

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SPOON RIVER COLLEGE**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Spoon River College, 726 Maple Avenue, Room 100
Rushville, Illinois**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the Spoon River College Rushville Center, 726 Maple Avenue, Room 100, Rushville, Illinois.

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to Order

Kevin Meade, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present:

John Biernbaum
Linda Butler
Dave Maguire
Kevin Meade
Phil Murphy

Members Absent:

Jerry Cremer
Kent Schleich
Savannah Smith-Coulter

Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Brad O'Brien, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Andrea Thomson, Director, Human Resources; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Janet Young, Rushville Center Director; Joe Clemens, Diesel Tech Faculty; Brian Dalpiaz, Mathematics Faculty; and Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/Recorder

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Kevin Meade led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Welcome of Guests

Kevin Meade welcomed those in attendance.

1.5 Public Comment

Kevin Meade asked if any members of the audience wished to address the Board. There were no requests or public comments.

1.6 Approval of Minutes

1.6.1 September 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mrs. Butler, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the September 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

My report is relatively brief as ICCTA has not had a meeting since early September. ICCTA leadership has been working on coordinating the community college strategic plan, monitoring actions at the legislative level as we work through the Veto Session and developing the legislative agenda for adoption at the November ICCTA meeting

Illinois colleges and ICCTA had a noted presence at the recent ACCT Annual Leadership Congress in Las Vegas. The conference featured a record number of sessions covering a large array of subjects. Multiple tracks were available ranging from enrollment, diversity, technology and innovative student strategies.

Two notable sessions I attended were on Employee Retention Credits and Philanthropic Partnerships in workforce development presented by Temple College. There was discussion concerning the upcoming release of the Department of Education rules. Notably, the new rules will prohibit transcript withholding for classes which were completed using federal financial aid, will require institutions to clearly lay out financial aid letters distinguishes between scholarships and loans, and will establish clearer processes for access to Federal financial aid for students who do not have a high school diploma or recognized equivalent. A copy of the congress program is available electronically and additional information from sessions will be forthcoming.

This week Jessica Nardulli, our Legislative Counsel sent out and updated ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report. She outlines the agenda for the Veto Session this week and November 7-9. There are six pieces of vetoed legislation up for consideration.

- Energy Omnibus – **House Bill 3445** (Stadelman/Walsh) – Amendatory Veto removes a provision allowing Ameren to have a right of first refusal
- Procurement Legislation -- **HB 2878** (Castro/Hoffman) – Amendatory Veto removes authorization for public-private partnerships for local transportation projects
- Property Tax Legislation – **HB 2507** (Villanueva/Kifowit) – Amendatory Veto removes property tax break for certain nursing homes
- Removes moratorium on building nuclear power plants – **SB 76** (Rezin/Yednock)
- Halal Food in Schools – **HB 3643** (Villivalam/Rashid)
- Workplace Privacy Legislation – **Senate Bill 1515** (Cervantes/Delgado) **an amendment filed to **SB508** deals with this issue*

In addition, the General Assembly may use this session to pass necessary time-sensitive legislation. This year, one major issue is whether to extend the Invest in Kids Act. Created in 2017, the act allows people to donate to private school scholarship funds and receive a state tax credit. The act is set to sunset at the end of this year.

Other issues include additional state spending through a supplemental appropriation bill that could contain funds for city of Chicago to help support some of the 18,500 migrants who have been bussed to Illinois in the past year, funds for migrant health care and anything else they can figure out how to spend money on.

ICCTA will be assisting with an ACCT's November 30-December 1 Governance Leadership Institute which will be hosted by Heartland Community College. The registration information will be available soon.

The next meeting of the Board of Representative will be November 10-11 at the Chicago Marriott Schaumburg Hotel in Schaumburg.

Included with my report are a list of dates and meetings of interest.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Savannah Smith-Coulter was absent, and Dr. Oldfield read the following report:

Congratulations to Connesha Posey who was the September recipient of the SRC Student Shout-Out. She also received a \$100 Visa Gift Card.

Pizza with the Prez events were held in Canton and Macomb. President Oldfield served pizza and visited with students and employees.

