

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Date: 4/13/26

Time: 6:00 pm

Session Location: SENMC RM 153

Board Members present:

Chair, Sarah Bowman

Member, Lee White (via Zoom)

Member, Mark Cage

Secretary, Ned Elkins

Member, vacant

Type of Meeting:

Regular Work

Special

Board Member(s) absent:

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

Time: 6:00 pm

Motion: **Ned Elkins**

Second: **Mark Cage**

Nays: **0**

Abstain: **0**

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

- 5) **Approval of minutes from the previous meeting – 3/9/2026**

Because Trustee Cage had not been present at the March 9 meeting and would not vote on the minutes, and Trustee White had not yet joined this evening's meeting, Mark Cage moved to table approval of the March 9 minutes until there is a quorum of Trustees who did attend the March 9 meeting. Ned Elkins seconded the motion and Trustees Cage, Elkins, and Bowman voted unanimously to table approval of the March 9 minutes as stated in the motion.

Lee White joined the meeting via Zoom at approximately 7:15 pm. After hearing all the Executive reports, Chair Bowman asked for a motion to take approval of the March 9 minutes off the table. The motion was made by Ned Elkins and seconded by Lee White.

Elkins, White, and Bowman voted in favor of the motion. Cage abstained from voting.

The Trustees then voted to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Motion: **Ned Elkins**

Second: **Lee White**

Nays: **0**

Abstain: **1**

Elkins, White, and Bowman voted to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2026 meeting. **Cage** abstained from voting.

- 6) **Public Comments:** Norbert Rempke wanted to make the Board members aware of a document SENMC is distributing "If Immigration and Customs Enforcement ICE appears on campus..." that he says gives the impression that it encourages an adversarial perspective on a federal law enforcement agency that protects us from foreign lawbreakers among us. He said it was adapted from a website by the American Association of Colleges & Universities and apparently approved by the college as SENMC appears at the bottom of the document. Mr. Rempke provided the Trustees with a copy of it. He said the president of AAC&U is a woman who has published several papers critical of people who oppose DEI programs.

He says he does not think it is the role of a community college to "actually engage in political advocacy" and

added that he would like the Trustees to consider the policies regarding issuing papers and distributing them on campus at taxpayers' expense.

- 7) **Student Government Representative:** Diana Campos, Dean of Student Affairs, told the Trustees that Student Government is purchasing stoles for the graduates, and her staff are prepping for graduation.
- 8) **PTK Representative:** Dr. Raven Anderson provided an overview of PTK's activities during 2025-2026. He started by introducing their newest member, Alita Sotello. The Southeast New Mexico College chapter achieved 5 Star status again this year. They completed their college project which focused on membership recruitment and engagement and raising awareness of benefits of membership and recognition breaking the stigma of community colleges. Dr. Anderson presented a workshop at Catalyst 2025 in Kansas City. The chapter finished 2025 with 51 new members. There was an induction ceremony last fall, and the spring induction ceremony is scheduled for April 22. They collaborated with Sky Soto (PR & Marketing Director) for their Honors in Action project. The students researched challenges and barriers of neurodivergent students when transferring from high school to college. They then created a color-coded resource map to assist students in finding places such as the Testing Center or Accessibility Services, as well as other offices on campus. One SENMC student, Ciara Taff, ran for an international PTK office. She made it through to the semi-finals in Baltimore. In November, Dr. Anderson was named New Mexico Regional Coordinator and oversees all the PTK chapters in New Mexico. Dr. Candace Byers has taken on the primary advisory responsibilities for SENMC's chapter, assisted by April Addington and Dr. Jonathan Wilson. Four students have received scholarship awards, and one student is a semi-finalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship. Southeast New Mexico College hosted the NM Region Spring Regional Conference. There were approximately 50 students and advisors from around the state and SENMC's chapter received several awards. Dr. Anderson and two advisors took seven students to Baltimore for PTK Catalyst at the end of March. Two students were recognized as Regional Officers, two were recognized for the scholarship awards and advisors from SENMC won two international awards.
- 9) **General Counsel:** Lane Martin participated via Zoom but said he did not have any updates.
- 10) **SENMC general status report: Dr. Kevin Beardmore**

