

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

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 6 p.m.**  
**Spoon River College, 23235 N Co. 22, Canton, Illinois**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at the Spoon River College Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B, Canton Campus, Canton, Illinois.

**1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS**

**1.1 Call to Order**

Kevin Meade, 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
	Logan Booth

Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Mike Strauman, Chief Operations and Safety Officer; Melissa Miller, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Hannah Neuendorf, Director, Human Resources; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation; Natalie Orwig, Office Assistant, Adult Education; Jim Sheff, Mathematics Faculty; and Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/Recorder.

Also Present: Steve Adams, PMA Securities; Larissa Berg.

**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 April 23, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the April 23, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

It is crunch time at the State Capitol in Springfield with only three days left before the scheduled Saturday May 31 adjournment. There are multiple issues in play of which the budget is the major item of discussion.

Earlier this month during the Community College Lobby Day in Springfield, President Oldfield and I had the opportunity to meet with Senators Anderson, Halpin, and Tracy as well as Representatives Hammond and Swanson. It was a good time to share information about several community college issues and how they affect our local college. We extended an invitation to them to attend our Macomb Campus ribbon cutting celebration, which has since scheduled for September 3.

Earlier that day I had the opportunity to speak with Senator Adriane Johnson, chair of the Senate Local Government Committee, and Presentative Wayne Rosenthal (who also serves as chair of the Lincoln Land Community College board of trustees). They joined us for our morning legislative briefing, gave remarks and fielded questions.

This week Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel reported that since a week ago more than 260 bills have cleared the Illinois General Assembly and are now headed to the Governor's desk. The legislation touches on everything from trustee oath of office and artificial intelligence to school transportation, public health, driver's licenses, and frivolous lawsuits, (I didn't say frivolous bills). She has posted additional legislative information on the ICCTA website.

With just a couple of days left in the session, several major priorities remain unresolved, and negotiations are expected to intensify. One item, SB1988, is the community college baccalaureate degree legislation which has passed the Senate, was recommended for passage in the House but is being held on second reading.

As has become tradition, the over 3,000 page, \$55 plus billion-dollar annual budget bill is typically the final piece of legislation passed before lawmakers adjourn. The bill will probably surface sometime Friday night to be adopted on Saturday. Legislators will have on the average of about 67 second per page to read the document before voting on it.

Federal action could complicate Illinois lawmakers' efforts as federal funding remains uncertain due to proposed cuts, administrative freezes, and potential changes to programs like Medicaid and infrastructure grants. The fiscal ambiguity, coupled with a slowdown in state revenue growth, could cause lawmakers to make difficult decisions about whether to backfill lost federal support with state dollars or cut services. There has been talk of coming back into session later this year to deal with these budget problems.

In other action, during the May Board of Representatives meeting, the ICCTA FY2026 Budget was, adopted, we heard the report of the nomination committee for officers for the next year to be elected at the June meeting, received reports from ICCB and the Illinois Presidents Council. Of note, Auston Koch, the former Heartland Community College student trustee spoke at our meeting about his year serving as a representative for students from his college and the community college system.

The next meeting of ICCTA will be in conjunction with the Annual Community College Convention June 6-7, 2025 at the Bloomington - Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

This is when we annually recognize students, faculty, alumni, business partners and trustees for their service and accomplishments.

On Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>, during the conference, ICCTA will be hosting the Trustee Professional Development Training. It will be two sessions, the first at 9:15 AM - 11:45 AM and the second 1:45 PM – 4:15 PM. These two sessions are available at no charge to ICCTA members and will meet the professional development training required by Public Act 99-0692 for the first, third and fifth year of a trustee's term of office. The sessions will include the topics of open meetings law, freedom of information law, labor law, contract law, ethics, sexual violence on campus, financial oversight, audits, and fiduciary responsibilities of a trustee. This year all 273 college trustees are required to completed this training. During the April election 44 trustees were re-elected and 50 are first time trustees. There is no charge for the training sessions though there is a cost if you attend the luncheon.

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

Kevin Meade asked about the trainings and if there are two sessions. Dave said there are two sessions for a total of 4 hours. John Biernbaum asked about electronic options. President Oldfield said he read that they are working on a digital option. Dave said if you can attend, it is a great opportunity for interaction as well. President Oldfield said we will provide the Trustees information when the training is available.

#### 1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Logan Booth presented the following report:

Congratulations to all of our Spring 2025 graduates. Nearly 170 graduates participated in this year's in-person commencement ceremony.

Academic honor lists for Spring 2025 include:

- President's list w/a grade point average of 3.6 or higher-158 full-time students and 116 part-time students.
- Dean's list w/a gpa of 3.0-3.59-113 full-time students and 82 part-time students.

Congratulations also to our student athletes who were named award winners for their academic accomplishments: The Midwest Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference honors went to 40 athletes who completed at least 24 semester hours with a minimum of a 3.5 gpa.

