

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

**Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 6 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, August 28, 2024, at 6 p.m., at the Rushville Center, 726 Maple Avenue, Rushville, Illinois.

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to Order

Jerry Cremer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present:

Linda Butler
Jerry Cremer
Dave Maguire
Kevin Meade
Phil Murphy
Kent Schleich

Members Absent:

John Biernbaum
Esmeralda Uribe

Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Mike Strauman, Chief Operations and Safety Officer; Raj Siddaraju, Chief Information Officer; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation; Kaley Barbknecht, Coordinator, Academic Services; Janet Young, Director, Rushville Center; Chad Murphy, Director, Adult Education Programs; Brian Dalpiaz, Mathematics Faculty; and Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/Recorder.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Jerry Cremer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Welcome of Guests

Jerry Cremer welcomed those in attendance.

1.5 Public Comment

Jerry Cremer 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 July 24, 2024 Closed Session Minutes Review Committee Meeting Minutes

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 approved the July 24, 2024 Closed Session Minutes Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

1.6.2 July 24, 2024 Board Retreat Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Kent Schleich, seconded by Kevin Meade, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the July 24, 2024 Board Retreat Meeting Minutes

1.6.3 July 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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 approved the July 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

1.6.4 Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act 120, Section 2.06, paragraph (d) (1), having reviewed the minutes of all closed meetings of the Board of Trustees that have not been previously been made available for public inspection, the Board of Trustees has determined that the need for confidentiality still exists and were listed in attachment 1.6.4.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees, pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act 120, Section 2.06, paragraph (d) (1), having reviewed the minutes of all closed meetings of the Board of Trustees that have not been previously been made available for public inspection, the Board of Trustees determined that the need for confidentiality still exists and were listed in attachment 1.6.4.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Dave Maguire presented the following report:

Earlier this month the ICCTA Executive Committee met for their annual retreat and planning session at Richland Community College. While I was unable to attend the session, I have been involved with follow-up discussions since the meeting. A major portion of the meeting focused on the development of the Associations' 2024-2027 Strategic Plan. The process included a review of what has been accomplished, what might need to be reconsidered and any future goals.

Items under consideration include:

- Member Engagement and Outreach
- Financial Stability and Growth
- Trustee Advocacy
- Association affiliations & Partnerships
- Organizational Capacity
- Innovation & Technology
- Increased Involvement by Students in the Governance Process

The final draft of the Strategic Plan will be presented to the Executive Committee and the Board of Representatives at our meeting September 13-14, 2024 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Illinois. The meeting will also include a trustee roundtable, our regular committee meetings, an update on state issues and a seminar on Presidential Searches.

Fritz Larson, the West Central Regional Chairman, is hosting a meeting of the ICCTA West Central Region on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at Black Hawk College, Quad Cities Campus, Moline, IL. The meeting will include the five colleges that compose our region. The meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. with a campus tour available prior to the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Student Trustee, Esmeralda Uribe, was absent, so President Oldfield presented the following report:

The hallways and parking lots were bustling with activity as we kicked off the fall semester last week. Students were welcomed back with a variety of events and activities across all four sites, including the ever-popular grab-and-go snacks.

Student Activities had a very successful first event of the fall semester last week, the Welcome Week Festival. Students wore their tie-dye shirts made at orientation, received free lunch, and enjoyed games and prizes!

The Speech and Debate Team is hard at work preparing their events for the new season! The coach is meeting with a few additional students this week, and he is excited for the first asynchronous virtual tournament coming up at the end of September.

Gay Straight Alliance students participated in the Welcome Week Festival and gained several new members! The students will begin meeting and making plans for the fall semester.

The Athletic Department hosted their kickoff cookout/athletic orientation event on Saturday, August 17. Over 200 student-athletes and family members attended the event along with SRC coaches, President Oldfield, and Dean Wilkinson.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation, presented the following report:

Dusty reported since July 23 we have had \$23,830 in deposits. The Golf Outing, which was held on August 9 at Wee-Ma-Tuk, had a total of \$15,870 with 23 teams participating. We had about \$5,000 in expenses, so we raised just over \$10,000. Penny Hunt is the new Foundation Assistant, and she is doing great. An Alumni Coordinator position is open, and we are interviewing next week and hope to have someone in place by the end of the month. Dusty said he has been working with advisors and staff on dual credit and applications were slow, so we expended the deadline. Dusty said he reached out to counselors, and we have received additional applications. We will be awarding those soon. The joint boards meeting is October 23 at 4 p.m. with dinner at 5 followed by the Board Meeting. The Alumni Awards Dinner is November 9 at the Canton Campus. We are soliciting nominations, and the Foundation Board members have received nomination forms. Please reach out if you have someone in mind. Giving Spoon Day is December 3 and the goal is \$95,000.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

Dave Maguire commented that there were two articles by TriStates Radio, and one article was about the Community College Funding panel that President Oldfield is serving on, and the other is SRC and WIU working together on the Aspen project. President Oldfield said Holly Norton is

helping lead that group with monthly meetings. It has been a good process so far, and we have discovered challenges as well as opportunities. The final report will be out in January. President Oldfield said his hope is that what we learn can be replicated for all 39 community colleges.

