

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Date: 3/9/26

Time: 6:00 pm

Session Location: SENMC RM 153

Board Members present:  Chair, Sarah Bowman  
 Member, Lee White  
 Member, Mark Cage

Type of Meeting:

Regular     Work

Special

Secretary, Ned Elkins

Member, vacant

Board Member(s) absent: Mark Cage

- 1) **Call to Order**
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3) **Establish Quorum – Roll Call**
- 4) **Approve Agenda**

Time: 6:06 pm

Motion: **Ned Elkins**      Second: **Lee White**      Nays: **0**      Abstain: **0**

**Elkins, White, and Bowman** voted to approve the agenda as presented.

- 5) **Approval of minutes from the previous meeting – 2/9/2026**

Motion: **Lee White**      Second: **Ned Elkins**      Nays: **0**      Abstain: **0**

**Elkins, White, and Bowman** voted to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2026 meeting.

- 6) **Public Comments:** None
- 7) **Student Government Representative:** None
- 8) **General Counsel:** – Lane Martin had not logged into Zoom for this portion of the meeting. Dr. Beardmore reported that Lane does plan to be present via Zoom for the closed session.
- 9) **SENMC general status report: Dr. Kevin Beardmore**

**Report on 2025-2030 Strategic Plan – Goal 1 (Serve More Students)** Met with Jason Hightower, Principal of Carlsbad High School, about additional Dual Credit opportunities, February 10; met, along with Gary Martinez, with Nine Degrees for the STEPS academy design kickoff (virtual) meeting on February 11; visited the Planetarium at Carlsbad High School with Nine Degrees, Gary Martinez, and Gary Roper, February 12; attended the Energy Pathway Family Night event at Carlsbad High School (February 12); met, along with Gary Martinez, with Jaynes Corporation and Nine Degrees for the Trades x Technologies Building update on February 19 and March 6. As of March 9 the T<sup>2</sup> slab is complete; met, along with Gary Martinez, with Mitchell and Cruze Architects about initial planning work on a Residence Hall, February 25; met with Dr. Gerry Washburn about the potential for a Theatre partnership (joint SENMC, CMS/CHS productions in fall and spring), holding the SENMC Commencement Ceremony at the Performing Arts Center at Carlsbad HS, and additional dual credit offerings in Building Trades, Culinary Arts, and Theatre on March 4; **Goal 2 (Welcome and Engage the Community)** published latest newspaper/website article: “The Ladder of Love”, February 1; attended the Carlsbad Department of Development Bylaws Q&A Open House/Dinner, February 10; attended Carlsbad Rotary on February 11, 18, 25, and March 4; attended (virtually) the New Mexico Higher Education Secretary’s Legislative Update on February 11 and 18 – still waiting on signatures on bills but looking at a 1% salary increase and base funding increase of slightly less than 3%; met with Mark Bolinger, US Department of Energy, Carlsbad Field Office Manager on February 19; interviewed, along with Chris Spaulding, by Misty Cryer of the

Carlsbad Local, February 19; attended the 2026 All States ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employee) Research Advisory Committee Webinar, February 19; presented and provided a tour of the campus to Leadership Carlsbad, February 20; attended the CAST grand opening of their new facility on Hobbs Highway, February 20; facilitated the SENMC Foundation Board meeting, February 24; attended the groundbreaking for Sunset Elementary, February 26; missed the Contour Airlines at Cavern City Airport ribbon cutting on March 6 because he flew out of that airport on a Contour plane on March 5; **Goal 3 (Increase Learning and Efficiency)** attended one of the four CBIZ Salary Study meetings on campus with employees, February 9; met, along with Dianne Hardin, Director of Nursing and Dr. Seitaridou, with Matthew Banks, CEO, and Mark Staton, Chief Nursing Officer, of Carlsbad Medical Center, February 18; held a Campus Forum on March 2; and **Goal 4 (Promote Success for All)** led four Strategic Planning Focus Groups - one for each of our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan goals - with more than 80 different employees attending, February 23-26; attended the SENMC Diversity Committee Black History Month Celebration, February 26; attended the presentation and forum for Vice President of Business and Finance candidate Carolyn Kasdorf, March 2; unavailable to provide the welcome at the Phi Theta Kappa New Mexico Regional Honors in Action Convention hosted by SENMC on March 7 – thanked Dr. Seitaridou for stepping in to give the welcome.

