

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 16, 2025

Mr. Hennessey, District Board Chair, called the regular meeting of the Board of Western Technical College District to order at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at Western Technical College, Administrative Center, 111 7th St, Rm 408, La Crosse, WI. Board members present: R. Alderson, C. Doering, III, J. Felton, M. Greendeer-Rave, K. Hennessey, K. Peterson, M. Wolf, and R. Stanford, President. Excused: M Skarlupka

Notice of the meeting was posted publicly on December 12, 2025, at 3:37 p.m., and the agenda was 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 19.81-19.98.

Others present were M. Leske, W. Hackbarth, R. Hopkins, A. Thornton, C. Heit, J. Heath, J. Lemon, B. Shane, E. Nesius, L. Wallace, J. Gamer, T. Dryden, J. Kettner-Sieber, R. Peterson, J. Schriener, K. Dean, and D. Hamann (Western employees).

Motion Wolf, seconded by Greendeer-Rave, to approve resolutions of commendation for Sharon Kramer and Ron Petersen. Motion carried. 7/0/0 [attachments a and b](#).

Presentation on the FY2024-25 Financial College Audit led by K. Gruber of Wipfli LLP and Heit ; Heath then introduced F. Moore, J. Jacobs, and T. White of the AGB team, who delivered a presentation on the presidential search, upon conclusion of the presentation, Heath facilitated discussion; Lemon provided Legislative updates; and Hackbarth shared information on the 2026 capital borrowing plan. No action taken.

Motion Wolf, seconded by Alderson, that the Board approve the following consent items as presented: 1. Minutes: a) Oct. 21, 2025, District Board Regular Meeting, b) December 2, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes, and c) June 17, 2025, Policy Sub-committee Minutes. 2. Financial Reports: a) Vendors over \$2,500 – Oct & Nov 2025, b) Capital Projects – Oct & Nov 2025, c) General Rev/Exp Report – Sep, Oct, Nov 2025, d) Dept. Budget – Sep, Oct, Nov 2025, and e) Enterprise – Sep, Oct, Nov. 2025. 3. Policies: a) EO204 Waiting List Policy (Second Reading) and b) F0305 Free Speech and Public Assembly (First Reading). 4. Project Submissions: a) 2026-27 State Grant Funds, b) 2025-2029 Adult Education and Family Literacy Act Grant Program, c) 2026-2029 U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education – Special Projects Grants Program, and d) 2026-27 Perkins V Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century.

Motion, Greendeer-Rave, seconded by Alderson to approve 1. Kumm Center Student Union Remodel, 2. Public Safety Training Facility Simulation City and Driving Track Expansion Project, 3. New Program: Surgical Technologist Registered Apprenticeship, 4. New Program: Data Analyst Registered Apprenticeship, 5. New Program Concept Review: Nature Based Early Childhood Education – Advanced Technical Certificate, and 6. New Program Concept Approval: AAS Landscape Horticulture Entrepreneurship. Motion carried. 7/0/0

Roll Call: Motion Wolf seconded by Doering, that the board approve the following item: Adopt the FY 2045-25 Financial Audit Report. Roll Call R. Alderson, Y; C. Doering, Y; J. Felton, Y; M. Greendeer-Rave, Y; K. Hennessey, Y; K. Peterson, Y; M. Wolf, Y. Motion carried.

Roll Call: Motion Greendeer-Rave seconded by Peterson, that the board approve the following item: Adopt 2026 Capital Borrowing Plan. Roll Call R. Alderson, Y; C. Doering, Y; J. Felton, Y; M. Greendeer-Rave, Y; K. Hennessey, Y; K. Peterson, Y; M. Wolf, Y. Motion carried.

Roll Call: Motion Greendeer-Rave seconded by Peterson, that the board approve the following item: AGB proposal pending an agreed-upon and signed contract. Roll Call R. Alderson, Y; C. Doering, Y; J. Felton, Y; M. Greendeer-Rave, Y; K. Hennessey, Y; K. Peterson, Y; M. Wolf, Y. Motion carried.