Phillip Murphy asked about the funding task force and how does our lack of fair share play with the universities – are they receiving more money than community colleges. President Oldfield said we asked a very similar question with regard to operation costs. Universities receive far more state support but that includes dormitories and expenses that community colleges do not have. The task force is looking to break it down to a cost per credit hour. Right now it costs about \$451 to create one general education class. Now, after property tax and tuition, the state should reimburse community colleges \$135. Currently they reimburse at \$14. On the university side, with a similar cost production, they get reimbursed at almost 60%. Of our operating revenue, we receive about 10 or 11 percent. That is the disparity that we are trying to get the state to see. Phil asked if community college enrollment outpaces universities. President Oldfield said 40% of Illinois' higher education is at the community college level. The task force meets next Friday, then in November with the final meeting in January and a final report to the Governor.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield said we had a great semester kick off and thanked the faculty and staff for the smooth start to the academic year. We have received a lot of compliments from students on the culture at the college. It feels like everyone is working in the same direction to start successfully. The enrollment report as of this morning shows that we are up and are a few days away from 10th day enrollment figures. Today compared to 10th day last year we are up. We are heading in the right direction.

President Oldfield shared that we will continue to work with WIU on the transfer initiative (Aspen). It is important for that to be a two way street but also what we need to do to help our students be successful. President Oldfield said he expects that the new funding formula may include transfer initiatives and the success rates of students.

President Oldfield shared a reminder that tomorrow is our Wall Breaking Ceremony in Macomb. We look forward to seeing as many of the trustees present as possible. The ceremony will be outside with tours to follow. Senator Durbin will not be able to attend. We have a number of speakers on the schedule and have the opportunity to showcase the work so far. Mike Strauman has been meeting weekly on the construction.

President Oldfield said he has been selected by the Aspen Institute to serve on a President fellowship which is designed around student success measures and how we can improve our student success rates. President Oldfield said he will participate in this year long fellowship with the Aspen Institute. Aspen is the group who provides the \$1 million Aspen prize for community colleges who excel in assisting rural and poverty students succeed. The majority of this will be on line but there will be two in-person meetings. Dave Maguire asked if there is any shared data with our Aspen project with WIU. President Oldfield said some of this is a shared team that includes some from WIU.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of August, 2024:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$574,385.65
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	1,160,502.47
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	13,647.44
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	-0-
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	193,173.81
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	24,998.12
TOTAL:	\$1,966,707.49

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the following payments for the month of August, 2024:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$574,385.65
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	487,753.94
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	14,744.85
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	204.06
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	193,173.81
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	94,247.27
TOTAL:	\$1,364,509.58

2.2.2 Approve the purchase of a new cloud-based phone system from Sentinel Technologies, Inc., Springfield, Illinois, in the amount of \$108,679.51. This is to upgrade the current Cisco phone system that is at end of life. Funds for this purchase are available in the Technology Bond fund.

President Oldfield presented this item for the Board's consideration. He thanked Raj Siddaraju for attending this evening and for his work and research on this project on the phone system. He found multiple vendors to consider for this project. The RFP went out, and Sentinel Technologies is recommended for the project upgrade. They will do a cut over later this fall and at a time during slower business for little to no impact on the College. Every location will receive new handsets. He asked Raj to provide more detail. Raj said President Oldfield provided a good explanation. This is cloud based, and there will be a third party vendor for long distance. It is a great opportunity for the upgrade. The migration will be challenging, but we are confident with this option. Dave Maguire asked if this system is stand alone from our current IT system. Raj said it is completely cloud based. With Microsoft, we are adding the telephone services with Microsoft Teams with an add-on licensing. We already have Microsoft Teams and are already paying for the site license. This will be unlimited long distance in the US and Canada. Dave said it is his concern that there is separation from the IT system for security. Dave asked about training for staff. President Oldfield said if we have any training needs, Raj's team will provide step by step instructions. The change will be addressed with staff trainings.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a new cloud-based phone system from Sentinel Technologies, Inc., Springfield, Illinois, in the amount of

\$108,679.51. This is to upgrade the current Cisco phone system that is at end of life. Funds for this purchase are available in the Technology Bond fund.

