MINUTES

Regular Meeting
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vernon College
September 9, 2026

The Board of Trustees of Vernon College met on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 11:30 a.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. James Brock, Mr. Daryl Wolf, Mrs. Jamie Chapman and Mrs. Meg Heatly.

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; Dr. Roxie Hill, Vice President of Information Systems and Technology; Ms. Michelle A. Alexander, Director of Institutional Advancement/Executive Director, Vernon College Foundation; Mrs. Kristin Harris, Dean of Student Services; Mrs. Jeanne Ballard, Director of Financial Aid; Mrs. Jackie Polk, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Colleen Moore, Director of Enrollment Management/Registrar; Mrs. Jacqueline Bone, Student Success Specialist; Mrs. Kelly Miller, Director of Student Success; 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*.

Chairman 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 August 12, 2026 Regular Board Meeting* and the *President's Monthly Travel Expense Report*. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – Mr. Ferguson noted that no one was present for the Public Hearing on Tax Increase as scheduled at this time and date. The resolution to set the 2026-27 Vernon College Tax Rate is under the Action Items listed on the Agenda to be discussed and voted on.

Action Item A
Mrs. Flynn presented the *Financial and Investment Reports as of August 31, 2026.* Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Wolf, to approve the Vernon College year to date and monthly financial and investment reports as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item B
Mr. Wolf made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve adopting the 2026 Vernon College Tax Rate of 23.8825 cents per $100 of appraised property value, as presented by Dr. Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item C
Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the annual *2025-2026 Wilbarger County Tax Collections* for Vernon College by the Wilbarger County Tax Collector, as presented by Dr. Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item D
No resale of tax foreclosure properties were received to approve.

President's Report/Board Discussion Items –

- Dr. Johnston, James Brock, and Daryl Wolf will be attending the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT) Conference held in Baytown on September 17-19, 2026. Dr. Johnston stated Mr. Brock is a member of the CCATT Board and his meetings begin a day early, so he will be taking a flight to the conference. Dr. Johnston and Daryl Wolf will follow by driving to Baytown early on the 17th. The agenda will be full of good sessions to attend again this year.

- The President stated the annual THECB Leadership Conference in Austin is December 8-9, 2026. He will not be attending, because our board meeting is on Wednesday December 9, but if any board member is interested in attending to please let him know.
- The President stated two colleges were picked by the Texas Association of Community Colleges to be featured in a video to promote community colleges and workforce education in Texas. TACC selected Vernon College as the small college, and San Jacinto College as the large college. Vernon College will highlight the RN nursing program, our relationship with United Regional hospital and have an interview with one of their representatives. Also, an interview with a current student. This video will be a 2 ½ minute video which we will get as much on it about Vernon College.
- Chairman Ferguson asked if the Board could be informed periodically with reports on the College's cooperation with security and local law enforcements regarding any information due to the recent population increase. Dr. Johnston stated that could be done and reminded him the College does an annual security report already of all or any incidents on campus.

Fall 2025 Enrollment Update – Ms. Colleen Moore presented the Preliminary Enrollment Report and Comparison for Fall 2025 vs. Fall 2026. She stated the total headcount for all locations is up from 2,262 to 2,358, an increase of +4.24%. Acadeum students went up 100%. Dual credit went up 23.55%.

Annual Cleary Security Report – Dr. Johnston and Dr. Chapman stated by submitting the Annual Cleary Security report to the Texas Department of Education, the College is in compliance. The Crime Awareness Statistics and Fire Safety Report shows zero incidents. The report is posted on our web page and shared with all Vernon College staff.

Health Care Clinic update – Mrs. Kristin Harris presented the Health Care Clinic annual report from September 2025 through August 2026. The Health Care Clinic is currently being used and very popular with the students and staff. The report contains the list of numbered visits and the reason for each. The clinic is located in the Sumner Applied Arts building on the Vernon campus. Provider is Lindsay R. Streit, Family Nurse Practitioner. Hours for student or staff visits are posted to the Health Clinic Door.

Student Highlight – Mrs. Jacqueline Bone, Student Success Specialist, presented Karina Perez as the student highlight for this month. Karina is a 2025 Rockwall-Heath high school graduate. She is a sophomore volleyball player at Vernon College. She had a few struggles shortly after starting at VC due to moving away from home for the first time. After her first semester, her GPA was below 2.6. Now, after the Fall semester her GPA is at 3.5. She stated she had a lot on her plate when she first came, but the coaches, team and most importantly the staff at Vernon College helped her through the hardest point in her life. She plans on completing her Associate of Science degree and eventually her Master's degree. She dreams of working with kids as a speech language pathologist.

Dr. Johnston presented the Upcoming College Events:

(1) Vernon College Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 14, 2026
(2) VC Sports Day – Thursday, October 15, 2026 – Vernon
(3) Vernon College Foundation Annual Board Meeting, Vernon – Thursday, October 15, 2026
(4) Vernon College NIRA Rodeo – November 6-7, 2026 – WCEC
(5) 2026-2027 Sports Status/Schedules (Rodeo, Baseball, Volleyball & Softball) –Exhibits

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

There were no minutes from Faculty or Staff Organizations.

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, 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. Francisco "Javi" Guerrero, Assistant Baseball Coach, Vernon Campus, effective August 15, 2026
2. Jermali Irish, Technology Specialist 1, Century City Center, effective August 24, 2026
3. Kalen Barrientos, Custodial Technician, Century City Center, effective August 24, 2026
4. Gian Garrett, Custodial Technician, Vernon Campus, effective September 14, 2026

B. Reassignment
    1. Toni Reagan, from adjunct Nursing instructor to LVN instructor, Century City Center, effective August 17, 2026

C. Resignation
    1. Harmoni Smith, LVN instructor, Century City Center, effective August 14, 2026
    2. Elizabeth Gonzales, Technology Specialist, Vernon Campus, effective August 31,2026

Closed Session: Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to go into closed session at 12:10 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.

Discussion Only - No Action

Open Session: Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to reconvene at 12:45 p.m. in open session. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to adjourn the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

Mr. Bob Ferguson, Chairman

Mrs. Betsy Smith, Secretary