

**NORTHWEST COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

March 23, 2020

*This meeting is the follow-up open public meeting for the emergency Board of Trustees meeting which was held via conference call on March 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President MR. DUSTY SPOMER; Vice President/Secretary DR. MARK WURZEL; and Trustees MS. CAROLYN DANKO, MR. JOHN HOUSEL, MS. NADA LARSEN, and MR. BOB NEWSOME.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Treasurer MR. LUKE ANDERSON

**OTHERS PRESENT:** DR. STEFANI HICSWA, President; DR. GERALD GIRAUD, Vice President for Academic Affairs; MS. LISA WATSON, Vice President for Administrative Services and Finance; MS. ADRIANA ARISMENDI, MR. CJ BAKER, MR. DEAN BRUCE, DR. JENNIFER DARE, MS. RACHEL HANAN, MR. JASON HORTON, MS. CAREY MILLER, MS. ASTRID NORTHRUP, MR. GREG THOMAS, MR. OSCAR TREVINO, MR. KEVIN KILLOUGH, *Powell Tribune*; MS. DIANA GWYNN, Executive Secretary to the President and Board of Trustees

**CALL TO ORDER:** A special meeting of the Northwest College Board of Trustees was called to order on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7:10 p.m. via Zoom Meeting.

**A APPROVE THE AGENDA:** **A motion was made by Trustee Wurzel and seconded by Trustee Larsen to approve the agenda. Motion carried.**

**READING OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2020 EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING** Board President Spomer read the minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Board of Trustees which was held on March 19, 2020 via conference call.

**CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM:** The Citizens' Open Forum convened at 7:16 p.m. with Board President Spomer asking for any discussion or comments from the public.

Rachel Hanan asked if the College knew how much of the \$400,000 would be recouped.

President Hicswa responded that the funding allocated during the 2020 Legislative session could possibly be used to cover some of the refunds. She explained that, at this point in time, it is difficult to determine what the savings will be as well as what the expenditures will be.

Following this discussion, the Citizen's Open Forum adjourned.

**A NEW BUSINESS:**

Proposed Resolution: Prorated Refunds to Students for Residence Hall Charges and Meal Plans due to COVID-19

Board President Spomer read the portion of policy 2500 Board Meetings, as follows:

*All action taken at an emergency meeting is of a temporary nature and in order to become permanent shall be reconsidered and acted upon at an open public meeting within forty-eight (48) hours*

Board President Spomer then called for a motion to ratify the action taken at the emergency meeting.

**A motion was made by Trustee Wurzel and seconded by Trustee Larsen to adopt the resolution for Prorated Refunds to Students for Residence Hall Charges and Meal Plans due to COVID-19.**

Trustee HouseL stated that, during the emergency meeting, President Hicswa conveyed a number of very specific reasons for immediately making refunds to students. One reason was that there were students who remained on campus

because they needed funds to be able to return home. Another reason was that a number of students were growing very restless about not knowing if any refund would be provided. Also, there were indications of discussions among students and on social media which could negatively affect the reputation of the college. Many of the students who were anxious for a refund will be returning students, so the College wanted to remove any interference to their returning to NWC. The Board felt for those reasons and other, that there was an urgent and emergent situation which necessitated the Board moving forward to approve the resolution authorizing prorated refunds to students.

President Hicswa added that other colleges were closing and issuing refunds which led to the urgency for NWC to make this decision. She also stated that the College did not want any student to become homeless due to the closure of the residence halls.

**President Spomer called for a roll call vote. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

**A ADJOURNMENT:**

**A motion was made by Trustee Danko and seconded by Trustee Wurzel to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.**

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MARK WURZEL, Vice President/Secretary

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Date