

Fort Hays Tech | North Central Board of Trustees

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Business Management Classroom, Big Creek Building – Hays, KS

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

In Attendance:

Board Members: Chair Bob Becker, Vice-Chair Don Miller, Dale Montgomery, Nicki Cleveland, Glennys Doane, and Fred Severance.

Others: President Burks, FHSU President Mason, VP Baumann, VP Brown, and Dean Cline in-person. Clerk Rose and Michael Draemel via zoom.

Call to Order:

- Chair, Bob Becker, called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Consent Agenda:

- The consent agenda consisted of approval of the agenda; approval of the July 28 Regular Board meeting minutes; August 18 Special Board Meeting Minutes; and a staff hire. Fred Severance moved to approve the consent agenda, and Dale Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda and Monitoring Reports:

- Enrollment Report – Dean Cline updated the Board with unofficial enrollment numbers for the start of the school year. Classes began a week and a half prior to the Board meeting, with the week before the Board meeting being add/drop week. Unofficially, there are 431 students between the two campuses, with 254 on the Hays campus and 177 on the Beloit campus. This puts enrollment down four students in Hays and down 20 students in Beloit from last year. Dean Cline reiterated that enrollment numbers will not be finalized until the 20th day of class and the Registrar verifies them. She is hoping that final numbers will be available on September 2. Some programs that Dean Cline drew attention to were Heavy Equipment, which is up six students and at its highest enrollment in 10 years; Electrical, which is down 12 students and tends to run in up-and-down cycles; Automotive Technology, which is down slightly; and Construction, which is also down. All preliminary numbers provided by Dean Cline do not include undeclared students. There are 41 full-time high school students enrolled this year, compared to 46 last year. Beloit is up two high school students. Hays is down, which is believed to be a result of limiting the number of students allowed in the auto classes. President Burks noted that last year there was a 6.9% increase, which made having a second increase difficult, especially with the enrollment cliff.
- FHSU President – President Mason provided an update on KBOR, which included a reminder of the new President, Jennifer Bonds-Raacke, who has ties to FHSU and lives in Hays but works in Topeka. President Mason stated that there has already been more communication between KBOR and the institutions. She is grateful for the change and

hopes that it will continue. An FH Tech | NC student, Tyler McCauley, worked with President Mason, President Burks, and the FHSU Rodeo Coach to establish how he could participate with the FHSU Rodeo Team. Tyler was very professional, polite, and enthusiastic about competing, and we are glad to make this opportunity work for him. He will cover all of his own expenses, with the exception of the FH Tech | NC vest that he wears to represent the college.

- Administrative Reports –
 - VP Brown reported to the Board that when faculty returned, they attended several professional development sessions. Dean Rowh attended the annual Perkins Training in Kansas City, which connects all Perkins coordinators. Many faculty members have been assisting in whatever way they are able with the Big Creek renovation, and they are very excited to utilize their new spaces. There are two remaining positions, HVAC and Electrical Technology, that are being actively searched for. Orientations underwent a new implementation this year in Beloit that was received positively and viewed as successful. Hays was able to tour Tebo Library this year for their orientation. Many events will be taking place on both the Hays and Beloit campuses as a part of Tiger 20, which the Student Success Team has developed. There are 92 students living on campus in Beloit, and they moved in on August 13. Director Johnson has met with more interested internship partners, one being the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. There are two apprenticeships taking place on the Beloit campus that are being tracked through the RAPIDS system.
 - VP Baumann informed the Board that auditors were onsite on August 12 and 13. They came approximately six weeks earlier than in previous years to ensure that we could supply our audit to FHSU. Feedback and comments from the auditors were favorable. Aubree Winkle, in HR, has done an excellent job of sending out contracts and updating forms in Bamboo. Emma Carlin and Leah Bergmann have been key members in the implementation of the Core Campus software, with many dedicated hours being provided for this project. The IT department has been working hard to prepare all computers for the school year and assist everyone with their needs. They have been instrumental in getting Big Creek wired and running smoothly. Big Creek has required a great deal of dedication from employees lately. Both employees and contractors have worked hard to get this project completed. VP Baumann took some time to thank the IT team, faculty who came in to help, and the Maintenance team, as they have all gone above and beyond. On the Hays campus, the duplex was moved, and the house will be moved on August 27. Work with the City to make the west side of Wheatland Avenue a no-parking zone during school hours continues. This change will add safety for our students by opening the road back up. The Dreiling Building looks completely different already, with the demolition being completed. Framing is scheduled to take place at the beginning of next week.
 - President Burks notified the Board that the first Technical Education Authority (TEA) meeting will take place in Topeka on August 27, which VP Brown will be attending as our representative. KBOR will be having a breakfast meeting on

September 15. President Burks reiterated the remarks that President Mason made about KBOR being more collaborative and communicating directly with the institutions rather than through their lobbyists. KTC is working through strategies for the upcoming legislative session. Senator Williams requested some data that the college provided regarding the number of high school students served in AY 26, employers who hire the greatest number of students, and top salaries of our programs. This data was not easily obtainable, and it did show us something that we could strive to track more thoroughly. The data is not easily obtainable because employers do not always respond to surveys, and the data is likely used for legislative purposes; the purpose is unknown. The All-Employee Welcome Back and orientations both went well. This week has been Pancakes with the President with the students. Forty new downspouts have been installed on the Beloit campus with the hope of helping to temper some of the excess water. The Maintenance team has been very busy assisting all over campus and completing numerous projects. President Burks emphasized VP Baumann's report about Big Creek, with thanks going to the many people who assisted on the major project. He brought attention to the North Oak Community Youth Group, which came to help move things twice. Those students were very respectful and worked hard when they came to help. Larry Bracken and Mark McConnel traveled to pick up the partitions that Chris and Tricia set up for her staff.

Action Items:

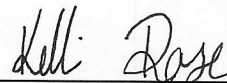
- Approval of the Financial Report – VP Baumann presented the Financial Report. Glennys Doane moved to approve the financial report, and Nicki Cleveland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Session:

- President Burks and President Mason both had items to discuss for an executive session. They requested a 15-minute session with the Board. Fred Severance moved to have a 15-minute Executive Session with the two Presidents and the Board; and Dale Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Executive Session began at 8:29 PM and ended at 8:42 PM.

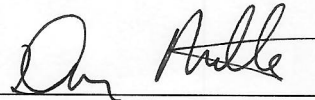
Adjournment:

- Don Miller moved to adjourn the meeting, and Nicki Cleveland seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:44 PM.



Board Clerk

Approved:



Board Chair/Vice Chair