



MAY 19, 2026 REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING Minutes

Nicolet College

5/19/2026 4:30 PM CDT

@ Nicolet College (or Virtual) Red Oak Bldg, Room 102, Rhinelander, WI

I. CALL TO ORDER – 4:33 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

X - Eric Burke
X - Stephanie Byers (Virtual)
X - Abbey Dall
X - Dianne Lazear
X - Bob Martini
X - Bob Mott
X - Jim Mulleady
X - Scott Sievert

GUESTS: President Kate Ferrel (virtual), Jenna Allen, Heather Schallock, Courtney Zempel, Megan Gerber, Bobbi Fields, Jeff Labs, Michael Dassler, Ray Lemke, Amber Laffin, Gayle Shanks (virtual), Mark Karp (virtual), Christin Van Kauwenberg, Moira McKinney-Steffen

RECORDER: Kris Peeters

III. PUBLIC INPUT

Kris Peeters reported that public input was received via electronic form. Per BP 2.17, no individual has signed in with regard to speaking on behalf of the forms that were submitted.

A. Convene to Closed Session - 4:45 p.m.

Martini made a motion to convene into closed session under **Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(a), 19.85(1)(b) and 19.85(1)(c)** for the purpose of for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations, and conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

SECOND: Mott

Roll Call Vote:

X - Eric Burke
X - Stephanie Byers (Virtual)
X - Abbey Dall
X - Dianne Lazear

X - Bob Martini
X - Bob Mott
X - Jim Mulleady
X - Scott Sievert

GUESTS: Attorney Kevin Terry, President Kate Ferrel, Kris Peeters, Jeremy VanCamp, Bobbi Fields, Jenna Allen, Megan Gerber, Heather Schallock

B. Reconvene to Open Session

Chair Dall accepted a motion to convene in open session and discuss any actions, if any, taken in closed session.

MOTION: Burke

SECOND: Lazear

Passed on a voice vote. No actions taken in closed session.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Mott made a motion to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Sievert

Motion passed on a voice vote with no abstention

V. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Lazear made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

SECOND: Martini

Motion passed on a voice vote with no abstentions.

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular District Board Meeting April 21, 2026
- B. Ratification of High School Equivalency Diploma Contracts and Credit-Based High School Program (No Contracts)
- C. Ratification of Business, Industry, and Government Contracts
- D. Financials: Recap of Expenses, Status of College Accounts, Operational Cost, and Approval of Bills Payable
- E. Employee Hires and Exits, April 2026
- F. Program Special Circumstances TCS 10.07(5m)

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. WTCS Student Ambassador and Nicolet College Foundation Ambassador Introductions

Heather Schallock, Nicolet College Vice President of Community Engagement and Executive Director of the Nicolet College Foundation gave an overview of the ambassador programs and introduced WTCS Student Ambassador, Maddie Barnes and Nicolet College Foundation Ambassador, Sara Sommers.

- B. New Staff Introductions

Bobbi J Fields, EdD, Vice President of Academic Affairs introduced two new Deans. Bojan Ljubenko, Dean of School of Applied Technology & Trades and Amber Laffin, Dean of the School of Public Safety & Transportation

C. Overview of Discovery Days

Bobbi J Fields, EdD, Vice President of Academic Affairs briefed the board on this program.

D. Fiscal Year 2027 Grant Awards

Christin Van Kauwenberg, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and ALO and Moira McKinney-Steffen, Grants Coordinator briefed the board on the 2027 Fiscal Year Grant Awards.

E. Budget Overview

Megan Gerber, Vice President of Finance and College Operations briefed the board on the FY27 Budget.

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Nicolet College Events:

[Budget Informational Session - April 28, 2026](#)

- [The Prince & the Peach Live Music](#) (Lakeside Patio) – Thursday, May 21 @ 6:30pm
- [Law Enforcement Recruit Academy Completion Celebration](#) (Lakeside Center) – Friday, June 12 @ 5pm (requires registration)
- Discovery Day Breakfast and Tours (Lakeside Center) – Monday, June 15 @ 7:45 am ([RSVP appreciated](#))
- Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce, Business After Five. 5-7 p.m. Nicolet College (Northwoods Center Art Gallery) – Wednesday, July 15

Board Appointment – Hearing scheduled for [May 21, with May 22 reserved if necessary.](#)

[DBA \(District Boards Association\) - 2026 May Monthly Update](#)

[2026 DBA Virtual Summer Meeting](#)

- **Trustee Tuesdays:** May 26, July 28, September 22, October 27, November 24 - [Link to Register](#)
- [2026 Fall Hybrid Meeting, October 8, 2026](#)

[ACCT \(Association of Community College Trustees\) Events](#)

- [Spring 2026 Newsletter](#)
- [2026 ACCT Leadership Congress - Oct. 21 thru 24](#)
- [2026 New Trustee Governance Leadership Institute - August 5 thru 7](#)

Next Meeting: June 16, 2026

VIII. STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

- Any Trustees with grant ideas, please submit these to Kris
- Dianne's last meeting is in June
- Megan to send borrowing interest rate to Treasurer Mott and follow-up with questions.

IX. ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION

Lazear made a motion to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering the employment and performance evaluation of a public employee.

SECOND: Mott

Roll Call Vote:

X - Eric Burke

X - Stephanie Byers (Virtual)
X - Abbey Dall
X - Dianne Lazear
X - Bob Martini
X - Bob Mott
X - Jim Mulleady
X - Scott Sievert

FACILITATOR: Jeremy VanCamp

X. ADJOURN INTO OPEN SESSION

Chair Dall accepted a motion to convene in open session and discuss any actions, if any, taken in closed session.

MOTION: Burke

SECOND: Mulleady

Passed on a voice vote. No actions taken in closed session.

XI. ADJOURNMENT REGULAR BOARD MEETING - 7:00 p.m.