

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

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 6 p.m.
Spoon River College, Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B
23235 N. Co. 22, Canton, Illinois

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 5:00 p.m., at the Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B, Canton Campus, 23235 N. Co. 22, Canton, 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:

John Biernbaum
Linda Butler
Jerry Cremer
Dave Maguire
Kevin Meade
Phillip Murphy
Kent Schleich
Esmeralda Uribe

Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation; Raj Siddaraju, Chief Information Officer; Mike Strauman, Chief Operations; Evyn Way, Welding Faculty; Jamie Kotewa, Art Faculty; and Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/Recorder.

Also Present: Steve Adams, PMA.

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 December 18, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the December 18, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

There are several items pending at the State level as the 103rd General Assembly wrapped up is Lame Duck Session and the new 104th General Assembly was sworn in on January 8th.

During lame duck, the Illinois General Assembly contemplated a range of issues, from public safety and children's welfare to education, employment, and privacy. Several significant bills were passed and now await Governor JB Pritzker's signature. A list of the legislation has been posted on the ICCTA website by Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel.

The General Assembly will return to Springfield when session resumes on January 25. February 7 is the deadline for introduction of new legislation. As of today the Senate has 258 bills introduce while the House has 1,587. There will be more to come before the deadline date. ICCTA has used this time to request legislation be introduced that would help further the community college's legislative goals.

At the start of the 104th General Assembly, Speaker Welch announced changes in the House Democratic Leadership including several staffing changes due to resignations. In a surprise move, he named 71st District Representative Dan Swanson, a Republican, to chair the House Veterans Committee. The Republican House Leadership was also announced with Toni McCombie, 89th District Representative continuing to serve as Minority Leader and Norine Hammond, 84th District Representative as a Deputy Minority Leader. The Senate committees were just announced and Senator Michael W. Halpin (D) will be Chairman of the Education Appropriation Committee. Senator Neil Anderson (R) 47th District, Republican Caucus Chair and Minority Spokesman.

Key 2025 Session Dates for the 104th Illinois General Assembly

- January 24: Deadline – House & Senate LRB Requests (LRB black out period begins until 2/7)
- February 7: Deadline – Introduction of House & Senate Bills (LRB amendment requests begin)
- February 19: Governor's State of the State/Budget Address
- March 21: Deadline – House & Senate Bills Out of Committee of Origin
- April 12: Deadline – House & Senate Third Reading Deadline
- May 7: ICCTA LOBBY DAY
- May 9: Deadline – House Bills out of Senate Committee & Senate Bills out of House Committee
- May 23: Deadline – Third Reading Deadline for House Bills in Senate & Senate Bills in House
- May 31: Adjournment

As I mentioned before, the FY2026 budget outlook has a potential multi-billion-dollar budget deficit. Likewise, it is unknown what effect the new administration will have on state funding from federal programs. At this point it is mostly speculation with more definitive direction coming in the following months.

Nominations for the first round of the 2025 ICCTA awards and scholarships are now open. This is an opportunity to recognize outstanding accomplishments by students, faculty, industry and alumni. The deadline for the first round of awards is in February 28, 2025. The second round of awards will be due on March 28, 2025.

The next meeting of the ICCTA Board of Representatives will take place in conjunction with the Community College National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C on February 9-12, 2025. In addition to getting firsthand knowledge from the new administration, it is an opportunity to meet with our Senators, Representatives, and their staffs to put forward our college's needs.

Included with my report are a list of dates and meetings of interest. Let me know if there are questions.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Esmeralda Uribe presented the following report:

Congratulations to the students who were named to the academic honor lists for Fall 2024: President's list with a grade point average of 3.6 or higher: 162 full-time students and 87 part-time students. Dean's list with a gpa of 3.0-3.59: 117 full-time students and 56 part-time students.

We were excited to kick off the Spring 2025 semester last week. The hallways were busy with students, and to celebrate the new term, grab 'n go snacks were on offered throughout the initial week. Additionally, students enjoyed a free lunch in the Canton Cafeteria.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Berg presented the following report:

- Deposits since December 10th - \$56,084.14.
- Giving Spoon Day was December 3. So far we have received 288 gifts and \$66,210.
- The Foundation Board authorized the necessary funds for our share of the Digital Alumni Hall of Fame Display at its last meeting. The IT Department and Facilities will be finishing the installation when the equipment comes in.
- The President's Reception will be held on April 17th. You are all invited, and invitations will be sent out soon. As of now we have 50 donors who will be honored.
- The Foundation's strategic plan expires this year. We are currently planning out a board retreat/strategic planning session for the Foundation Board in June.
- The Foundation Finance Committee met to manage an expiring CD and discuss protocols to insulate us as much as possible from any market failures.
- The Foundation Macomb Committee will be meeting on January 29 to discuss strategies for strengthening relationships and securing major donations.
- The tax letters are nearly complete and should be going out at the end of this week.

Dave Maguire commented on a very nice article in the Community News Brief today about the Community Chorus. Dusty thanked Dave and will make sure the members know.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

John Biernbaum said it is refreshing to have a regular meeting in January and not a full day of Retreat.

