WNC Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 23, 2026
Western Nevada College, Dini 201, WNC Library
2201 West College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89703
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Board Chair:	Michelle Ketten (present)
Board Vice Chair:	Richard Kohler (present)
Board Finance Chair:	Scott Fields (absent)
Board Members Present:	Sean Davison, Maria Denzler, Ronelle Dotson (online), Anthony Dowling (online), Michelle Hale, Amber Kellner, Kevin Maillet, Amanda Jacobson, Lupe Ramirez, Nick Rowe, Cliff Sorensen, Brook Sweeting, Rochelle Tisdale (online), Stacy Woodbury
Board Members Absent:	Barbara D'Anneo, Sandy Foley, Miranda Hoover, Tyler Smith, Melissa Harlow
Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Members Present:	J. Kyle Dalpe, Western Nevada College President; Coral Lopez, Vice President of Finance and Administration; Niki Gladys, Chief Advancement Officer and WNCF Executive Director
WNC Staff and Other Present:	Melody Duley, Tracy Mendibles, Mirjana Gavric, Elizabeth Bennett-Doran, Travis Coombs, Arturo Martel

I. Introductions and Welcome

Chair Michelle Ketten called the annual meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m. and welcomed board members, staff, and guests. A quorum was present.

Board candidates Travis Coombs, Vice President of CORE Construction, and Arturo Martel of Click Bond introduced themselves and shared their professional backgrounds and interest in supporting WNC. Mr. Coombs discussed his experience in construction and public works and his interest in expanding awareness of career opportunities in the construction industry. Mr. Martel discussed his career in manufacturing and his interest in addressing workforce skills gaps and changing perceptions of manufacturing careers. Attendees then introduced themselves.

Chair Ketten thanked outgoing Board member Matt Hock for his contributions and service to the WNC Foundation.

II. Public Comment

Stacy Woodbury commended President Dalpe and WNC staff for the recent commencement ceremony. She also shared that her son, Peter, earned an Associate of Business from WNC and is transferring to the University of Utah, where he is working through the process of transferring his WNC credits.

III. Consent Items

3a. Approval of Minutes: Chair Ketten called for approval of the minutes from the April 23, 2026, Board meeting. Cliff Sorensen moved to approve the minutes as presented. Stacy Woodbury seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3b. Confirmation of the WNC Foundation Board Chair: The Board considered confirmation of Vice Chair Richard Kohler as Chair of the WNC Foundation Board for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2026, and continuing through June 30, 2028. Stacy Woodbury moved to confirm Mr. Kohler as Chair. Sean Davison seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Gladys and President Dalpe recognized Chair Ketten for her service and leadership. Mr. Kohler also thanked Chair Ketten for her assistance and support during the leadership transition.

3c. Election of the Remaining Officers of the WNC Foundation Board: The Board considered the election of Brook Sweeting and Amanda Jacobson as Co-Vice Chairs, each for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2026, and continuing through June 30, 2028. Stacy Woodbury moved to approve the election of Ms. Sweeting and Ms. Jacobson. Michelle Hale seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3d. WNC Foundation Board Meeting Dates: The Board considered the proposed Board meeting schedule:

- Thursday, October 22, 2026, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- Friday, January 29, 2027, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 22, 2027, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Michelle Hale moved to approve the meeting dates as presented. Stacy Woodbury seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3e. WNC Foundation Finance Committee Meeting Dates: The Board considered the proposed Finance Committee meeting schedule:

- Thursday, October 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, January 21, 2027, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, April 15, 2027, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Richard Kohler moved to approve the Finance Committee meeting dates as presented. Stacy Woodbury seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

IV. WNC Foundation Board Membership

The Board considered Travis Coombs of CORE Construction and Arturo Martel of Click Bond for membership on the WNC Foundation Board, each for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2026, and continuing through June 30, 2029. Mr. Coombs and Mr. Martel left the room during Board discussion.

Board members expressed strong support for both candidates, citing their professional backgrounds, community connections, enthusiasm, and potential to strengthen the Foundation’s engagement with the construction and manufacturing sectors.

Stacy Woodbury moved to approve Mr. Coombs and Mr. Martel as members of the WNC Foundation Board. Amber Kellner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The candidates returned and were welcomed to the Board.

V. Finance Committee Update

Chair Kohler reviewed preliminary year-end financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Combined scholarship and endowed scholarship income totaled approximately $961,500, exceeding the annual goal of $915,000 by more than $46,000 and representing an increase of approximately $91,000 over the previous year. Golf Tournament revenue increased approximately 11% year over year, Reach for the Stars revenue increased approximately 20%, and total unrestricted income increased approximately 16%. Gross profit increased approximately 54%, while fundraising expenses decreased approximately 19%.

