



SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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NEWS RELEASE

JUNE 5, 2023 | BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board ratifies purchase of former church, 10 acres

LIBERAL, Kan. — The Seward County Community College Board of Trustees met June 5, 2023, with an agenda of routine items and one highly unusual purchase: a sheriff's auction of real estate with the legal description of Cottonwood ADDN REPLT, Block 1, Lot 6-7 Lot Depth: 803.2 Deed Book/Page 0456/0435 0465/0440 0481/0699 0490/1005 0516/1091 0516/1092, and for the price of \$405,000.00, subject to legal counsel and Board approval of any required documentation and a Court order approving the Sheriff's Sale, as presented.

In plain language, a former church, an access bridge, and 10 acres of land adjacent to the college.

"This is a classic case of caring about who your neighbors end up being when property adjacent to yours goes on the market," said Pres. Brad Bennett, who had received permission from the board prior to the sheriff's auction to act on behalf of the college. "We are not sure how this property might be used in the future, but it's good for the college to retain control of that acreage in particular."

Following its usual pattern for monthly meetings, the board heard a report from athletic director Dan Artamenko. Women's tennis finished sixth at NJCAA Nationals, baseball made it to the regional tournament in Wichita, and perhaps more impressively, student athletes did well in their academic pursuits during spring 2023.

Sixty-two students made Athletic Director Honor Roll, and the Saints Athletes earned a Spring GPA of 3.10 with an overall GPA of 3.13. Athletics' course completion rate was 96 percent with individual students completing 30.96 hours on average.

Kyle Woodrow, Chief Development Officer, brought a progress report on the Sharp Family Champions Center Phase 2a, which he hopes to complete by the end of June. He also recapped the "Next 50 Years" event held at the Liberal Country Club to collect responses for the community's vision of how the college's future should be planned.

Vice Chair Marvin Chance attended a KACCT meeting in Dodge City. "We got reminded by Sen. Baumgartner that there are sometimes pushes to give more funding, but then they take control away," he said. "So, the takeaway is to be cautious."

The board approved the personnel report, which included a slight change in the student services department.

"We did not go through the committee hiring process on Stephanie Heger, who is listed there, because we changed her job description and went down a full position in that department in order to save the salary plus the benefits," said Pres. Bennett. "This was in the school's best interests, and we will keep an eye on how things work there." In a similar move, Dr. Suzanne Campbell will become the new dean of instruction, while her current responsibilities shift over to Dr. Amber Jones in the new role of Dean of Career and Technical Education. "We did not go through a hiring committee for those positions, either," said Bennett.

Other new employees listed: Crystal Pounds, Instructional Designer; Arlene Ruiz, Asst Women's Soccer Coach; Larissa Lujan, PT Cheer Coach; Amanda Marchino, Athletic Trainer; Beth Ann Volden, Mental Health Counselor; Jay Daubenberger, Asst. AD for Communications; Stephanie Heger**, Director of Student Success; Suzanne

Campbell*, Dean of Instruction.

Resignations included assistant softball coach Nayeli Diaz and dean of student success Annette Hackbarth-Onson.

The board received reports from the executive team:

Chief Information Officer Louie Lemert

General Departmental Projects are proceeding as scheduled:

- Switches – configuring and installing.
- UPS's – installation will be complete at the end of June.
- Fiber Upgrade – SWKO is waiting for components to become available.
- Firewall Installation – finishing the configuration and testing.
- Phone System – Testing continues – phones are working, paging and faxing are still in flux.
- Multi-Factor Authentication – waiting for web based single sign on to be completed.
- Annual computer purchase: They are being imaged and should be on desktops by the 1st of August.
- Esports computer purchase: received and delivered.
- Website: Single Sign On has been contracted and should will be fully integrated by the end of June.
- Ellucian: Our ERP (Banner) wants to continue using the original contract from 1999 and add an amendment for the new services.

Vice President of Student Services Celeste Donovan

June has traditionally been the month to reflect on the last year and plan and prepare for the fall semester. Below are a few of the activities that have occurred over the course of the month:

- Financial Aid staff will be attending the National FASEFA Conference in San Diego, Calif., at the end of June. This has always been a great conference for learning about new procedures and regulations.
- Last year, we decided to restructure three of the Residence Life positions to better meet the needs of our staff, students, and security department. In looking back, it was a wonderful decision. The efficiency and dealing with student conduct issues were more seamless than previous years.
- We have also been researching, reviewing, and updating our alcohol and drug prevention policies and procedures. SCCC's Drug and Alcohol Prevention Committee met this month to review last year's violations, reviewed our current policies and made recommendations in moving forward. The committee also updated the plan and recommended awareness activities for the 2023/2024 school year.
- Our Title IX Team will be conducting training for some of our staff who would like to act as Title IX Advisors, when and/if we have the need. We will be offering it on June 12, and 10 employees have signed up for the training.
- We are in the process of planning our fall Welcome Day/Welcome Week activities. It will be a special orientation this year for student athletes and international students. We are talking about an outdoor competitive event to include freshman and sophomores.
- The Records Office is trying to complete the end of the year degree audits to confer degrees/certificates. After processing the end of the year reports, staff began looking at Academic Probation and Academic Dismissal letters being issued.
- I conducted my last Student Services Retreat this month for all the Student Services Staff. It is one of the

events that I really have enjoyed doing over the course of my years. It included Information sharing, Goal setting, Team Building – (Food Truck Wars), and Reflection and Appreciation.

- The staff just finished deep cleaning of the Wellness Center and updated pieces of equipment. Liz hired an additional new Athletic Training Assistant this month to assist with the additional sports teams. She is also in the process of conducting Lifeguard training for her staff so that they can get ready for the fall semester.

- The College is sponsoring an SCCC team in the Chamber of Commerce golf tournament this month. We will be giving out water bottles and advertisements at the hole that we are sponsoring.

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for their continued support of the staff, students, and administration of SCCC. Best wishes for your continued success in all your future endeavors.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Luke Dowell

- Summer Sessions started Tuesday, May 30 with session 1 courses. Session 2 started today, June 5. Both sessions will end Thursday, June 29. Session 3 will begin July 5 and end July 27. Currently summer enrollment is up in credit hours by 20%.

- We will be reinstating the Dean of Instruction position starting July 1. The purpose of this is to share the workload of the Vice President of Academic Affairs to ensure all current and future projects can be completed as efficiently as possible, and fill the void of previous positions that have not been refilled in the past (Director of Assessment and Research).

- Instructional designer started today. Getting going with our Seward online. Building our online presence and working with that

Vice President of Business Affairs Madalen Day

- The Saints Bookstore will be closed for inventory June 26-29. Big changes will be coming this summer as we re-arrange the store layout for new flooring in the fall. Stop in to see all of our new apparel for Soccer and Esports!

- May has been a busy month getting student accounts cleaned up and helping students get their accounts finalized for those that graduated or are taking EduKan classes. We are also getting accounts and encumbrances cleaned up for year end. Our Perkins team, which is going to be led by Amy K. for FY24, completed their application for next year's requests that has been reviewed by KBOR.

- Thank you to Celeste, she's brought so much value to this institution. When people like Celeste retire, we don't replace them, we hire someone new and train them. David Hartman begins July 24, and we're trying to find him a rental to live in. He'll be here at the end of this month to check things out. He's very stable, six years at K-State Salina, Has been a VP person for three years. Brings a wealth of knowledge. He recruited SWK, his inlaws live in GC.

- Residence halls, 186 applications for fall. We have exceeded last year. 244 if we have doubles in all rooms.

President Brad Bennett

- I attended the KACCT meetings with Marvin and there was some really good information we talked about in those meetings, changes with performance agreements, math pathways, one thing that is important — 19 community colleges. Tech colleges get in the news for a lot. 70 percent of tech ed happens in community colleges.

- The EMSI study, we submitted all our data, and that's coming through.

- KBOR next week — we will be there one day, back for Celeste's party.

- EduKan, I am hopeful, I am exhausted from it. We're nearing the finish line. I'm hopeful we will have it for June 26 board meeting. What we are getting is intellectual property plus decent amount of cash, plus our June dividend.