1.11 Regular Board Meeting Schedule. The proposed Regular Board of Trustees Meeting schedule was included in attachment 1.11. Meetings are scheduled for the fourth Wednesday at 6 p.m.,

except for the following: the July Board Meeting time is scheduled for 4:30 in order to follow the scheduled Board Retreat. The November meeting date is the third Wednesday because of the Thanksgiving recess; and the December meeting date is the third Wednesday in order to accommodate the holiday schedule.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Regular Board Meeting Schedule. The proposed Regular Board of Trustees Meeting schedule was included in attachment 1.11. Meetings are scheduled for the fourth Wednesday at 6 p.m., except for the following: the July Board Meeting time is scheduled for 4:30 in order to follow the scheduled Board Retreat. The November meeting date is the third Wednesday because of the Thanksgiving recess; and the December meeting date is the third Wednesday in order to accommodate the holiday schedule.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield reported that spring enrollment is still being monitored prior to 10th day but preliminary numbers are showing us up for the spring semester. Kudos to staff who are working hard to get us to this point and working with our students to stay enrolled to complete their academic goals. Joh Biernbaum asked if that is spring to spring. President Oldfield said yes.

President Oldfield reported that the Nursing Department will have their national accrediting visit in mid-February. The nursing faculty and staff have completed the self-evaluation, and the team will be here for the on-site visit. We are also fortunate to have an HLC non-campus site visit in February, and they will be visiting Macomb and Rushville. This site evaluation is required every 10 years. This will be a one-day visit, and the evaluator is coming from McKendree College. Later, we will have a mid-cycle review for our four and five year mark for HLC. President Oldfield said he is not aware of the Board being required or requested to be involved in the visits.

President Oldfield reminded the Trustees about the tuition memo that was provided to them in December. All of the information is available in SharePoint, and he asked the Trustees to review that information because tuition will be presented for consideration at the February Board meeting.

Phillip Murphy asked about a Macomb construction update. President Oldfield said the construction is on schedule, and both Mike and Raj have been onsite monitoring the progress. Mike said the construction is on schedule. President Oldfield has an Art in Architecture meeting next week, and a week from tomorrow, the artist will be selected. That is a CDB managed program. Phil said he hopes this one comes out as nicely as the one in the gym. Dave Maguire said the construction on the east side of Macomb is encouraging. Dave said there was recently an article on Hein and its major project in Monmouth. Linda Butler asked if that is a city infrastructure project in Monmouth. Dave said yes. President Oldfield said Hein has been great to work with during this construction project in Macomb.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of January, 2025:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$579,182.77
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	314,180.43
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	11,612.20
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	1,515.59

Item	Amount
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	406,335.89
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>13,602.20</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,326,429.08

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the following payments for the month of January, 2025:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$579,182.77
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	314,180.43
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	11,612.20
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	1,515.59
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	406,335.89
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>13,602.20</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,326,429.08

- 2.2.2 RESOLUTION authorizing and providing for an Installment Purchase Agreement for the purpose of paying the cost of purchasing real or personal property, or both, in and for the District and for the issue of not to exceed \$5,100,000 General Obligation Debt Certificates (Limited Tax), Series 2025A, of the District evidencing the rights to payment under said Agreement, providing for the security for and means of payment under said Agreement of said Certificates, and authorizing the sale of said Certificates to the purchaser thereof.

President Oldfield said this is the parameters Resolution for the bond process. Steve Adams, who is with PMA, is here tonight, and this is the first step in the process. This \$5.1 million bond proceeds will help cover the Student Information System (Jenzabar) upgrade that will start this summer, the Tech Bond for technology hardware purchasing, our match to complete the new Macomb Campus parking lot, and to reimburse the Cash Reserve Fund for money that was utilized to start construction on the new Macomb Campus. Steve Adams thanked the Trustees, and said this is a parameters forum. Nothing has been sold yet, and this lays the groundwork for what needs to be done for the amounts and face values and maximum interest rates. It authorizes college participants for signatures to be able to sign documents and not involve additional steps. Dave Maguire asked the timeline. Steve said the timeline is underway, and projects are being reviewed, what is taxable and what is non-taxable, and that timeframe is being determined by bond counsel at this point. Chapman and Cutler is working as bond counsel and will determine that final timeline. We are set for a June payment date. Steve said tonight is the first of a three step process. President Oldfield said we want to have this all complete in this fiscal year.

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 RESOLUTION authorizing and providing for an Installment Purchase Agreement for the purpose of paying the cost of purchasing real or personal property, or both, in and for the District and for the issue of not to exceed \$5,100,000 General Obligation Debt Certificates (Limited Tax), Series 2025A, of the District evidencing the rights to payment under said Agreement, providing

for the security for and means of payment under said Agreement of said Certificates, and authorizing the sale of said Certificates to the purchaser thereof.

2.3 Institutional Planning

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

There were no additional items for the Board.

- 4.0 CLOSED SESSION. In accordance with the Illinois Meetings Act, Section 2 (c), the Board of trustees will adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of 1). The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; or 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.

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, Wednesday, January 22, 2025, adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Jerry Cremer, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary