

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

Italicized text is not part of the original conversation.

A 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
Ralph Kleinsmith
Theresa Love-Hug, Assistant Secretary
Linda McDermitt, Treasurer
Maureen Monahan, Secretary
Jessica Powell
Zach Reinhardt, Chair
Fred Uhe, Vice Chair
Tammy Wright
Jeff “Boomer” Strawn, Faculty Ex Officio
Samuel Pembele, Student Ex Officio

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

Also Present: Randy Schmailzl, College President

Agenda Item 1 — Preliminaries

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 September 12, 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

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 3 — Public Hearing and Budget Action Agenda Items

Agenda Item 3a – Consideration of Resolution Approving an Additional 1% Restricted Funds Authority and Carryforward to Future Years, Board Doc. 8148

BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 13-519(2), the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area hereby authorizes and approves exceeding the limit set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 13-519(1)(a) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, by an additional 1%.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amount corresponding to said additional 1% shall be carried forward as unused restricted funds authority to be used in future budget years as determined by the Board of Governors in accordance with applicable law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the budget statement for the College Area for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, as finally adopted, shall incorporate and reflect all matters authorized and approved by this resolution. Prior to filing and certifying the adopted budget statement of the College Area, the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Board shall be authorized to make such adjustments to the adopted budget statement and take such other actions as are necessary or appropriate to carry out the actions approved herein.

Reinhardt explained that approval of the additional one percent authority pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-519(2) requires the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent of the governing body. Seventy-five percent of the College's eleven Board members is 8.25, so nine votes would be required to reach the seventy-five percent of the Board of Governors. Eleven Board members were present at the meeting.

He continued to explain that this item was for the Board of Governors to consider approving an additional one percent restricted funds authority and carryforward to future years. He asked Schmailzl to explain this item to the Board.

Schmailzl stated this was the first of five budget-related items on the agenda. It would enable the College to reserve an additional one percent of restricted budget authority this year in the event the Board would need to use such budget authority in future years, as provided for in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-519(2). This action is not directly related to funding this year's budget, but gives the College an additional one percent of budget authority to carry forward for use in future years if the statutory lid on community colleges requires the Board to use such reserved budget authority in future years. In essence, it would provide the College with a financial safeguard in the event state funding becomes unavailable. The Board has often considered and approved the additional one percent of restricted budget authority carryforward in prior years.

Schmailzl asked if there were any questions. Wright asked if this action would increase property taxes; Schmailzl said no. Dave Hohman, College Legal Counsel, confirmed Schmailzl's answer, adding that it would just give the Board the authority to act when and if necessary. Jim Thibodeau, Associate Vice President for Compliance and General Counsel, noted that the Board would have to take further action to take advantage of the additional authority.

Hearing no further questions, Reinhardt called for a motion and a second to approve an additional one percent restricted funds authority and carryforward to future years.

MOTION: Uhe moved to approve an additional one percent restricted funds authority and carryforward to future years; McDermitt seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3b – Consideration of Resolution Amending the Proposed Metropolitan Community College Area Board of Governors’ Budget for 2025-26, Board Doc. 8149

***BE IT RESOLVED** that, in consideration of information that has become available since the budget was first prepared, the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area does hereby amend the proposed MCCA Board of Governors’ Budget Statement for 2025-26 as follows:*

	Proposed Budget	Amended Proposed Budget	Difference Increase/ (Decrease)
<u>General Fund Revenue</u>			
State Aid Allocation	118,517,627	118,297,223	(220,404)
Property Tax Revenue	0	0	0
Tuition & Fees	27,063,130	27,063,130	0
Other Income	3,150,000	3,150,000	0
Total General Fund	148,730,757	148,510,353	(220,404)
<u>Assessed Valuations</u>	116,878,427,150	115,247,930,784	(1,630,496,366)
<u>Property Tax</u>			
General Fund			
Property Tax Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00
County Treasurer's Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tax Requirement	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tax Rate (cents per \$100)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Fund			
Property Tax Revenue	23,144,243	22,821,372	(322,871)
County Treasurer's Commission	231,442	228,214	(3,228)
Tax Requirement	23,375,685	23,049,586	(326,099)
Tax Rate (cents per \$100)	2.00	2.00	0.00
Hazardous/Handicap Fund			
Property Tax Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00
County Treasurer's Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tax Requirement	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tax Rate (cents per \$100)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Tax			
Property Tax Revenue	23,144,243	22,821,372	(322,871)

County Treasurer's Commission	231,442	228,214	(3,228)
Tax Requirement	23,375,685	23,049,586	(326,099)
Tax Rate (cents per \$100)	2.00	2.00	0.00

<u>Total Unused Restricted Funds Authority</u>	33,587,714.93	34,134,218.36	546,503.43
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Reinhardt explained that this item was for the Board of Governors to consider amendments to the proposed Metropolitan Community College Area Board of Governors' Budget Statement for 2025-26. He asked Schmailzl to explain the proposed amendments to the budget.

