

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

Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 6 p.m.
Spoon River College, 726 West Maple Avenue, Room 100
Rushville, Illinois

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at the Rushville Center, 726 West Maple Avenue, Rushville, 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 Phillip Murphy Kent Schleich
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Members Absent:	Logan Booth
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Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Mike Strauman, Chief Operations and Security Officer; Melissa Miller, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Hannah Neuendorf, Director, Human Resources; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation; Raj Siddaraju, Chief Information Officer; Janet Young, Director, Rushville Center; Joe Clemens, Diesel Tech Faculty; and Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/Recorder.

Also Present: Jim Reed, Executive Director, Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Kevin Meade led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Welcome of Guests

Kevin Meade welcomed those in attendance. President Oldfield said we are honored to have Jim Reed, Executive Director of ICCTA with us tonight.

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 July 23, 2025 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 23, 2025 Closed Session Minutes Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

1.6.2 July 23, 2025 Board Retreat Meeting Minutes

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 approved the July 23, 2025 Board Retreat Meeting Minutes.

1.6.3 July 23, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the July 23, 2025 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 are 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 has determined that the need for confidentiality still exists.

1.6.5 Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act 120, Section 2.06, paragraph (d) (2), having reviewed the minutes of all closed meetings of the Board of Trustees that have not been previously made available for public inspection, the Board of Trustees has determined that the following listed minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection:

March 27, 2019, #1
August 28, 2019

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) (2), having reviewed the minutes of all closed meetings of the Board of Trustees that have not been previously made available for public inspection, the Board of Trustees has determined that the following listed minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection:

March 27, 2019, #1
August 28, 2019

Phillip Murphy and John Biernbaum thanked Linda and Dave for serving in this capacity.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

My report will be somewhat brief this month. During the first of August the ICCTA Executive Committee met for their annual retreat and planning session hosted by ICCTA President Patricia Joan Murphy for Moraine Valley Community College. President Murphy shared with us her vision for the 2025-2026 year. Focused on three areas: Student Engagement, Advocacy and Marketing.

Student Engagement: In recognition of the success of the past-chair's efforts to engage students at Board of Representatives meetings she plans to continue the practice. Encouraging more collaboration with the Student Advocacy Committee for greater student participation at ICCTA events.

Advocacy: Continue our work with the Governor's office, Illinois Council of Community College Presidents and others to pass the baccalaureate degree initiative during the Veto session. Expand attendance at Board of Representatives meetings to include local K-12 Superintendents and local school board members. Develop templates for trustees to engage with General Assembly members on a more periodic basis.

Marketing: Continued focus on the important role of community colleges in the community. In collaboration with the Illinois Community College Marketing Collaborative, initiate a campaign entitled "You are accepted."

A major portion of our meeting involved review and discussion of ICCTA 2025-2027 Strategic Plan. We were fortunate to have Napoleon Haney, City Manager of Homewood, to facilitate the discussion. He did an excellent job working with trustees from over 20 different community colleges across the state.

At the meeting, it was noted that long time ICCTA Communications Director Kim Villanueva was leaving to become the new President and CEO of the National Organization for Women in Washington, D.C. Kim is a former Macomb native graduating from Macomb High School in 1981 before pursuing a journalism degree at the University of Illinois. She will be missed at ICCTA but this is a wonderful opportunity for her as she becomes the President of NOW.

ICCTA has updated membership that as of August 15th, the Governor has acted on all of the 400 plus bills passed by the General Assembly this spring, signed 269 that last day. He has only vetoed a couple of pieces of legislation which may be considered during the Fall Veto Session, scheduled for October 14-16 and October 28-30.

I will be attending the ACCT Annual Leadership Congress October 21-24. The Congress includes multiple trustee sessions, opportunities for networking, sharing of ideas as well as organization governance. Several of the committees that I serve on and represent Illinois colleges trustees meet during the Congress.

The next meeting of the Illinois Board of Representative will be September 12-13, 2025 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois.

I have included with my report are a list of dates and meetings of interest.

We have a unique opportunity this evening having Jim Reed the Executive Director of ICCTA attend our meeting. At this time, I would like to defer to Mr. Reed if he would like to share any comments.

