

**WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**April 21, 2020**

Mr. Andrew Bosshard, District Board Chair, called the regular meeting of the Board of Western Technical College District to order at 1:04pm on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at the Western Technical College Administrative Center, 111 Seventh Street North, La Crosse, WI (room 408). Meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom technology. Board members present were: Andrew Bosshard, Kara Burgos, Carrie Buss, Dave Laehn, Ed Lukasek, Angie Lawrence, Ken Peterson, Michelle Greendeer-Rave, Dennis Treu and Roger Stanford, President.

Notice of the meeting was posted publicly on Friday, April 17, 2020 at 12:21pm with the agenda being distributed to interested persons, sent to the District's official newspaper (The La Crosse Tribune), and distributed to other news media throughout the District in compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 19.81 through 19.98.

Others present: Wade Hackbarth, Janice Strupp, Kat Linaker, Mike Swenson, Tracy Dryden, Rande Daykin, John Heath, Amy Thornton, Steve Meger, Deb Klug, Mitch Schultz, Dan Rooney, Kari Knowler and Cooper Richason (Student Government)

Motion Lawrence, second Laehn, that the Western Technical College District Board adopt resolutions of commendation recognizing the following on retirement from Western: Bernard Black, Deb Klug, Kari Knowler, Steve Meger, Sherry Olson, Dan Rooney and Mitch Schultz. Votes: Ayes, 9; Opposed, 0. Motion carried. *Copies of the resolutions are attached to and incorporated into these minutes as Attachments A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.*

District Board was provided a Student Government update by Cooper Richason.

Motion Buss, second Laehn, that the Western Technical College District Board approve the following consent items as presented: A. March 17, 2020 District Board Meeting Minutes; B. Financial Reports – February and March 2020; 1. Schedule of Payments; 2. Vendors Over \$2500; 3. General Revenue/Expense Report; 4. Department Budget Summary; 5. Auxiliary Services Reports; 6. Capital Projects Reports; C. Project Submission and Acceptance FY21-FY26 – National Science Foundation Scholarships in Stem. Votes: Ayes, 9; Opposed, 0. Abstention to Vendors over \$2500 Reports, 1. Motion carried.

Motion Lawrence, second Buss, that the Western Technical College District Board Adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Establishing Parameters for the Sale of \$4,710,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2020C, of Western Technical College District, Wisconsin. Roll call: Burgos, yes; Buss, yes; Laehn, yes; Lawrence, yes; Lukasek, yes; Peterson, yes; Greendeer-Rave, yes; Treu, yes; Bosshard, yes. Motion carried.

Under the President's Report, the vice presidents briefed the District Board on actions being taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by unit.

Under the District Board Chairperson report, Mr. Bosshard advised the president's evaluation will be discussed in closed session. Next week the Board will reconvene for the annual budget session. Following that, the annual district board evaluation will be sent electronically. During the April 14 District Board appointment committee meeting, Majel Hein and Kevin Hennessey were appointed. The terms for board members Michelle Greendeer-Rave and Ken Peterson will expire June 30, 2020.

2:41pm: Motion Buss, second Treu, that the Western Technical College District Board convene into closed session for the purpose of discussing potential contract non-renewals and reductions under the provisions of Wisconsin Statutes, Sec. 19.85 (1)(c). The Board will convene into closed session, pursuant to s. 19.85(1)(c)(e), Wis. Stats. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, and the president's evaluation. No action. Roll call: Buss, yes; Burgos, yes; Greendeer-Rave, Laehn, yes; Lukasek, yes; Treu, yes; Lawrence, yes; Peterson, yes; Bosshard, yes. Motion carried.

2:56pm: Senior leaders and Janice Strupp were excused from the meeting.

3:28pm: Greendeer-Rave excused from meeting.

3:33pm: Burgos excused from meeting.

3:53pm: Laehn excused from meeting.

3:56pm: Motion Lukasek, second Buss that the Western Technical College District Board reconvene into open session. Roll call: Buss, yes; Lukasek, yes; Treu, yes; Lawrence, yes; Peterson, yes; Bosshard, yes. Motion carried.

3:57pm: Motion Buss, second Lawrence, that with no further business to come before the Western Technical College District Board, the meeting be adjourned. Votes: Ayes 6; Opposed, 0. Motion carried.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Laehn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Dave Laehn, District Board Secretary

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT

*Resolution of Commendation*

**Bernard Black**

*Whereas*, Bernard Black, Multicultural Student Advisor in Student Service and Engagement, retired from Western Technical College on March 17, 2020 after completing 20+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

*Whereas*, Bernard could be seen in every building on campus, talking with students and promoting the Multicultural Center; and

*Whereas*, he developed personal connections with students, understanding that this is the key to building community; and

*Whereas*, Bernard has an upbeat and positive attitude that is contagious; and

*Whereas*, he is a genuine and fun person who is easy to laugh with and joke around with; and

*Whereas*, Bernard's love of the Bears is equaled only by his love of the community and being involved in it; and

*Whereas*, his ability to strike up conversations with anyone, his sense of humor, and his friendly smile will be missed; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Bernard Black for his years of service and his commitment to excellence; and be it

*Resolved*, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Bernard many happy and satisfying years in his retirement.