Schmailzl said the numbers proposed in July were the best possible estimates at the time. When the final calculations were completed in August and September, the state aid allocation was \$220,000 less than what was proposed, reducing the overall total for the general fund. Further, the capital fund levy held steady at two cents, but due to homeowners' protests of their property's assessed value, the final property tax revenue decreased by \$322,000. He said the budget has to be changed to reflect exact numbers, and the Board's approval of this measure would effect that change.

Reinhardt called for a motion and a second to approve the resolution.

MOTION: Bruckner moved to approve the resolution; McDermitt seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3c – Special Public Hearing to Set the Final Property Tax Request for Fiscal Year 2025-26 at an Amount that Exceeds the Final Property Tax Request for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Reinhardt explained that the purpose of this special public hearing is to set the final property tax request for fiscal year 2025-26 at an amount that exceeds the final property tax request for fiscal year 2024-25. He stated he had before him a Notice of Special Public Hearing and the affidavit of publication of the notice and directed the documents

be attached to the minutes of the meeting and made a part of the official proceedings of the Board of Governors.

Reinhardt called for a motion and a second to open the Public Hearing.

MOTION: Monahan moved to open the Public Hearing; 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
Tammy Wright – yes
Martha Bruckner – yes
Kristen DuPree – yes
Phillip Klein – yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Reinhardt opened the Public Hearing at 6:42 PM. He said the hearing was an opportunity for the public to share their support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations regarding the proposal to set the final property tax request for Fiscal Year 2025-26 at an amount that exceeds the property tax request for Fiscal Year 2024-25, adding that Board members would have an opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the budget during the regular meeting that followed. Reinhardt asked if there were any members of the public who wished to speak. Hearing from no one, he called for a motion and a second to close the Public Hearing.

MOTION: Monahan moved to close the Public Hearing; McDermitt seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Reinhardt closed the Public Hearing at 6:43 PM.

Agenda Item 3d – Consideration of Resolution Adopting the Metropolitan Community College Area Board of Governors Budget Statement, as Amended, Approval of Amount of Property Tax Required to Fund the Budget, and Setting of Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2025-26, Including Levy for the Amount of Property Taxes for Capital Improvements, Board Doc. 8150

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area does hereby approve the Budget Statement identified as MCCA Board Doc. No. 8130a for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, as amended, including restricted funds, and the amount of unused restricted funds authority carried forward to future budget years necessary to preserve total restricted funds authority, as set forth in 2025-26 CC Budget Form, (the permissible additional 1% restricted funds authority per Nebraska Statutes Section 13-519(2) was considered and approved by separate resolution with the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the Board of Governors), and that the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Metropolitan Community College Area of the Board be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to certify a copy of said Budget Statement, attach copies of the Proofs of Publication of the Notices of Hearing thereon, and file same, together with the amount to be received from personal and real property taxation to fund the Budget, with the Boards of Equalization of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties, Nebraska, on or before September 30, 2025, and with the Auditor of Public Accounts of the State of Nebraska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area does hereby set at \$23,049,586.00 the amount of tax required to fund the Budget Statement and the amount to be received from personal and real property taxation, and that of such tax requirement, \$0.00 shall be the amount levied for payment of principal and interest on bonds issued or authorized to be issued by the College Area and \$23,049,586.00 shall be the amount levied for all other purposes, and further that the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Metropolitan Community College Area of the Board be and hereby is authorized and directed to file with and certify those tax requirements to the Boards of Equalization of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties, Nebraska, on or before September 30, 2025, and file the same with the Auditor of Public Accounts of the State of Nebraska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area does hereby set the tax levy for said Area for its fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, at 2.0 cents per hundred dollars on the taxable valuation of all property subject to the levy within the Area; and, further, that 0.00 cents of said total tax levy shall be for the purpose of supporting operating expenditures of the Metropolitan Community College Area or other permissible purposes authorized by Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 85-1517(2)(a) and 2.00 cents of said total tax levy shall be for the purpose of establishing a capital improvement fund and bond sinking fund or for other permissible purposes authorized by Neb. Rev. Stat.