Dr. Beardmore shared a photo of the support structure (wire baskets filled with rocks) that is being built to redo some of the wall that supports the edge of the property next to Lowe's as we build T<sup>2</sup>. He also shared a schematic diagram of the work.

Construction on the Western Way entrance is underway. Dr. Beardmore shared a photograph of a water truck (4,000 gallons) parked on the bridge. They expect to pour the curbs on the path by next week.

- B) Dr. Beardmore provided spreadsheets detailing enrollments for every class offered for both Fall 2025 and Spring 2026. He attributed the Spring 26 bump in enrollment to the reinstatement of the Culinary Arts program, and the ECHS (Early College High School) moving its FYEX (First Year Experience) course from fall to the spring semester.
- C) Dr. Beardmore then reviewed the organizational charts. He explained each section of the charts, highlighting new positions, so the Trustees will have a better understanding of how things have changed since the College's separation from New Mexico State University. This structure will guide the budget for the coming year.
- D) ExxonMobil has gifted the Foundation another \$25 thousand to support the college's STEM initiatives. This brings their total donations in the past year to \$175,000.

10) **Old Business:** None

11) **New Business**

- A) **Eddy County Tuition Rates: Dr. K Beardmore** – At the February meeting the Trustees had inquired about extending the in-district rate to everybody living in Eddy County. Dr. Beardmore referenced SENMC's current tuition rates as well as those of ENMU-Roswell, highlighting that ENMU-R's out-of-district rate is just \$7 more than the in-district rate. He also provided excerpts of the New Mexico statutes related to college districts and tax levies. Section 21-13-10 Board Duties, Section B. states that the board shall have the power to fix tuition and fee rates for resident and nonresident students of the community college district. Section 21-13-21 describes the process by which school districts may be added to existing community college districts. Mr. Lee White asked about the current tax rate that the area is paying. Dr. Beardmore responded that it is 3% with adjustments which are always reductions. Dr. Ned Elkins said he would like incentivization, adding that extending the privilege of a lower rate without having districts accept our tax base eliminated any incentive we have. Dr. Beardmore acknowledged that this is a decision of the Board but added that he would prefer to wait until the Trades x Technologies Building is completed before lobbying for other communities to take on the tax rate. He said at that point there would be more incentive for them to join. Mr. White stated that it will take work to sell the Loving residents on accepting a 3% tax increase, though he agreed

that Loving needs to contribute to get the benefits of the in-district rate. Dr. Elkins wondered if there is an intermediate step that would offer an immediate benefit. This topic is tabled until the April meeting. Dr. Beardmore will provide an intermediate tuition rate classified as Eddy County, Non-Carlsbad for the Trustees to consider.

- B) Disposal of Surplus Property: Dr. Kevin Beardmore** - There is a vending machine in the stairwell in the Main Building that has been abandoned for nearly seven years. The business that provided the machine no longer exists. College Counsel Lane Martin suggested that the machine be declared abandoned, claimed as SENMC property, and then declared as surplus.

Motion: **Lee White**      Second: **Ned Elkins**      Nay: **0**      Abstain: **0**

**Elkins, White, and Bowman** voted in favor of the motion to surplus the abandoned vending machine.

- C) Monthly Financial Report: Carolyn Kasdorf** – Carolyn Kasdorf presented financial reports for the period ending January 31, 2026. Per this report SENMC is projecting an additional \$9,583,542 in revenue and \$2,680,325 in expenses (a difference of \$6,903,217) and will be processing budget adjustments to the New Mexico Higher Education Department to account for these projections.

**12) Executive administration staff reports or comments - Representatives reported on the following:**

- A) Dr. Effrosyni “Frosso” Seitaridou, VP of Academic Affairs:** The CNA program has an additional site in Artesia, Artesia Healthcare and Rehab. This will be helpful to the program and SENMC’s students because of the increase in students traveling from the surrounding areas to participate in Allied Health programs. For the first time, the CNA program had a 100% pass rate on the state certification exam for the students tested in the middle of February.

