

**WMCC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 31, 2023**

Present: Pamela Laflamme (Chair), David Backler, Sarah Boone, Beth Carpenter, Kevin Carpenter, Julie King, Chuck Lloyd, Kevin Powers

Absent: Michelle Cruz, Mike Laracy, Corey Riendeau, Alan Smith

Guests: Tim Allison, Colbie Ayotte, Mark Desmarais, Steve Fader, Kristen Miller, Melanie Robbins, Gretchen Taillon

The White Mountains Community College (WMCC) Advisory Committee convened on May 31, 2023, at 12:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mr. Backler to approve the February 15, 2023, meeting minutes. All were in favor.

Regional/Individual Updates & Community Needs

Chair Laflamme welcomed all to the meeting and asked that members provide updates and to share recommendations that they have for the college.

Ms. King announced there will be a new principal and new vice principal in SAU 3 this upcoming year, though they have not yet been named. Ms. King would like to see the college add programs like Aviation, HVAC, and Plumbing.

Ms. Boone discussed legislation that had passed in favor of Burgess Biopower. Ms. Boone would like to see the college create more pathways for outdoor programs and the products industry.

Ms. Carpenter is working on staffing plans to reduce the need for contract workers. Memorial Hospital is relaunching their Medical Assistant Apprenticeship and looking into a Surgical Technician Apprenticeship. The hospital is looking to find partners for these programs.

Mr. Carpenter has been busy with awards season. He said he would like to continue working with the college on providing access to courses at Kennett. He also discussed the mental health crisis for students.

Mr. Allison spoke to how there is a lot to celebrate at The Foundation for New Hampshire Community Colleges. He discussed the upcoming NH Gives campaign. He is also developing a prospect list of the top 25 people Chuck should be connecting with to discuss different opportunities and partnerships.

Mr. Backler spoke about meetings he, Ms. King, and President Lloyd have regularly to discuss pathways.

Mr. Powers discussed the importance of having local people in the community filling open positions.

College Updates

Mr. Fader informed the group that the college has closed its deficit gap. The budget for the college next year looks favorable. The Governor will be making an announcement regarding the budget on Tuesday, June 8.

Dr. Desmarais spoke about the college's recent commencement ceremony. The college is hiring a third PACE (Persistence and Continuing Education) Coordinator. PACE Coordinators assist with recruitment efforts within the thirteen high schools in our communities.

Dr. Miller discussed the Rural Pathways Project. The team has been to four of the six institutes, with the next one being virtual, allowing for more participation. She also discussed the Second Chance Pell program and said there is interest at the Federal prison to offer courses at their facility.

Ms. Robbins updated the group regarding the Academic Centers. In Littleton, the new Advanced Technology Building is 90% done. There will be a ribbon cutting event later this year. The Commercial Driver Training program is at full capacity. The college has been transitioning out of the North Conway Academic Center. After this semester, the Massage Therapy program will move to Littleton and the Veterinary Assistant program will move to Berlin.

President Lloyd announced that the college was featured in Business NH magazine as one of the Businesses of The Year. He also said that the college is in talks with the Boys and Girls Club to co-locate at the college's Berlin campus. The college's annual golf tournament will be held on Thursday, June 22 in Bethlehem.

President Lloyd invited the committee to tour the welding lab and also to test drive the electric vehicle which was built by students in this year's Automotive Technology Program, after the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Colbie Ayotte
Human Resources/President's Office