

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vernon College
April 8, 2026

The Board of Trustees of Vernon College met on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 11:30 p.m. in the *Board Room of the Osborne Administration Building*, Vernon, Texas with the following present: Mr. Bob Ferguson – Chairman; Mrs. Ann Wilson – Vice-Chairman; and Mrs. Betsy Smith – Secretary. Other board members in attendance were Mr. Daryl Wolf, Mrs. Jamie Chapman, Mr. James Brock and Mrs. Meg Heatly.

Others present were Dr. Dusty Johnston, President; Mrs. Mindi Flynn, Vice President of Administration; Ms. Michelle Alexander, Director of Institutional Advancement/Executive Director, Vernon College Foundation; Mrs. Jackie Polk, Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Bettye Hutchins, Dean of Instructional Services; Dr. Stephen Underhill, Business Management Instructor/Faculty Senate President; Mrs. Jeanne Ballard, Director of Financial Aid; Ms. Colleen Moore, Director of Enrollment Management/Registrar; Mrs. Kelly Miller, Director of Student Success; Mrs. Holly Scheller, Coordinator of Marketing & Community Relations; Mr. Kevin Holland, Director of Campus Police; and Ms. Mary King, Administrative Secretary to the President. Guest present was Mr. Mike Chacanaca of the *Vernon Daily Record*.

Mr. Ferguson called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the Consent Agenda containing the Minutes of the March 11, 2026 Regular Board Meeting and the President's Monthly Travel Expense Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – No one was present to make a public comment.

Action Item A

Mrs. Flynn presented the Financial and Investment Reports as of March 31, 2026. Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Wolf, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item B

Mr. Ferguson, recommended the appointment of Mrs. Betsy Smith, Mrs. Ann Wilson and Mr. Daryl Wolf as the Nominating Committee to make recommendations for a new slate of officers at the May 13, 2026 Regular Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Wolf made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to approve the nominating committee consisting of Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Wolf as recommended by the chair of the board. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item C

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve to sunset the Automotive Technology Associate of Applied Science Degree and the Culinary/Hospitality Arts Continuing Education Certificate, as presented by Dr. Johnston and Betty Hutchins. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item D

Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve state approved vendor, teskys, to upgrade campus security cameras at a cost of \$118,263.40 as presented by Dr. Johnston and Director of Police, Kevin Holland. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item E

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock to approve Clarence Dailey Electric as the contractor to complete upgrades in the large residence hall as detailed in the RFP at the cost of \$154,188 as presented by Dr. Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item F

There were no Tax Resale Deeds held in trust by the City of Vernon to approve.

President's Report/Board Discussion Items

CCATT board meeting update – Mr. Brock, CCATT Small College Director from Vernon College, gave a brief update on the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT) Board Zoom meeting on March 18, 2026. The meeting consisted of discussions on Dual Credit, Formula Funding, Committee changes, Election, and Property Taxes.

CCATT Annual Conference update – Dr. Johnston reminded the board of the annual conference for CCATT will be September 17 through 19 in Houston, Texas. Anyone interested in attending, please let him know.

2026-2027 Budget update – Draft 1 – Dr. Johnston and Mrs. Flynn presented Draft 1 of the Budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027. Draft 1 is in the beginning draft process. One addition made includes the percent increase raises for employees that is now built in. The wish list from the departments is not included in this draft. We know big ticket items like Technology will need to be added so Draft 2 will look a little worse than Draft 1. We will not have a number on the state appropriations until possibly in July this year.

Student Services update – Mrs. Kelly Miller and Mrs. Holly Scheller presented an update representing the Student Services department. Mrs. Miller shared the ways Student Success helps to navigate and prepare with Vernon College Dual Credit process, DC Compass, Registration Workshops, Counselor Luncheons, and Application Workshops. She also shared growth and new opportunities for CTE (Career and Technology Education), and FAST Non-Degree Associates. Student Success and Marketing have teamed up to send 748 post cards congratulating Dual Credit high school students. Mrs. Scheller shared the focus on the recent Social media campaign and explained some social media terms and reported on how views, engagements, clicks, links, etc. have increased in reaching far more people. The concentrated effort has paid off.