Dr. Jonathan Wilson, Dean of Teaching and Learning, published his latest article, “Zen and the Art of Automobile Improvement” on March 2 in the Spring 2026 issue of Focus of Artesia – *Focus NM Daily*. Dr. Seitaridou acknowledged Dr. Beardmore’s comment about a PTK update from the convention hosted by SENMC on March 7 but declined to speak because Dr. Raven Anderson is preparing an update to present at a future Board meeting.

- B) Carolyn Kasdorf, Interim VP-Business and Finance:** Ms. Kasdorf reported that they have finally funded PFM (Public Finance Management), for \$50 million. They have also moved an additional \$3 million to CNB Wealth Management to establish certificates of deposit in the amount of \$250,000 in each of the 13 banks in Eddy County.

The FY24 audit has been uploaded and published. Audit reports are being compiled and will be shared with the Board of Trustees at the April meeting.

Ms. Kasdorf is finalizing the budgets for fiscal year 27 and will soon begin working on the FY25 audit.

- C) Diana Campos, Dean of Student Affairs:** Ms. Campos reported that our admissions advisor will make a presentation to the seniors at Carlsbad High School on March 26 and to the Artesia High School seniors on April 8. In mid-April she will be at JMA and Carlsbad Enrichment Center. They are preparing for an open house event from 4:30-6:30 pm on April 23. Academic advisors have been meeting with department chairs to discuss degree pathways and align courses to ensure students can get through their degree paths. Academic Advisor Teddi Garcia attended the New Mexico Higher Education conference on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Summer and fall registration will open on April 1.

The Financial Aid office is conducting FAFSA nights. Last October 10-12 families attended the event at Carlsbad High School, and approximately 30 attended in November. There were 10 at the event on February 25. The next FAFSA night is scheduled for March 24 at 6 pm at Loving High School.

Student Government will work with HSI Grant Services to help organize a food pantry on campus.

Jeannie Nichols, Veteran’s Certifying Official, was able to get our Fire Science program approved for the 2024-25 catalog year. The VA Supervisory visit took place on February 26. Ms. Campos reported that they are pleased with our campus and satisfied with the visit.

Ms. Campos will be attending the Higher Education Technical Summit in Las Cruces on March 23

and 24. Financial Aid and Admissions/Advising have started their Softdocs training. Annette Garcia has been promoted to Financial Aid Director and Jeannie Nichols is promoted to Financial Aid Representative.