Section 85-1517(2)(b); and further that the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Metropolitan Community College Area be, and hereby is authorized and directed to certify to and file a copy of these resolutions with the County Clerks and Boards of Equalization of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties, Nebraska, and with the Auditor of Public Accounts of the State of Nebraska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified taxable values as provided by the County Assessors pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 13-509 shall be used in setting or certifying the tax levy. The Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area hereby authorizes and directs the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Board, prior to certifying the levy to the respective Clerks and Boards of Equalization of the four counties within the College Area, to review, or cause to be reviewed, the certified valuations to determine that they do not vary sufficiently from the valuations used by the Board so as to require a levy of a different amount in order to raise the amount stated in the Board's Adopted Budget Statement—2025-26 to be raised by taxation, and if such a variance does exist, to adjust the Board's levy so that the Board's levy is consistent with certified valuations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area does hereby authorize and direct a designated member of the Board of Governors, or its representative, to appear and present the approved budget at the hearing of any represented county which requests in writing such an appearance and presentation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized to direct and to take such other actions as necessary or appropriate to carry out budget-related Resolutions approved or unapproved at this meeting of the Board of Governors in accordance with applicable law.

Reinhardt explained that this agenda item was for the Board of Governors to consider adopting the Metropolitan Community College Area Board of Governors Budget Statement for 2025-26, as amended, approving the amount of property tax required to fund the budget, and setting the property tax levy for 2025-26, including levy for the amount of property taxes for capital improvements. No questions were asked. No comments were made. Reinhardt called for a motion and a second to approve the resolution.

MOTION: Love-Hug moved to approve the resolution; McDermitt seconded the motion.

Linda McDermitt – yes
Maureen Monahan – yes
Jessica Powell – yes
Zach Reinhardt – yes
Fred Uhe – yes
Tammy Wright – yes
Martha Bruckner – yes

Kristen DuPree – yes
Phillip Klein – yes
Ralph Kleinsmith – yes
Theresa Love-Hug – yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3e – Consideration of Resolution Setting the Final Property Tax Request for Fiscal Year 2025-26 at an Amount that Exceeds the Final Property Tax Request for Fiscal Year 2024-25, Board Doc. 8151

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following information is provided:

- (a) *The name of the political subdivision: Metropolitan Community College Area (MCCA);*
- (b) *The amount of the property tax request for fiscal year 2025-26: \$23,049,586;*
- (c) *The following statements:*
 - (i) *The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 6.44% percent;*
 - (ii) *The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be \$.018790 per \$100 of assessed value;*
 - (iii) *The Metropolitan Community College Area proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be \$.02 per \$100 of assessed value;*
 - (iv) *Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of Metropolitan Community College Area will fall below (decrease) last year's budget by -2.73%.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, after notice and special public hearing as required by law, the Board of Governors of the MCCA does hereby set the final property tax request for the MCCA for fiscal year 2025-26 in the amount of \$23,049,586 pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-1632 of the Property Tax Request Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§77-1630 through 77-1634). Such request as set herein shall exceed the request for fiscal year 2024-25 and shall override any deemed request or adjustment pursuant to the Property Tax Request Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors does hereby authorize and direct the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Board to certify and forward this resolution to the County Clerks of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties, Nebraska, on or before October 15, 2025.

Record Vote: Motion by Love-Hug, seconded by Powell to adopt Resolution SETTING THE FINAL PROPERTY TAX REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 AT AN AMOUNT THAT EXCEEDS THE FINAL PROPERTY TAX REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 (Board Doc. No. 8151).

Voting yes were Monahan, Powell, Reinhardt, Uhe, Wright, Bruckner, DuPree, Klein, Kleinsmith, Love-Hug, McDermitt.

Voting no were none.

Reinhardt explained that this agenda item was for the Board of Governors to consider setting the final property tax request for fiscal year 2025-26 at an amount that exceeds the final property tax request for fiscal year 2024-25. No questions were asked. No comments were made. Reinhardt called for a motion and a second to approve the resolution.

MOTION: Love-Hug moved to approve the resolution; Powell seconded the motion.

Maureen Monahan – yes

Jessica Powell – yes

Zach Reinhardt – yes

Fred Uhe – yes

Tammy Wright – yes

Martha Bruckner – yes

Kristen DuPree – yes

Phillip Klein – yes

Ralph Kleinsmith – yes

Theresa Love-Hug – yes

Linda McDermitt – yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 — Report Agenda

Agenda Item 4a — Ex Officio Board Members' Reports

Student Ex Officio Representative Report

Samuel Pembele, student ex officio representative, shared highlights from his written report, including Student Advisory Council member participation at the recent South Omaha Campus Student Success and Opportunity Fair, the upcoming Phi Theta Kappa Scholar Dash at the Fort Omaha Campus, and a public speaking workshop for Phi Theta Kappa Beta Pi Beta chapter members. Pembele also announced that he and fellow Phi Theta Kappa Beta Pi Beta chapter member Tuan Le have been named 2025 Global Leaders of Promise Scholars and will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The Board congratulated him on the honor.

Faculty Ex Officio Representative Report

Boomer Strawn, faculty ex officio representative, introduced Sue Yi, IT Instructor, who shared updates from the IT department. An IT Career Exploration Panel was held on September 3, where former interns and current entry level staff from various local

institutions shared their experiences and insight on topics such as internship preparedness, interview tips, the value of networking, the importance of soft skills, and career development strategies. Over 100 students were able to explore over 20 employer booths at the 3rd Annual IT Career Fair on September 19.

Yi stated MCC's industry-leading IT department is creating the kinds of courses that students want. INFO 1101 (AI, Digital & Media Literacy) was launched in Fall 2025 and INFO 1102 (AI Contextualized Prompt Creation) is scheduled to launch in Fall 2026. In this course, students will learn how to create custom generative pre-trained transformers (GPTs) and develop their own AI models. She highlighted that many of her students have found employment in fields closely aligned with their studies.

Agenda Item 4b — Chair of the Board's Report

Reinhardt welcomed newly appointed member Kleinsmith to the Board of Governors and expressed his excitement to have him on the team.

Agenda Item 4c — Board Members' Reports

Bruckner also welcomed Kleinsmith and mentioned seeing DuPree do a nice job in a recent advertisement for MCC. DuPree gave kudos to the Marketing department for their work on the project.

Wright attended "Collaborative Futures: A Regional Economic Development Summit" earlier in the month, where she enjoyed meeting and listening to area mayors and leaders. She also attended a second leadership event in the community.

Agenda Item 4d — President's Report

Per Board Policy 10209, Legal Counsel to the Board: Review of Legal Counsel

Every three years, the Board is required to review and evaluate the performance of its external legal counsel. Since this task was last performed in 2022, it is time again to undertake the review. Per Thibodeau, within the next month, each Board member will receive a questionnaire to complete and submit to Henry, who will compile the responses and provide them to the Board for discussion at a future meeting. This process shall take place by January 31, 2026, and if a change in external legal counsel is to be made, it must be implemented by July 1, 2026.

Agenda Item 4e — Regular Monthly Reports

No questions were asked. No comments were made.

Agenda Item 4f — College Wellness Report

Hollie Knake, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, delivered an update on the College's wellness and support services for students. These services are dedicated to enhancing the physical and mental well-being of MCC's students to ensure their academic success and include the following:

- Academic Advising. All MCC students have a success navigator/academic advisor assigned to them to assist with registration, educational planning, general information, and referrals.
- Student Organizations. Twenty are academic-focused, two are leadership-focused, two are honor societies, and five are student interest groups.
- Pass to Class. Students use their ID cards as bus passes and ride the bus at no cost to them. In 2024, students took 45,588 bus rides.
- Bookstore Gift Cards. Available to students who cannot afford their textbooks or course materials; also used as incentives for students who participate in select activities on campus.
- Student Help and Referral (SHARE) Form. Anyone can submit this form to address students' financial or essential needs, as well as behavioral issues in the classroom or elsewhere on campus.
- Food Insecurity. Advocacy Counselors make referrals to community food pantries and resources available on MCC's website.
- Vendor Bucks. When students are on campus but have no access to funds to purchase a snack or drink to tide them over while they're there, these Vendor Bucks are available at Student Services counters.
- Salad Distribution. This initiative is carried out in partnership with the Freight Farm, Culinary Team, Foundation, and Campus Delivery Services. The number of salads distributed on each campus has increased since its inception: Elkhorn Valley Campus is now distributing 25-30 per week; Fort Omaha Campus is now distributing 30-35 per week; South Omaha Campus is now distributing 50-60 per week. The 180 Re-entry Assistance Program Center, Applied Technology Center, and Veterans & Military Resource Center have been added to the distribution sites. In winter 2024, bread was added to the offerings, which students have enjoyed. The containers are now eco-friendlier, and the goal is to use 100% biodegradable options in the future.
- Mental Health. Three counselors from Methodist deliver on-site support services at Elkhorn Valley Campus, Fort Omaha Campus, and South Omaha Campus. From fall 2024 through summer 2025, a total of 630 counseling sessions were provided. Referrals are made following consultations with Advocacy Counselors. Services are also accessible via telehealth and at other community locations.
- Veterans Services. MCC just launched a new five-year partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, through which their staff will visit the South Omaha Campus twice a month to provide readjustment counseling and case management services.

- Wellness Programming, Events and Training, Faculty Collaborations. The Student Wellness initiative is involved in numerous partnerships with MCC faculty, offering 25 classroom presentations on student wellness and leading 25 training and development sessions on topics such as drug and alcohol awareness, mental health, and social norming.

Uhe asked whether counseling services at MCC operate on a walk-in basis and if student needs are being met; Knake said the counseling services are done by appointment, with the Elkhorn Valley Campus and the South Omaha Campus being the busiest.

Powell inquired about a student's access to free bus rides if their Student ID is lost. Knake explained that the student would need to work with Student Services to obtain a replacement. Powell then asked whether there is a limit on the number of replacements a student can receive; Knake responded that there likely is not, noting that Student Services is pretty generous in ensuring students can get to class.

Wright asked about MCC's collaboration with the VA Medical Center, expressing concern that the free services it provides might affect students' eligibility for other services. Knake noted that MCC can now expand collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs through its new partnership. The closer connection can facilitate referrals to the VA Medical Center. She acknowledged that there may have been gaps in services in the past, but expects the relationship to function more as a partnership moving forward.

Kleinsmith inquired about the ratio of academic advisors to students. Knake said, while there is no required advising, the average caseload for academic advisors ranges from 250-300 students, depending upon the academic focus area.

Having played a role in its development, Schmailzl expounded upon Pass to Class. He estimated that students have taken over half a million bus rides since it began. Transportation challenges make the bus a critical option for a lot of MCC students to get to class. Donor funding and discounted fares make this a cost-effective service. Usage is tracked via card swipes, so anyone abusing the privilege can lose access. If a student loses their Student ID, the old one is deactivated. Often imitated, but never duplicated, Schmailzl is proud that MCC took the lead on this effort and sets an example for other colleges. He said it's "one of the best things we've ever done to help people get to college."

Schmailzl said MCC is working on a "last mile project" with the Buffett Foundation that would take students via smaller shuttles from the Village Pointe area to the Elkhorn Valley Campus, but added Omaha needs to do a better job addressing public transportation needs. Strawn, who is housed at the Applied Technology Center (ATC), 10407 State Street, agreed. His location is not on a bus line. Students can get as close as a Walmart Supercenter two miles away, and often someone from the ATC will go pick them up to ensure their safe arrival at their destination.

Schmailzl expressed that he does not understand how decisions regarding bus routes are made, but he knows that the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) is the one responsible for evaluating potential ridership and providing recommendations on route planning, and he also knows that MCC will need a bus line that extends to the Sarpy County Campus. Uhe serves as MCC's representative to MAPA.

Wright asked if the city council also makes some of those decisions. Uhe said MAPA is a separate elected Board. Monahan recalled that past discussions regarding public transportation needs fell apart and suggested that, if possible, efforts should be renewed. Bruckner observed that recent reporting emphasizes the need for Omaha to modernize and it sounds like this could be part of that effort.

Agenda Item 4g — Written Sabbatical Report

Communication Instructor Mary Umberger submitted her written post-sabbatical report for Board review. She attended the meeting and was available for questions and comments. Bruckner asked whether the submission was a report or a summary, noting her interest in data and that, despite Umberger's contacts' requests for surveys, the report contained no numbers. Umberger responded that she sought input from her Leadership Omaha contacts to identify the communication skills they viewed as essential for entry-level employees. Her contacts were never intended to be a representative sample and she never intended to include data, but if Bruckner wanted more content, she would be glad to share the assignments she had revised to align with the skills identified as essential for entry-level employees.

Bruckner said she would think if the goal of the project was to determine what those skills are, the report might include what was learned. Umberger said what stood out most was that MCC does not teach basic telephone skills. She's still figuring out how to help students elevate their professional persona to a level beyond casual texting. Both the popular press and employers are reporting that young people are entering the workforce addicted to their phones and lacking face-to-face communication skills; however, what she observes in classes is less dramatic than the media depicts. Students are aware of their need to develop these skills but often feel apprehensive, and in-class experiences help lower their nervousness and better prepare them for real workplace interactions. The classroom is also where students learn to evaluate and then use sources that are credible and valuable, tailor their message to their audience, and understand how to communicate effectively. A lot of basic communication assignments have stood the test of time, but need to be adapted to help newer students see their relevance and understand how these skills will be useful in the future.

Wright asked how Umberger used AI to research existing assignments. Umberger explained that she prompted AI to create an assignment with certain parameters. The result was that it would be best for students to make calls to people outside the classroom; however, she also found several inventories asking students to walk through the decision-making process of how to best communicate. She has not abandoned creating phone exercises, but feels a need to evolve into them. Retired colleagues and

English teachers have agreed to field those calls, evaluate the students' skills, and report back to her. Uhe added that he is part of a Chamber of Commerce group that participates in mock job interviews and she would be welcome to reach out to them about taking some of these calls.

Agenda Item 4h — Crook House/Douglas County Historical Society Report

Thibodeau reported the College owns the General Crook House and the neighboring archives center on the Fort Omaha Campus. The Douglas County Historical Society (DCHS) operates the General Crook House Museum and maintains voluminous historical records and artifacts in the building next door. The College's 25-year agreement with the DCHS expired at the end of June, but a verbal agreement was made to keep it in place until a new agreement could be completed. Over the summer, the DCHS hired a new executive director and a new full-time archivist, so the two were given the chance to weigh in on the new agreement before it was finished.

Thibodeau referred to the final draft of the new agreement beginning on page 7h.2 of the Board materials, saying there were some minor details to iron out, but as soon as that was done, with the Board's approval, the College would begin moving forward with renovation and construction on both buildings. He said the College had \$122,000 in grants funding on hand for such, and Schmailzl added the College had just received a \$522,000 grant from the National Park Service that would offset costs for the archives center renovations. Schmailzl expressed his excitement for the College to be involved in this partnership, acknowledging the challenge of maintaining 150-year-old buildings and attracting investors in historical preservation.

Agenda Item 4i — Report of Workers' Compensation Claim Settlement

Thibodeau said that, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat § 84-713, settlement agreements in the amount of \$50,000 or more are required to be included as an agenda item and reported to the Board for informational purposes. This particular settlement stemmed from an MCC employee's workers' compensation claim. MCC's insurance trust handled the matter, including payment of the settlement.

Agenda Item 5 — Consent Agenda Items

Items remaining on the consent agenda are 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j.

Agenda Item 6 — Items Removed from Consent Agenda (if any)

No agenda items were moved from the consent agenda.

Agenda Item 7 — Action Agenda

**Agenda Item 7a — Consideration of Approval of Minutes of August 26, 2025
Board of Governors Special Meeting, Board Doc. 8152**

**Agenda Item 7b — Consideration of Approval of Minutes of August 26, 2025
Board of Governors Meeting, Board Doc. 8153**

**Agenda Item 7c — Consideration of Approval of Minutes of September 3, 2025
Board of Governors Special Meeting, Board Doc. 8154**

**Agenda Item 7d — Consideration of Resolution Approving Personnel
Appointments, Board Doc. 8155**

WHEREAS, per Board Policy 60205, the Board of Governors shall have final approval of all full-time contracts for administrative, support, and faculty personnel.

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the following appointments and employment contracts be approved and/or ratified by the Board of Governors:*

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Annual Salary</i>
<i>Accountant I</i>	<i>Ehblu Wah</i>	<i>10/06/2025</i>	<i>\$71,500.00</i>
<i>Audio Visual Manager</i>	<i>Austin Sacry</i>	<i>10/06/2025</i>	<i>\$72,500.00</i>
<i>Educational Interpreter</i>	<i>Ronda Rankin</i>	<i>10/06/2025</i>	<i>\$72,000.00</i>
<i>IT Project Manager</i>	<i>Pamela Martinez</i>		
	<i>Oquendo</i>	<i>09/29/2025</i>	<i>\$97,000.00</i>
<i>Network Security Architect</i>	<i>Bradly Murdock</i>	<i>09/29/2025</i>	<i>\$106,500.00</i>
<i>Scholarship Coordinator</i>	<i>Michaela Martin</i>	<i>10/04/2025</i>	<i>\$60,070.00</i>

Accountant I – *The Accountant I performs accounting and analysis functions for the College in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). This position assists with preparation of annual audit work papers and helps prepare analytical reports. The accountant maintains data in the enterprise resource system. (Ehblu Wah)*

Audio Visual (AV) Manager – *The Manager provides direct supervision of assigned workers within the technology delivery area, ensuring the staff are trained properly to support the College. This position encompasses AV installations, project management, research and evaluation of new products and technologies, training, and customer support responsibilities. (Austin Sacry)*

Educational Interpreter – *The Interpreter coordinates Collegewide interpreting and other services for students and/or individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. (Ronda Rankin)*

IT Project Manager – *The Manager leads IT projects with cross-functional dependencies. This position plans, executes, monitors all aspects of the project management plan. The project manager enforces the change management process by tracking, mitigating and resolving project risks and issues. This position manages communications with project stakeholders and monitors fulfillment of vendor-contract deliverables. (Pamela Martinez Oquendo)*

Network Security Architect – *The Architect develops, delivers, and maintains a comprehensive IT security and privacy program for the college. This position ensures that information created, acquired or maintained by the college, and its authorized users, is used in accordance with its intended purpose; protecting college information and infrastructure from external/internal threats. The architect ensures the College is in compliance with contractual, statutory and regulatory requirements regarding information access, security, and privacy. (Bradly Murdock)*

Scholarship Coordinator – *The Coordinator supports students receiving scholarship assistance, by monitoring student academic progress in light of their scholarship requirements. This position creates and implements monitoring and tracking systems to provide early alerts for students at-risk of losing their scholarship, helping them stay on scholarship. The coordinator serves as the student-facing contact for all activities related to scholarships, including workshops, presentations, and individual coaching. (Michaela Martin)*

Agenda Item 7e — Consideration of Resolution Approving Post Construction Stormwater Management Plan, Maintenance Agreement, and Easement with the City of Omaha at the Applied Technology Center (ATC), Board Doc. 8156

BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD that it hereby approves the proposed Post Construction Stormwater Management Plan, Maintenance Agreement, and Easement with the City of Omaha concerning the recent addition of the parking area and improvements on the north side of the Applied Technology Center (ATC); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the College President, or his designee, is authorized to execute the proposed Post Construction Stormwater Management Plan, Maintenance Agreement, and Easement with the City of Omaha, with such changes, revisions, and amendments as the College President, in consultation with College legal counsel, determines to be in the best interest of the College.

