$31,416,635.80
Proposed 2019 Tax Rate	0.095000

**Voting Yes:** Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Willers, Ames, Anderson, Ellis, and Nelson

**Voting No:** None

**Absent:** Kuehn

**MOTION CARRIED**

12720

In other business, Chairperson Anderson recognized staff member birthdays for the month of September.

Also, in other business, on behalf of the Board of Governors, Chairperson Anderson extended appreciation to faculty and staff for their work, dedication, and resilience over the past six months. The Board of Governors appreciate all that is being done to help students at Northeast Community College achieve their goal.

12721

At 4:42 p.m., with no further business to discuss, it was UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY VOICE VOTE to ADJOURN the meeting.

*Minutes prepared by Diane Reikofski, Recording Secretary.*

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Steve Anderson, Chairperson  
Northeast Board of Governors

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Julie Robinson, Secretary  
Northeast Board of Governors