

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting
May 09, 2023

Mr. Ken Peterson, District Board Chair, called the regular meeting of the Board of Western Technical College District to order at 2:01 pm on Tuesday, May 09, 2023, at Western Technical College, Coleman Center RM 128, La Crosse, WI. Board members present Andrew Bosshard, Jim Dillin, Michelle Greendeer-Rave, Majel Hein, Kevin Hennessey, Angie Lawrence, Ed Lukasek, Ken Peterson, and Roger Stanford, President. Board member Lance Bagstad was excused.

Notice of the meeting was posted publicly on Thursday, May 04, 2023, at 1:18 pm, with the agenda being distributed to interested persons, sent to the district's official newspaper (The La Crosse Tribune), and distributed to other news media throughout the district in compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 19.81 through 19.98.

Others present: Wade Hackbarth, Amy Thornton, Rebecca Hopkins, Jessica Pintz, Jacque Schreiner, Tracy Dryden, Kari Reyburn, Deb Hether, Isaac Mezera, Tyler Ludeking, Julie Lemon, Eric Jacobson, Larry Sleznikow, Brianne Shane, Liz Wallace, and John Heath (Western employees); Zander Barr (Student), Kyle Bakkum (Foundation Board President), Doug Thesing (retired).

Motion Lawrence, second Lukasek, that the Western Technical College District Board approve the Resolution of Commendations | Kyle Bakkum, Foundation Board President; Raj Ramnarace, Criminal Justice Instructor; Leanna Olson-Taunt, Psychology Instructor; Doug Thesing, Automotive Instructor; and Larry Sleznikow, Instruction Technician, presented by President Stanford. Votes: Ayes, 8 Opposed, 0. Motion carried. **Copy of the resolutions are attached to and incorporated into these minutes as Attachments A, B, C, D, and E.**

Presentations included updates on the 2023-24 Student Ambassador, Higher Education Landscape & Labor Market, Grants, and K12 activities.

Lukasek (for Bosshard) provided an update on the Budget and Facilities subcommittee.

Motion Lukasek, second Heim, that the Western Technical College District Board approve the following consent items as presented: 1. Amended Minutes - a. April 18, 2023, District Board Regular Meeting;-; 2. Financial Reports: a. Vendors over \$2,500-April b. General Revenue/Expense-March, c. Department Budget Summary-March d. Enterprise Services-March, e. Capital Projects-March; f. Bids/RFPs Awarded-Parking Lot Repair& Maintenance 3. Project Submission and Acceptance 2023-24 a. Dept. of Education-Title III, Part A, Strengthening Institutions Grant. Votes: Ayes, 5, Opposed 0, Abstain 2: 1 from Vendors over \$2,500, 1 from Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion Lukasek, second Dillin, that the Western Technical College District Board approve: 1. La Crosse Administrative Center Restrooms ADA Renovation 2. Western Technical College Fees and Rates 2023-2024. Votes: Ayes,7, Opposed, 0. Motion carried.

President's Report, Dr. Stanford welcomed VP of Learning, R. Hopkins, and shared information about the Western college events.

District Board Chairperson's report, an update from the DBA April meeting at Gateway, Kenosha, a special thank you to outgoing member, Lukasek, and reviewed recent college events. No objection to dates. Reminder to complete Plus Delta.

No closed session.

4:29 pm: Motion Lukasek second Hennessey that the Western Technical College District Board adjourn. Votes: Ayes, 7; Opposed, 0. Motion carried.


Majel Hein, District Board Secretary



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Kyle Bakkum**

Whereas, Kyle Bakkum, Western Technical College Foundation Board President, will step down from his role after completing 3+ of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Kyle was an excellent communicator who invited all those involved for input, encouraging participation and conversation on how to come to a consensus on a number of issues; and

Whereas, he strongly believed in Western and the work we do in the community, providing excellent leadership and input for student success; and

Whereas, Kyle freely shared his expertise and experience as a leader to uplift our mission and staff, using his words of encouragement to keep us going throughout the day; and

Whereas, he was the perfect mentor who kindly checked in and allowed for free thinking and new ideas; and

Whereas, his leadership, wisdom, and kindness will be missed; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Kyle Bakkum for his years of service and his commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Kyle many happy and satisfying years in his future endeavors.

Western
Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Ken Peterson, Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Raj Ramnarace**

Whereas, Raj Ramnarace, Criminal Justice Instructor in the Health and Public Safety Division, retired from Western Technical College on April 24, after completing 8+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Raj not only served as a Criminal Justice Instructor at Western, he previously served as Security Director for several years, helping to develop emergency management plans and keeping the students and staff of Western safe; and

Whereas, he was a great presenter, always throwing in something new and interesting into his presentations and could always keep the most doom and gloom discussion interesting and entertaining; and

Whereas, Raj was a very kind and respectable leader, with a great ability to stay calm under pressure and do it with a smile; and

Whereas, he is very knowledgeable about safety and security, using his previous work experience to guide discussion on safety and security on campus; and

Whereas, his kindness, expertise, and presenting skills will be missed; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Raj Ramnarace for his years of service and his commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Raj many happy and satisfying years in his retirement.

Western
Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Ken Peterson, Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Leanna Olson-Taunt**

Whereas, Leanna Olson-Taunt, Psychology Instructor in the General Studies Division, retired from Western Technical College on April 24, after completing 11+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Leanna was a kind, compassionate leader, always a good listener, and a thorough, hardworking instructor dedicated to her students; and

Whereas, she quickly became the mother-like figure to many, with a nurturing and approachable personality and genuine love for her students; and

Whereas, Leanna was beloved by her students and coworkers, being a warm and empathetic individual to so many; and

Whereas, she was a nice and kind friend who was always a joy to be around; and

Whereas, her caring nature, compassion, and genuineness will be missed; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Leanna Olson-Taunt for her years of service and her commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Leanna many happy and satisfying years in her retirement.

Western
Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Ken Peterson, Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Doug Thesing**

Whereas, Doug Thesing, Automotive Technician instructor in the Academic Affairs Division, will retire from Western Technical College on April 24, after completing 24 years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Doug had a passion for teaching and watching students learn, he took pride knowing that Automotive graduates are well prepared to be leaders at local employers; and

Whereas, he works hard every day to ensure he is prepared for his students, working long days to ensure every student is successful; and

Whereas, Doug is well respected among his coworkers, helping wherever he can to make sure students are well prepared for the workforce; and

Whereas, he has a plethora of experience at Western and in the workforce, being able to provide history and context to a number of issues that arise; and

Whereas, his knowledge, passion, and work ethic will be missed; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Doug Thesing for his years of service and his commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Doug many happy and satisfying years in his retirement.

Western
Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Ken Peterson, Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Larry Sleznikow**

Whereas, Larry Sleznikow, Instructional Technologist in the Academic Excellence Education and Human Services Division, will retire from Western Technical College on June 15, after completing 7+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Larry was a leader in incorporating technology into the classroom, always staying up-to-date on the latest trends in higher education to better serve our students; and

Whereas, he was a thoughtful and passionate coworker who always listened and cared for others, going above and beyond to help classrooms be more effective; and

Whereas, Larry's assistance in helping faculty during the quick pivot to online learning during the pandemic was outstanding; and

Whereas, he was a leader in his community, continuing to this day to serve the people of La Crosse in the City Council with passion and grace; and

Whereas, Larry was always a dear friend to his coworkers, always taking the time to listen and offer advice; and

Whereas, his leadership, wisdom, and humor will be missed; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Larry Sleznikow for his years of service and her commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Larry many happy and satisfying years in his retirement.

Western
Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Ken Peterson, Chair