Fulton-Mason Crisis Center visited the Canton Campus and WIRC the Macomb Campus with domestic violence resource information for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Two members of the Speech and Debate Team submitted speeches for the first online tournament of the new season--Owen Bohn delivered their after-dinner speech on the transvestigators and Hayden Thum performed his persuasive speech on the problems with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The team was excited to have Bohn make it to finals where they placed fifth—one spot ahead of a competitor from Illinois State University who finished second place in the same event at last year's national tournament! Wish them luck for continued success this season!

TRIO events for October include:

- “Let’s Taco ‘Bout TRIO”—a walking taco recruitment event
- Reverse trick or treating at the Snapper Villas
- Workshop to introduce the new career and interviewing online platform

Gay Straight Alliance along with the SRC Diversity Committee will host a scary movie, Jordan Peele’s masterpiece, *GET OUT*, tomorrow afternoon.

Students in Amy Rutledge’s General Zoology course were joined by students in various clubs on a field trip to the Peoria Zoo.

The students of SEA (Students for Environmental Action) held a Canton Campus clean-up yesterday. The weather was perfect for a late October clean-up!

Dodgeball was held in Macomb on Tuesday with students versus employees.

Both Student Government Associations hosted blood drives this month, and both events exceeded donor goals!

Upcoming events:

Phi Mu Tau diesel students will hold Pancakes for Bette on Wednesday, November 1 in the Canton Campus cafeteria.

Dodgeball Canton Campus Friday, November 3rd.

SRC Theatre presents *Exit the King* on Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, November 5 at 2 p.m.

Friday, November 10th-Free bowling will conclude TRIO’s weeklong first-generation celebration.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Phillip Murphy presented the following report:

- Financials: Revenues: \$51,213.58
- The SRC Foundation Board met Wednesday, October 17 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom with some present on campus.
- Action items included:
 - The authorization of a purchase of six routers to be distributed to students at the Villas whose routers were disabled by a lightning strike
 - The appropriation of funds to be used for the promotion of #GivingSPOONday, which takes place this year on November 28. Colin will provide more details about #GivingSPOONday at the November meeting.
- Colin gave a report on the CASE Conference for Community College Advancement, which he attended and presented at earlier this month. He provided board members with a link to all the presentation slides and encouraged the board members to review on their own time any presentations that looked interesting or helpful. Julie will provide the conference program to each of you, and if you are interested in any of the slides, please contact Colin or Trustee Murphy.
- We reported last month that the 2024-25 scholarship application would have a digital option, and that is now available for all prospective 2024-25 SRC students. Thanks to Mitch Williams for his work in creating that form and helping draw us closer to ADA compliance. Additionally:
 - The Fellheimer Scholarship application is also posted online for students from McDonough County (due date 11/3)
 - The Spring 2024 Dual Credit Scholarship application is available for high school students planning to take Dual Credit classes in the spring (due date 11/30)
 - West Central FS Scholarships for students in the ag department or ag-related fields will be awarded next week, after students complete their interviews on Friday. From this pool of applicants, we'll also award scholarships from the Spoon River Garden Club.
- Colin has also worked with the Marketing Department and student worker Kaden Otto to create this year's Thanksgiving postcard, which will be sent to all donors from the past 18 months or so, around the beginning of November. This will go out prior to the year-end appeal letter, in hopes that we will be top of mind in donors' heads when they receive the next appeal and when #GivingSPOONday rolls around.
- A final reminder that the Alumni Awards Reception and Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner will be held at 5 p.m. next Saturday (November 4) at the Canton Campus. Please let Julie know ASAP whether you'll be attending. For reference, the reception will begin at 6 p.m. and will honor:
 - Distinguished Alumni Award: William ("Bill") Thomas of Atlanta, IL
 - Alumni Achievement Award: Stephanie & Wes Carithers (Astoria), Dr. Kayla Miller (Havana), Julie Reeder (Canton), Dr. Tony Roberts (Havana)
 - Outstanding Service Award: Larry Peterson (Canton)
 - Distinguished SRC Retiree Award: Bonnie Swedell (Adair)
 - Athletic Hall of Fame: Dick Brown (Elkhart, IL), DeAndre Alexander (Arcadia, LA)
- Tickets are now on sale for the SRC Community Chorus' winter concert, *The Wonder, Full World of Winter: An International Concert*. Concert dates are December 2 and 3, with performances at 7 p.m. each day and 3 p.m. on Sunday. All funds will benefit the new Susie McMillen Memorial Scholarship. If you are interested in purchasing tickets and attending, please contact Colin, as the 60+ members of the Chorus who volunteer their time and talent for our scholarship program would love to see more members of the college community in attendance.
- The next meeting of the SRC Foundation is scheduled for November 15 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

There were no additional comments from the Board Members.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield introduced Janet Young, our host as the Rushville Center Director.

