

**AMARILLO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 02, 2026**

REGENTS PRESENT:

Mr. Jay Barrett, Chair
Mr. John Betancourt
Mrs. Anette Carlisle
Ms. Michele Fortunato
Ms. Irene Hughes
Dr. Paul Proffer
Ms. Peggy Thomas

REGENTS ABSENT:

Mr. Johnny Mize
Dr. David Woodburn

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Ms. Sara Pesina, Representative for the Hereford Hinkson Memorial Campus
Mr. Jeff Turner, Representative for the Moore County Campus

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT:

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Bob Austin, Vice President of Student Affairs
Mr. Kevin Ball, Vice President of Communications and Marketing
Dr. Mychal Coleman, Vice President of Human Resources
Dr. Jamelle Conner, President
Mr. Joe Bill Sherrod, Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Ms. Denese Skinner, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives
Dr. Frank Sobey, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Mr. Mark White, Executive Vice President and General Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Jessica Arce, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Kim Bruce, Communications Coordinator
Mr. Martin Conner – Community Member
Ms. Tiffani Crosley – Associate Vice President of Business Affairs
Mr. Mike Fisher, Community Member
Ms. Ally Greenwood – Executive Assistant & Asst. Secretary to the Board
Ms. Amber Hamilton – Director of Student Life
Dr. Chris Hudson – Faculty Senate President
Ms. Jacqui Jones – Executive Director of Grant Administration and Compliance
Ms. Kennedy Juarez – Vice President of Student Government Association
Mr. Christopher Key – Coordinator, Marketing Special Projects
Ms. Brianna Maestas – Amarillo Tribune
Ms. Sadie Newsome – Director Marketing
Ms. Kerrie Young, Community Member
Ms. Nancy Scherlen, Community Member
Mr. Tom Scherlen, Community Member

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Ms. Phoebe Terry – Amarillo Tribune

Mr. Shon Wagner – Audio Visual Technical Leader - Information Technology

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Mr. Jay Barrett, Chair of the Board of Regents. He welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was present. Mr. Barrett prayed with the Board.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was one public comment.

SGA REPORT

Ms. Kennedy Juarez, SGA Vice-President, gave the SGA Report. Topics discussed were:

- Recent SGA & Student life events, which included the Spring 1 welcome week kickoff, welcome breakfast, laser tag, and West Campus Build-A-Buddy activities.
- Upcoming SGA Events such as the Badger Connect club fair, Mr. Gattis's after hours, Hearts and Sparts Trivia, The Dating Game with speaker Marissa Cohen, and East Campus lunch.
- Upcoming SGA Partnership events such as the STEM Career Fair, and Texas Panhandle Overdose Awareness Workshop.
- Spring Student Travel, which includes:
 - Blue Blazer – CIVSA Conference in Portland, Oregon, January 8-11.
 - DECA – Texas DECA State and Career Development Conference, UT Dallas, February 6 -7.
 - Student Government Association – Spring Region 1 Conference in Odessa, Texas February 20-22.
 - Bash Script Crazy – Chillennium Game Jam, College Station, February 20 -22.
 - Student Media – Tx Intercollegiate Press Association Convention, March 18-21.
 - Phi Theta Kappa – Catalyst Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, March 25 -29.
 - Student Government Association – State Conference in Dallas, Texas, April 16-19.
 - Biology Club – Houston, TX, May 11-15.

REGENT'S REPORTS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMENTS REGARDING AC AFFILIATES**Executive Committee**

Mr. Barrett reported that executive committee has met several times, traveling to Dallas for the CEO and regent's collaborative first meeting and had the second one last week.

Nominating Committee

Ms. Thomas reported that they met to put forth someone to replace Mr. John Betancourt as Vice-Chair.

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Ms. Fortunato reported that the AC Foundation met on January 8th and had a guest speaker, Mr. Mugisha Aime, who spoke about his experience at AC. Mr. Aime is an Engineer at Pantex and is teaching math part-time at AC. The Foundation held a press conference on January 21st to recognize \$231,000 that was raised during the end of year appeal, these funds were earmarked for the Advocacy and Resource Center (ARC). The Foundation will honor its donors on February 10th at the annual Love Our Donors event at the Health Sciences Simulation Center.

Amarillo Foundation for Education and Business

Dr. Proffer reported that there have been no actions by AFEB since January of 2022 and there are none contemplated.

Amarillo Museum of Art (AMoA)

Ms. Fortunato reported that the museum Achievement in Art Gala was scheduled during the snowstorm. The gala was a sold-out event that the museum was committed to hosting as well as the vendors who participated despite the snow. Ms. Fortunato complemented the Amarillo Club for their participation to help make the event successful. For Panhandle Gives the museum raised \$92,500, which was more than the goal. The profits from Christmas Roundup came in at \$152,700. On February 20th there will be an exhibition called Cultural Currency, which will consist of artists and gallery talks. Ms. Fortunato concluded by sharing that the 20x20 Live and online auction is scheduled for April 2nd.

