

Minutes of the Amarillo College Board Special Board Workshop Meeting of April 23, 2026.

**AMARILLO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
April 23, 2026**

REGENTS PRESENT:

Mr. Jay Barrett, Chair
Ms. Michele Fortunato, Vice-Chair
Ms. Irene Hughes
Mr. Johnny Mize
Ms. Peggy Thomas
Dr. David Woodburn

REGENTS ABSENT:

Mr. John Betancourt
Mrs. Anette Carlisle
Dr. Paul Proffer

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Ms. Sara Pesina, Representative for the Hereford Hinkson Memorial Campus

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT:

Mr. Jeff Turner, Representative for the Moore County Campus

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jamelle Conner, President

CABINET MEMBERS ABSENT:

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
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

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Special Board Workshop Meeting was called to order at 10:50 am by Mr. Jay Barrett, Chair of the Board of Regents. He welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

TEXAS PRESIDENTS AND TRUSTEES COLLABORATIVE VIRUTAL WORKSHOP

Ms. Kimberly Lowry welcomed the Board to the Texas Presidents and Trustees Collaborative virtual workshop. Mr. Josh Wyner discussed the session goals which were to identify elements of the Aspen Trustees Framework for continued improvement to advance student outcomes, and the roles of the CEO and the Board in sustaining and scaling the college's priority reforms. Mr. Wyner reviewed the agenda.

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Ms. Pascale Charlot gave a summary of the January convening session and the four-part Aspen's Trustee Framework. The four-part framework discusses:

- The Why and What of Reform
- Goals and Metrics
- Policies and Budgets
- CEO-Board Relationship

Ms. Charlot discussed the role of CEOs and Trustees in sustaining reforms and discussed traits of a highly effective CEO-board relationship, which include a shared vision and goals for student success that are rooted in the “why” and “what” of reform and clarified by aligned goals and metrics.

Ms. Charlot continued by discussing how structures sustain the CEO-relationship through utilizing focused conversation on mission and reform agendas in board meetings, the importance of individual meetings with board chair and trustees, the CEO evaluation, and board learning sessions tied to core goals and reform strategies, as well as the best ways of sustaining reforms through leadership cycles.

The Board and Dr. Conner participated in a breakout session on sustaining reform with Dr. Hope Rivers, the President of Piedmont Technical College. Dr. Conner discussed the work that is being done on dual credit and Badger Bound, first-year seminars for students, and mandatory tutoring. The Board and Dr. Conner engaged in conversations on the agenda reforms such as developing stronger cocurricular partnerships with universities to increase transfer and growth.

The Board participated in a breakout session led by Dr. Jamelle Conner reflecting on the four key elements of the Aspen Trustee Framework. She discussed the why and what of reform, including more updates on reform strategies and reports. The Board engaged in conversations on the importance of creating a welcoming environment for students, what it takes to get students to complete, and the need to help students transfer. The Board also discussed Badger Bound, and requested a scorecard that would show the progress of the program. Dr. Conner spoke on goals and metrics, policies and budgets, and how the CEO-Board relationship could be strengthened. The Board requested information on how the college is utilizing AI to improve student success. The Board concluded the breakout session by discussing submitting a change artifact, a one-page narrative summary of changes made to board practices.

Ms. Leanne Weiland thanked those in attendance and discussed next steps in the Texas Presidents and Trustees Collaborative process, which include submitting the change artifact by October 1st of 2026. Mr. Josh Wyner closed the session at 1:55 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Thomas moved to adjourn. Ms. Hughes seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm.

Sara Pesina, Secretary