Report on 2025-2030 Strategic Plan – Goal 1 (Serve More Students) Met with a team from Carlsbad Municipal Schools, Clovis Community College, and the Southern Regional Education Board about teacher education, March 12; met, along with April Addington and Dr. Seitaridou, with Jason Hightower, Carlsbad HS Principal, to finalize planned dual credit Education degree pathways, March 18; met, along with Gary Martinez, with Jaynes Corporation and Nine Degrees for the Trades x Technologies Building update (and beam signing scheduled for April 30), March 19 and April 2; attended, along with the city, county, and others, the Carlsbad Department of Development site visit preparation meeting on March 27; presented, along with the New Mexico Junior College Dean of Workforce, to site visitors from a company with potential to locate in the area, in Hobbs on March 31; **Goal 2 (Welcome and Engage the Community)** recognized by Eddy County United Way as the Business of the Month, March 9; published latest newspaper/website article: "A Change of Mind", March 10; participated in the Carlsbad Department of Development Strategic Planning meeting, March 11; attended Carlsbad Rotary on March 11, 18, 25, and April 1 and 8; attended the Carlsbad Department of Development Board training, March 12; attended the Carlsbad Department of Development Board meetings, March 12 and April 2; provided public comment on electricity needs in the region to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission at its Roswell meeting, March 12; attended the United Way Annual Meeting where Raymond Dominguez, Business Instructor, was recognized for his volunteer work, March 26; attended the Ribbon Cutting for the Cascades Fitness and Wellness Center, March 27; **Goal 3 (Increase Learning and Efficiency)** met, along with Maria Quintana, with Service Skills to discuss soft skills software use and renewal, March 18; attended the New Mexico Higher Education Department Technical Summit in Las Cruces, March 23 and 24; held a Campus Forum on April 13; and **Goal 4 (Promote Success for All)** visited the Ocotillo Center art exhibit by Scott Kiemle, our Digital Media faculty member at Artesia HS, March 12; provided remarks at the Carlsbad Fire, Artesia Fire, and Eddy County Fire Academy Graduation at the Carousel House, with 21 graduates and approximately 400 in attendance, March 21; met with the Kids on Campus team from the Association of

Community College Trustees and the lead contact for Youth Development Inc, the new Head Start provider for Eddy County, about the potential for future collaboration, April 2; and attended the SENMC Career and Transfer Fair on April 8.

Dr. Beardmore also announced that Western Way is now open.

- 11) Old Business: Eddy County Tuition Rate-** Dr. Beardmore presented a proposal to change SENMC tuition and fees for 2026-2027 to reduce the current New Mexico Resident rate (for anybody outside of the Carlsbad school district) from \$888.00 to \$648 for a full-time student. Mark Cage said he thinks if we were to make an Eddy County rate that there should be an extra benefit for students that come from a household that pays taxes here. Ned Elkins reiterated that he wants to add Loving to our tax base. Dr. Beardmore said he thinks they should initiate that process with the new building.

Motion: **Mark Cage** Second: **Ned Elkins** Nay: **-0-** Abstain: **-0-**

Cage, Elkins, and Bowman all voted in favor of adopting the new tuition rate in fall 2026.