Panhandle PBS

Ms. Thomas reported that Panhandle PBS will be hosting an interactive murder mystery series called "Lights, Camera, and Murder!" on Thursday February 12th at PBS studios. There will be a dinner catered by Delvin's. Tickets are \$75 and attendance is limited to 80 guests.

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ)

No report.

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone 2 (TIRZ 2)

No report

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone 3 (TIRZ 3)

No report.

Standing Policies & Procedures Committee

Mrs. Carlisle reported that they are working to set a committee meeting to review the local update from TASB by either the February or March board meeting.

Finance Committee (AC Investment, Potential Lease & Sales Opportunities)

No report.

Legislative Affairs Committee

Mrs. Carlisle encouraged everyone to vote in the primaries.

Mr. Barrett added that Ms. Hughes will fill in for the next several meetings for Mr. Betancourt on the Legislative Affairs Committee. Ms. Hughes will be the Chair and Ms. Thomas has been added to the committee as well.

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Mr. Barrett reported that Ms. Thomas will be the Chair for CCATT.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Mr. Barrett discussed that this item was placed on the agenda due to a vacancy in this position resulting from Mr. Betancourt's temporary suspension from board committees pending the final determination of his legal matter. Ms. Thomas reported that the nominating committee has recommended Ms. Michele Fortunato as Vice-Chair. Ms. Fortunato accepted the nomination.

Mr. Barrett called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

AMARILLO COLLEGE REGENT REAPPOINTED TO TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE (TIRZ) 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This item was placed on the agenda so the board could reappoint Dr. David Woodburn to the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) 1 board of directors.

Ms. Fortunato moved to reappoint Dr. David Woodburn to TIRZ 1 board of directors. Dr. Proffer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AMARILLO COLLEGE REGENT REAPPOINTED TO TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE (TIRZ) 3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This item was placed on the agenda so the board could reappoint Dr. Paul Proffer to the Board of directors for TIRZ 3.

Mrs. Carlisle moved to reappoint Dr. Paul Proffer to the TIRZ 3 board of directors. Ms. Fortunato seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Jamelle Conner provided the President's report.

- Spring 2026 enrollment 5.5% increase year over year reaching a headcount of over 8700 student enrollments.
- 5% increase in credit hours. Current credit hour production has exceeded the five-year average by 10%, strengthening the colleges fiscal position.
- Badger Bound is gaining momentum. Dual credit enrollment is up by 33% compared to our five-year average for spring. Dual credit spring enrollment is up by 500 students from last spring.
- The new CTE program launched across multiple ISDs including welding, CIS, child development, and automotive.
- FTIC 2025 cohort fall to spring retention rate is 80.03% and is the first time in the history of the college that we've reached 80% for fall to spring retention rate.
- 1185 students achieved at least a 3.6 GPA while taking 12 credit hours, which is the largest ever number of students to make the dean's list.
- AC has been working closely with workforce solutions to support the employees affected by the Tyson layoffs, hosting tables at a recent job fair for those impacted. The six tables included truck driving, industry and trades, outreach, ESL and GED, human resources, and heavy equipment.
- IO will host the Skills USA Regional competition on February 13th, welcoming high school participants from South Plains and High Plains regions. The competition will span multiple disciplines from Information technology, cyber security, networking, and digital media.
- Pantex is launching the Pantex Strategic Research University Consortium, a research and development program where faculty may submit research proposals and receive funding.

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On Feb 23rd Pantex is hosting a workshop at the First Responders Academy where Amarillo College, Texas Tech, A&M and West Texas A&M can learn more about the proposal process, timeline, and goals.

- Highlights on meetings and connections –
 - Toured Plains Dairy
 - Attended the National Philanthropy Day luncheon
 - Met with the new President of SACS at annual meeting
 - P16 Management board meeting
 - Community Band Concert
 - LVN and ADN pinning ceremonies
 - Commencement
 - Served as a judge for Lions' Club Sweetheart's pageant.
 - Amarillo Advertising Luncheon
 - Presidents and Board Collaborative Workshop

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DR. DAVID WOODBURN

Mr. Barrett acknowledged Dr. Woodburn for his award as a Headliner at the Man and Woman of the Year luncheon.

MINUTES

Minutes of the regular board meeting on November 18, 2025, and special board meeting on January 14, 2026, were provided to the Regents.

Mrs. Carlisle moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2025, and special board meeting on January 14, 2026. Ms. Hughes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was provided to the board.

Ms. Fortunato moved to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Carlisle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Crosley discussed the monthly financial analysis and discussed the financial statements for October 31, 2025, and November 30, 2025, with the Board.