2.3 Institutional Planning

President Oldfield introduced Janet Young for her annual report. He thanked her for hosting us this evening. Janet and the Rushville Campus were recognized as the Rushville Chamber Business of the Month.

- Rushville Center Report – Janet Young, Director, Rushville Center, presented the following report:

Director's Report
Submitted for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday August 28, 2024

For Fall 2024, we have 55 students, faculty, and tutors taking part in our classes, which is up from last year. There are 11 classes available for students to take on this campus, 8 IVS and 3 in person, and, of course, online classes. Those students who take online classes come in and use our computer lab as a quiet place to do their homework, take their tests, or take advantage of our printer services.

We continue to offer English as a Second Language class. I am pleased that Heather Vining, our Campus Assistant, will also be teaching the English language learners after Cyndi Johnston retired. Heather will be an excellent teacher as she already knows most of the students and has acted as an interpreter for them when they come in the center. This year our class size has more than doubled to 18 and registration will open back up again in October. It is my goal to be able to offer this program for both day and evening classes. We have added two wonderful new tutors to this program, Julia Vincent and Julie Padgett.

Molly Smith continues as the instructor for the GED class that meets twice a week on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Melissa Koke is the advisor for both GED and ESL classes, and it is wonderful to have them in the building. They both bring a wealth of knowledge and because of this we have seen a rise in enrollment and retention for both classes. Last year, there were 5 out of 12 students who completed their high school equivalency, and it was a joy to celebrate with them and encourage them to think about coming to Spoon River College in the future.

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. Since there are a lot of new faces in advising and foundations at both the Canton and Macomb campus, and a new guidance counselor at RIHS, I hosted a meeting for the new staff to meet and discuss any changes we want to implement to make the process even smoother for those students and parents. This year, I decided to be available at the high school on the first day of college classes, to meet with the dual credit students and answer any questions or help them with setting up their SRC account. It was a very successful, and I plan to continue making myself available at the high school during various times of the semester.

Heather Vining continues to do a wonderful job as Campus Assistant. Not only does she keep the center organized and run our bookstore well, she interacts with the students and anticipates their needs and keeps our food pantry stocked.

Summer Youth this past summer was another success. Fortunately, we once again received the United Way funding, which was very much appreciated. We had 23

students from 1st-6th grade for two mornings the third week of June. Sessions were taught by Sabrina Vining, on Owls, I taught one on emergency preparedness and how to tell the difference between candy and medicine. The Rushville Police and Fire department came and talked about their jobs and even had a play house that the children could spray the hose at and put out the fire. The second day, Schuyler Isley came and talked about vintage toys and they made their own set of dominoes to take home. Then we walked over the high school and once again, Mr. Stevenson and three of his students helped us to make candy dispensers, which is always the favorite session with the students!

Heather and I continue to plan fun student activities around food, also including riddles to solve, and scavenger hunts for Edgar Allen Poe and our tiny Elf on the Shelf during those holidays.

My student worker this year is a recent graduate of RIHS, Brynna Swan. She is an early childhood education major and just started at SRC this fall.

To help promote Spoon River College, I continue to attend the monthly Schuyler County interagency meetings as well as any Rushville Chamber of Commerce events. The Rushville Center was selected by the Chamber as the August Business of the month and we had an open house on August 14 for the community. I participated in the Back to School Fair earlier this month and plan to also attend any other events as they come up during the year. The Rushville Center has planned several community education classes this fall. I wrote for and was awarded a grant through the Tracy Family Foundation to hold a free event for parents on Screen Sanity. Screen Sanity is a discussion group that will talk about digital health and how to set boundaries and keep our kids safe, as well as teaching them how to be “captivated by life, not screens.” 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. Two Rivers also comes to our center two days a month to meet any students they are working with as well as to check on any referrals that I may have for them.

President Oldfield thanked Janet for her report and all she and her staff do to represent the College and serve the people in the community.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

There were no additional items for the Board.

- 4.0 CLOSED SESSION. In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Section 2 (c), the Board of Trustees will adjourn to Closed Session for the purposes of paragraph 1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; 2) collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; 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.

Jerry Cremer said there was a call for Closed Session with no action expected following.

Dave Maguire made a motion for the Board to go in to Closed Session for the following purposes: 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; Mrs. Butler seconded the motion, and following a roll call vote of unanimous approval, the Spoon River College Board of Trustees adjourned to Closed Session for the following purposes:

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, at 6:41 p.m.

The Spoon River College Board of Trustees returned to Open Session at 7:14 p.m.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Linda Butler, seconded by Dave Maguire, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, August 28, 2024, adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Jerry Cremer, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary