



**Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2023**

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A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on June 21, 2023.

Trustees present: Roger Moe, Chair; George Soule, Vice Chair; Victor Ayemobuwa, Alex Cirillo, Jay Cowles, Dawn Erlandson, Jim Grabowska, Tim Huebsch, Kathy Sheran, Cheryl Tefer

Trustees absent: Asani Ajogun, Jerry Janezich, Javier Morillo, April Nishimura, Oballa Oballa

Staff present: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

The meeting materials for this meeting are available [here](#) starting on page 299. An audio recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Chair Moe called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**Chancellor's Report, Devinder Malhotra**

Chair Moe – before I begin my formal remarks, I would ask for the board's indulgence to take a pause.

Friday evening, five (5) young women were killed by a driver a single moment in Minneapolis. These women were described as "bright stars" and leaders in their academic and religious circles and family-oriented community members.

Two of the women were students at our colleges. The communities at Minneapolis College and Normandale Community College are grieving the loss of these students. We keep our colleges and their families and friends in our thoughts.

Chair Moe, Vice Chair Soule, trustees-

When I got on the plane in Ohio in the early hours of February 9, 2017, never did I imagine that I would be sitting here with you 77 months later. To say this has been an opportunity of a lifetime is an understatement. I know I've used this line before but how many chances does one get to reimagine one's profession. I have been fortunate to work alongside great faculty, staff, presidents, and campus and system leaders throughout my tenure with Minnesota State. I can't acknowledge everyone who has made an impact in those years but want to mention just a few - Board of Trustees Chairs Moe, Cowles, and Vekich; current and past presidents; amazing and passionate leaders

committed to student success; current and past cabinet - day in and day out – have traveled every step of this experience together – each hill and valley. This also includes bargaining unit leaders with whom I have had the good fortune to work; as well as over a dozen statewide leaders and countless campus leaders. Thank you for being my partners in this work together.

To LeadMN and Students United - thank you for your continued advocacy and commitment to all our students. To my System Office colleagues - thank you for the work you do to support our colleges and universities. To our 54 campuses located throughout the state – thank you for what you do for our students and the communities of Minnesota. I have enjoyed my many campus visits and travels around the state.

In closing, none of this would be possible without the support of my family – specifically my spouse Laura.

Chair Moe – for the final time...that concludes my remarks.

### **Chair's Report**

Thank you, Chancellor, for your remarks.

Today is a bittersweet day for Minnesota State as we celebrate the conclusion of your tenure as Chancellor. Get comfortable – there are just a few words I and others want to say.

To start this afternoon, I would like to share with you that on Tuesday, June 13th, Senator Tina Smith offered the following comments into the United States Congressional Record:

*Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career of Chancellor Devinder Malhotra. Devinder is retiring this summer from his role as chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.*

*Devinder has served as chancellor or interim chancellor since 2017. During that time, the system of 26 colleges, 7 universities, and 54 campuses has advanced its strategic priorities towards building a systemwide identity and leveraging the advantages that come from its scale and scope as one of the largest higher education systems in the country.*

*Under his leadership, Minnesota State launched Equity 2030, a key strategic initiative that set a critical goal of eliminating educational equity gaps, including by race and ethnicity, socioeconomic background, and first-generation status at every Minnesota State college and university by the year 2030. This work is currently underway and has received broad support throughout the system, including from presidents, bargaining units, faculty, staff, and students.*

*Chancellor Malhotra led the system through the uncertainty of the pandemic. His commitment and dedication has helped thousands create a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities, all while working to address Minnesota's workforce needs.*

*I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Devinder for years. I thank him for his service to our State. On behalf of the State of Minnesota, I wish him all the best as he enjoys all that retirement has to offer.*

Chancellor—we're not done yet. We have video greetings from Washington D.C. from Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach. Video was played.

Chancellor – you came back to Minnesota State when we needed you and you have led us through six years that no one could have ever imagined that our society – let alone our system of colleges and universities – would need to respond to. For this reason, and for all the reasons Senator Smith and Congresswoman Fischbach laid forward in their remarks, the Board of Trustees is eternally grateful.

So, on behalf of the Minnesota State Board of Trustees, I would like to read the following resolution to honor Chancellor Devinder Malhotra:

WHEREAS, Devinder Malhotra has served as Chancellor of Minnesota State from 2017 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, Devinder Malhotra previously served as provost at St. Cloud State University and interim president at Metropolitan State University; and

WHEREAS, Devinder Malhotra will retire on August 1, 2023 after forty-plus years in higher education; and

WHEREAS, Devinder Malhotra has served on the boards of the National Association of System Heads, Midwest Higher Education Consortium, and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association; and

WHEREAS, Devinder Malhotra has developed and strengthened relationships with state officials, legislators, and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, Devinder Malhotra established Equity 2030, the organizing principle for our collective work – reminding us that it is not only the right thing to do but it is a moral and economic imperative for the state of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Devinder Malhotra has led Minnesota State with a generous heart and a strong spine; and

WHEREAS, Devinder Malhotra reminded us time and time again that we are a “resilient bunch”; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE MINNESOTA STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES establishes on this day, June 21, 2023, the Devinder Malhotra Equity Award. This award will honor the achievements of collaborative partnerships that promote student success and close achievement gaps. On behalf of Minnesota State, we wish Devinder Malhotra best wishes on his well-deserved retirement and all the joys and happiness in the future.

The inaugural Devinder Malhotra Equity Award will be awarded next Spring as part of the Board of Trustees Awards for Excellence. I want to thank Trustee Dawn Erlandson for bringing this suggestion forward and working with trustees and staff on this award.

