

Minutes of the Amarillo College Board of Regents Special Meeting of August 11, 2026

**AMARILLO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
August 11, 2026**

REGENTS PRESENT:

Mr. Jay Barrett, Chair
Mrs. Anette Carlisle
Ms. Michele Fortunato, Vice-Chair
Ms. Irene Hughes
Dr. Paul Proffer
Ms. Peggy Thomas
Dr. David Woodburn

REGENTS ABSENT:

Mr. John Betancourt
Mr. Johnny Mize

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

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

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. Ramon Suarez, Vice President of Administrative Services
Mr. Mark White, Executive Vice President and General Counsel

CABINET MEMBERS ABSENT:

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Special Board Meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm by Mr. Jay Barrett Chair of the Board of Regents. He welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER

Mr. Jay Barrett prayed with the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

Minutes of the Amarillo College Board of Regents Special Meeting of August 11, 2026**CONSIDERATION OF THE TAX RATE FOR 2026**

Dr. Conner discussed the proposed tax rate for 2026.

Mrs. Carlisle moved that the proposed tax rate of \$0.24670, be approved for tax year 2026. This will effectively be a 13.59% increase over the no-new-revenue tax rate. The purpose of this additional revenue generated by the proposed debt rate is to improve/maintain the district's financial stability, support ongoing operations, address increasing operational costs, and continue providing quality educational programs and services to students and the community. Dr. Woodburn seconded the motion. Mrs. Irene Hughes and Ms. Peggy Thomas voted against. The motion passed.

SET THE DATE TO ADOPT THE TAX RATE FOR 2026 AND SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE TAX RATE

Mrs. Carlisle moved to set the date for the public hearing and adoption of the proposed tax rate for August 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., on the Washington Street Campus, College Union Building, Second Floor, Palo Duro Room. Ms. Fortunato seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COLLEGE SAFETY AND SERVICES

Chief Elizabeth Brown introduced Mr. Jamie Hicks and Mr. Max Dunlap, both with the Office of Emergency Management of the City of Amarillo, to the Board. They discussed a collaboration with Amarillo College and the City of Amarillo Police Department. Mr. Mark White discussed the collaboration concerning emergency communications and public safety services. Due to staffing shortages, the college has entered into an interlocal agreement with the Office of Emergency Management. This agreement is for dispatch services. It is temporary in nature to allow each party to assess capabilities going forward. The call volume from AC is low and the APD has advanced training and technologies that AC's police department cannot match. This will require changes to the college's messaging in regard to utilization of the 911, APD non-emergency number, and AskAC. Mr. White discussed the changes that would be required from employees and that communication would be going out to the college regarding those changes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Thomas moved to adjourn. Mrs. Carlisle seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Irene Hughes, Secretary