

MINUTES

Regular Meeting BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vernon College
August 12, 2026

The Board of Trustees of Vernon College met on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at noon 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. James Brock, Mrs. Jamie Chapman, Mrs. Meg Heatly and Mr. Daryl Wolf.

Others present were Dr. Dusty Johnston, President; Mrs. Mindi Flynn, Vice President of Administration; Mrs. Shana Drury, Vice President of Instructional Services; Dr. Criquett Chapman, Vice President of Student Services; Ms. Michelle Alexander, Director of Institutional Advancement/Executive Director, Vernon College Foundation; Dr. Brad Beauchamp, Director of Institutional Assessment, Planning, and Effectiveness; Mrs. Jackie Polk, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Steven Underhill, Business Management Instructor/Faculty Senate President; Mrs. Bettye Hutchins, Dean of Instructional Services; Mrs. Kristin Harris, Dean of Student Services; Ms. Andrea Mirasol, Coordinator of Community and Recreational Services; Mrs. Kelly Miller, Director of Student Success; Mr. Jeff Hass, Campus Police; and Ms. Mary King, Administrative Secretary to the President; and Mr. Mike Chacanaca of *Vernon Daily Record*.

Chairman Ferguson called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman to approve the Consent Agenda containing the *Minutes of the July 8, 2026 Board Retreat/Regular Board Meeting* and the *President's Monthly Travel Expense Report*. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Action Item A

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

Action Item B

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the *2026-2027 Vernon College Operating Budget of \$25,392,027* as presented by Dr. Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item C

Mr. Wolf made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve adopting the *2026 Vernon College tax rate* at 23.8825 cents per \$100 of appraised property value at the September 9, 2026 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item D

Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to *schedule a public hearing on the proposed 2026 Vernon College tax rate* at the next regular board meeting on September 9, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item E

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the *Investment Policies, Procedures, and Strategies as Required by the Public Funds Investment Act* (no changes from previous year) as presented by the administration. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item F

Mr. Wolf, made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the *2026 Fall Continuing Education and Training Schedule* with proposed tuition and fees and authorize the Dean of Instructional Services to set tuition and fees for any additional classes that may develop during the fall term. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item G

Mrs. Chapman, made the motion, seconded by Mr. Wolf, to *declare the following as a "Special Population" and to offer "Zero" tuition for Pre-service/In-service training, and Continuing Education courses during the 2026-2027 school year* as presented by Dr. Johnston and Mrs. Hutchins. The motion carried unanimously.

- (1) Vernon Police Department – Continuing Education Training
- (2) Wichita County Sheriff's Office – In-Service Training
- (3) Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Pre-Service and In-Service Training
- (4) NORTEX Regional Planning Commission – Continuing Education Training
- (5) Area Agency on Aging – Continuing Education Training
- (6) Vernon College Nursing IV Therapy – Continuing Education Classes
- (7) Wichita Falls Fire Dept – Continuing Education Classes

Action Item H

Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve the *purchase of one automatic and one manual semi-truck* from MCH Texas Kenworth of Fort Worth from the list below to not exceed \$155,500 as presented by Dr. Johnston and Mrs. Drury. The motion carried unanimously.

1. 2023 Kenworth T680 automatic \$74,627.48
2. 2023 Kenworth T680 10 speed manual \$80,031.42
3. 2023 Peterbilt 579 automatic \$74,326.94
4. 2023 Kenworth T680 10 speed manual \$73,325.11

Action Item I

Mr. Wolf made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson to approve *a contract with Fat Boy Trucking and Dirt for parking lot improvements* at Century City Center as presented by Dr. Johnston and Mrs. Flynn. The motion carried unanimously.

- Phase I \$218,880 goal is to complete before school starts
- Phase II \$187,940 after September 1 budget year starts
- Phase III \$187,940 contingent on status of submitted 4 A proposal to build on this location

Action Item J

There were no tax foreclosure properties held in trust by the City of Vernon to approve.

President's Report/Board Discussion Items – Dr. Johnston discussed a recent letter from U.S. Secretary of Education, Linda McMahon, and her national call to action to University Presidents and Governing Boards. Her challenge is for every institution to post on their website supporting the American way in higher education. He stated it is not mandatory, it is our choice. This will be brought up again in a future meeting.

Institutional Assessment, Planning, and Effectiveness/Student Success Data Fact – Dr. Brad Beauchamp presented the Licensure and Certification Update. He stated this is the 2024-2025 data report. It is listed by Licensure/Certification available by Major, the Student and Program Data and the percentage of the passing rate. The College aims at 85%.

Discipline/Program Evaluation Summary -

Dr. Johnston presented the Discipline/Program Evaluation summary. It is a process every year on different programs built in a rotation when they are evaluated by the Academic sub-committee. There were no significant issues this year.

Student Highlight –

Ms. Andrea Mirasol presented Selena Willard as the Student Highlight this month. Selena is a Licensed Massage Therapist. She was in our 2025-2026 Massage Therapy class and graduated June 18, 2026.

Dr. Johnston presented the following Fall Board Meeting Dates:

- (1) Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, September 9, 2026
- (2) Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 14, 2026
- (3) Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, November 11, 2026
- (4) Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Dr. Johnston presented the Upcoming College Events:

- (1) 2025 Fall semester Kick-off employee professional development – Thursday, August 13, 2026
- (2) Faculty professional development – Friday, August 14, 2026
- (3) Registration On-Site – Monday, August 17, 2026 – Vernon and CCC
- (4) Classes begin Wednesday, August 19, 2026
- (5) Labor Day holiday—Monday, September 7, 2026
- (6) Board of Trustees meeting—Wednesday, September 9, 2026

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

Mr. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly to approve the *Personnel Changes* as recommended by Dr. Johnston and detailed on item 6 B Personnel Information Sheet. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Employment

1. Mersadie “Sadie” Martin, Assistant Rodeo Coach, Vernon Campus, effective August 1, 2026
2. Richard Shannon, Electra ISD-Health Careers Instructor, Electra ISD, effective August 1, 2026
3. Rachelle Reinhardt, Cosmetology Instructor, Vernon Campus, effective August 1, 2026
4. Ashlyn Sneed, Administrative Assistant – Athletics, Vernon Campus, effective August 3, 2026
5. Kiana Gibson, Assistant Softball Coach, Vernon Campus, effective August 10, 2026

B. Reassignment

1. Wyatt Moore, from Assistant Baseball Coach to Coordinator of Housing/Assistant Baseball Coach, Vernon Campus, effective August 1, 2026
2. Abrisha Hall, from Electra ISD Health Careers Instructor to Vernon ISD Health Careers Instructor, Vernon HS, effective August 6, 2026
3. Ashley Gates, from Assistant Simulation Lab Coordinator to Assistant LVN Director – Century City Center, effective September 1, 2026

C. Resignation

1. Amber Atha, Assistant Softball Coach, Vernon Campus, effective July 31, 2026
2. Alli Gearld, Administrative Assistant-Athletics, Vernon Campus, effective July 31, 2026
3. James Mendoya, Custodial Technician, Skills Training Center, effective August 3, 2026
4. Luciana Cavazos, LVN Instructor, Century City Center, effective August 5, 2026
5. Elisha Wehrwein, Cosmetology Instructor, Vernon Campus, effective August 31, 2026

D. Retirement

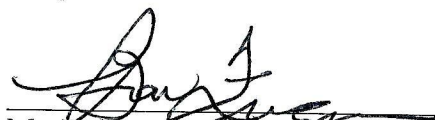
1. Dr. Betha Rutledge, ADN Instructor, Century City Center, effective August 31, 2026

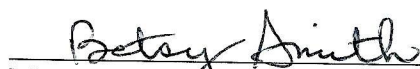
Closed Session: Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock, to go into closed session at 1:26 pm in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Subchapter 551.074, to discuss personnel or other items under this section of the Texas Government Code, Texas Open Meetings Act. The motion carried unanimously.

No Action

Open Session: Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock to reconvene at 1:36 p.m. in open session. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business Mr. Wolf made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 p.m.


Mr. Bob Ferguson, Chairman


Mrs. Betsy Smith, Secretary