Additionally, 33 athletes earned National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic All-American status with 14 athletes receiving First Team for a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

#### 1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Berg presented the following report:

- Deposits since April 17<sup>th</sup> - \$203,930.55
- The Spring Scholarship awarding season has concluded. I attended ceremonies in Macomb, Bushnell, and Colchester to hand out scholarship certificates. Dr. Oldfield attended Farmington and Canton, while Trustee Butler was at the Rushville ceremony. We were represented at the other high schools by Foundation Board Members. We awarded a little over \$118,000 and every student who applied received some amount of assistance.

- The Golf Outing is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>. We are at \$11,000 in sponsorship commitments at this point.
- The Foundation held a strategic planning retreat on May 13, and we were able to establish priority goals. The Foundation Staff will be working on measurable action items to see these goals met and incorporate them into a new strategic plan. Our goal is to have a plan for approval at the July Foundation Board Meeting.
- We have our electronic newsletter going out next week.
- I'd like to express appreciation for our outgoing Foundation Board Members: Mitch Coonradt, John Davis, Michelle Escapa, Laura Leezer, John Marshall, Patrick O'Brian, and Nicholas Tinsman. John Davis will still be involved as an Ex Officio member.
- Before those members left, the Foundation Board voted to appoint Janet Hopper, Janice Bruster, Tony Gathman, Emily Sullivan, Shelly Runyan, Mandy Kreps, and Bruce Beal to the newly vacant spots.

#### 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 reported on the Macomb construction and said Mike Straumann has been working with the construction crew to keep it on task as well as Holly has been working with staff on the upcoming move. Starting next week, staff will begin moving from Johnson Street to the Macomb Outreach Center to temporary office space. Mike and his team will start work on moving the welding lab as well as moving the nursing equipment. We will have about an hour or two where we will have staff disconnected during the move. We will do that in phases, so Student Services will still have a presence at the Johnson Street facility while the move is taking place. We should not have a drop of services. President Oldfield said Mike and Holly deserve a lot of praise for coordinating all of these moving pieces. We are moving now because IT has a limited amount of time to support both locations in order to get the new facility live. The moves will occur next week. The next phase for us will be some finishing work. Mike will be in a training on June 17 to learn the systems with his teams, and then we essentially receive the keys. A lot is happening in a short period of time. By the end of next week if you are looking for anyone from the Macomb Johnson Street facility, you need to go to the MOC. President Oldfield said he is also tracking the Big Beautiful Bill in DC and monitoring how that moves. He has been in correspondence with Senators Durbin and Duckworth regarding the impacts on SRC. If you have not read the details, the major change we would feel is in the Pell category. It would move full-time status from 12 to 15 hours but not increase the rate. President Oldfield said he wants the Board to be aware that he and his team are working on this and Jo Branson and the Financial Aid team have pulled together some valuable information. The TRIO program is also a consideration and a vital program for SRC. TRIO has taught us some best practices and the support services for first generation, low income, and at risk students is vital for us. Adult Education plays a very important role for SRC because we are the only adult ed provider in our district. A cut in Federal funding challenges the number of students who could attend the instruction at no charge to achieve their high school equivalency. The increase in number of students who complete and continue on is growing. It has a great impact and helps individuals improve themselves. All three of those programs are proposed to be cut in the Big Beautiful Bill. Senate will take this up in the near future, and President Oldfield tried to reiterate the local perspective for the Senators. On the State level, we are working, in addition to the community college baccalaureate degree is the dual credit bill. We have been working with superintendents across the State to clarify misunderstandings and strengthen the language in the dual credit bill to eliminate the confusion. The goal is for high schools to work with their local community college first before seeking a partnership with other community colleges. We hope to be able to get that language clarified, and that was in the Senate Higher Ed Committee today and

approved. Trustee Maguire talked about the community college baccalaureate degree. President Oldfield reminded everyone that this is the Governor's priority. Dave said there are 40 state representative who signed on today to co-sponsor the bill. President Oldfield said there were great conversations with the university presidents, both public and private, through this process. We will see how the next few days play out. The next item to monitor is the budget bill.

## 2.2 Business and Finance Report

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

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$657,101.33
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	295,320.78
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	16,450.28
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	392.69
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	216,162.79
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>21,872.79</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,207,300.66</b>

Following a motion by Linda Butler, 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 May, 2025:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$657,101.33
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	295,320.78
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	16,450.28
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	392.69
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	216,162.79
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>21,872.79</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,207,300.66</b>

- 2.2.2 RESOLUTION providing for the issue of not to exceed \$3,900,000 General Obligation Community College Bonds, Series 2025D, and not to exceed \$1,600,000 Taxable General Obligation Community College Bonds, Series 2025E, for the purpose of paying claims against the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the proposed sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

President Oldfield presented this item and asked the Board to consider the Resolution. He said this is the third step of the process, and this sets the parameters that establishes the maximum amounts to be bonded in these two bonds – taxable and non-taxable. These funds will be used to fund the Jenzabar upgrade, the match for the Macomb parking lot project, and the tech bond to provide for hardware upgrades.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the RESOLUTION providing for the issue of not to exceed \$3,900,000 General Obligation Community College Bonds, Series 2025D, and not to exceed \$1,600,000 Taxable General Obligation Community College Bonds, Series 2025E, for the purpose of paying claims against the District, providing for

the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the proposed sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

Steve Adams said the sale is scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> and the closing for the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, so this will be completed in this current fiscal year.

