Southeast New Mexico College
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Date: 10/12/26
Time: 6:00 pm

Type of Meeting:
☑ Regular
☐ Work Session
☐ Special

Location: SENMC RM 153

Board Members present: ☑Chair, Sarah Bowman ☑ Secretary, Ned Elkins
☑ Member, Lee White ☐ Member, Jason Shirley
☑Member, Mark Cage (Zoom)

Member(s) absent: Jason Shirley

1) **Call to Order** **Time:** 6:02 pm
2) **Pledge of Allegiance**
3) **Establish Quorum – Roll Call**
4) **Approve Agenda**

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

Elkins, Bowman, White, and **Cage** voted to approve the agenda as amended (remove agenda item 11.C).

5) **Approval of minutes from the previous meeting – 9/14/2026**

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

Elkins, Bowman, White, and **Cage** voted to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2026 meeting as presented.

6) **Public Comments:** Norbert Rempe addressed the Board with his rebuttal to statements made at the July 13 Board of Trustees meeting regarding the availability of condoms outside the Health Clinic.
7) **Student Government Representative:** Diana Campos, Dean of Student Affairs, announced that Student Government are planning the annual Hallowpalooza event for Thursday, October 29 from 3-6 pm.
8) **General Counsel:** Lane Martin said things are going well.
9) **SENMC general status report: Dr. Kevin Beardmore**

Report on 2025-2030 Strategic Plan – Goal 1 (Serve More Students) Hosted a visit by Youth Development Inc, including Robert Chavez, YDI CEO, and Debra Baca, YDI VP of Early Childhood Education, to explore future collaboration, September 17; Hosted, along with Trustees Dr. Ned Elkins and Jason Shirley, a visit by Rachael Overbey, Chief of Staff for the Office of Critical Minerals and Energy, US Department of Energy, October 1; Met, along Zane Biebelle and April Addington, with Dr. Suzanne Balch-Lindsay, Eastern New Mexico Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, and others, to discuss a potential Education pathway transfer agreement, in Portales, October 8; Met with ENMU President Dr. James Johnston, in Portales, October 8; **Goal 2 (Welcome and Engage the Community)** Published my latest newspaper/website article:

"Seeing with New Eyes" September 9; Attended an update on the WIPP New Mexico Environment Department permit for local leaders, September 11; Met with Kimberly Gonzalez, Staff Operations Manager, Repository Science and Operations, a Contractor to the United States Department of Energy, to plan for an October 28-29 training to be held on campus, September 15; Attended Carlsbad Rotary, September 16; Led the Constitution Day event at SENMC, which included voter registration provided by the Eddy County NAACP and a mock election and discussion, September 17; Joined Youth Development Inc. leadership at a meeting with Deb Haaland, gubernatorial candidate, at the YDI Head Start Carlsbad location, September 18; Attended the Carlsbad Economic Development Corporation Board meeting, October 1; Attended, along with Trustee Jason Shirley, the NMOGA Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, October 6; Presented on Higher Education Bond 3 and an update on enrollment and capital projects to the Carlsbad Rotary, October 7; Presented on Higher Education Bond 3 and an update on enrollment and capital projects to the Carlsbad Noon Lions Club, October 9; **Goal 3 (Increase Learning and Efficiency)** Met with Glenn Trammell of Ferrilli to discuss future plans for Technology Services and Solutions, September 15; Met, along with Aaron Irving, SENMC Foundation Board member and JoAnn Trevino, SENMC Foundation Board lead, with Jaramillo Accounting Group, September 18; Presented on soft skills to a First-Year Experience class, October 1; Submitted the 2026-2027 Updates to our Strategic Enrollment Management Plans to the Higher Education Department as required by House Bill 2 (2022), October 2; Held a Campus Forum, October 5; and **Goal 4 (Promote Success for All)** Received notice that the college was awarded $810,857 for year one of a five-year federal Title III Strengthening Institutions Program grant (total of $3 million if fully awarded) for Project FORGE: Futures through Opportunity, Readiness, Guidance, and Employment, September 23.

Dr. Beardmore then shared the fall enrollment totals (by class). He explained that enrollment had slipped at the end and we did not see as much dual credit as last year. In reviewing the class by class report he found that seven sections of Welding at Carlsbad High School did not happen because they did not have an instructor. In Artesia High School the Drafting instructor retired and the new instructor is not certified yet to teach dual credit, so we lost three sections there.

