Southeast New Mexico College
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/9/26
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

Board Member(s) absent: Mark Cage

1) **Call to Order** **Time:** 6:01 pm
2) **Pledge of Allegiance**
3) **Establish Quorum – Roll Call**
4) **Approve Agenda**
   Motion: **Jason Shirley** 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 – 10/12/2026**
   Motion: **Ned Elkins** Second:**Lee White** Nays: **0** Abstain**: 0**
   Elkins, Shirley, White, and **Bowman** voted to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2026 meeting.
6) **Public Comments:** Norbert Rempe took the opportunity to address the newspaper ad paid for by SENMC which thanked the Department of Energy for the $11.7 million. He said the ads do not contain any other valuable information. He wondered if the ads should make members of this Board, charged with fiduciary responsibility and a duty of care, uncomfortable and concerned. Concerned about waste (information content of the ads is close to zero) and concerned about potential abuse. He said the college, a government entity, is using taxpayer money to thank the Department of Energy, also a government entity, for disbursing taxpayer money into the college's coffers. He suggested this appears to be mutual admiration by civil servants for each other at the expense of their nominal master and employer, the taxpayer.
7) **Student Government Representative:** Diana Campos, Dean of Student Affairs, reported that Hallowpalooza was popular, especially the popcorn distributed by Student Services. Human Resources won the campus-wide office decorating contest. Student Government have elected new representatives (Dayra Solis, President, and Pablo Florez, Vice President). They will take office in January.
8) **General Counsel:** Lane Martin, attending in person, said he had nothing to report.

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9) **SENMC general status report: Dr. Kevin Beardmore**

Report on 2025-2030 Strategic Plan – Goal 1 (Serve More Students) Met with the NM Dept. of Transportation about a traffic study at University Drive, the possibility of a deceleration lane will be included in the study, October 14; Visited the Yates Building in Artesia to evaluate it as a potential lease space, October 15; Met with Gary Martinez, Facilities Director, Cindy Wang, Early Childhood Education Director, and Nine Degrees about the STEPS Academy plans, October 28; Attended the Trades x Technologies Building progress meeting, October 15 and November 5; Met with Hayley Klein, Artesia City Manager, about space for our Electrical program, October 30; **Goal 2 (Welcome and Engage the Community)** Published my latest newspaper/website article: "Saved By the Bell", October 9; Hosted and provided the welcome for the Community and Economic Development Roundtable with Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas President Lorie Logan, October 13; Attended the opening of the CNB Bank Operations Center near the airport, October 14; Met with Tyler Gustafson, ExxonMobil Public & Government Affairs Advisor, October 14; Attended Kyle Marksteiner's United Way Goodbye Event at Golf Society, October 14; Attended Carlsbad Rotary, October 14, 28, and November 4; Joined in welcoming the community to Taste of Culture, October 15; Presented to the Artesia Rotary on Higher Education Bond 3 with Dr. Shawn Powell of Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell, October 20; Attended the SIMCO Employee Investment Advisory Committee Grant reception, October 20; Attended the Mayor's Energy Summit Dinner, October 21; Welcomed, along with Chair Bowman, visitors from the NM Department of Health, October 22; Served on the Industry Contributions to the Nation panel at the Energy Summit, October 22; Facilitated the SENMC Foundation Board meeting, October 27; Attended the ExxonMobil Delaware Basin Community Safety Forum, October 28; Attended the WIPP Community Forum in Carlsbad, November 4; Attended the Carlsbad Economic Development Corporation Board meeting, November 5; **Goal 3 (Increase Learning and Efficiency)** Met with Glenn Trammel and Dr. Tim Coley from Ferrilli about technology planning efforts, October 15; Attended our new required employee training based on SENMC's values (PRIDE), October 16; Held a Campus Forum, November 2; Attended the "Conserve, Preserve, and Restore: Water, the Key to Life, public symposium presented by our Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, November 5; and **Goal 4 (Promote Success for All)** Joined the presentation of our Research and Public Service Program proposal to the NM Higher Education Department, October 15; Visited, along with Zane Biebelle, the Automotive Technology shop at Carlsbad HS, October 15; Met with staff from Senator Martin Heinrich's office about potential funding for Trades x Technologies programs, with a focus on water quality and reclamation, (thank you, Jason Shirley, for arranging this meeting) October 16; Met, along with Dr. Monty Harris, with Christina Cilento, Manager of the Communities in the Energy Transition Initiative at Resources for the Future, October 20; Attended the University of the Southwest – SENMC agreement signing ceremony, October 22; Presented on the Energy Pathway with Carlsbad Municipal Schools and Devon Energy at the Educational Partnership of the Permian Basin Leadership Summit, in Odessa, October 29.

