

Fort Hays Tech | North Central Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Room 205 Hansen Construction Career Center – Hays, KS

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

In attendance:

- Board Members: Chair Bob Becker, Vice- Chair Don Miller, Dale Montgomery, and Fred Severance (in person). Glennys Doane and Nicki Cleveland (Zoom).
 - Others: FHSU President Dr. Tisa Mason, President Burks, VP Brown, VP Baumann, and Clerk Rose (in person).
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Call to Order:

- Chair Bob Becker called the meeting to order at 5:44 PM.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

- A motion was made by Dale Montgomery to approve the consent agenda, which included the March 31, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the hiring of two new staff members. Fred Severance seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda and Monitoring Reports:

- Enrollment Report- As of April 1, 2026 Hays is down 31 students and Beloit is up 3 students, resulting in a loss of 28 admits. These numbers are projected to change as registration days are completed in April and May. Electrical is currently the only program with a waitlist.
- FHSU President Report- President Mason provided legislative updates, including that FHSU has been issued a \$2.4 million budget cut. They are working hard to keep this cost differential from impacting students and have included the Student Government Association President in discussions about solutions. At this time, they do not have finalized numbers for addressing the cut. Federal regulations for financial aid have also changed Pell Grant requirements, which they are combatting by telling student stories. This year marks the 125th anniversary of FHSU.
- Administrative Report-
 - VP Brown informed the Board that the Perkins grant is being prepared by Dean Rowh and that this will be his first submission. The grant amount will be lower again this year due to changes affecting Pell Grant students. The Rural Talent Lab is coming through Hays to connect talent to industry on May 14th. The Board asked to have information communicated to them about the pre-event that is being planned for May 13th that will connect the community and campus when plans are finalized. Director Nelson was notified that the federal deadline for accessibility compliance has been extended for a year. Director Johnson has completed her first workforce training. Workforce training is 30 hours, after which they receive a completion certificate. If there is instructor availability, the program will continue through the summer.
 - VP Baumann reported that the EDA amendment was approved after 11 months, resulting in 3 more new pieces of equipment (for a total of 12) for the Heavy Equipment

- Operations Program. She has been working to get quotes for health, property, and liability insurance. The insurance committee has been helpful with health insurance. The \$1 million allocation from the state is secured, a portion of which will be used for the Dreiling renovation. The new phone system still does not allow intercom functionality, which would enable more detailed emergency instructions. Progress is being made toward resolving this issue. The current system can still send emergency alerts; however, the intercom function would allow for more detailed communication.
- President Burks shared materials from the Topeka legislative session regarding Kansas technical colleges' state budget cuts. He discussed the impact of those cuts on utilization and the base operating grant. He also reviewed how the \$9.1 million for the Hansen Construction Career Center was funded. The Trojan Stadium in Beloit will host an event to celebrate the opening of the concessions stand and patio area. FH Tech North Central is a sponsor of that area and will attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The college has committed \$5,000 annually for five years, totaling \$25,000. The daycare committee toured the Beloit space and responded positively. Some modifications will be necessary, and feasibility is being evaluated. If renovations are feasible, they would like the daycare operational next Fall. Light demolition has begun on the Big Creek renovation. Plans are being finalized for Big Creek and the Dreiling renovations as findings evolve; the boiler at Big Creek was an unexpected expense. Bids for the Dreiling renovation are being sent out, with August as our hopeful completion. It is likely Dreiling will not be done in time to start the fall semester.

Action Items:

- Approval of Financial Report – VP Baumann provided the Financial Report. A motion was made by Fred Severance to approve the report, and Don Miller seconded. Motion carried.
- Academic Calendar – VP Brown presented the academic calendar. There was discussion regarding spring dates. It was requested that the first line of the spring schedule be corrected to read: "January 7–17, 2028 – No Classes; College Open." Upon this correction, the calendar was approved. A motion was made by Nicki Cleveland to approve the 2027–2028 academic calendar with the stated correction. Glennys Doane seconded. Motion carried.
- Renewal of Board of Trustee – President Burks thanked Nicki for her service over the past year and requested renewal of her term. Dale Montgomery moved to renew Nicki Cleveland as a Board member, and Don Miller seconded. Motion carried.
- Renewal of Health Insurance – President Burks and VP Baumann reviewed changes to the health insurance plan. Harrison Lambert (Difference Card) and Veronica Miranda (HUB) joined via Zoom to answer questions. The Difference Card is a debit card employees use to pay for their first medical expenses. Funds remaining in the claims bucket are returned to the college, helping replenish the reserve fund. The Difference Card operates within the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) network. After BCBS processes a claim, employees can use the Difference Card before paying out of pocket. The Insurance Committee (including members of the Education Association) submitted a letter supporting the plan, which positively influenced Board members. A motion was made to approve the transition to the Difference Card, which

represents an average premium increase for the college and employees of 8% over last year's buy- down rate by Fred Severance, and seconded by Dale Montgomery. Motion carried.

- Academic Course Catalog Updates – VP Brown presented updates to the Academic Course Catalog. She noted that a nursing course is pending academic affairs approval and will be brought to the Board later. A motion was made by Don Miller to approve the updates, and Fred Severance seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Session:

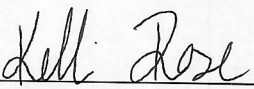
- President Burks requested a 10- minute executive session with Board members and President Mason. A motion was made by Fred Severance to go into executive session and seconded by Dale Montgomery. Motion carried. The session began at 7:45 PM. At its conclusion, the Board requested an additional five minutes. A motion was made by Fred Severance and seconded by Dale Montgomery. Motion carried. The session ended at 8:00 PM.
- President Mason requested a 20- minute executive session with Board members. A motion was made by Dale Montgomery for a 20-minute executive session and seconded by Nicki Cleveland. Motion carried. The session began at 8:01 PM. The Board requested an additional 10-minutes. A motion was made by Fred Severance and seconded by Don Miller. Motion carried. The session ended at 8:28 PM.

Adjournment:

- A motion was made by Don Miller to adjourn the April Board meeting, seconded by Dale Montgomery. Motion carried.

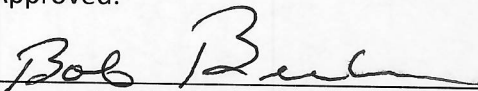
Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in Beloit Severance Student Union Conference Room.



Board Clerk

Approved:



Board Chair/Vice Chair