10) Old Business: None.

11) New Business:

A) **Approval of tuition increase and online course fee for 2027-28: K Beardmore** – At the September 14 Board of Trustees meeting Dr. Beardmore offered his rationale for his proposal to increase out of state tuition to $234/credit hour. He is requesting approval of the proposed increase and further asks that it be implemented in spring 2027. The proposed online course fee of $75 per credit hour will not go into effect until fall 2027. Dr. Beardmore said out of state students with proof of living in Eddy County or employment in its primary industries (energy or extraction) would be eligible for a scholarship of $125 per credit (12 credit maximum). Dr. Beardmore shared that he had emailed (New Mexico) Higher Education Department Secretary Stephanie Rodriquez about implementing the tuition increase in January and she responded with appreciation that tuition for New Mexico residents would not increase.

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

Elkins, Bowman, White, and **Cage** unanimously voted in favor of the motion to approve increasing out of state tuition effective in January 2027.

B) **Approval of Policy Change: K Beardmore** – On a recommendation from the College Council dated October 7, 2026 Dr. Beardmore proposed changing the Chief Information Officer to Chief Technical Officer (CTO). The CTO will be the Vice President of Technology

Services and Solutions and oversee all related activities and be responsible for a comprehensive technology strategy. He explained that the Ferrilli contract for the Chief Information Officer will expire in November 2027 which gives the college 13 months to begin working on language for a new contract. The policy change to have a CTO would concentrate on services and solutions and the individual in this position can help determine the direction of the (Ferrilli) contract. If the policy change is approved SENMC will post the job description for the CTO this week.

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

Bowman, Cage, Elkins, and **White** unanimously voted in favor of the change from Chief Information Officer to Chief Technology Officer.

C) **Audit Report: C Kasdorf and JAG**– This item was removed from the agenda.

D) **Monthly Financial Report: C Kasdorf** – Ms. Kasdorf presented financial statements for the period ended August 31, 2026. She explained that because only two months of the fiscal year are completed it is too early to draw meaningful conclusions about annual budget variance or make significant adjustments to projections. The college's cash position as of 8/31/2026 was $162,608,306. Its total assets were $228,178,745 and total liabilities were $32,463,401. The reported net position was $195,715,343. She also provided copies of the balance sheet and income statement as of August 31, 2026.

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

A) **Zane Biebelle, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs:** Ms. Biebelle reported that she held her second Bonus Day workshop. Twelve faculty participated in the workshop whose topic was "Teamwork in the Classroom and Beyond." She attended the Higher Learning Commission's Assessment Academy Midpoint Roundtable in St. Charles, Illinois last week, along with Dr. Jonathan Wilson, Ms. Rocio Esparza, and Ms. Cindy Wang. She said they worked on plans to continue their momentum in assessment over the last two years and move forward with new initiatives. She added that it was heartening to see that so many of the goals set at the roundtable two years ago have been accomplished. On October 8 she traveled to Portales with Dr. Beardmore and April Addington for meetings with members of the Education department at Eastern New Mexico University, as well as with the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. They discussed an Early Childhood Education pathway for dual credit students. She said ENMU is interested in SENMC students for transfer and has historically been a good partner for our students. Ms. Biebelle met with representatives from Carlsbad High School to discuss their Building Trades program and attended Eddy County Fire's community strategic planning session. Second eight-week courses started on October 12.

B) **Carolyn Kasdorf, Chief Business & Financial Officer:** Ms. Kasdorf reported that the audit has been submitted to the state.

C) **Diana Campos, Dean of Student Affairs:** Diana Campos reported that academic advisors attended a virtual conference last week offered by the National Academic Advising Association. She said the conference provided some helpful webinars and insight. Enrollment as of 9/23 was 1,566 compared to last fall's figure of 1,622. She said the biggest jump was a 20% increase in Early College High School enrollment. The decrease in headcount is attributed to the Early Alert system which unregisters students who have not been attending classes. Annemarie May has been visiting local high schools and talking to

the junior and senior students. She attended the Career Fair at Loving High School, accompanied by some members of Workforce. They will join her for the Energy Summitt on October 22. Drs. Raven Anderson and Candace Byers will hold a second Student Leadership Challenge event on November 6 and 13. Twenty students are registered. Financial Aid submitted SENMC's 2025-26 gainful employment report on October 1. However, we still need to report information for 2023-24 and 2024-25. Ms. Campos explained that FSA had extended the deadline for these years because several schools had failed to report this information. The new deadline is January 15, 2027.
Student Government will purchase candy and small toys to hand out at Hallowpalooza.