Dave introduced Jim Reed. Jim added that they are really excited about the upcoming veto session. The community college baccalaureate effort has been moved to the spring session. There are a number of moving parts within the legislative bodies. We are excited to be a part of the Governor's roundtable discussions, and we are happy with the opportunities. During the ACCT Conference in New Orleans, it will announce that 2026 ACCT Conference will be held in Chicago.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Logan Booth was absent, so President Oldfield read Logan's report:

The hallways and parking lots were bustling with activity as we kicked off the fall semester this 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 yesterday in Macomb and today in Canton. Snapperpalooza provided free lunch and a welcome week festival where students received information about all of the support services, clubs, and activities at SRC.

The Athletic Department hosted their kickoff athletic orientation event on Saturday, August 16. Over 200 student-athletes and family members attended the event along with SRC coaches and administration. Athletic Director Basset said we have nearly 10 countries represented this year with our student athletes.

Fall competition is underway for our athletic teams. Checkout the team schedules on our website.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Berg presented the following report:

- \$23,231.65 in deposits since July 17th.
- Golf Outing was August 8th. We had \$25,600 in contributions. \$18,586.60 after expenses. 28 teams participated.
- I attended the Macomb Police Department National Night Out with other SRC staff on August 5th.
- Carl did a great job updating addresses to send out the Summer appeal from Rescigno's. They should be sending it out in the next 4-6 days.
- Carl and I met with the Dual Credit Committee. They recommended we award \$150/class and raise the income threshold to \$45,000/person in the household. My board voted in agreement. Those award letters went out last Thursday.
- We hosted some representatives from Graham Health System to the Macomb Campus on August 25th at 9:30 a.m. They presented us with a \$250,000 check. Thank you Trustee Meade for attending!
- Michelle and I are both involved in the planning for the grand opening of the Macomb Campus that is scheduled for September 3rd at 3 p.m.
- We met with Vickie Parry and Mitch Williams to begin planning for Giving Spoon Day. "Our
- We've started our new logo rollout.
- We are hosting a Canton Chamber After Hours Event on September 18 from 5-7 p.m. at The Bistro in Canton.

- All Foundation staff will be participating in Rushville's Smiles Day Celebrations on September 19th.
- I will attend the Zaborac golf outing on September 20th at Wee-Ma-Tuk.

Linda Butler said Monday she visited with someone who has a daughter who is a junior who commented on the new dual credit scholarship amount and was very appreciative.

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 Jim Reed, Executive Director, ICCTA, who was present to present Linda Butler with her Trustee Achievement award for 30 years. Jim provided the following:

Good evening. It is my honor to be here to recognize Trustee Linda Butler with a Service Award in recognition of her 30 years of service to Spoon River College.

Trustee Butler began her service to Spoon River College as director of the SRC Foundation Board in 1990, five years before being appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees in 1995. She went on to be elected to five regular terms as a board member.

During her time as a trustee, Trustee Butler has worked with four presidents and participated in three presidential searches. She served one term as board secretary, three terms as board vice chair, and two terms as board chair.

Linda has provided years of leadership for the board by serving in a multitude of capacities, not to mention countless special tasks and work on behalf of the board and the college.

Her service reflects her deep belief in the community college mission and a sustained commitment to student success. We know that her dedication has reflected well on the college and has inspired others to serve.

When we were here back in 2020 to recognize Linda for her 25 years of service it was noted that when she attended her first trustee training, a trustee from another community college told her she didn't need to be there as he believed SRC would be terminated and absorbed by other colleges. He was wrong. It's clear that nothing could be further from the truth with the upcoming ribbon cutting of the newly renovated Spoon River Macomb Campus. The college, the students and the community are fortunate to have such a dedicated public servant. Congratulations Linda!

Jim Reed presented Linda with the 30 Year Trustee Service Award.

Linda thanked Jim for the award and said her family was unable to attend because they were at her grandson's game out of town. President Oldfield said we now have two Board Members with over 30 years of service to the Board. He congratulated Linda.