Mrs. Carlisle moved to approve the October 31, 2025, and November 30, 2025, financial reports. Dr. Proffer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

INVESTMENT REPORT

Ms. Crosley discussed the quarterly investment report for the period of September 1, 2025, through November 30, 2025, with the board.

Dr. Proffer moved to approve the investment report. Mrs. Carlisle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Tiffani Crosley discussed the records management annual report with the Board. The Records Management Officer, Trae Kepley, reported per Amarillo College’s records management policy, that the annual disposition consisted of 166 items. After review, department administrators withdrew 27 items. The remaining records consisted of 139 boxes of paper records. These items were destroyed in November 2025. The disposition of these documents was approved by the Records Management Committee per Amarillo College Policy.

No action was required for this agenda item.

NOMINATIONS FOR POTTER RANDALL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ms. Crosley discussed that the Potter Randall Appraisal District will soon have a position available on its Board of Directors representing Randall County. Mr. Daryl Furman has resigned from the board. The term of his position will end December 31, 2027. The Amarillo College Board of Regents members have been provided packets on pages 26 -32 of the agenda that consisted of the eligibility requirements of a board member, a list of the current members of the two county boards who are willing to continue to serve, and the voting entitlement according to Texas Property Tax Code Section 6.03(d).

Ms. Crosley discussed that in November the Board voted for Jack Claus. Other candidates then were Haley Holt and Tom Scherlen. Ms. Holt was appointed and her appointment will end December 1st 2029. Since the Board previously voted for Jack Claus in November, her recommendation was to nominate Jack Claus.

Mrs. Carlisle moved to nominate Jack Claus for the Board of Directors for Potter Randall Appraisal District. Ms. Fortunato seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Sobey discussed that the following faculty members have been recommended for tenure by their supervisor(s), the Rank and Tenure Committee, the appropriate administrative channels, and the president. They meet all criteria for tenure as stated in the Amarillo College Employee Handbook. If approved, the effective date will be 9/1/2026. Dr. Sobey discussed that he strongly supports their tenure.

<u>Name</u>	Department
Karen Boatman	BCIS
Aaron Faver	Social Sciences
Lesley Ingham	Honors
Piper Johansen	Biological Sciences
Amanda Lester-Chisum	Dental Hygiene

Dr. Proffer moved to approve the tenure recommendations. Mr. Betancourt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PERKIN’S EQUIPMENT TECH LAB SYSTEMS

Ms. Jacqui Jones requested approval for purchases with the Perkins basic grant funds. The Amatrol training equipment will enhance instructional quality while also supporting enrollment growth in advanced manufacturing programs at Amarillo College Moore County Campus by providing visible, hands-on learning opportunities. These are going to be purchased on the coops. The Amatrol will be purchased from Tech-Labs utilizing the TIPS Contract#230105 in the amount of \$53,590.

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Mr. Betancourt moved to approve the Perkin's equipment tech lab systems request. Ms. Carlisle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASE OF PERKINS BASIC FUNDED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES – CDL SIMULATOR

Ms. Jones discussed that Amarillo College Moore County Campus is seeking to modernize its CDL recruitment and training through the acquisition of a Virage Simulation Mobile Unit. By mounting this high-fidelity simulator into a mobile trailer, it transforms our training from a stationary lab into a regional outreach unit. There are three objectives that this equipment will obtain which will be unmatched accessibility, bringing the equipment to high schools, recruitment and retention, and hands on virtual equipment. This purchase will be streamlined through Sourcewell Contract #011822-VIR for \$122,000. Utilizing this cooperative contract ensures we are receiving pre-vetted, competitive pricing while significantly reducing the administrative burden of the bidding process. Ms. Jones sought approval for this request.

Mrs. Carlisle motioned to approve the Sourcewell contract #011822-VIR for \$122,000. Ms. Thomas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Dr. Conner had a strategic planning discussion with the board which reflected on the college's current strategic goals, the strategic planning timeline, and how to reimagine new goals. Dr. Conner discussed upcoming strategic planning work such as having a session with the rest of the college family in February, student and community focus groups, developing drafts of the strategic goals, and hosting pop-up events for feedback. Dr. Conner is hopeful that the draft will be ready by the end of spring and ready for the summer board retreat.

No action was taken during the strategic planning session.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Barrett called for a closed session so that the regents could consult with the college attorney to seek his advice on four legal matters pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071. Counsel Mark White and President Dr. Jamelle Conner were asked to stay. The time was 7:36 PM.

At 8:07 pm the closed session concluded. No final decision, action, or vote was taken in the closed session. The open meeting reconvened at 8.09 pm with a quorum still present.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Thomas moved to adjourn. Ms. Hughes seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Sara Pesina, Secretary