

The Board of Trustees of Western Texas College met in a regular board meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, July 13, 2026, in the boardroom.

Present: Mr. Jason West, Mr. Mike McWilliams, Mr. Tim Riggan, Dr. Jim Palmer, Ms. Sheila Williamson, Ms. Amy Hargrove

Absent: Dr. Jay Kidd

Staff Present: Dr. Laurie Sharp, Ms. Patricia Claxton, Ms. Melanie Schwertner, Ms. Emily Powell, Mr. Ralph Ramon, Ms. Tammy Davis, Mr. Shawn Fonville, Ms. Tanya Lytle, Mr. Trint Palmer, Mr. Lorenzo Sands, Dr. Donald Sewell

Others Present:

Mr. Jason West, board president, called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

No one from the public made any comments.

Motion by Mr. Riggan, seconded by Ms. Williamson, to approve the June 8, 2026 board minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Williamson, seconded by Mr. McWilliams, to approve the June 2026 financial information. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Dr. Palmer, seconded by Ms. Williamson to approve the employment contract for Mr. Trinity Palmer, head athletic trainer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Riggan, seconded by Ms. Hargrove to approve the employment contract for Mr. Jacob Walters, head men's rodeo coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. McWilliams, seconded by Ms. Williamson to approve the employment contract for Ms. Timmi Hutchings, head women's rodeo coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. McWilliams, seconded by Dr. Palmer to approve the employment contract for Ms. Holly Joplin, English instructor. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Hargrove, seconded by Ms. Williamson to approve the strategic plan and companion documents. Motion carried unanimously.

There were not any curriculum recommendations.

Motion by Dr. Palmer, seconded by Mr. Riggan to approve paying off the maintenance tax notes with a payoff date of August 30, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Williamson, seconded by Ms. Hargrove to award the RFP for maintenance and facilities to TD Industries. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Williamson, seconded by Ms. Hargrove to approve Dr. Laurie Sharp, Ms. Patricia

Claxton, Ms. Stephanie Ducheneaux, and Mr. Ralph Ramon to sign documents for West Texas State Bank. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. McWilliams, seconded by Ms. Williamson for Ms. Patricia Claxton, Ms. Marjann Morrow, Ms. Tara Brown, and Ms. Ashley Rameriz to conduct banking business with West Texas State Bank and to allow Ms. Patricia Claxton to add individuals as needed beginning July 15, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Claxton discussed the preliminary 2026-2027 budget. There was a decrease in total revenue of 1,064,025. With that decrease, we had to come up with the same amount in our total expenses. Our recommended tax rate is 0.3100%. The no-new-revenue tax rate is 0.3606%, which is above our 0.35% cap. The no-new revenue tax rate is the rate which will produce the same amount of tax dollars as last year.

Ms. Claxton also discussed security cameras. This will be a one-time expense. We found a company which is part of the by-board. A group of individuals met with them twice. The price is \$644,000 which does not include the college farm, but it does include the Coliseum but not their parking lot. The security cameras will all be in house.

Ms. Ducheneaux presented the developmental program progress report. For fall 2025 enrollment in developmental mathematics, we had a total of 104 students with a passing rate of 68%. In the fall 2024 semester, the passing rate was 75%. In spring 2026, we had a total of 43 students with a passing rate of 74%. In spring 2025, the passing rate was 67%. In integrated reading and writing fall 2025, we had a total of 94 students with a passing rate of 76%. In fall 2024, our passing rate was 87%. In spring 2026, we had a total of 46 students with a passing rate of 74%. In spring 2025, our passing rate was 60%.

Dr. Sewell discussed the graduation metric. In 2025-2026, we had 380 total graduates. An associate degree was earned by 212 students, 171 received a certificate, 124 were first generation graduates and the age range was 17 – 59. Unduplicated headcount was 4,105; 3,084 were transfer students, 308 were adult learners 25 years old or older, 247 lived in on-campus housing, 2,631 took all online classes, 20 were veterans, and 233 were athletes. Dr. Sewell continues to look at the data.

Dr. Sharp presented the continuing education review. There are two programs that remain important to WTC's workforce development mission but require additional evaluation before we further invest in the programs.

- Commercial Driver License (CDL): Faces increasing competition within the service area. We currently have two full-time instructors.
- Heavy Equipment Training: Has not yet demonstrated sufficient enrollment or participation to justify pricing, scheduling, employer partnerships, and long-term sustainability.

Dr. Sharp presented her president's report. She discussed Student Support and Community Health Partnerships; Continuing Education Operational Improvements; Strategic Workforce and Educational Partnerships; Research and Agricultural Innovation Partnerships; Agricultural and Rodeo Complex Update; and Advancement and Donor Engagement.

Mr. Riggan lead us in prayer

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The board went into executive session in accordance with section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code. Purpose: Personnel. At the conclusion of the executive session, the board reconvened. No action was taken.

Mr. Jason West, Mr. Mike McWilliams, Mr. Tim Riggan, Dr. Jim Palmer, Ms. Sheila Willimson, and Ms. Amy Hargrove watched an investment training video.

Motion by Mr. McWilliams, seconded by Ms. Hargrove, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Date of next board meeting August 10, 2026

APPROVED: _____

Mr. Mike McWilliams, Secretary

Mr. Jason West, President