- Rushville Center Update – Janet Young

Janet Young presented the following report:

This fall I am pleased to report a steady enrollment of 40 students who use the Rushville Center on a regular basis. Our classes have varied with enrollment since last year.

Currently, we have eight classes on this campus. We have four classes that meet by IVS: Communications 103, Political Science 180, and Introduction to Education 201, and MATH 151. We have a total of 6 students in those classes. We also offer a face to face class in English 101, which is again taught by John Dodd and has 14 dual credit students, and 2 traditional students. Developmental Math, again is taught by Liz Patterson, and it has 4 students. We have an increase in dual credit students, from 41 last spring to 45 this fall. We have a couple of students who walk over during their dual credit class time to use our facility for a quieter place to work on their online class. I also have an increase in strictly online students. I currently advise 10 students who prefer to take only online classes, but they do come in and use our computer lab and other services we offer on a regular basis.

We continue to offer our English as a Second Language class. The instructor is Cyndi Johnston, and she currently has six enrolled, with three more who will be starting the class in the second eight weeks. Word of mouth seems to be the best recruitment tool for this class, so hopefully the class will continue to grow.

Our GED classes have had a change this year. Molly Smith, the advisor for both GED and ESL, is now the instructor for the GED class and the time changed from an evening class to an afternoon class. We have seen better retention and attendance having the class in the afternoon, and it allows for the GED students to interact more with our student activities and hopefully encourages them to sign up for college classes once they have completed their GED.

Rushville-Industry High School and our campus continue our partnership through communications with the guidance counselor, opportunities for recruitment during the student's lunch hours, Financial Aid nights, career fairs, and student testing. This spring we will offer a 2nd part to our financial aid night. Parents and students will be invited to visit our Center for a tour and orientation. I will go over details on how to utilize the services we offer such as the bookstore, student success coaching, and remind them on how to set up their student accounts.

For Spring 2024, there will be eleven classes available for students to take on this campus. Seven through IVS, and four face to face.

Heather Vining continues to do a wonderful job as Campus Assistant. Not only does she keep the Center organized and runs our bookstore well, she interacts with the students and anticipates their needs, helps as a French interpreter when needed, and encourages them to use the Food Pantry and computer lab.

Summer Youth this past summer was another success. Fortunately, we once again received the United Way funding, which was very much appreciated. We had 16 students from 1-6 grade for two mornings the third week of June. Sessions were taught by Amanda Jones from Evergreen Place, Tammy Thomas from Schuyler County Humane Society, Ryan Van Dolah from MidAmerica Bank, Paige Edwards from the Fulton County Health Department, and

Andrew Stevenson from RIHS. The students learned about Healthy Bodies, Money! Journaling with Art, Animal Friends and the most popular one was Working with Wood. We walked over to the High School shop class, and Andrew Stevenson assisted us with making our own candy dispenser complete with a bag of skittles to put in it!

Heather and I plan fun student activities once a month during the school year. Some examples we have done are: making popcorn; setting out granola bars and fruit such as apples and cuties; serving walking tacos on National Taco Day, Worms and Dirt for Earth Day, hot cocoa bar during December/January; apples and caramel dip; cookies for National Transfer Week. We have continued Rob's tradition of hiding Edgar Allen Poe during October, and added hiding an Elf on the Shelf after Thanksgiving break. The students who find them can turn them in for a prize out of our "goodie bag."

Brinnley Royer continued to be our student worker this year. She will graduate in May, and we will miss her. I appreciate her being able to work evenings, help out students, teachers, and lock up for me when I am not here.

To help promote Spoon River College, I attend the Rushville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, as well as hosted our first Chamber After Hours event last spring. I also attend the monthly Interagency meetings. The Schuyler County Interagency group has held opportunities for promoting the college and any events we offer. I have participated in the Back to School Fair and the Wellness Fair last fall. The Rushville Center had held several community education classes this fall. We hosted a Cannabis workshop, a Computer Basics class as well as a Photos from my phone, and currently we have a 10 -week Wood Working class taught at RIHS by Andrew Stevenson. I have also continued our partnership with Two Rivers Regional Council in helping students receive additional funding for those programs such as nursing, welding, truck driving and C.N.A. Two Rivers has also been a guest speaker in the GED and ESL classes. The GED and ESL programs are also scheduling other community agencies to be guest speakers in their classroom to promote community resources.

President Oldfield also reported a couple of recent hires: Julie Thompson-Vass, Head Women's Basketball Coach, and Kelsey Pappenfort, Havana Center Assistant. President Oldfield also reported that the November 4 Foundation event is a great event, and we have many other activities at the Canton Campus that day and evening. President Oldfield encouraged attendance. He also thanked Mike Strauman and the Maintenance Staff for working to make all of this happen on one day.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of October 2023:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$556,612.21
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	445,817.93
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	6,225.99
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	3,218.79
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	-0-
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	751,785.53
TOTAL:	\$1,763,660.45

Following a motion by John Biernbaum, seconded by Phillip Murphy, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the following payments for the month of October 2023:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$556,612.21
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	445,817.93
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	6,225.99
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	3,218.79
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	-0-
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>751,785.53</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,763,660.45

- 2.2.2 Adopt a Resolution of Intent to Levy an Additional Tax. This tax is authorized under Illinois Statutes and notification has been received from ICCB of Spoon River College's eligibility to impose the levy.

President Oldfield presented this item and explained that this is the additional step to adopt the Resolution to notify the public of the hearing for the additional tax. Surprisingly enough, this is the exact same amount as last year

Following a motion by Linda Butler, seconded by Dave Maguire, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees adopted a Resolution of Intent to Levy an Additional Tax. This tax is authorized under Illinois Statutes and notification has been received from ICCB of Spoon River College's eligibility to impose the levy.

- 2.2.3 Resource Allocation and Management Plan (RAMP) Project. Authorize submission of the capital budget request for the Drama Auditorium/Theater addition to the Multipurpose Facility at the Canton Campus. The total cost of the project is \$13,519,800 of which \$10,139,850 is being requested. A local match of \$3,379,950 is required.

President Oldfield presented this item for the Board's consideration. He explained that this is the same project as submitted last year with updated figures based on the escalation formula. Dave Maguire asked if this is substantially different? He thought the last RAMP was FY 21. President Oldfield said that was updated for FY22 and again with the small escalator increase this year. Phillip Murphy asked if the costs include equipment. President Oldfield said it is for construction and for permanent equipment. President Oldfield said he doesn't want this to be confused that this project is moving ahead. It is merely being submitted to the State for the project list.

Following a motion by Dave Maguire, seconded by John Biernbaum, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the Resource Allocation and Management Plan (RAMP) Project submission of the capital budget request for the Drama Auditorium/Theater addition to the Multipurpose Facility at the Canton Campus. The total cost of the project is \$13,519,800 of which \$10,139,850 is being requested. A local match of \$3,379,950 is required.

- 2.2.4 Approve the purchase of 24 Grizzly Tuff Work benches from Dakota Equipment Manufacturing, Inc., Aberdeen, SD, in the amount of \$46,800. The benches are for the Diesel area and are a part of the remodel of VoTech. Funds for this purchase are available in the local matching funds in the EDA Grant.

President Oldfield presented this item for consideration. He explained that the funds will come from the CEJA (Clean Energy Jobs Act) Energy Transition grant funds. EDA funds will not be used for this purchase.

Following a motion by Dave Maguire, noting that the funds will come from the CEJA Energy Transition Grant, second by Linda Butler, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approve the purchase of 24 Grizzly Tuff Work benches from Dakota Equipment Manufacturing, Inc., Aberdeen, SD, in the amount of \$46,800. The benches are for the Diesel area and are a part of the remodel of VoTech. Funds for this purchase are available in the CEJA (Clean Energy Jobs Act) Energy Transition Grant.

2.3 Institutional Planning

President Oldfield said he did not have any additional items.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Again, Dr. Oldfield said he did not have any additional items for the Trustees.

- 4.0 CLOSED SESSION. In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Section 2, Subsection c, 1). The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; (5) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; (6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; and (11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probably or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

There was not a call for Closed Session.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by John Biernbaum, seconded by Dave Maguire, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, October 25, 2023, adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Jerry Cremer, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary