

LABETTE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Board of Trustees Minutes
January 15, 2026

The Board of Trustees met at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at the Cardinal Event Center.

Members Present

Greg Chalker
Becky Dantic
Rod Landrum
Montie Taylor
David Winchell

Members Absent

John 'JR' Keene

Others Present

Dr. Mark Watkins	Dr. Jason Sharp	Leanna Doherty	Kelly Kirkpatrick
Theresa Hundley	Ross Harper	Dr. Ken Elliott	Haley Walker
Hannah Kennedy	Kevin Doherty	Harrison Hall	Lindi Forbes
Fernando Aguilera	Hannah Emberton	Sherry Simpson	Dee Bohnenblust
Randee Baty	Emily Franks	Carl Hoskins	Tonya Neises

Heidi Flora recorded the minutes.

Election of Officers for the Board of Trustees

Chair Dantic opened the floor for Board Chair nominations to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. Trustee Winchell nominated Trustee Landrum. Trustee Taylor seconded the nomination. Nominations ended, and the motion to elect Trustee Landrum carried 5-0.

For Vice-Chair, Trustee Winchell nominated Trustee Chalker for one year or until a successor is elected. Trustee Taylor seconded the nomination. Nominations ended, and the motion to elect Trustee Chalker carried 5-0.

Presidential Appointments

Trustee Dantic moved to approve the following Presidential appointments:

- Heidi Flora as Clerk of the Board
- Leanna Doherty as Treasurer
- Kyle Fleming and KASB as the legal services provider for a year
- David Winchell, KACCT (Kansas Association of Community Colleges) Representative
- Parsons Sun as the paper of record

Trustee Chalker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Chalker moved to approve the following Presidential appointments:

- The Emergency Executive Succession Plan
- The Sexual Harassment Plan
- Lauren Holmes as ADA Coordinator
- Leanna Doherty, VP of Finance and Operations, and Haley Walker, Human Resource Director, as Affirmative Action Officers
- Leanna Doherty as Public Information Officer
- Kevin Doherty as Emergency Services Contact
- Kelly Kirkpatrick, VP of Student Affairs, and Haley Walker, HR Director, as Title IX Coordinators
- Dr. Mark Watkins, President, and Hannah Kennedy, Public Relations Director, as Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) Governmental Relations Network Contacts.

Trustee Taylor seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of Revised Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Chair Landrum asked for changes or additions to the revised meeting agenda. There were none. Trustee Dantic moved to approve the revised meeting agenda as presented. Trustee Winchell seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Chair Landrum asked for corrections or additions to the December 11, 2025, regular meeting minutes. There were none. Trustee Chalker moved to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Hiring Committee Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Chair Landrum asked for corrections or additions to the December 12, 2025, December 16, 2025, and January 7, 2026, (9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m.) Hiring Committee meeting minutes. There were none. Trustee Winchell moved to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Chalker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Reports and/or Board Discussion

Faculty Senate Report: Tonya Neises, Faculty Senate Representative, thanked the Board of Trustees for giving faculty members a voice on the President Hiring Committee. She also thanked Dr. Watkins for all his support of the faculty over his years of serving as president.

Student Government Report: Harrison Hall, Student Life Associate, gave an update on recent student campus visits. He also reported on upcoming Student Government activities and events for the month of January.

Administrative Report:

Comparison of Expenditures to Budget - The December financial report was placed on the tables. At the end of December, we were 50% through the year. The general fund was 49% expended, and the post-secondary technical education fund was 49% expended. Vice-President Doherty invited questions from the Trustees.

Financial Audit - Emily Franks with Jarred, Gilmore, and Phillips presented the 2025 financial audit for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Facilities – Kevin Doherty, Facilities Director, gave an update on the installation of HVAC roof units for the Zetmeir building. He also reported that Johnson Controls completed a few minor modifications as part of the main building HVAC updates and that he is learning to use the software.

President's Report:

Dr. Watkins reported on a very recent trip to Topeka to meet with the Legislatures and said he anticipates more trips/meetings in the future.

He also gave an enrollment update, stating that enrollment is up 5% from last year, which represents 40 full-time equivalent students. And, that spring classes begin this coming Tuesday, January 20.

Executive Session

Trustee Dantic moved to recess into executive session at 6:02 p.m. for 5 minutes for personnel matters for non-elected personnel. To protect the privacy interests of an identifiable individual. Trustee Chalker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

The following were invited to participate in the executive session: Haley Walker.

At 6:07 p.m., Trustee Winchell moved to extend the executive session by 5 minutes. Trustee Chalker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

At 6:12 p.m., Trustee Chalker moved to extend the executive session by 5 minutes. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

At 6:17 p.m., Trustee Chalker moved to extend the executive session by 5 minutes. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

At 6:22 p.m., Trustee Chalker moved to extend the executive session by 5 minutes. Chair Landrum seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

At 6:27 p.m., Trustee Dantic moved to extend the executive session by 15 minutes. Chair Chalker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0. Dr. Jason Sharp was invited to join the Executive Session.

At 6:42 p.m., Trustee Chalker moved to extend the executive session by 10 minutes. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

The Board returned to an open meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Trustee Chalker moved to approve hiring Dr. Jason Sharp as President pending contract changes. Trustee Winchell seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Dantic moved to dissolve the President Hiring Committee. Trustee Chalker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Executive Session

Trustee Dantic moved to recess into executive session at 6:55 p.m. for 10 minutes for personnel matters for non-elected personnel. To protect the privacy interests of an identifiable individual. Trustee Taylor seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

The following were invited to participate in the executive session: Dr. Mark Watkins, Dr. Jason Sharp, Leanna Doherty, Kelly Kirkpatrick, and Haley Walker.

At 7:05 p.m., Trustee Dantic moved to extend the executive session by 10 minutes. Trustee Taylor seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

At 7:15 p.m., Trustee Dantic moved to extend the executive session by 5 minutes. Trustee Chalker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

The Board returned to an open meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Trustee Chalker moved to approve adding a new English Faculty position for the 2026-2027 academic year. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Chalker moved to approve reassigning Dr. Ken Elliott to the English Faculty position starting August 10, 2026, at a Ph.D., step 16, with a starting annual salary of \$71,127. And, approval of a temporary Dean of Instruction and Distance Learning contract for July 1, 2026, through August 9, 2026, at a salary of \$7,950.56. Trustee Dantic seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

New Business (ACTION, INFORMATION, OR DISCUSSION ITEMS)

2026 Regular Meeting Dates of the Board of Trustees

Trustee Winchell moved to approve the proposed February 2026-January 2027 meeting dates for the Board of Trustees. Trustee Taylor seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Bills

Trustee Dantic moved to approve the Claims Register. Trustee Chalker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

New Staff Employment Letter

Trustee Winchell moved to approve the New Staff Employment Letter for Jermaine Maybank, Interim Head Men's Basketball Coach, at an annual salary of \$46,348, to begin 1/12/2026. Trustee Chalker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment

Trustee Winchell thanked Dr. Elliott for his flexibility while serving as Dean of Instruction and Distance Learning.

Trustee Taylor thanked the Cardinal Café staff for the nice snack boxes provided this evening.

Fernando Aguilera addressed the Trustees regarding the nursing program's policy.

Adjournment

Trustee Chalker moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Trustee Winchell seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Heidi Flora, Clerk of the Board