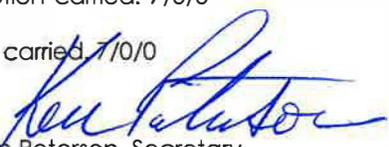
President's Report: President Stanford participated in the Wreaths Across America event in Arcadia. Mr. Wanek will provide a workforce update at an upcoming board meeting. Dryden joined President Stanford to report on the strategic plan refresh. The updated plan will be rolled out to employees in January.

District Board Chairperson's report: The January District Board meeting will be held virtually with A408 for public access.

4:26 p.m. Motion Doering, and seconded by Peterson, to move into closed session. Roll Call R. Alderson, Y; C. Doering, Y; J. Felton, Y; M. Greendeer-Rave, Y; K. Hennessey, Y; K. Peterson, Y; M. Wolf, Y. Motion carried. 7/0/0

5:25 p.m. Motion Greendeer-Rave, seconded by Wolf, to move to open session. Roll Call R. Alderson, Y; C. Doering, Y; J. Felton, Y; M. Greendeer-Rave, Y; K. Hennessey, Y; K. Peterson, Y; M. Wolf, Y. Motion carried. 7/0/0

5:26 p.m. Motion Greendeer-Rave seconded by Alderson, to adjourn. Motion carried. 7/0/0


Ken Peterson, Secretary



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Ron Petersen**

Whereas, Ron Petersen, Electromechanical Instructor, will retire from Western Technical College on December 16, after completing 29.33 years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Ron set an unmatched standard for preparation and organization, arriving early to ensure that every lab, lesson, and piece of equipment was ready with a level of precision known as “Ron organized”; and

Whereas, Ron championed students with both honesty and care, offering encouragement or accountability as needed, and guiding them with his signature “30,000-foot view” that helped them see the purpose behind their work; and

Whereas, Ron’s perfectionism, whether tuning equipment, refining curriculum, or even rewriting Amatrol materials in his spare time, helped shape a program built on clarity, rigor, and real-world skill; and

Whereas, Ron generously supported colleagues by sharing resources, mentorship, and guidance, making sure no new instructor ever started from scratch and strengthening the Electromechanical program for years to come; and

Whereas, Ron continued learning throughout his career, from fixing copy machines to programming robots, and could always be counted on to be present and prepared, famously telling students before a snowstorm that he would be here “whether it snows two inches or twelve”; and

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board expresses its sincere appreciation and special commendation to Ron Petersen for his exemplary service and lasting impact on Western’s students and programs; and be it

Resolved, that the Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students extend their warmest wishes to Ron for a healthy, fulfilling, and well-earned retirement—one where the ducks can finally march themselves.

Western Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Kevin Hennessey, Board Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Sharon Kramer**

Whereas, Sharon Kramer, Payroll Coordinator, will retire from Western Technical College on December 16, after 26 years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Sharon brought exceptional accuracy, responsiveness, and professionalism to the complex work of payroll, ensuring precision in the stewardship of College resources and confidence among the employees she served; and

Whereas, Sharon supported colleagues with clarity and care—double-checking calculations, explaining the “why” behind processes, and helping others correct errors with patience and good humor; and

Whereas, Sharon, known for her speed and efficiency, usually responded to emails before her colleagues had moved on to their next task, and often posed an entire question in the subject line, a signature habit that became a well-loved team joke; and

Whereas, Sharon’s straightforward, no-nonsense approach, combined with her grounded personality and warm humor, earned the respect, trust, and appreciation of coworkers across the College; and

Whereas, Sharon’s pride in her work and deep care for her team have contributed to Western’s culture of first-choice service; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board expresses its gratitude and special commendation to Sharon Kramer for her outstanding service, steady leadership, and commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students extend their warmest wishes to Sharon for a joyful and well-earned retirement, filled with good travels, new adventures, and a nonexistent inbox.

Western
Technical College

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Kevin Hennessey, Board Chair