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT

*Resolution of Commendation*

**Deb Klug**

**Whereas**, Deb Klug, Culinary Management Instructor in the Business Division, will retire from Western Technical College on April 27, 2020, after completing 42+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

**Whereas**, Deb is well-known for her creativity in the kitchen and classroom; and

**Whereas**, she was recognized with the Distinguished Service Learning Award for integrating community service into her curriculum through the Union Bistro student-run restaurant, as well as community food projects such as the La Crosse Thanksgiving Dinner; and

**Whereas**, Deb's impact is boundless; she has made an impression on hundreds of students who have then gone into all facets of the industry and subsequently molded their employees through her example; and

**Whereas**, Deb has unlimited compassion for her students, providing transportation or whatever else is required to assist students through personal crises; and

**Whereas**, her compassion extends also to her colleagues; she has led the faculty mentoring program for many years and has influenced the future generation of teachers; and

**Whereas**, Deb holds the esteemed title of most senior faculty member on staff and carries an historical perspective that is unmatched; and

**Whereas**, her welcoming smile, cheerful disposition, and impeccable customer service will be missed; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Deb Klug for her years of service and her commitment to excellence; and be it

**Resolved**, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Deb many happy and satisfying years in her retirement.

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT

*Resolution of Commendation*

**Kari Knower**

***Whereas***, Kari Knower, IT-Computer Support Specialist Instructor in the Business Division, will retire from Western Technical College on April 27, 2020, after completing 34 years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

***Whereas***, Kari is hard-working and dedicated to students, willing to put in long hours to be the best instructor possible; and

***Whereas***, she goes out of her way to make students feel comfortable in the learning environment; and

***Whereas***, Kari genuinely cares about her colleagues and is willing to share her knowledge and experience to benefit those working with her; and

***Whereas***, she is also willing to seek guidance from other instructors when needed; and

***Whereas***, Kari is the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave at night with a friendly hello or goodbye; and

***Whereas***, her contagious laugh, positive attitude, and great sense of humor will be missed; therefore be it

***Resolved***, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Kari Knower for her years of service and her commitment to excellence; and be it

***Resolved***, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Kari many happy and satisfying years in her retirement.

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT

*Resolution of Commendation*

**Steve Meger**

**Whereas**, Steve Meger, Math and Science Instructor in the Learner Support and Transition Division, will retire from Western Technical College on April 27, 2020 after completing 18+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

**Whereas**, Steve is a thoughtful, creative, and dependable teacher; and

**Whereas**, he genuinely cares about his students and works hard to promote their success; and

**Whereas**, Steve is collaborative and often shares his expertise with colleagues; and

**Whereas**, he conveys quiet sincerity and humbleness in all that he does; and

**Whereas**, Steve is a talented musician who has played for Western's GED/HSED graduation ceremonies over the years, making the occasion special and personalized; and

**Whereas**, his sense of humor, dedication, and kind disposition will be missed; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Steve Meger for his years of service and his commitment to excellence; and be it

**Resolved**, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Steve many happy and satisfying years in his retirement.

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT

*Resolution of Commendation*

**Sherry Olson**

***Whereas***, Sherry Olson, ESL and Reading Instructor in the Learner Support and Transition Division, will retire from Western Technical College on April 27, 2020, after completing 22+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

***Whereas***, Sherry is a dedicated worker who is always smiling and willing to help her students; and

***Whereas***, she has touched the lives of many adult, GOAL, and English Language Learners over the years; and

***Whereas***, Sherry has been a friendly and encouraging co-worker no matter what position she has held – as office staff, trainer/coordinator, and multi-talented instructor; and

***Whereas***, she is a fantastic team player, always willing to offer input to solve a problem, plan, or lend a hand to colleagues; and

***Whereas***, Sherry has also supported others by serving in the community as chairperson on the International Committee and on the Friends of Cameroon committee; and

***Whereas***, her positive energy, caring and upbeat personality, and contagious laugh will be missed; therefore be it

***Resolved***, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Sherry Olson for her years of service and her commitment to excellence; and be it

***Resolved***, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Sherry many happy and satisfying years in her retirement.

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT

*Resolution of Commendation*

**Dan Rooney**

*Whereas*, Dan Rooney, Communication Skills Instructor in the General Studies Division, will retire from Western Technical College on April 27, 2020 after completing 24+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

*Whereas*, Dan is a diligent, hard worker who is focused on student success; and

*Whereas*, he has launched many initiatives at the College, including the Online Writing Center, Phi Theta Kappa Student Organization, Honors Program, and (former) Technical Communications Program; and

*Whereas*, Dan roots for the underdog, particularly students who are quiet, shy, introverted, and down on their luck; and

*Whereas*, he is a supportive mentor who is looked to for his insight and knowledge; and

*Whereas*, Dan goes above and beyond to help others – even taking on a class during his non-teaching term to allow a new co-worker to move and get settled; and

*Whereas*, his quiet leadership, kind heart, optimistic outlook, and ukulele playing will be missed; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Dan Rooney for his years of service and his commitment to excellence; and be it

*Resolved*, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Dan many happy and satisfying years in his retirement.



WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT

*Resolution of Commendation*

**Mitch Schultz**

*Whereas*, Mitch Schultz, Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology Instructor in the Integrated Technology Division, will retire from Western Technical College on April 27, 2020 after completing 30+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

*Whereas*, Mitch is a high-energy instructor who is thoughtful, sincere, and compassionate; and

*Whereas*, he is also pragmatic and fair – acknowledging that there are two sides to every story; and

*Whereas*, Mitch makes a lasting impression on his students – according to him (and his sense of humor), he gets a standing ovation from his students after every lecture he teaches; and

*Whereas*, he literally wrote the book on electricity, is a fluent HAM radio enthusiast, and has an enviably fast Morse code technique; and

*Whereas*, Mitch expresses his appreciation for his colleagues and gives credit when credit is due. He is deeply respected by his co-workers, who also consider him a good friend; and

*Whereas*, his laughter, positivity, common sense perspective, and life lessons will be missed; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Mitch Schultz for his years of service and his commitment to excellence; and be it

*Resolved*, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Mitch many happy and satisfying years in his retirement.