

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

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 6 p.m.**  
**Spoon River College, Havana Center, Room 101**  
**324 East Randolph, Havana, Illinois**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 6 p.m., at the Havana Center, 324 East Randolph, Havana, 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  
Phil Murphy  
Kent Schleich  
Esmeralda Uribe

Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Melissa Miller, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Hannah Neuendorf, Director, Human Resources; Mike Strauman, Chief Operations and Safety Officer; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation; Stephanie Howerter, Director, Havana Center; Becca Werland, English Faculty; Brian Dalpiaz, Math Faculty; and Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/Recorder.

Also Present: Steve Adams, PMA Securities.

**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 February 26, 2025 Regular 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 February 26, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

ICCTA met earlier this month at the Sheraton Lisle Naperville Hotel. The Friday morning Trustee RoundTable had 14 different topics for consideration that were sent in for consideration. Trustees were able to share information on three topics they prioritized in the allotted time:

1. Responding to the Trump administration's intentions to disband the U.S. Department of Education.
2. How can Trustees push state officials for our 1`/3 of state funding?
3. Are high school students ready for dual credit, and does it add to stress/mental health issues?

A lot of good information was shared by the trustees in attendance, and I would be happy to provide summary information if anyone is interested.

The Friday afternoon ICCTA seminar was on "The State of DEI in Higher Education." The panel presenters were Dr. Michael Gavin, President of Delta College, Michigan, Dr. Keith Barnes, Vice President of Cultural Excellence, Rock Valley College and Matthew M. Swift, an attorney with the firm of Robbins Schwartz. Copies of the materials provided at the session are available. Depending on the college, there is a considerable divergence as to how the institutions are approaching the DEI issue. An underlining thought during the session is that all colleges are not the same depending on their location and demographics. There may be wisdom to wait and see how the changes solidify at the federal level before taking any making major actions at the college level.

During the afternoon Government Relations and Public Policy Committee meeting Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel provided information on current pending legislation. There was considerable discussion concerning strategies on House Bill 3717/ Senate Bill 2482, that would allow Illinois community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in high-demand fields. The Governor has made it one of his legislative initiatives this session though it is receiving considerable opposition by the four-year institutions.

The Board of Representatives received numerous reports on Saturday morning. ICCTA Executive Committee announced completion a very favorable annual evaluation of the Executive Director Jim Reed and has extended his three year contract another year with appropriate increase in compensation. The Presidents Council updated trustee on the list of issues they are working on. Matt Berry, ICCB Chief of Staff, distributed an ICCB update for the ICCTA Board of Representatives. I have copies of what he distributed for our board. As always, current information concerning community colleges is posted on the ICCTA website.

ACCT on April 4, 2025 will be hosting a Central Region Trustee Zoom meeting. The Central Region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. It is a great sharing of national and regional community college information for those who can attend.

The next ICCTA Board of Representatives meeting will be in Springfield on Tuesday May 6th, prior to the Community College Lobby Day Wednesday, May 7th. Trustees are strongly

encouraged to attend the Lobby Day on Wednesday, May 7th. Tuesday night, May 6<sup>th</sup>, the community colleges will be hosing the 3rd annual community college caucus reception. As the majority of legislation will be in final stages, this is a good time to be speaking with our legislators.

#### 1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Esmeralda Uribe presented the following report:

Logan Booth has been elected to serve as the 2025-26 SRC student trustee. A communications major at SRC, Logan plans to pursue a career in multimedia and graphic design. In addition to his academic achievements, Logan is a member of the SRC Snapper baseball team and works as a student employee in the Marketing Department.

The Student Government Association (SGA) hosted its spring blood drives in partnership with ImpactLife in Canton and Macomb. Thanks to the generosity of students and employees, the events were a great success in supporting those in need.

On April 8, SGA members and advisors will visit the state capitol, where students will tour the capitol building and have the opportunity to meet with Representative Norine Hammond.

TRIO students participated in the spring cleaning financial literacy workshop the first week of March. They received a bucket with all the supplies needed to make their own budget-friendly, cleaning solutions. Other budgeting and cleaning tips were provided to the students, as well. TRIO students also visited Western Illinois University and Escape MJ's (escape rooms) this month. Yes, they were able to crack the codes and escape!

