

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Date: 8/10/26

Time: 6:00 pm

Type of Meeting:

☒ Regular

☐ Work Session

☐ Special

Location: SENMC RM 153

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

☒ Secretary, Ned Elkins
☒ Member, Jason Shirley

Board Member(s) absent: Mark Cage

1) Call to Order

Time: 6:00 pm

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Establish Quorum – Roll Call

4) Approve Agenda

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

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

5) Approval of minutes from the previous meeting – 7/13/2026

Motion: **Lee White** Second: **Jason Shirley** Nays: **0** Abstain: **0**

Elkins, Shirley, White, and Bowman voted to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 meeting.

6) Public Comments: Norbert Rempe addressed the Board with concerns about plans for a residence hall. He said the planning process has been less than transparent toward the public. He suggested getting funding from private investors rather than using taxpayer money. He said dormitories delay in the transition to adulthood and claimed they basically are institutionalizing people. He suggested as an alternative that students could be housed with local seniors that need help with daily living. He said this would help integrate them into society.

7) Student Government Representative: Diana Campos, Dean of Student Affairs, reported that Welcome Week is August 24-27 and Student Government is planning several activities. She said they will soon publish a flyer with details.

8) General Counsel: Lane Martin participated via Zoom but had nothing to report. He said he appreciates the opportunity to work with Dr. Beardmore and the administration at the school.

9) SENMC general status report: Dr. Kevin Beardmore

Report on 2025-2030 Strategic Plan – Goal 1 (Serve More Students) Met with new Early College Principal Rebecca Hicks to discuss potential History and Environmental Science dual credit opportunities for Early College students, July 22; we will be providing History dual credit for the first time; the previous Early College High School principal has moved to the Central Office; Met, along with Gary Martinez, with Jaynes Corporation and Nine Degrees for the Trades x Technologies Building progress report, August 6; **Goal 2 (Welcome and Engage the Community)** Attended a Get Out the Vote Campaign strategy session with local leaders at the Carlsbad

Chamber of Commerce, July 14; some of our electronic billboard time will include support for that after we get past the first day of school; Attended an update on the WIPP New Mexico Environment Department permit for local leaders, July 15; Met, along with Zane Biebel, with Andres Ruiz, Carlsbad Fire Department Training Chief, about partnership plans for the coming academic year, July 15; Attended Carlsbad Rotary, July 15, 22, 29, and August 5; Attended the Voices to Action: Co-Creating Solutions for Student Success community policy workshop led by Future Focused Education and Carlsbad Municipal Schools, July 20; Met with Carlsbad Municipal Schools Theatre Production Partnership lead Dianne Joop, July 20 & 28; Published my latest newspaper/website article: "Under Locke, and Free" July 21; Served as a "Celebrity Reader" at the Mayor's First Annual Read-A-Thon at the Halagueño Arts Park, July 25; Joined Eddy the Mountain Lion as we thanked the City of Carlsbad for the efforts of the Mayor's Higher Education Task Force created in 2020 and updated the City Council on the college's accreditation status, July 28; Attended the WIPP Community Forum, in Hobbs, August 5; Attended the Carlsbad Department of Development Board meeting, along with Trustee Shirley, August 6; Attended the Meet and Greet for CARC, Inc. CEO, Tom Hollis, August 6; Attended the Partners in Heart Health Scholar's Reception, August 7; **Goal 3 (Increase Learning and Efficiency)** Met with Nine Degrees and staff from Student Services, the Library, and the Bookstore about the Main Campus renovation, July 23; Held a Campus Forum, August 3; Presented the Driving Range proposal to the New Mexico Higher Education Department Capital Outlay Committee, in Las Cruces, August 5; we asked for a quarter million dollars in support of that project because we are hoping to secure five times that amount in grant monies. Dr. Beardmore was able to talk about the gift from Permian Strategic Partnership and explain why this is the best investment the state can make because they (the state) will get five times the return on it; Met with owners of property adjacent to campus, August 6; Met with Kids on Campus potential partners, including Youth Development Inc., August 6; and **Goal 4 (Promote Success for All)** Attended the Higher Education General Obligation Bond Campaign meeting, July 23; Participated in the Management & Leadership Workshop for all SENMC supervisors by the Department of Workforce Solutions Workforce Learning and Development Unit, July 30-this was in response to the Great Colleges to Work For survey that showed our supervisors and department chairs just below the national average; Attended the Circus Summer Camp performance at the Administrative and Classified Staff Employee Luncheon, July 30

Dr. Beardmore shared SENMC's updated protocol if law enforcement appears on campus. This document replaces our previous guidance that was specific to ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement).

Dr. Beardmore informed the Trustees that candidates for the position of VP of Workforce Development and Community Education will be visiting campus on August 17, 24, 26, and 31 and asked them about their availability to have dinner with at least one candidate. Sarah Bowman and Ned Elkins will join the candidates coming on the 17th and 31st, Jason Shirley chose August 24th, and Lee White will take the meal on August 26th.