12) New Business

- A) Remove and replace boilers: Dr. K Beardmore** – Dr. Beardmore presented a recommendation for removal and disposal of the boilers (as described in the packet). He explained that the boilers had not been replaced when the HVAC work was done because we had not had any trouble with them. This past winter there were several days when the campus buildings did not have heat. The problems were determined to be the result of improper maintenance of the boilers. The recommended bid includes the lowest price for the new equipment as well as a preventative maintenance contract. The total cost is a little less than \$550,000. The length of the service contract was not specified in the bid and on a motion by Ned Elkins and seconded by Mark Cage, the Trustees unanimously decided to table the decision on the boilers until this question could be answered. Dr. Beardmore called Gary Martinez, Director of Construction and Special Projects, to ask him for this information. Mr. Martinez advised that it is a one-year service contract. Mark Cage then moved to take this item off the table, seconded by Ned Elkins and unanimously approved.

Motion: **Ned Elkins** Second: **Mark Cage** Nay: **-0-** Abstain: **-0-**

Cage, Elkins, and Bowman voted in favor of accepting the bid presented for replacing the boilers and getting a service contract for their maintenance.

- B) Approval to purchase equipment for Instrumentation Controls and Electrical Program: Dr. Kevin Beardmore** - Dr. Beardmore explained that this purchase is basically funded by others. He says they have spoken to the US Department of Energy which has agreed to fund this through the US DOE grant. The only item in question is the Three-Phase Separator. However, the College also has access to funds from the \$6 million state appropriation that came through this spring. It is being shared by New Mexico public colleges in support of energy programming. We do not know what portion of that we would get, but it would be put toward this purchase. We have also received a total of \$175,000 from ExxonMobil for room naming rights and STEM education. We have the funds to cover this even if USDOE does not want to cover the purchase of this item. This purchase is through a contract agreement known as TIPS (out of Texas) that allows us to get the best price on these items. He added that he was at New Mexico Junior College recently and saw a lot of this same equipment there. He said they have “ramped up” their instruction and are moving a lot more students through including high school students. They expect to move about 600 students through by the end of the academic year. He said we need to make this purchase to get back out in front.

Dr. Beardmore recommends this purchase at a cost of \$1,149,463. Mark Cage said that in his opinion, “this is a no-brainer”.

Motion: **Mark Cage** Second: **Ned Elkins** Nay: **0** Abstain: **0**

Cage, Elkins, and Bowman voted in favor of the motion to purchase the equipment as recommended.

- C) Approval of purchase of Mine Hazard ID system from 5DT: Misty McCormack for Chris Spaulding-** Misty presented a quote from 5DT to add the mine hazard identification system software to the existing simulation lab. No hardware is included in this purchase. The software would be installed in all seven of their hardware systems. It also includes ten e-learning licenses and ten concurrent users, and three years of support. The total for this purchase is \$143,000. Ms. McCormack added that this will be purchased from the DOE grant, and they already have that approval.

Motion: **Ned Elkins** Second: **Mark Cage** Nay: **-0-** Abstain: **-0-**

Cage, Elkins, and Bowman all voted in favor of the motion to purchase this software.

- D) Approval of purchase of Radiological Control Technician (RCT) Training System from 5DT: Misty McCormack for Chris Spaulding-** Misty presented a quote from 5DT to add the RCT training system to all seven of their systems. It has been approved for purchase through the DOE grant. It also has a three-year contract and other conditions similar to those for purchasing the mine hazard ID system software.

Motion: **Mark Cage** Second: **Ned Elkins** Nay: **-0-** Abstain: **-0-**

Cage, Elkins, and Bowman all voted in favor of the motion to purchase this software.

- E) Approval of the 2026-2027 Budget: Carolyn Kasdorf –** Dr. Kevin Beardmore started by explaining that Ms. Kasdorf met with every department chair and director to create this budget. He then presented a brief report listing the recurring and non-recurring costs of major new budget items. He said a lot is happening as the college prepares to open the doors on the new building. Ms. Kasdorf said the proposed budget is significantly higher (approximately \$25 million more) than last year, primarily because of the ongoing construction which includes the completion of the Trades x Technologies Building, daycare building design, and renovation of the front entrance. These additional expenses will require SENMC to transfer approximately \$22 million from reserves during the 2027 fiscal year. Total expenditures for the FY27 budget are \$81,393,214.

Motion: **Ned Elkins** Second: **Mark Cage** Nay: **-0-** Abstain: **-0-**

Cage, Elkins, and Bowman voted to approve the 2026-2027 budget as presented.

- F) Approval of Budget Adjustment Request (BAR): Carolyn Kasdorf -** Additional construction related expenditures have been incorporated into current budget to actual activity, including the T² Building, daycare design, and access road development. This BAR is presented to realign projected revenues with projected expenditures and restore a balanced position consistent with the new reporting structure.

Motion: **Mark Cage** Second: **Ned Elkins** Nay: **-0-** Abstain: **-0-**

Cage, Elkins, and Bowman voted in favor of approving the Budget Adjustment Request.

- G) Monthly Financial Report: Carolyn Kasdorf –** Carolyn Kasdorf presented financial reports for the period ending February 28, 2026. She explained that the balance sheet has been updated to focus on fiscal years 2025 and 2026 as FY24 rolled into FY25 beginning balances to provide a “clearer, forward-looking financial position.” She added that this presentation allows for a more streamlined view of current performance and projected outcomes.

The Budget to Actual report has been updated to reflect a balanced budget in which total revenues equal total expenditures and the addition of a new line item (Transfer to/from Reserves). Based on current projections, Ms. Kasdorf anticipates transferring \$9,724,743 to reserves, an adjustment that will ensure that excess revenues are formally recognized as planned reserves rather than appearing as unallocated surplus.

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

- A) **Dr. Effrosyni “Frosso” Seitaridou, VP of Academic Affairs:** Dr. Bobby Huang attended the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention (NMHEAR) conference in March where he presented a presentation titled “The Assessments of Introductory and General Chemistry Teaching at Southeast New Mexico College.” The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has approved two new programs at SENMC, the Associate of Applied Science in Public Safety Technician and the Associate of Applied Science in Environmental Management Technician.
- B) **Carolyn Kasdorf, Interim VP-Business and Finance:** Ms. Kasdorf reported that she currently is working on the Budget Adjustment Request (BAR), the 2026-2027 budget, and the FY25 audit.
- C) **Diana Campos, Dean of Student Affairs:** Ms. Campos reported that the first EAB Navigate email campaign was sent to more than 800 continuing students to remind them to meet with their academic advisors for summer/fall registration. Lead Academic Advisor Teddi Garcia received an Excellence Award from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD). The NISOD Excellence Awards recognize extraordinary faculty, administrators, and staff whose service to their students, colleagues, and community deserves special recognition. Financial Aid offered a FAFSA workshop on campus on April 7. Additional workshops are scheduled from April 22 through August 24.
- Students may purchase graduation regalia in the campus bookstore. Graduation practice will be at the Performing Arts Center on the Carlsbad High School campus at 10 am on Friday, May 15. Ms. Campus is traveling to Denver, Colorado to attend the Ellucian Live 2026 Conference.
- D) **Chris Spaulding, Interim VP of Workforce Development and Community Engagement:** Ms. Misty McCormack gave the report for Mr. Spaulding who is attending a conference. **Interim VP’s Office** – attended Rotary and went to Chicago for the HLC Conference; **Work-Based Learning** - Dr. Monty Harris performed the final review of documents for the Electrician Registered Apprenticeship Program with the state apprenticeship office and created the RFQ for Electrician Apprenticeship tools, materials, and trainers; **Workforce Training** – the Workforce Training Team held its first UTA OSHA 511 class at the SENMC Workforce Training Center; conducted trainings of more than 40 employees and students; in March trained 6 students for AHA; trained two community members through the broadcast media program who are now working for local media outlets in the community; **Workforce Partnerships** - Johnny Chandler attended Carlsbad Department of Development board meetings on March 12 and April 2; SENMC will host the SENM STEPS quarterly safety meeting on April 15; sent “Save the Date” notices for the 2nd Annual SENMC Safety Conference scheduled for August 21, 2026, presented by the Permian Road Safety Coalition. So far this save the date has raised more than \$14,000 in donations from Permian Road Safety Coalition, Kyvek, ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, and Eddy County; **Adult Education** – Veronica Salazar, Jaden Slaughter, and Megan Salazar attended the Mountain Plains Adult Education Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 23-27; and **Community Education** – approximately 45 children participated in Spring Break camps.
- E) **Tymon Mattoszko, CIO:** Mr. Mattoszko presented an executive summary for February 15 to March 15 saying everything is pretty much on track. OneApp is in its training phase and is expected to go live in two weeks. They are implementing a backup system at JSS and working on network upgrades this week.
- 14) **HR Report: Dr. K Beardmore for Steven Gonzales, HR Director:** The employee count for SENMC as of April 7 is 309 employees. This includes full-time, part-time, temporary, and student employees. Dr. Beardmore introduced three new employees, Monique Campos (Financial Aid Administrative Assistant), Annette Garcia (promoted to Director of Financial Aid), and Luke Peters (Technology Support Technician). There are currently 13 faculty and 8 staff vacancies. April 2026’s Employee of the Month is Emily Galindo, HR Assistant.
- 15) **Employee representative comments (optional)**
- A) **Faculty:** Zane Biebelle announced that because she is term-limited she will be stepping down as

