

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OFFICIAL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025**

A special meeting of the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Chair Reinhardt asked Cari Henry to call the roll:

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Martha Bruckner  
Kristen DuPree  
Phillip Klein  
Theresa Love-Hug, Assistant Secretary  
Linda McDermitt, Treasurer  
Maureen Monahan, Secretary  
Jessica Powell  
Zach Reinhardt, Chair  
Fred Uhe, Vice Chair

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Tammy Wright

**Also Present:** Randy Schmailzl, College President

**Agenda Item 1d** — Announcement of Posted Location of Open Meetings Act

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Chair reported that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act had been posted in the rear of the room.

**Agenda Item 1e** — Recording of Notice of Public Meeting

The Chair then reported on the recording of the Notice of Public Meeting and stated the following:

- 1. Proof of Publication, pursuant to Policy 10503 of the Board of Governors, in the form of an affidavit of an employee of the Omaha World-Herald, to the effect that notice of this meeting was published in that newspaper on August 22, 2025, and on the Omaha World-Herald's website.*
- 2. Affidavit of College employee Cari Henry, to the effect that a copy of the published Notice of Meeting was transmitted to each member of the Board of Governors in a manner specified by Policy 10503 of the Board of Governors.*

*The notice of the meeting stated that an agenda for this meeting, kept continually current, was available for public inspection at the principal office of the Board of Governors, Building No. 30, 30th and Fort Streets, Omaha, Nebraska, by making prior arrangements by calling 531-622-2415.*

*Without objection, the Chair of the Board ordered that the affidavits be attached to the minutes of the meeting and made a part of the official proceedings of the Board of Governors.*

## **Agenda Item 2 — Public Comments**

Melissa Hill, a District 4 constituent and parent of an MCC student, shared her concern about the reliance on e-books in the classroom in place of printed textbooks. She said students purchase the e-books that the instructors have adopted for their classes, but their access to them expires at the end of the class. This prevents students from retaining their textbooks for future reference. She expressed concern that printed textbooks appear not to be a readily available option for students, noting that even the bookstore was unaware that an actual textbook was available for a particular class her child is in. She ultimately located and purchased the book herself.

Hill stated that research indicates students retain information six to eight times better when reading from a printed book rather than a screen. To support her position, she provided an article from *phys.org* titled “*Reading on screens instead of paper is a less effective way to absorb and retain information, suggests research.*” She left the article with Henry to be distributed to Board members after the meeting and voiced her interest in working with the representatives from her district to better understand the textbook adoption process.

## **Agenda Item 3 — Board of Governors’ District 3 Vacancy**

Reinhardt reviewed the process for interviews of the four candidates who were selected to be interviewed by the Board at the August 26, 2025 Board meeting. Candidates would be interviewed in alphabetical order. Each interview would last for no more than 20 minutes and would include an opening statement from the candidate, Board questions, and a closing statement from the candidate.

In advance of this meeting, Board members wishing to ask a question during the interviews submitted their question to Dave Hohman, College Legal Counsel. Those questions were as follows:

Theresa Love-Hug: How would you balance tradition and innovation when guiding the College’s future direction?

Linda McDermitt: How do you see yourself as a fundraiser and an ambassador to the College?

Zach Reinhardt: What do you believe is the role of a Board member on the MCC Board of Governors?

Jessica Powell: Have you ever had a negative experience with someone of a different racial/sexual/class background as you? What was the experience? What was the disposition (final outcome)? If the disposition was positive, what were some of the methods used to obtain it? If the outcome was not resolved, what do you believe could have made a difference to result in a positive conclusion?

Maureen Monahan: What do you believe to be the biggest challenge MCC currently faces?

Martha Bruckner: What has been your previous involvement with Metro Community College?

Each candidate would be asked the same set of questions. Following all four interviews, the Board would vote in open session, with each member naming the candidate of their choice to fill the District 3 vacancy. The candidates were then escorted from the room to await their turn for interviews.

**Agenda Item 3a — Interview of Michael Allen Austin**

**Agenda Item 3b — Interview of Rita Lee Eyerly**

**Agenda Item 3c — Interview of Ralph Joseph Kleinsmith**

**Agenda Item 3d — Interview of Sara Wells Lunsford Kohen**

After all interviews were completed and all candidates were present, Reinhardt thanked the candidates for their interest and time in seeking to fill the District 3 vacancy on the Board of Governors. He restated the voting would take place in open session and each Board member would, in turn, state the name of the candidate of their choice to fill the District 3 vacancy.

First round of voting:

Kristen DuPree – Kleinsmith  
Phillip Klein – Eyerly  
Theresa Love-Hug – Kleinsmith  
Linda McDermitt – Kleinsmith  
Maureen Monahan – Kohen  
Jessica Powell – Kleinsmith  
Zach Reinhardt – Eyerly  
Fred Uhe – Kleinsmith  
Martha Bruckner – Kleinsmith

Hohman announced the vote totals:

Austin – zero (0) votes  
Eyerly – two (2) votes  
Kleinsmith – six (6) votes  
Kohen – one (1) vote

Hohman stated that a majority of those present and voting would be required to appoint the new Board member. Tonight, this meant five (5) votes. Hohman stated the six (6) votes for Ralph Joseph Kleinsmith filled the vacancy in District 3.