10) **Old Business:** None

11) **New Business:**

A) **Discuss Potential Lease Spaces for SENMC Site in Artesia: K Beardmore -** Approximately 14 months ago Dr. Beardmore, Dr. Monty Harris, and Chris Spaulding saw a space owned by the City of Artesia that could be developed into a training space. About one month ago Dr. Jonathan Wilson spoke to Dr. Beardmore about the Yates Building in Artesia as a

potential classroom space. Dr. Beardmore explained that one reason for establishing a site in Artesia is that Artesia is the only municipality that does not have an institution of Higher Education located within 20 miles. Hayley Klein, City Manager for Artesia, has proposed leasing or selling the truck driving school space to SENMC. Yates Holdings is prepared to offer the second floor of the Yates Building at the public entity rate of $17.50/square foot rather than the regular rate of $20/sq. ft. In exchange for providing security on the premises SENMC would not be charged for use of the foyer space on the first floor. Dr. Beardmore said that the Yates Building would provide more space than the college needs right now but parking may be an issue. He added that there is no hurry on this. It is all exploratory at this point. Board Secretary Dr. Ned Elkins recommended getting more information from the City of Artesia before going to see these sites. Trustee Jason Shirley commented that this is a fantastic opportunity for creating a college for the region.

Motion: **Ned Elkins** Second: **Jason Shirley** Nay: **0** Abstain: **0**

Shirley, Elkins, White, and **Bowman** unanimously voted in favor of a motion to explore (these options) and give the Board and others the opportunity to view the sites.

B) Quarterly Financial Reports: C Kasdorf – Ms. Kasdorf, Chief Financial Officer, explained that the quarterly financial actions report certifies that the college is making required retirement and payroll payments and paying vendors as scheduled, and has not experienced a cash deficiency. She asked that the Board of Trustees approve the certification report which will be sent to the state.

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

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

Ms. Kasdorf then shared the quarterly investment report detailing the investments held by the college as of September 30, 2026. She said the college is continuing to realize significant gains from the investment strategy implemented in November 2025. In the first quarter of FY2027 (July 1, 2026, to September 30, 2026) the college earned $1,119,921 in investment and accrued interest. Based on current results FY2027 investment income is projected to total approximately $4,100,000. This additional investment income strengthens the college's financial position and provides flexibility for supporting strategic initiatives, institutional priorities, and long-term financial sustainability.

C) Monthly Financial Report: Carolyn Kasdorf – Carolyn Kasdorf presented financial reports for the period ending September 30, 2026. The budget-to-actual report now includes preliminary year-end projections as there has been sufficient activity to assess anticipated revenues and expenditures. Based on current projections, Ms. Kasdorf expects a $2.40 million addition to the college's net position at the end of FY2027. The college's cash position as of September 30 totaled $160,154,782. Total assets were $217,117,974; total liabilities were $33,877, 870; with a reported net position of $97,530,924.

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

A) **Zane Biebelle, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs:** Ms. Biebelle shared some highlights for the month of October 2026 including the news that the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has officially approved the Associate of Applied Science in Instrumentation Controls and Electrical Technology (aka ICE-T) degree. A team from University of the Southwest (Hobbs, New Mexico) was on campus on October 22 for a signing event for the Memorandum of

Understanding between SENMC and USW. University of the Southwest is offering SENMC's Nursing graduates a 55% discount on tuition to complete their Bachelor of Nursing (BSN) online. Ms. Biebelle added that she is excited to provide this opportunity for our graduates to continue their education while staying in the area and serving our community.

Zane accompanied Gretchen Parrish (Ferrilli) on a comprehensive survey of the classrooms and technology on our campus. During the three days Ms. Parrish was on campus they visited every classroom, excluding the Early College. Dr. Eduardo Chappa represented the faculty for most of the tour. Department chairs and faculty responsible were present in classrooms dedicated to specific subjects. She said Ms. Parrish was responsive to faculty needs and as a result we have a comprehensive plan, led by Eric Huff (infrastructure engineer), to update the technology in the classrooms. Zane added her appreciation of Ms. Parrish, Dr. Chappa, and the faculty that discussed the classrooms and said she is hopeful that they will see major improvements. She also thanked Dr. David McIntosh for his work on classroom technology last year, which provided the basis for these visits.

Looking ahead, Ms. Biebelle is meeting with department chairs to arrange and host a joint Citizen's Professional Advisory Council dinner and meeting on February 11, 2027.

B) **Carolyn Kasdorf, Chief Business & Financial Officer:** Ms. Kasdorf was a presenter at the Fall Forum on Professional Development on November 6. She talked about what to know about the Business Office and provided information about budget dashboards, budget adjustments, PCard use, and electronic requisitions. She said they are hoping to go live with the electronic requisitions on December 1.

Ms. Kasdorf said we have lost the excellent pricing we were receiving at LabCorp so the Health Clinic will be taking people's insurance information when they do labs and sending it to LabCorp who will in turn bill the insurance company.

C) **Diana Campos, Dean of Student Affairs:** Ms. Campos shared the Dr. Raven Anderson has been featured in a Times Higher Education article.

Maxient is now live. The program is designed to track and manage student conduct, behavioral intervention, academic integrity, and Title IX compliance. It provides access to forms for submitting both academic and non-academic complaints. Maxient also offers a form to address Title IX concerns and complaints.

Spring enrollment opened on October 1. As of October 28, the headcount for SP27 is 281 compared to the SP26 figure of 184. Twenty-six ESL (English as a Second Language) students from Artesia High School visited campus on November 4. Their time on campus included speaking to an FYEX (First-Year Experience) instructor, accessing our STEM outreach program and Grants services, and taking a photo with Eddy the Mountain Lion.

In Financial Aid news, SENMC has satisfied the definition of an eligible institution under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) and we now have an approved Program Participation Agreement (PPA) through September 30, 2029, under a provisional certification status. We have also received an Eligibility and Certification Approval report (ECAR) listing our approved programs that qualify us to offer federal student aid for those approved programs.

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Southeast New Mexico College will sponsor Coffee with Veterans on Wednesday, November 11, 2026. The event will include a slide show featuring veterans. This show will also be displayed on screens around campus.

The fall SENMC Student Leadership Challenge is scheduled for November 6 and November 13. Twenty students are participating.

D) **Dr. Jennifer Schroeder, VP of Workforce Development and Community Engagement:** Dr. Schroeder, who began serving as VP of Workforce Development and Community Engagement on November 2, started her remarks by thanking Chris Spaulding for the work he had done as the department's interim vice president. Dr. Schroeder has spent the past week meeting with faculty and staff to learn about the teams and current initiatives. She attended other industry-specific meetings as well as the Carlsbad Rotary Club meeting and the WIPP Community meeting; **Work-Based Learning -** the team is working on the Electrical Apprenticeship program and today received four pallets of equipment. Dr. Schroeder said the program urgently needs an instructor-the vacancy places the program at risk of missing its January 2027 deadline; **Workforce Development** - the most recent RCT cohort graduated 11 students; the Dean of Workforce Development attended the Nuclear Task Force meeting, hosted representatives from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and participated in Rotary; **Adult Education -** The New Mexico Higher Education Department praised SENMC's Adult Ed team for strong student progress this year. Of 114 students who completed follow-up testing, more than 90% advanced at least one level in their basic academic or English language skills. The message from the state congratulated the team and asked what was contributing to its success; **Community Education -** launched the Aviation Program and Drone Part 107 course; Fall Community Ed courses are underway and the staff are reporting good enrollment.

E) **Tymon Mattoszko, CIO:** Mr. Mattoszko announced that the theatre (153) is finished and soon they will begin curating movie nights. The Carlsbad Museum has expressed interest in a collaboration with SENMC. The technology in Room 106 is also complete. There have been more improvements to applications including One Application, Transact Integration, Pathify (Portal) integrations, and requisition and purchasing processes. The website design is finalized and departments are meeting to review and begin content migration. The projected goal is January or February. Currently working with HR to review on- and offboarding checklists. Tymon will be in Albuquerque this week for the NMTIE (New Mexico Technology in Education) conference.

13) HR Report: Steven Gonzales, HR Director: Mr. Gonzales invited Trustees to attend the annual Employee Appreciation event which will be held at the Elks Club on Friday, December 4 from 6-8:30 pm. The employee count for SENMC as of November 4 is 330 employees. This includes full-time, part-time, temporary, and student employees. He recognized new employee Madison Allen, Community Education Assistant. There are currently 9 faculty and 19 staff vacancies. November 2026's Employee of the Month is Mireya Hernandez, Workforce Training Assistant.

14) Employee representative comments (optional)

A) **Faculty:** No report.

B) **Administrative Staff:** No report.

C) **Classified Staff:** No report

15) **Board comments:** Dr. Ned Elkins thanked the college on behalf of Los Alamos National Lab for letting them host an important classroom process. They wanted to do it here to build a bridge between the lab and the college. He said he thinks it is a collaboration that will pay great dividends for both the college and the lab. He added that the Department of Energy is extremely pleased that we recognized the more than 11 million dollars that they have bestowed on us for our facility out here. He said he is proud of everything that is going on and proud of the partnership with the lab and the Department of Energy. Sarah Bowman announced she will be starring in the performance of *Steel Magnolias* as Shelby.

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

Date: December 14, 2026 **Time:** 6:00 pm **Place:** SENMC Room 153

17) **Adjournment –** The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Approved

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Dr. Ned Elkins, Secretary Date

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