Students for Environmental Action (SEA) is enhancing the outdoor space near the Canton cafeteria by building hammock stands for student use. They will also plant perennial flowers around the two large trees and construct birdhouses, bird feeders, and squirrel feeders to promote a welcoming environment for local wildlife. The goal is to encourage students to spend more time outdoors, fostering a deeper appreciation for nature and its preservation.

Additionally, SEA members are working to create walking trails that will connect the existing Arboretum trails to the back of the cafeteria area. Plans are also underway for a collaborative trip with other student groups to Wildlife Prairie Park. This Saturday, from 9 a.m. to noon, SEA will host a cleanup at Lakeland Park, and all volunteers are welcome to join.

SRC Theatre presented American playwright Milan Stitt's 1976 drama *The Runner Stumbles* February 28-March 2. By the numbers:

- 3 Performances
- 25 members of cast and crew
  - 11 currently enrolled students
  - 5 SRC staff
  - 9 community members, including 2 SRC alums and 2 current high school students
  - IN ADDITION to regular cast and crew, 4 community members worked to compose and create original music played during the performances
- 145 patrons attending across 3 performances

As always, SRC Theatre wishes to express gratitude to the college and community for their support of the arts.

## 1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Berg presented the following report:

- Deposits since February 20<sup>th</sup> - \$18,326.93.
- The general scholarship application was due March 14<sup>th</sup>. The Scholarship Committee is meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup> to make the award determinations. After that, we'll get the award letters out and get everything set up to present at the various high school awards ceremonies at the end of the school year.
- The diesel scholarship committee has met, and we'll be sending out those award letters soon.
- The nursing scholarship applications are going out at the beginning of April.
- The President's Reception will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup>. You are all invited. We have 57 RSVPs so far.
- Golf Outing is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>. Sponsorship letters are going out this week.
- The Foundation's strategic plan expires this year. We are currently planning out a board retreat/strategic planning session for the Foundation Board on May 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be having that in Macomb and conducting the Foundation Board Organizational Meeting that day as well.
- The Investment Committee will be meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the management of Foundation funds and recommend some financial priorities to their board.

Phillip Murphy asked about the location of the Retreat. Dusty said it will be held at the Macomb Outreach Center for the Foundation Board members.

## 1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

Dave Maguire said yesterday our outreach staff hosted a Job Fair. Dave said he stopped in, and it was a full house. Kudos to the staff for a great event. The vendors appreciated the attendance as well.

Jerry Cremer said the progress continues to be very obvious at the East Jackson facility, and it is a great asset for Macomb.

## 2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 2.1 Communications

President Oldfield reported that each Trustee has received the Statement of Economic Interest form. It feels like there are less intrusive questions on the form this year. This has to be filed with election paperwork as well as a seated Trustee. You can turn those in to Julie to be recorded for you, or you can file it yourself by May 1 in Lewistown at the Fulton County Courthouse.

President Oldfield introduced two new staff who joined us about a week ago. Melissa Miller is the new Dean of Career and Workforce Education. Hannah Neuendorf returns to SRC as our Human Resources Director. She worked for us previously in a couple of positions, most recently the Human Resources Generalist. They are both off and running in their new roles. Thank you to both for taking those leadership roles at the College.

President Oldfield reported that the Presidential Evaluation Instrument is available in SharePoint, and Julie also has printed sets available. Typically, those are due back by April 15 so the results can be ready by the April Board Meeting.

President Oldfield reported that ICCB, ICCTA, and the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents are working towards the baccalaureate degree efforts. He was in Springfield last week anticipating testifying for the bill, and the bill did not get called. We are moving forward and have visited with the Senate, so that bill will be filed next week. It will probably be in a shell bill that will include the baccalaureate degree and will start the process on the Senate side. There is

still a lot of work to be done but have done a lot to this point. They have also met with the four year public and private university leadership about this bill. The why is that there 1.9 million Illinois residents who do not have higher education access. This would also cap the tuition at 150% of the normal in-district tuition rate and does not include raising property taxes. Work will continue, and President Oldfield said he will keep the Board informed. He said he doesn't know if SRC would utilize the baccalaureate option but this would allow us to add it as an option if the need is presented. We are very fortunate to have public and private options in and close to our district. This is one of Governor Pritzker's priorities. President Oldfield said he along with Black Hawk College and Carl Sandburg College presidents will be meeting with Dr. Mindrup, President of WIU.