Faculty Senate President in May. She thanked the Trustees for their support during her two terms. Rick Wiedenmann shared information about the Energy Day activities scheduled for Thursday, April 23. Jon Strahan recognized Dr. Raven Anderson and Raymond Dominguez for their contributions to the Business and Information Technology department. Dr. Anderson and Mr. Strahan reviewed and reorganized all 21 programs and now these programs allow students to go on to other colleges and fantastic careers. Mr. Dominguez has been assisting with marketing including design t-shirts with the department's logo and preparing radio ads in both English and Spanish. Mr. Strahan and Dr. Anderson also recently did a radio interview with Johnny Chandler.

B) **Administrative Staff:** Sky Soto, PR and Marketing Director showed off the 2025 Paragon Award from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) received at the national conference held in Washington, D.C. in March. Southeast New Mexico College took gold in the Logo Wear category for its short-sleeve button-up shirt that features an all-over graphic print showcasing Eddy the Mountain Lion, desert landscape, Yucca plants, and SENMC lettering. Mrs. Soto, Kristal Allen, and Bookstore Manager Frankie Miller collaborated on the design.

C) **Classified Staff:** No report

16) **Board comments:** Lee White apologized for this evening explaining that he had two things scheduled at once, this Board meeting and Scholarship Night at Loving High School where they recognized 28 students (out of 45 seniors) who received scholarships. Ned Elkins commented that this was an industrious agenda tonight and thanked everybody. He said he thought it was a great meeting and he appreciates everybody's input and all the help. Mark Cage said he had had a small tour of the campus and heard concerns about equipment. He added that he has talked to Dr. Beardmore and is confident that any concerns are going to be addressed and taken care of. He went on to say that he was a member of a committee that decided some financial things for this college. He has been approached by constituents who are unhappy with some of the decisions made, specifically moving funds out of the district (for investments). He said he has rethought his position and feels that all funds from taxpayers in this district need to stay in this district. He said he will stand by that. Additionally, he raised his displeasure with the decision not to fill a Board seat [District III vacated when Tiffany Frintz moved out of the district]. He said he thinks it is a disservice to their constituents and if they are missing two board members they do not have a quorum. Sarah Bowman thanked everybody for being at the meeting. She added that she thinks the board seat is vacant because it has not been brought for a vote and they should handle this expeditiously.

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

Date: May 11, 2026 **Time:** 6:00 pm **Place:** SENMC Room 153

18) **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Approved

Dr. Ned Elkins, Secretary

Date