Student Highlight – Mrs. Anne Patterson, Continuing Education coordinator presented Bryson Hall as this month's Student Highlight. A Vernon high school graduate, Bryson received a Class A CDL (Commercial Driver's License) after taking the Vernon College Truck Driving program. To date, we have trained 132 drivers who completed and received their CDL.

July Board Retreat/Monthly Meeting – Dr. Johnston reported the July 9 Board Retreat will be held in the Vernon College Boardroom consisting of the morning agenda starting at 9:00 am, lunch at 12:00 noon, followed by the regular board meeting at 1:00 pm.

Dr. Johnston presented the Reminder of Upcoming Events:

- (1) Vernon College Foundation Board meeting – Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. – Century City Center
- (2) Honors Convocation – Thursday, April 23, 2026 – 6:30 pm – MPEC Wichita Falls
- (3) Sports Banquet – Monday, May 4, 2026 – 6:00 pm – Wilbarger Auditorium
- (4) Commencement – Thursday, May 7, 2026 – 6:00 pm – Kay Yeager Coliseum, Wichita Falls
 - 4:30 p.m. Graduate Check-in – all students
 - 5:30 p.m. Board members, faculty, staff, and students prepare for entrance
 - 6:00 p.m. Graduation – all students
- (5) ADN Pinning – Friday, May 8, 2026 – 10:30 am – Wilbarger Auditorium
- (6) Board of Trustees meeting – Wednesday, May 13, 2026 – 11:30 a.m. Vernon campus

Dr. Johnston presented the Philanthropic Report/Outside Grants Report.

There were no Minutes from Faculty/Staff/Student Organizations.

Reminder from Dr. Johnston:

Summer hours for 2026 will begin Monday, May 11 and continue through Thursday, July 30. Operating hours will be Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Vernon College will return to the Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon schedule on Monday, August 3, 2026.

Personnel

Motion # 1 – Mrs. Wilson, made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock, to approve the following personnel changes as detailed on the Item 6 Personnel Sheet and recommended by the president. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Employment

1. Lynsi Frank, Administrative Assistant, Classified, Student Success – CCC, effective April 1, 2026.

B. Reassignment

1. Rae Ann Preville, LVN Nursing Instructor to ADN Instructor/Remediation Specialist, Century City Center, effective May 11th, 2026
2. Harmoni Smith, from part-time LVN Clinical Instructor to full time LVN Instructor, Century City Center, effective May 11th, 2026
3. Latia Douglas, from part-time LVN Clinical Instructor to full time Evening/Weekend LVN Instructor, Century City Center, effective May 11th, 2026

C. Resignation

1. Andrea Gorbett, CDL Truck Driver Instructor, VC, effective March 31, 2026
2. Rebecca Hill, ADN Nursing Instructor, Century City Center, effective May 8, 2026

D. Conduct Evaluation of College President and Consider Extending Contract for one additional year (September 1, 2026-August 31, 2029).


Closed Session: Mr. Brock, made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to go into closed session at 12:55 p.m. in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Subchapter 551.074, to discuss personnel or other items under this section of the Texas Government Code, Texas Open Meetings Act. The motion carried unanimously.

To - Conduct Evaluation of College President and Consider Extending Contract for one additional year (September 1, 2026-August 31, 2029)

Open Session: Mrs. Wilson, made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock, to reconvene at 1:25 p.m. in open session. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion # 2 – Mrs. Smith, made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock, to approve the president's contract for Dr. Dusty R. Johnston for one year for a three-year contract dated September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2029. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business Mrs. Heatly made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.


Bob Ferguson, Chairman


Mrs. Betsy Smith, Secretary