## 2.2 Business and Finance Report

### 2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of March, 2025:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$639,794.17
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	426,762.17
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	17,298.70
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	-0-
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	213,423.14
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>663,234.66</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,960,512.84</b>

Following a motion by Dave Maguire, 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 March, 2025:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$639,794.17
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	426,762.17
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	17,298.70
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	-0-
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<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,960,512.84</b>

### 2.2.2 Conduct a Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Trustees to sell \$5,500,000 Funding Bonds for the purpose of paying claims against the District.

Dave Maguire made a motion to open the public hearing; John Biernbaum seconded the motion, and following a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Spoon River College Board of Trustees opened the Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Trustees to sell \$5,500,000 Funding Bonds for the purpose of paying claims against the District.

President Oldfield said the reason for the proposed issuance of the Bonds is to provide funds to complete facilities projects and technology upgrades. Last July the Board approved a contract with Jenzabar for that upgrade and this funding will pay for that

which will allow for the necessary conversion. This is the first upgrade since its inception in 2006. It will take 18-24 months for that upgrade to be complete. The other part is for our match for the new parking lot at the Macomb East Jackson facility. Finally, the last part is our technology upgrades that we use to keep hardware components and classroom components up to date. Steve Adams is here this evening if there are any questions. He represents PMA.

Jerry Cremer asks for any further comments. There were none.

Jerry Cremer asks the public for any written or oral comments. There were none.

Jerry Cremer announced that all persons desiring to be heard have been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the Bonds and asked for a motion and second to adjourn the public hearing.

Dave Maguire made a motion to close the Public Hearing; Linda Butler seconded the motion, and following a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees conducted a Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Trustees to sell \$5,500,000 Funding Bonds for the purpose of paying claims against the District.

- 2.2.3 RESOLUTION setting forth and describing in detail claims heretofore authorized and allowed for proper community college purposes which are presently outstanding and unpaid, declaring the intention to avail of the provisions of Article 3A of the Public Community College Act of the State of Illinois, as amended, and to issue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$5,500,000 for the purpose of paying claims against the District, and directing that notice of such intention be published as provided by law.

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 approved a RESOLUTION setting forth and describing in detail claims heretofore authorized and allowed for proper community college purposes which are presently outstanding and unpaid, declaring the intention to avail of the provisions of Article 3A of the Public Community College Act of the State of Illinois, as amended, and to issue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$5,500,000 for the purpose of paying claims against the District, and directing that notice of such intention be published as provided by law.

## 2.3 Institutional Planning

- Havana Center Update – Stephanie Howerter, Havana Center Director, presented the following report:

Note: 10 years as Havana Director, currently in my 11<sup>th</sup> year; 25<sup>th</sup> year with the college

### Volunteer Opportunities to Promote SRC & the Havana Center

- Currently serving on the Havana Chamber of Commerce Board; serving as Co-Treasurer
- Attend the monthly Havana Business Group meetings.
- Serve on the Early Childhood Council

- Attend the quarterly Mason County Coordinating Council meetings. Meetings are held at SRC Havana Center; currently serving as President of the Council
- Volunteer with the Mason District Hospital Auxiliary
- Occasional scorekeeper for school sports (JH & HS), attend HS games

#### Promotion of SRC within the Community & Business Community

- \* Early Childhood Council events (Fall & Spring)
  - Event held March 18 and upcoming event April 24
- \* Downtown Trick or Treat
- \* Health Fairs (Fall & Spring)
  - Held at HJHS in October and ICJHS in April
- \* Kindergarten Orientation
  - Information on registration for transfer/CTE and adult ed courses are shared

#### Business Community

- \* Upcoming registration information, college events and community education programs/courses shared at monthly Havana Business Group meeting
- \* Havana Chamber shares program/course information via email and their Facebook page
- \* Attend BAH events – May 7 at the Havana National Bank

