

Fort Hays Tech | North Central Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

Severance Student Union Conference Room – Beloit, KS

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

In attendance:

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

- Chair Bob Becker called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

- A motion was made by Dale Montgomery to approve the consent agenda, which included the April 28, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; retention of the Beloit Diesel Tech Instructor; resignation of the Beloit Nursing Instructor; transfer of IT Instructor to IT in Beloit; and transfer of Nursing Instructor to CNA Instructor in Hays. Fred Severance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda and Monitoring Reports:

- Enrollment Report – Dean Cline provided her report on current admissions and registration numbers. As of May 1, Hays is up 18 students and Beloit is down 5 students, resulting in a total increase of 13 students. These numbers include the 34 students returning to fill the second-year Electrical Tech class. Housing applications are currently at approximately 83. In August of last year, there were 94 students.
- FHSU President Report – President Mason will be meeting with KBOR next month to propose a new tuition rate of \$6,475. This new rate will still keep costs affordable for students compared to other four-year institutions, even though it reflects a 6% increase for on-campus students. President Mason discussed how they continue to address their \$2.4 million budget cut. One measure includes relinquishing their role as the lead center for the Kansas Small Business Development Center.
- Administrative Report –
 - VP Brown informed the Board that several students will be competing in national competitions this summer in their respective fields. She reminded the Board that the Rural Talent Lab will be in Hays tomorrow, with the goal of “bringing more talent and keeping more talent.” Graduation is this week, and VP Brown praised Darcy Offut for her work calculating honors and preparing name cards for graduation. Many employees have stepped up to assist in different roles throughout the semester to support student experiences, for which VP Brown expressed her appreciation. Director Johnson has conducted several workforce trainings, and the processes for those trainings will be refined over the summer for improvement.

- VP Baumann reported that the JIIST grant has been closed out. This grant was used to purchase equipment for the Hansen Building. Vision Care of Kansas is now the college's eye care provider due to having more providers available in both Hays and Beloit. After reviewing the dental care plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS), it was decided to move to a self-funded plan for employees. This will help build reserves to offset future cost increases. Open enrollment is now underway, and Aubree Winkle has been diligent in assisting employees with their insurance plans. HUB and the Difference Card have both been meeting with employees to ensure they understand their options. Michael Draemel has been an integral part of working with Nex-Tech to get the speed-dial notification system operational. Several tests have been conducted and appear to be going well so far. McCownGordon met with VP Baumann and President Burks to discuss project issues and the potential for the Dreiling Building.
- President Burks provided an update from Topeka, stating that there have been significant cuts in Excel in CTE funding. These changes are sparking debates over distribution processes. The TEA will make a recommendation regarding the distribution of funds, which KBOR will vote on. He updated the Board on the status of the Big Creek remodel, noting that there is potential for the state fire marshal to become involved in the project. President Burks expressed appreciation to the maintenance team for their preparations for graduation and to Michael Draemel for all he has done throughout the year. President Burks and VP Baumann met with the architect today to discuss the Dreiling Building. Plans are likely to fall behind schedule, so contingency plans are being developed. The May meeting previously served as the time to renew contracts; however, legal counsel advised allowing faculty contracts to auto-renew. Board action will only be needed in cases involving termination, transfer, or retirement. Administrative contracts were then brought forward for renewal.

Action Items:

- Approval of Financial Report – VP Baumann presented the Financial Report. A motion was made by Lance Smith to approve the report, and Fred Severance seconded. Motion carried.
- Academic Course Catalog Updates – VP Brown presented updates to the Academic Course Catalog. A motion was made by Dale Montgomery to approve the updates, and Nicki Cleveland seconded. Motion carried.
- Approval of Board Meeting Calendar 2026-27 – President Burks presented the Board Meeting Calendar for 2026–27. He noted that the retreat will be held at the beginning of December this year due to improved availability compared to previous years and asked Board members to prioritize attending that meeting. He also noted that the June meeting serves as the governance meeting, during which there will be a joint meeting with FHSU and FH Tech NW, resulting in the possibility of a date change for June. A motion was made by Lance Smith to approve the 2026–27 Board Meeting Calendar, and Fred Severance seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Agenda Amendment – President Burks noted that administrative contracts needed to be renewed, which had not previously been included on the agenda, and requested that the Board address the matter that evening. A motion was made by Dale Montgomery to add administrative contract renewals to the consent agenda, and Glennys Doane seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Approval of Administrative Contracts – President Burks asked the Board to renew the contracts of VP Brown and VP Baumann. He spoke about their commitment and thanked them both for all that they do. A motion was made by Nicki Cleveland to renew the administrative contracts, and Dale Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Session:

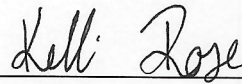
- President Burks requested a 10- minute executive session with Board members and VP Brown. A motion was made by Dale Montgomery enter executive session, and seconded by Lance Smith. Motion carried. The session began at 6:25 PM and ended at 6:34 PM.
- President Burks requested a 10- minute executive session with Board members, VP Brown, and VP Baumann. A motion was made by Fred Severance enter executive session, and Lance Smith seconded. Motion carried. The session began at 6:35 PM and ended at 6:43 PM.

Adjournment:

- A motion was made by Don Miller to adjourn the May Board meeting, and seconded by Fred Severance. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, June 25, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in Tebo Library on the FHSU campus.



Board Clerk

Approved:



Board Chair/Vice Chair