- D) **Chris Spaulding, Interim VP of Workforce Development and Community Engagement:** Mr. Spaulding shared the following information: **Interim VP's Office** – started new CDL class format utilizing the SENMC Simulator Lab. Class is now 8 weeks to be in compliance with the new Pell Grant rules being implemented in July 2026. The first three weeks of the course will be in the lab and the remaining five will be spent driving with Artesia Truck Driving School; attended Rotary; represented Rotary at the Carlsbad Foundation for the Leslie Messer Wilson and F.C. Williamson Scholarships; **DOE Grant** – began teaching SENMC's own RCT program on February 9, 2026. We are no longer using Porter House; the SENMC DOE MSHA instructor presented second presentation to DOE. They are pleased with progress, have recommended minor changes, and are sending information for the ventilation and evacuation for our instructor to incorporate. If all goes well, we will begin providing MSHA training for SIMCO again; **Work-Based Learning** - visit to Associated Builders and Contractors in Albuquerque; Forming Apprenticeship Training Committee, three members committed so far; draft proposals for future programs: CDL expansion, Production Operations, and Remote Pilot. On being questioned by Mr. White, Mr. Spaulding explained that the pilot program will be a stackable program with the first step likely being hobbyists wanting drone licenses. The next stack would be an introduction to aviation, and finally, aviation ground school; **Workforce Training** – have successfully trained entire workforce team in American Heart Association First Aid/CPR with AED. SENMC is now an official AHA Training Center. Mr. Spaulding, responding to Mr. White's question, explained that he is looking into getting more trainers so they can travel to provide training on-site; had commercial MSHA trainer attend mine refresher training with Mosaic/IMC to continue to train all new miners and overflow from annual refresher. Dr. Elkins asked if they are also working with Intrepid. Mr. Spaulding explained that Intrepid has recently reached out asking if they could partner with SENMC and use our trainers; attended the 2026 Training Magazine Conference in Orlando and learned about gamification/activities for our workforce safety training. They sent the MSHA instructors to learn adult education and activity techniques for teaching; **Workforce Partnerships** - attended February Carlsbad Department of Development board meeting held at Coterra Energy Carlsbad Headquarters; attended the NMGas811 Pipeliners safety luncheon held at Bad Bass BBQ north of Loving. Made over 20 midstream pipeline company connections. Hosted by Paradigm Liaisons; attended the NM STEPS Meeting at New Mexico Junior College; attended the Carlsbad High School Energy Lab on February 12; attended Mosaic/IMC annual refresher and met with Mosaic lead supervisor John Anderson; attended and was on a CreativeCon panel at the Cavern Theater on March 7th for the first ever CreativeCon put on by the New Mexico Economic Development Department Creative Services Division; and **Adult Education** – AE Instructors, Yvette Mendoza and Veronica Salazar, have both been awarded IAC-Masteries Practitioner™ certifications. They completed training and passed an exam through the International Association of Coaching.
- Mr. Spaulding took a moment to recognize Sky Soto and the SENMC Marketing department for their work. He saw a commercial for the college on the History Channel app on Roku.
- E) **Tymon Mattoszko, CIO:** The Service Desk and Help Desk are pretty constant and provide service usually within a few minutes, sometimes a few hours. They are getting good feedback. More complicated requests may take a couple of days. IT projects include implementation and integrations. They are currently working on the One Application and the payment system. Softdocs training is in its final stages and Mr. Mattoszko said he expects to go live within the next month and a half. They are bringing in Canva to the entire staff and student body. Claude is being rolled out, they are doing some internal training. They are also rolling out 1Password (a password manager) to encourage better

password security. Board members will also have access to 1Password (as soon as the contract is signed). They are pushing out the next round of cybersecurity training. In addition to conducting external threat assessments they are bringing somebody in sometime in the next eight weeks to do in-person training. This will also be provided during convocation.

**13) HR Report: Dr. K Beardmore for Steven Gonzales, HR Director:** The employee count for SENMC as of March 4 is 299 employees. This includes full-time, part-time, temporary, and student employees. Dr. Beardmore introduced new employees Veronica Cortez, Shahrane Karim, and Eric Huff. There are currently 13 faculty and 5 staff vacancies. March 2026's Employee of the Month is Luz Moreno, Director of LTC (Learning Technology Center).

**14) Employee representative comments (optional)**

A) **Faculty:** Rick Wiedenmann announced that RiverBlitz was held last Saturday. He said there were 38 people either from or tangentially related to our campus. They included 25 Nursing students, 5 employees including Rick Wiedenmann, Bobby Huang, Mahmoud Aslani, Eduardo Chapa, and Chris Spaulding. There was also a former student with her husband and children, as well as family members of SENMC employees. Mr. Wiedenmann announced the STEAM Expo/Energy Day/Open House events on April 23.

B) **Administrative Staff:** No report

C) **Classified Staff:** No report

**15) Convene Closed session:** By unanimous roll call vote taken at 7:27 pm the Trustees, accompanied by Dr. Kevin Beardmore, and Lane Martin (via Zoom) went into closed session to discuss litigation. No action will be taken during the closed session.

Motion: **Ned Elkins**      Second: **Lee White**      Nay: **0**      Abstain: **0**

**16) Reconvene Open session:** The Trustees took a roll call vote and unanimously voted to reconvene the open session at 8:02 pm.

Motion: **Lee White**      Second: **Ned Elkins**      Nay: **0**      Abstain: **0**

**17) Board comments:** Mr. White said that he appreciated the monthly presentations. Dr. Elkins invoked the "Zane Rule".

**18) Announcement of the next regular board meeting:**

**Date:** April 13, 2026      **Time:** 6:00 pm      **Place:** SENMC Room 153

**19) Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

**Approved**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Ned Elkins, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date