10) Old Business: None

11) New Business:

A) U.S. Secretary of Education Issues Call to Action to University Presidents and Governing Boards: K Beardmore – Dr. Beardmore shared a letter from the U.S. Secretary of Education, Linda E. McMahon calling on institutions of higher education to rebuild public confidence and trust, commit to rigorous teaching, and national service. He said SENMC will respond to this call, and he will share details as plans are developed.

B) Initial Discussion-Board Retreat in 2027: K Beardmore – Dr. Beardmore explained that with two new Board members since January and the expectation of another he believes that this Board needs to do this. He added that he would like to have the retreat before

SENMC's report is due to the Higher Learning Commission. He will start by contacting ACCT to find a leader for the retreat. He proposed holding it on February 8, 2027 (the same day as that month's Board of Trustees meeting) and the Trustees agreed.

- C) Placement of Rotary Sign on Highway Property: K Beardmore** – Dr. Beardmore said a member of Rotary had approached him last week and asked if the club could put a welcome sign (approximately 4' x 8') on SENMC's highway property. Dr. Elkins expressed concern about setting a precedent by allowing any group to post a sign on SENMC property. Jason Shirley wondered about NMDOT approval for a group to place an off-premises sign. The Trustees agreed that they would like a representative from the Rotary Club to make a presentation to the Board before taking any action.

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

Elkins, Bowman, White, and Shirley voted unanimously to table this action until the September 14, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting and invite someone from Rotary to come and talk to the Board.

- D) Quarterly Financial Report: C Kasdorf** – Ms. Kasdorf began with an investments report as of June 30, 2026. This is the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, covering April 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026. She said SENMC continues to realize significant gains from its investment strategy implemented in November 2025. During the fourth quarter the investments earned \$1,260,534 in interest. She explained that these fourth quarter earnings exceeded the entire FY2024 interest earnings by more than \$407,000. They exceeded FY25 earnings by \$165,936.

Based on current results the projected FY26 investment income is approximately \$2,067,003. The additional investment income strengthens the College's financial position and provides increased flexibility to support strategic initiatives, institutional priorities, and long-term financial sustainability.

The total market value of the investments is \$167,944, 873 as of June 30, 2026, of which approximately \$90 million is invested with CNB and CNB Wealth Management with \$75,603,151 is invested with PFM.

Ms. Kasdorf also shared graphs and a spreadsheet illustrating the account distributions and the locations of the funds. She then moved on to the Quarterly Certification and asked the Trustees to approve the quarterly financial actions report.

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

Elkins, Bowman, Shirley, and White unanimously approved the motion to approve the quarterly certification.

- E) Monthly Financial Report: C Kasdorf** – Ms. Kasdorf started by thanking the Trustees for their continued engagement and support throughout the year. She presented financial statements reflecting the 12-month period ending June 30, 2026. She reminded them that the fiscal year has not been fully closed and several year-end entries remain outstanding. She proposes to move approximately \$13,390,753 to reserves for FY26 but the final transfer amount is subject to the completion of all year-end entries and the annual audit process. She expects to close 2026 with \$197,851,504.

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

- A) Zane Biebelle, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs:** Ms. Biebelle said she is focusing on the start of the school year and working with TSS to make sure classroom technology is ready.

She and Kristal Allen are working on preparations for the CLIFF Scholars Honors Program. The theme this year is “The Year of Curiosity: Where will your curiosity take you?”

Zane is also preparing a brief presentation for the Academic Kickoff and getting ready to meet with department heads within the first month of school starting.

She added that one of her goals this year is to work on strengthening academic integrity, especially in online courses which she said is a nice synchronicity with the Secretary of Education’s letter. She said she has been working with the Testing Center and doing research about how to be sure that our students are able to demonstrate their learning in our classes.

- B) **Carolyn Kasdorf, Chief Business & Financial Officer:** Ms. Kasdorf reported that they are wrapping up the audit and hope to be done by month-end.

The Health Clinic had its largest monthly utilization in July with 135 patient visits, 7 of which were people from the community; the Clinic is now doing drug testing for Nursing and Allied Health program students. Clinic coordinators Delicia Pineda-Vlosich and Julie Uebel continue “tabling” at the Farmers’ Market every Saturday, handing out water, Health Clinic swag, and pamphlets about our community services. This will continue through the end of the month.

Clinical Coordinator Julie Uebel is teaching the phlebotomy class this Fall and has been certified as a CPR instructor.

- C) **Diana Campos, Dean of Student Affairs:** Diana reported that the Accessibility Services Office is now open full-time. Genio Notes, an accessible software tool designed to help students capture audio, annotate slides, and organize notes, is coming this Fall. It is a companion tool designed for higher education and neurodiverse learners that aids learners in practicing and recording presentations with transcripts and audio playback. Maxient is also going live this Fall. The program is designed to track and manage student conduct, behavioral intervention, academic integrity, and Title IX compliance.

The weekly enrollment report as of 7/30/2026 gives a headcount of 617 for Fall 2026 with 97 first-time freshmen.

New Student Orientation is scheduled for Monday, August 17. Students may attend a session at either 9-11:30 am or 4-6:15 pm.

Faculty will now be able to report early alerts using EAB Navigate. Training for this will be held during one of the sessions following convocation.

To help guard against ghost students Student Services will now request government issued ID, copies of Social Security cards, a bill or other proof of identity. Online advising appointments now require cameras to be turned on and possible ID verification.

Summer grades are out and Financial Aid is running end of year processes for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and Return to Title IV (R2T4). Financial Aid disbursements for Fall 2026 are scheduled for September 9. The next FAFSA workshop will be on Monday, August 24 from 3-5 pm.

Ms. Campos said the VA program at SENMC started with 4 students in Fall 23. As of August 5, 2026, there are 12 veteran students enrolled.

Dr. Raven Anderson attended Student Leadership Challenge in Rhode Island and on August 5-6 conducted (with Candace Byers) a Student Leadership Challenge on campus with 45 students in attendance. The favorite activity was a group task to build a roller coaster. Dr.

Anderson is planning to have another workshop in November.

- D) **Chris Spaulding, Interim VP of Workforce Development and Community Engagement:** **Interim VP's Office** - met, along with Misty McCormack with the NM Rural Workforce Collaborative to discuss bringing NM State grants to the rural College Workforce. Curtis Clough and Lee White are heading the effort; **RCT - received** approval from the Department of Energy for issuance of the DOE Core card and access to the official test bank. This will help SENMC graduates' qualification credentials for employment; **Grant MSHA** - Oscar Colorado continues to instruct WIPP 8-hour MSHA Refresher. We were honored to have Mark Bollinger as one of the students and received high praise from him for the class and for Oscar; **Adult Education** – enrollment for the fall semester is ongoing with 162 enrolled so far. This is on track from the previous year; and **Community Education** – summer Community Education classes are completed. This was our second year to offer the Summer Reading Program-53 children were enrolled with an average attendance of 36 children; Maria Quintana used the \$20,000 Conoco grant to purchase a Kitchen a la Cart mobile teaching kitchen which will allow Community Education to offer hands-on cooking, nutrition, and healthy living education for up to 10 students at a time.

- E) **Tymon Mattosko, CIO:** Mr. Mattosko presented an executive summary for June-July 2026. He expanded on Diana Campos's comments about "ghost students" saying they are a big deal for everybody, especially with AI. They are looking at a few systems and platforms that have databases that provide the option of doing verifications of people's addresses.

They have done a lot of work on One Application over the last several months and have added CDL and Radiological Control Technology. The goal is to provide a better applicant experience. One thing they are planning to do is unify the overall request for information. The transact payment system is operational.

Wiring has been done on most of the rooms under renovation. Once the model rooms are ready, they will test them and move forward. They have also installed new equipment in the gym. This equipment will remain after the renovation.

Tymon talked about the Genio transcription software. He said it is focused on education and can assist both students and instructors. It is not just a notetaking software; it can also help with projects by connecting things to each other.

- 13) **HR Report: Steven Gonzales, HR Director:** The employee count for SENMC as of August 5 is 316 employees. This includes full-time, part-time, temporary, and student employees. He recognized Dr. Raven Anderson who was recently named the Director of Accessibility Services, Dr. Jonathan Wilson, Director of Assessment, and Jade Ramirez, Director of Enrollment. He also recognized new employee Logan Antiporda, Math Tutor. There are currently 6 faculty and 13 staff vacancies. The Human Resources department is hosting a team Kickoff event on Friday, August 14 for SENMC faculty and staff. They will start at 8 am with a Continental breakfast and welcome and then present team building activities from 8:30-10:30. The theme is Forward Together: Students First. Team Always.

Finalists for the Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Engagement will be on campus August 17, 24, 26, and 31. You may review their bios on the SENMC website.

August 2026's Employee of the Month is presented in recognition and memory of Seth Best, Tech Support Technician.

14) Employee representative comments (optional)

- A) **Faculty:** No report.
- B) **Administrative Staff:** No report.
- C) **Classified Staff:** Dr. Beardmore explained that Classified Staff chair Brooke Young was unable to be at tonight's meeting but expects to attend in September and give a report.

15) Executive Session: pursuant to NMSA 1978 §10-15-1 H (2) (Executive Evaluation) - On a motion made by Jason Shirley and seconded by Lee White the Trustees unanimously voted to go to Executive Session at 7:04 pm.

16) Reconvene Open Session: After confirming that the Executive Session was limited to executive evaluation on a motion by Jason Shirley and seconded by Lee White the Trustees unanimously voted to reconvene the open session at 8:17 pm.

17) Board comments: Jason Shirley congratulated Lee White on being named Superintendent of the Year. Sarah Bowman extended her condolences to the family of Seth Best and asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

18) Announcement of the next regular board meeting:

Date: September 14, 2026 **Time:** 6:00 pm **Place:** SENNC Room 153

19) Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Approved

Dr. Ned Elkins, Secretary

Date