## **Agenda Item 4 — Administration of Oath of Office, District 3 Board Member**

### **Agenda Item 4a — Consideration of Resolution Filling District 3 Vacancy on the Board of Governors, Board Doc. 8147**

*WHEREAS, Adam Gotschall was re-elected as a member of the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area to represent District 3 in November 2024 for a term of office that would have extended until January 2028 (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-514 and Neb. Const. art. XVII, sec. 5 (1971)); and,*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Gotschall resigned as a member of the Board of Governors effective July 24, 2025, and the Board of Governors finds and determines that a vacancy has existed in such District 3 seat since his resignation; and,*

*WHEREAS, section 85-1514 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes provides that a vacancy on the Board of Governors is to be filled by the remaining members of the Board for the balance of the unexpired term within 45 days of the date the vacancy is created.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Board of Governors that it hereby appoints Ralph Joseph Kleinsmith to serve as a member of the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area from District 3 for a term of office commencing on September 3, 2025 and extending until January 2028, the same being the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Adam Gotschall.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area shall certify a copy of this resolution and cause the same to be forwarded to the Nebraska Secretary of State.*

**MOTION:** Uhe moved to adopt the resolution to fill the District 3 vacancy and appoint Ralph Joseph Kleinsmith as the District 3 representative; DuPree seconded the motion.

Phillip Klein – yes  
Theresa Love-Hug – yes  
Linda McDermitt – yes  
Maureen Monahan – yes  
Jessica Powell – yes  
Zach Reinhardt – yes  
Fred Uhe – yes  
Martha Bruckner – yes  
Kristen DuPree – yes

Motion carried.

#### **Agenda Item 4b — Administration of Oath of Office to Selected District 3 Board Member**

Hohman administered the oath of office to Ralph Joseph Kleinsmith, newly appointed District 3 Board member. Hohman will forward a certified copy of the resolution and the signed oath to the Secretary of State.

Reinhardt invited Mr. Kleinsmith to take a seat at the Board table.

#### **Agenda Item 5 — Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Powell moved to adjourn the meeting; Love-Hug seconded the motion.

Ralph Kleinsmith – yes  
Theresa Love-Hug – yes  
Linda McDermitt – yes  
Maureen Monahan – yes  
Jessica Powell – yes  
Zach Reinhardt – yes  
Fred Uhe – yes  
Martha Bruckner – yes  
Kristen DuPree – yes  
Phillip Klein – yes

Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

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Maureen Monahan  
Secretary, Board of Governors

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Date

**AFFIDAVIT OF TRANSMISSION OF NOTICE  
OF MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA**

STATE OF NEBRASKA )  
                                  ) SS  
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS )

**Cari Henry, being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and states as follows:**

- 1. That pursuant to direction received from the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area, I caused the following Notice to wit:**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, commencing at 6:30 o'clock P.M. at the Fort Omaha Campus, 32nd & Sorensen Parkway, in the Mule Barn, Building 21, Room 112, Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for such meeting, kept continually current, is readily available for public inspection at the principal office of said Board of Governors, 30th & Fort Streets, Building 30, Omaha, Nebraska, during normal business hours.

Zach Reinhardt  
Chair, Board of Governors

**PUBLISH on Friday, August 22, 2025**

**to be published in the Omaha World-Herald on August 22, 2025; and that the order to said newspaper was made by electronic transmission on August 19, 2025.**

- 2. That on August 19, 2025, a copy of such Notice was addressed and sent by e-mail or, if so requested, by personal delivery to each member of the Board of Governors.**

**Further affiant sayeth not.**

Cari Henry

**SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.**

State of Nebraska – General Notary  
JOLYNN EMERY  
My Commission Expires  
November 30, 2026

Jolynn Emery  
Notary Public



**AFFIDAVIT**

State of Florida, County of Orange, ss:

I, Edmar Corachia, being of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath, hereby depose and say that I am agent of Column Software, PBC, duly appointed and authorized agent of the Publisher of Omaha World Herald, a legal daily newspaper printed and published in the counties of Douglas and Cass and State of Nebraska, and of general circulation in the Counties of Douglas, and Sarpy and State of Nebraska, and that the attached printed notice was published in said newspaper on the dates stated below and that said newspaper is a legal newspaper under the statutes of the State of Nebraska.

**PUBLICATION DATES:**  
Aug. 22, 2025

**NOTICE NAME:** 09 03 25 Special Meeting OWH Notice

**PUBLICATION FEE:** \$40.20

*Edmar Corachia*

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_



**VERIFICATION**

State of Florida  
County of Orange

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me on this: 08/22/2025

*J. Huse*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

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Zach Reinhardt  
Chair, Board of Governors  
2025, (8) 22 - Fridays, ZNEZ