The Devinder Malhotra Equity Award will encapsulate what this chancellor has promoted throughout his service: Promoting enhanced access and student success; Deepening student engagement; Expanding our workforce and talent diversity; Focusing on data-driven and evidence-based solutions; Promoting collaboration not only between our colleges and universities but with partners and stakeholders across the state.

The Board has charged staff to draft the award parameters and to report back to the board in the Fall on the next steps. We look forward to honoring our colleges’ and universities’ work as they strive to meet our Equity 2030 goal. At this time I would like to call on trustees for their remarks.

### **Consent Agenda**

Chair Moe asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Trustee Cirillo made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Trustee Cowles seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Absent
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Absent
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes

Trustee Soule            Yes  
Trustee Tefer            Yes

The board voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1. Minutes of May 9, 2023 Special Meeting**
- 2. Minutes of May 17, 2023**
- 3. Minutes of May 17, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting**
- 4. Revised FY2024 board meeting calendar (Second Reading)**
- 5. Mission Statement Change: Rochester Community and Technical College**
- 6. Review and Approve Fiscal Year 2024 Internal Auditing Plan**
- 7. Contracts Requiring Board Approval**
  - a. USDA-NIFA NextGen Grant Award with Leech Lake Tribal College, Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College
  - b. Lease Extension, ETC Building, Energy Park, Metropolitan State University
  - c. Custodial Services Contract, Metropolitan State University
  - d. Custodial Services Contract, Minneapolis Community and Technical College
  - e. Student Housing Software Systemwide Contract, System Office
- 8. FY2024 Capital Program Recommendations (Second Reading)**

#### **Board Standing Committee Reports**

Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, George Soule, Chair

Committee Chair Soule reported that the committee approved recommendations for two (2) appointments.

#### **Appointment of President for Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College**

The Workforce Organizational Effectiveness Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

*The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Anita Hanson as President of Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College, with the anticipated effective date of July 1, 2023, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes the chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the board and chair of the Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Personnel Plan for Administrators.*

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Absent
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Anita Hanson was introduced to make remarks.

#### **Appointment of Interim President for Winona State University**

The Workforce Organizational Effectiveness Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

*The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Malhotra, appoints Kenneth Janz as Interim President for Winona State University, with the anticipated effective date of August 1, 2023, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes the chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the board and chair of the Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Personnel Plan for Administrators.*

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Absent
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes

Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion. Kenneth Janz was introduced to make remarks.

Finance and Facilities Committee, Jay Cowles, Chair

Committee Chair Cowles reported that the committee approved recommendation for one item.

**FY2024 Annual Operating Budget (Second Reading)**

The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

- *Adopt the annual total all funds operating budget for fiscal year 2024 as shown in Table 5.*
- *Approve the proposed tuition structure recommendations and differential tuition rationale for fiscal year 2024 as detailed in Attachments 1A through 1H.*
- *Establish that fiscal year 2024 tuition rates are effective summer term or fall term 2023 at the discretion of the president. The chancellor or designee is authorized to approve any required technical adjustments and is requested to incorporate any approvals at the time fiscal year 2025 tuition recommendations are presented to the Board of Trustees.*
- *Continue the policy of market-driven tuition for closed enrollment courses, customized training, non-credit instruction, continuing education, fully online undergraduate programs, graduate programs, and contract postsecondary enrollment option programs.*
- *Approve the Revenue Fund and related fiscal year 2024 fees for room and board, student union, wellness and recreation facilities, and parking ramps/surface lots as detailed in Attachments 2A through 2E, including any housing fees that the campuses may charge for occupancy outside the academic year.*
- *Authorize the chancellor or designee to enter into an agreement with the Learning Network of Minnesota to provide the funding appropriated to the organization in Minnesota Laws 2023, Chapter 41, Article 1, Section 3, Subdivision 4, in the amount of \$4,115,000.*

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Absent
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the recommended motion.

The board also received reports from meetings of the following committees:

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Cheryl Tefer, Chair
- Audit Committee, Alex Cirillo, Chair
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, George Soule, Chair
- Joint Meeting of Audit and Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committees, Alex Cirillo and George Soule, Co-Chairs
- Joint Meeting of Academic and Student Affairs and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees, Cheryl Tefer and George Soule, Co-Chairs
- Joint Meeting of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committees, George Soule, Chair

### **Other Business**

Chair Moe then called on Chair Cowles to present the Nominating Committee's Recommendations for Vice Chair. The nominating committee sent its recommendation of George Soule as vice chair to the Board of Trustees on May 18, 2023. The board recommends the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

*The Board of Trustees approves the reappointment of Vice Chair George Soule for a one (1)-year term in FY2024.*

Recommendations of a committee do not require a second. A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was as follows:

Trustee Ajogun	Absent
Trustee Ayemobuwa	Yes
Trustee Cirillo	Yes
Trustee Cowles	Yes
Trustee Erlandson	Yes
Trustee Grabowska	Yes
Trustee Huebsch	Yes
Trustee Janezich	Absent
Trustee Moe	Yes
Trustee Morillo	Absent
Trustee Nishimura	Yes
Trustee Oballa	Absent
Trustee Sheran	Yes
Trustee Soule	Yes
Trustee Tefer	Yes

The board voted to approve the motion.

#### **Student Associations and Bargaining Units**

Student associations and bargaining units were invited to submit written remarks and were given the opportunity to address the board in person. Written remarks were provided by MSUAAF.

In person remarks were provided by:

- Students United: Axel Kylander, Incoming State Chair; Marweh Asif, Incoming State Vice Chair
- Inter Faculty Organization (IFO): Jenna Chernega, President
- Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF): Kevin Lindstrom, President
- Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty (MSUAAF): Mandy Weister, State Treasurer

#### **Trustee Reports**

No trustee reports were heard.

#### **Adjournment**

Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.