- 2.2.3 Approve the renewal of a one-year cleaning contract with Corporate Clean, Bloomington, Illinois, effective July 1, 2025, in the amount of \$263,664.00. Funds for this contract are available in the Maintenance Fund.

President Oldfield presented this item and explained that this is the annual process for the cleaning services for SRC. This would be effective July 1, 2025. This represents an increase because of the additional square footage with the new Macomb Campus.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the renewal of a one-year cleaning contract with Corporate Clean, Bloomington, Illinois, effective July 1, 2025, in the amount of \$263,664.00. Funds for this contract are available in the Maintenance Fund.

- 2.2.4 Accept Facilities Master Plan as presented at the April 23, 2025 Board Meeting.

President Oldfield said last month Mike Straumann and Bruce Maxey presented the Plan for review. Tonight we are asking for the Trustees to accept the Master Plan for guidance for us for the next five years.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees accepted the Facilities Master Plan as presented at the April 23, 2025 Board Meeting.

- 2.2.5 Approve the purchase of a new Ventrac 4520 tractor with cab, dual wheels, salt spreader, and snow blade from Burris Equipment Company, in the amount of \$51,159.80. Funds for this purchase are available in the Maintenance Fund.

President Oldfield presented this item and explained that this is a multi-attachment tractor designed for commercial landscaping. Many schools and park districts have this type of equipment, and Ventrac is on the State list which allows us to get the best price for this equipment. Kent Schleich asked if this is the same model as the one we have. Mike said this will be an additional tractor, and versatility is key, and we have a number of attachments that can be shared between the two machines. The 4520 model is exactly the same as what we have. This new one would have the addition of a cab which will help during the winter. Additional attachments include a brush cutter to help maintain trails. We do a lot of work on the ball fields as well. Mike said last year when budgeting, he intended to purchase another plow truck for this year, but as we have changed some things in maintenance, and as we have discussed with new staff, we reviewed needs and feel we can get by with the current plow truck for a couple of more years. We are spending a minimum on outsourcing in Macomb. At this point it doesn't make sense to move the plow truck to Macomb. This Ventrac provides with more options than just plowing.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a new Ventrac 4520 tractor with cab, dual wheels, salt spreader, and snow blade from Burris Equipment Company, in the amount of \$51,159.80. Funds for this purchase are available in the Maintenance Fund.

2.2.6 Bargaining Unit Labor Contract between the Spoon River College Faculty Association and the Spoon River College Board of Trustees.

President Oldfield presented this item and explained that part of the multi-year contract is an annual salary reopener. We have tentatively agreed on an increase in their step and an additional 2% increase for their salary for FY26. President Oldfield said it has been ratified by the Faculty Association. John Biernbaum asked if that is President Oldfield's recommendation. He said yes.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Bargaining Unit Labor Contract between the Spoon River College Faculty Association and the Spoon River College Board of Trustees.

2.2.7 Bargaining Unit Labor Contract between the Spoon River College Classified Personnel Association and the Spoon River College Board of Trustees.

President Oldfield presented this item and explained that this is a similar scenario. He recognized Natalie Orwig as chair of the Classified Staff Association. He explained that this is also a salary reopener, and he understands it was a great opportunity for discussion. We have a tentative agreement for a 3.5% increase and an additional closure date of the Friday of Spring Break week. Classified has ratified this, and President Oldfield said he recommends approval.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Bargaining Unit Labor Contract between the Spoon River College Classified Personnel Association and the Spoon River College Board of Trustees.

2.3 Institutional Planning

2.3.1 Approval of 2025-2028 Strategic Goals

President Oldfield presented this item and explained that in February Jude Kiah led a SWOT Analysis during Professional Development Day. We also included feedback from the Employee Satisfaction Survey. President Oldfield is recommending the four strategic goals as presented, and he reviewed those goals with the Trustees. Cabinet level members will work with staff to develop action plans to start the achievement of those goals. At the July Retreat, initiatives will be presented to the Trustees. Linda Butler suggested that this be forwarded to the Foundation Board members to be able to track where the College wants to go as the Foundation writes its Plan.

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 2025-2028 Strategic Goals.

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.

Kevin Meade said there was a call for Closed Session with no action expected following.

Dave Maguire made a motion that the Board go to Closed Session for the following purpose: 1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; Linda 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 purpose: 1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body at 6:47 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 John Biernbaum, seconded by Linda Butler, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, May 28, 2025, adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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Kevin Meade, Chair

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Date

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Linda Butler, Secretary