#### Business Training

- MS Teams with MDH in February
- Possible upcoming trainings

#### Current & Upcoming Events

- Serving on the planning committee for the Foundation event in Havana
- Basic Woodworking class being held at HHS by Phil Foster; Community Outreach course
- Working with HHS to schedule on-site registration for seniors attending SRC
- Presenting in the Life Skills class at HJHS; Careers class at HHS

#### Looking ahead

- Summer Youth Programming is being planned
- Developing retention/student activities for 2025-2026 at the Havana Center

#### Goals 2025-2026

- To continue working with Havana High School and Havana Junior High School to promote SRC
  - To continue assisting businesses with training and promoting course/program opportunities to them.
  - To continue to promote SRC to those inquiring about or renting space at the Center.
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- Employee Satisfaction Survey Results – Holly Norton presented the Employee Satisfaction Survey Results to the Trustees. President Oldfield said the survey went live the middle of January and was open for a couple of weeks. Holly will present the summary that also includes the trends of the last five years. Holly said what she is presenting is based on the Strongly Agree and Agree answers. The number of those who completed the survey was up this year with a total of 111 employees. The Job Satisfaction question showed increases across the board. The Working Conditions category remained steady. Some comments included temperature fluctuations, and moving to the new location in Macomb will help with that. Faculty are also asking for

some assistance updating courses to make them accessible, which needs to be complete by April 2026. Personal Opportunities showed a lot of movement in this area. We have hired a lot of new employees as new hires as well as some who have been promoted. People feel they are generally recognized for their work. Cooperation saw slight declines. Some comments centered around good communication within departments but not quite as good with other departments. One specific comment said that Student Services stepped up this year in support of each other. Communication. There were comments regarding the expansion of use of the text messaging system. We are working on a new textbook offering system, and that was mentioned a few times that that could have been better communicated. Leadership. Numbers remained consistent with some improvement over the five years. Comments still praise the IBB process. Administration in general was praised, and they enjoy the birthday cards from the President. Institutional. We lost a little ground with the budget but have gained some in the area of recommending employment at SRC. Compensation and Benefits did not score as well. Compensation is lacking but the benefits are good. Facilities. First comment was Massive Kudos to Mike and his crew. Another comment said moving to Macomb East cannot come soon enough. Everyone is very excited. In Canton, there were some concerns expressed about cleaning, but there were compliments for Julie's flower planters. Holly said we are gaining in overall positive responses. There were comments about Bibliu, bugs, fire alarms, bowling event, love of positive culture. This information has been shared with President's Cabinet as well as the Institutional Effectiveness Committee. President Oldfield has asked the Committee to identify 3 things to begin working on. President Oldfield said he and Lucas Buchen will produce a narrated power point as well. Phillip Murphy said this has not been shared yet. President Oldfield said it has not been shared with the employee base. John Biernbaum said he is glad that we do this, and the leadership should be very proud of the results. He said they are incredibly high, and most employers this size wouldn't have numbers that compare. JB said you should be very proud of the results. Jerry Cremer said it shows that everyone here is doing a very good job and you can't satisfy everyone. Great job.

### 3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- President's Annual Self-Evaluation Letter. President Oldfield said he emailed the Trustees his letter, and Julie posted it in SharePoint as well. This starts his evaluation process, and the timeline is outlined in the instrument.

#### 3.1 Approval of Board of Trustees 2025-2026 Budget

President Oldfield presented this and explained that each year the Board takes action in March as the College budget process also begins. The Board will complete the same scenario that budget managers complete. He reviewed the Board's budget. The Board's annual budget is \$26,150. The Board would need to adopt an amount for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Phillip asked about Dave's travel. Dave said he expects it to be about the same.

John Biernbaum made a motion to keep the Board's budget amount the same at \$26,150. Linda Butler seconded the motion, and following a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved their 2025-2026 Budget.

- #### 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 not a call for Closed Session.

## 5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by John Biernbaum, seconded by Esme Uribe, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, March 26, 2025, adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

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Jerry Cremer, Chair

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Date

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Linda Butler, Secretary