Mr. Kohler also reported that net revenue increased approximately 85% over the prior year and that the Foundation ended the fiscal year with approximately $12.2 million in total assets, an increase of approximately $1.4 million from the prior year. Ms. Gladys clarified that the majority of program income was associated with the Fallon nursing renovation project.

The Board noted that the financial statements remain preliminary pending completion of the Foundation's annual audit. Auditors were on campus conducting fieldwork at the time of the meeting.

VI. State of the College

President Kyle Dalpe provided an overview of WNC's newly completed strategic plan. The plan was developed internally over an eight-month process with significant employee participation and was approved by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents in June. The seven-year plan aligns with the College's accreditation cycle and centers on five primary goals: access, learner success, workforce, organizational health, and community. President Dalpe also reviewed the College's new mission statement and discussed plans to develop key performance indicators and an online dashboard to track progress toward strategic goals.

President Dalpe reported that WNC celebrated the largest graduating class in its history in May, following significant enrollment growth in recent years. He discussed the College's continued emphasis on workforce education, rural access, student success, and community partnerships, as well as the need to grow enrollment among adult and non-high-school students as demographic trends begin to reduce the number of traditional high school students in the region.

President Dalpe also provided updates on major projects throughout WNC's service area, including renovation of the Aspen Building cafeteria, improvements to the observatory and Reynolds Building, the nearly $4 million Fallon nursing and allied health expansion, a major renovation of the Douglas campus for nursing/Allied Health, and workforce programs, and development of a battery recycling training program in Fernley.

Board discussion included increasing public awareness of WNC and its programs, strengthening employer and community outreach, improving the College's ability to track prospective students from inquiry through enrollment, and the importance of Foundation Board members serving as ambassadors for the College. Questions also addressed the future and cost of the former baseball field and WNC's developing approach to artificial intelligence. President Dalpe reported that the College has an AI task force working in coordination with NSHE efforts and is continuing to explore appropriate administrative and instructional uses of AI.

VII. WNCF Scholarship Update

Development Coordinator Elizabeth Bennett-Doran reported that the Foundation awarded approximately $960,000 in scholarships during FY2026, representing more than 600 individual scholarship awards. Increased fundraising revenue also allowed the Foundation to meet all eligible student requests for emergency funding during the year.

For the upcoming academic year, approximately 500 students had applied for scholarships as of the meeting date. Between approximately $40,000 and $50,000 had already been awarded, with additional awards pending program admissions and other eligibility information, particularly for nursing students.

VIII. FY26 Events & Fundraisers

Ms. Gladys reviewed upcoming Foundation events. Golf for Education is scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2026, with strong early participation from Board members and supporters.

Board members were encouraged to volunteer at upcoming Mainstreet Gardnerville Wine Walk events. Ms. Gladys, Ms. Gavric, Ms. Bennett-Doran, and Ms. Ramirez discussed the value of the Wine Walk as an informal community outreach opportunity, noting positive conversations with prospective students, alumni, and community members and increased awareness of WNC programs and services.

The Foundation’s next donor appreciation event is scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2026, in conjunction with Les Misérables.

IX. Reach for the Stars Gala

Ms. Gladys, Ms. Gavric, and Ms. Bennett-Doran provided an update on the August 8, 2026, Reach for the Stars: Moonlight Masquerade gala. Planned activities include a photo booth, mask-making station, Notes for Nurses activity, a CORE Construction display highlighting the Fallon nursing project, tarot and aura readings, dancing, and additional entertainment.

Sponsorships, table sales, and individual ticket sales had generated more than $100,000 prior to the event. The gala had secured a record 21 sponsors and approximately 306 attendees, with attendance expected to be capped at approximately 320 due to space limitations.

The program will feature student and alumni stories highlighting the impact of scholarships and WNC programs. Ms. Bennett-Doran reported approximately 52 to 53 silent auction packages and approximately 14 live auction items, including travel, local experiences, jewelry, and home improvement offerings. Ms. Gladys also reported that matching donors had been secured at multiple giving levels for the event’s direct fundraising appeal. Committee members thanked Foundation staff, Board members, sponsors, and volunteers for their contributions to event planning and fundraising.

X. New Business

Sean Davison noted that the approved April 15, 2027, Finance Committee meeting date falls during a particularly demanding period for CPAs due to the tax filing deadline. Chair Ketten indicated that the Finance Committee would revisit the date with committee members and amend the schedule at a future meeting to ensure appropriate participation.

XI. Public Comment

No additional public comment was presented.

XII. Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Ketten adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:20 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. in Dini 201, WNC Library.