

**WMCC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2025**

Present: David Backler, Kevin Carpenter, Tammy Fauteux, Sarmad Saman.

Absent: Heidi Barker, Beth Carpenter, Mike Laracy, Kevin Powers, Corey Riendeau, Alan Smith.

Guests: Tim Allison, Colbie Ayotte, Mark Desmarais, Greg Eastman, Steve Ellis, Leah Maciejewski, Melanie Robbins.

The White Mountains Community College (WMCC) Advisory Committee convened on April 14, 2025, at 12:00 PM in the WMCC Bistro.

Approval of Minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum, the minutes from the previous meeting on September 25, 2024, were not approved; they will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Regional/Individual Updates & Community Needs

Mr. Backler shared that the budget for SAU 20 has passed. Their focus is to make sure schools and students are successful every day.

Ms. Fauteux reported that SAU 3 is still in the process of getting their budget approved. The district report was sent to households in Berlin.

Mr. Carpenter reported that this is the second consecutive year that the budget was voted down. The elementary school closed earlier than scheduled; it was originally planned for next year. Graduation season is coming up, and they are looking forward to celebrating their students' accomplishments.

Mr. Eastman reported that both the school and town budgets were approved in Littleton. Despite ongoing efforts, securing approval for an elementary school has remained challenging over the years.

Mr. Ellis discussed budget increases in Pittsburg and the effects of the carbon credit program. The Board of Trustees have a retreat scheduled for Thursday and Friday. They are looking forward to attending WMCC's commencement ceremony in May.

College Updates

Ms. Robbins provided updates regarding the Littleton Academic Center. The Diesel Heavy Equipment Technology program is progressing well in the Advanced Technology Building. The Medical Assistant program continues to thrive. The college has a partnership with River Valley Community College for the Licensed Practical Nursing program. The second cohort of Emergency Medical Technician training will start this spring.

Dr. Desmarais recapped spring events, including Open House at Littleton Academic Center and the 5th Grade "College is for Me" event. Next year, there will be an event for 8th grade students. On Friday, 180 high school sophomores plan to attend the Access Convention at WMCC. Above the Notches Education Services will hold HiSet testing on the Berlin Campus. Summer projects include a new boiler, roof HVAC units, the library roof, and electrical and water upgrades, with Rays Electric managing the work.

President Saman shared the results from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) report. The recommendations emphasized the importance of collaboration and consistency across the system. The Online Network for Education in New Hampshire Community Colleges (ONE-NHCC) project has been developing ways to make online courses deliverable to all students throughout the system. He also discussed WMCC becoming an Accredited Test Facility (ATF) for welding certifications.

Ms. Maciejewski highlighted positive trends in various programs. The Culinary Arts and the Baking and Pastry Arts students served the Legislative Lunch in Concord. Advanced Welding Technology maintains a strong partnership with the shipyard with guaranteed job interviews for WMCC graduates. Ten schools will attend Welding Professional Development Day on Friday. The Prison Program received NECHE approval as a permanent site. WMCC was named Partner of the Year by the NH Department of Corrections.

Mr. Allison discussed the House and Senate crossover, noting their recognition of the importance of funding community colleges. The annual report was just published, which includes a list of donors and highlights statewide initiatives. Granite Edvance has made an additional contribution to the emergency funds.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Colbie Ayotte
Executive Assistant to the President