Agenda Item 7f — Consideration of Resolution Approving Two Permanent Easements and One Temporary Easement Over the College’s Sarpy County Campus to the Metropolitan Utilities District for Infrastructure Improvement, Board Doc. 8157

WHEREAS, MUD has requested one permanent easement and one temporary construction easement, consisting of a total of approximately 0.0479 acres, over a

portion of Tract One of the Sarpy County Campus for installation of gas and water infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, MUD has requested one permanent gas and water easement to lay, maintain, operate, repair, relay, and remove, at any time, gas and water infrastructure, with the right of ingress and egress on, over, under, and through lands, consisting of approximately 0.0588 acres, over a portion of Tract Two of the Sarpy County Campus for installation of gas and water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, since the project is a necessary component in the development of the Sarpy County Campus the College is charging MUD the nominal fee of two dollars (\$2.00) for the easements; and,

WHEREAS, upon completion MUD will return the College's property to at least as good of condition as it was in before work began.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Board that it approves granting to MUD one permanent easement and one temporary construction easement, consisting of a total of approximately 0.0479 acres, over a portion of Tract One of the Sarpy County Campus; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by this Board that it approves granting to MUD one permanent gas and water easement to lay, maintain, operate, repair, relay, and remove, at any time, gas and water infrastructure, with the right of ingress and egress on, over, under, and through lands, consisting of approximately 0.0588 acres, over a portion of Tract Two of the Sarpy County Campus; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by this Board that since the project is a necessary component in the development of the Sarpy County Campus the College is charging MUD the nominal fee of two dollars (\$2.00) for the easements; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by this Board that it authorizes the College President to take all actions that are or may be necessary or proper to execute said transaction as the President, in consultation with College legal counsel, may deem appropriate and in the best interest of the College.

Agenda Item 7g — Consideration of Resolution Approving Continuing Education Software Solution for Student Registration and Program Management, Board Doc. 8158

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area hereby accepts the five-year proposal for the Continuing Education software solution for student registration and program management from Genius Learning in the amount of \$421,660.00, and authorizes the College President to negotiate, sign, and implement such Agreement with Genius Learning in an amount not to exceed

\$421,660.00, plus associated fees, as the President, in consultation with College legal counsel, may deem appropriate and in the best interest of the College.

Agenda Item 7h — Consideration of Resolution Approving Renewal of the Collaboration Agreement for Operation and Maintenance of the General Crook House and Archive Building with the Douglas County Historical Society, Board Doc. 8159

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by this Board of Governors that it hereby approves the Collaboration Agreement between the College and the Douglas County Historical Society for the continuing operation and maintenance of the General Crook House (Building 11) and the annex/archive building (Building 11A) on the Fort Omaha Campus, and authorizes the College President to execute said Agreement, with such modifications, changes, and amendments as the President, in consultation with College legal counsel, may deem appropriate and in the best interests of the College.*

Agenda Item 7i — Consideration of Resolution Selecting Contractor for Restoration of Downspouts, Mechanical Work in the Attic, and Renovation and Improvement of the Entryway and Decking on the South Side of Building 30, Board Doc. 8160

***BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area hereby accepts the bid for a contractor for restoration of downspouts, mechanical work in the attic, and renovation and improvement of entryway and decking on the south side of Building 30 and authorizes the President to negotiate, sign and implement such agreement with Lueder Construction, in an amount not to exceed \$714,093.00 plus associated fees, as the President in consultation with College legal counsel may deem appropriate and in the best interests of the College.*

Agenda Item 7j — Consideration of Resolution Approving Participation in and Acceptance of Grant Funding for National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Program, Board Doc. 8161

***WHEREAS**, the NSF provides grants to accredited post-secondary educational institutions to support projects that advance the knowledge base related to technician education; and,*

***WHEREAS**, the NSF awarded the College grant funds in the amount of \$770,663 over the grant period from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2028, to be used for the College's new biotechnology program; and,*

***WHEREAS**, the College desires to accept the grant award of \$770,663;*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by this Board that it approves the College's involvement in the ATE program and accepts the full grant amount of \$770,663 for use*

in support of the College's new biotechnology program, to be realized during the period spanning from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2028; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board authorizes the President to execute said grant Agreement, with such modifications, changes, and amendments as the President, in consultation with College legal counsel, may deem appropriate and in the best interests of the College, to take any and all actions necessary to accept the grant funds, and to ensure implementation in accordance with the approved proposal and guidelines of the NSF.

MOTION: Wright moved to approve the consent agenda; DuPree seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 8 — Adjournment

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

Roll Call vote on Adjournment:

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

Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Maureen Monahan
Secretary, Board of Governors

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 meet on Tuesday, September 23, 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, September 12, 2025

to be published in the *Omaha World-Herald* on September 12, 2025; and that the order to said newspaper was made by electronic transmission on September 9, 2025.

- 2. That on September 9, 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 12th day of September, 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, Ankit Sachdeva, 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:
Sep. 12, 2025

NOTICE NAME: 09 23 25 MCC BOG Meeting OWH Notice

PUBLICATION FEE: \$42.00

Ankit Sachdeva

(Signed) _____



VERIFICATION

State of Florida
County of Orange

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me on this: 09/12/2025

J. Thompson

Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area will meet on Tuesday, September 23, 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, September 12, 2025
2025, (9) 12 - Fridays, ZNEZ

**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 SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
IN DODGE, DOUGLAS, SARPY, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, NEBRASKA**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-1632, as amended, that the governing body of the Metropolitan Community College Area will meet on Tuesday, September 23, 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, to hold a special public hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of taxpayers relating to setting a final property tax request for fiscal year 2025-2026 to be considered by the governing board of the Metropolitan Community College Area.

The following information is provided pursuant to Nebraska statutes:

1) Certified Taxable Valuation under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-509 for Prior Year (2024-2025):	\$108,274,131,783
2) Certified Taxable Valuation under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-509 for Current Year (2025-2026):	\$115,247,930,784
3) Percentage Increase in Certified Taxable Valuations from Prior Year to Current Year:	6.44%
4) Dollar Amount of Prior Year's (2024-2025) Tax Request:	\$21,654,826.22
5) Property Tax Rate Necessary to Fund 2024-2025 Tax Request:	.02
6) Property Tax Rate Necessary to Fund Last Year's (2024-2025) Property Tax Request if Applied to Current Year's (2025-2026) Valuation:	.018790
7) Proposed Dollar Amount of Property Tax Request for Current Year (2025-2026):	\$23,049,586
8) Property Tax Rate Necessary to Fund 2025-2026 Proposed Property Tax Request:	.02
9) Percentage Increase/Decrease in Property Tax Rate from Prior Year (2024-2025) to Current Year (2025-2026):	0%

- 10) Percentage Decrease in Total Operating Budget from Prior Year (2024-2025) to Current Year (2025-2026): -2.73%

Maureen K. Monahan, Secretary
Board of Governors

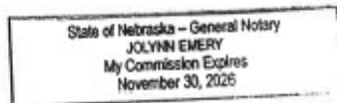
to be published in the *Omaha World-Herald* on September 16, 2025; and that the order to said newspaper was made by electronic transmission on September 12, 2025.

2. That on September 12, 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 12th day of September, 2025.



Jolynn Emery
Notary Public



See Proof on Next Page

AFFIDAVIT

State of Florida, County of Orange, ss:

I, Ankit Sachdeva, 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:
Sep. 16, 2025

NOTICE NAME: 09 23 25 Notice of Special Public Hearing

PUBLICATION FEE: \$97.80

Ankit Sachdeva

(Signed) _____



VERIFICATION

State of Florida
County of Orange

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me on this: 09/16/2025

J. T. R.

Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING
 METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
 IN DODGE, DOUGLAS, SARPY, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, NEBRASKA**

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2) Certified Taxable Valuation under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-509 for Current Year (2025-2026):	\$115,247,830,784
3) Percentage Increase in Certified Taxable Valuations from Prior Year to Current Year:	8.44%
4) Dollar Amount of Prior Year's (2024-2025) Tax Request:	\$21,654,826.22
5) Property Tax Rate Necessary to Fund 2024-2025 Tax Request:	.02
6) Property Tax Rate Necessary to Fund Last Year's (2024-2025) Property Tax Request if Applied to Current Year's (2025-2026) Valuation:	.018790
7) Proposed Dollar Amount of Property Tax Request for Current Year (2025-2026):	\$23,049,386
8) Property Tax Rate Necessary to Fund 2025-2026 Proposed Property Tax Request:	.02
9) Percentage Increase/Decrease in Property Tax Rate from Prior Year (2024-2025) to Current Year (2025-2026):	0%
10) Percentage Decrease in Total Operating Budget from Prior Year (2024-2025) to Current Year (2025-2026):	-2.73%

Maureen K. Morahan, Secretary
 Board of Governors
 2025, (9) 16 - Tuesdays, ZNEZ