D) **Chris Spaulding, Dean of Workforce Development:**
Office of Dean of Workforce Development – Hosted a visit for Rachael Overbey, Chief of Staff for the Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI); attended Space Valley Discovery Week in Albuquerque; attended the ribbon cutting of the new Roadrunner Quantum Computing Lab in Albuquerque; attended Carlsbad Rotary; **Workforce Training** – completed the first of two trainings under the SENMC annual mine refresher training; **Workforce Partnerships** – secured a $1.2 million CDL expansion grant; helped the community center create a voter guide that was published in the Carlsbad Local; attended Space valley Discovery week; received a $2,000 donation from the Permian Basin Association of Pipeliners; **Work-Based Learning** – continue to work on the NDT and apprenticeship programs; **Adult Education** – Jovani Gallegos, Megan Salazar, Veronica Salazar, Yvette Mendoza, and Misty McCormack attended the New Mexico Adult Education Conference in Albuquerque where the team received an award for Excellence in Distance Learning; and **Community Education** – the aviation program has officially started; we received two small STEM grants to support the STEM Kids program for the next two years. The program will be available to children ages 12 and older. Mr. Spaulding apologized for not including the amount of the grants and offered to email the information later.

E) **Tymon Mattoszko, CIO:** Mr. Mattoszko recently attended an education technology conference in Denver. He said the number one conversation in higher education is ghost students because everyone is affected. He said it has gone from "amateur hour" to organized crime using AI. The Technology Services and Solutions department recently upgraded the campus network to handle audio and video. The idea is that we can put high-quality audio and video on the network and it can be projected into the classroom. This also ties into the emergency notification system. He explained that the technical part of the theatre (which is 3-pronged) will essentially take the technology parts (stage lights, spots, and general audio/visual systems) and do things on a small scale without having to use the Performing Arts Center at the high school. The recent Data Governance Committee meeting was very productive, and they will have discussions about AI now that faculty are back. He then provided a brief demonstration of the new stage lights that have been installed in Room 153.

13) **HR Report: Steven Gonzales, HR Director:** The employee count for SENMC as of October 1 is 326 employees. This includes full-time, part-time, temporary, and student employees. There are currently 7 faculty and 19 staff vacancies.
October 2026's Employee of the Month is Bertha "Betty" Juarez-Ortega, Admissions Coordinator, Lead.

14) **Employee representative comments (optional)**
   A) **Faculty:** No report.
   B) **Administrative Staff:** No report.
   C) **Classified Staff:** Classified Staff President Brooke Young introduced herself to the Trustees. Other Classified Staff officers include Betty Juarez-Ortega, Vice President, Donna Birchell, Secretary, and Joe Enriquez, Treasurer.

15) **Executive (Closed) Session: Discussion of Audit Report pursuant to NMSA 1978 §12-6-5 of the Audit Act**
   Motion: **Lee White** Second: **Ned Elkins** Nays: **-0-** Abstain: **-0-**
   At 6:51 pm Trustees **Bowman, Cage, Elkins,** and **White** unanimously voted in favor of going into a closed session to hear the audit report provided by a representative from Jaramillo Accounting Group.

16) **Reconvene Open Session:** upon confirming that the only business of the closed session was the presentation of the audit report the open session of the meeting reconvened at 7:34 pm.
   Motion: **Lee White** Second: **Ned Elkins** Nays: **-0-** Abstain: **-0-**
   Bowman, Cage, Elkins, and **White** voted unanimously in favor of reconvening the open session.

17) **Board Comments:** None

18) **Announcement of the next regular board meeting:**
   Date: November 9, 2026 **Time:** 6:00 pm **Place:** SENMC Room 153

19) **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Approved

Dr. Ned Elkins, Secretary

11.9.26
Date