President Oldfield thanked all of the staff and especially highlighted Mike Straumann for the hard work on the Macomb project. He has effectively handled the project with grace and class. He has dealt with a variety of issues and has never missed a beat and made sure the project was done in time for fall classes. President Oldfield also thanked Holly Norton for all of her work near the completion of the construction making sure classrooms, faculty offices, and resources were in line for the completion of the project and start of classes.

President Oldfield reviewed opening week and said we had a lot of faculty and staff involved with opening activities. These events help the students come out of their shell and ask questions and also win some prizes and have a great lunch. It was a great opportunity for everyone to interact and engage in conversations. He thanked the staff who coordinated those opportunities.

President Oldfield said Melissa Miller has a card for Brad and Michelle O'Brien to give to them as Brad moves to St. Louis and receive a stem cell transplant. If you would like to sign the card, please see Melissa.

President Oldfield said enrollment is trending up and is hesitant to provide a percentage at this point. We are very encouraged and impressed with the growth but our 10th day is not until the second week of September, so we will have enrollment numbers at that point. We are heading in the right direction. Phillip Murphy asked about Macomb. President Oldfield said Macomb is trending up and has improved since we have opened. He anticipates more for the spring semester.

President Oldfield shared that the following new hires:

Carl Goudy, Office Assistant, Foundation

Start date: 7/21/25

Replaced: Penny Hunt

Mariah Huston, Student Employment Testing, Transfer

Start date: 7/28/25

Replaced: Karen Trusley

Stephanie Norton, Rushville Campus Assistant

Start date: 8/4/25

Replaced: Heather Vining

Kloey Wheeler, Advisor, Disability Services/Probation

Start date: 8/18/25

Replaced: John Kurtz

Conner Hughes, Recruitment and Communications Advisor

Start date: 8/25/25

Replaced: Mariah Huston

President Oldfield thanked Hannah Neuendorf and her staff for coordinating the searches and hires. HR has been very busy these last few weeks, and he thanked Hannah and Emily for their hard work.

President Oldfield reported that the week of September 8 he will be in Aspen, Colorado for the last step of his Aspen fellowship. Holly will be on campus, and Sarah will be available also. He will send a reminder email to the Trustees as that date gets closer.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

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

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$599,144.73
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	947,087.58
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	10,580.08
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	-0-
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	211,791.32
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>20,446.50</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,789,050.21

Following a motion by Linda Butler, seconded by Jerry Cremer, 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, 2025:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$599,144.73
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	947,087.58
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	10,580.08
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	-0-
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	211,791.32
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>20,446.50</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,789,050.21

2.2.2 Naming Rights – Macomb Campus Nursing and Allied Health Labs

President Oldfield presented this item and is asking the Board to approve the Naming Rights Agreement with Graham Health System to name the Nursing and Allied Health Labs at the Macomb Campus the “Graham Health System Nursing and Allied Health Learning Lab” in the amount of \$250,000 with a twenty year expiration.

Kevin Meade announced that he would abstain from voting.

Following a motion by Linda Butler, seconded by Kent Schleich, and a roll call vote of 6 yeas and one abstention (Mr. Meade), it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Naming Rights Agreement with Graham Health System to name the Nursing and Allied Health Labs at the Macomb Campus the “Graham Health System Nursing and Allied Health Learning Lab” in the amount of \$250,000 with a twenty year expiration.

2.3 Institutional Planning

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

For Fall 2025 we continue to offer the classes that we always have through IVS, in person and online. For the last year, I have seen an increase in students only wanting to take online classes. Because of this, I’m trying to be creative in ways to promote the college

more in the community by partnering with others. We are lucky to have so many businesses in Rushville that offer programs for the community, such as the HUB, the Rushville Fitness and Community Center, the library, and the Rushville Chamber of Commerce to name a few. For this fall I have partnered with The HUB in offering a community education class on 60's music, as well as the Baseball Stadium tour class at the Rushville Fitness Center, and of course our Woodworking class at RIHS. Currently I am working with the Rushville Chamber in offering a CANVA class.

We continue to offer English as a Second Language class. Although I lost Heather Vining as my campus assistant, I am pleased that she was able to continue to teach our ESL class. Our enrollment continues to stay consistent at 18 enrolled, with possibly some new students being enrolled in October when our next session starts.

Our Adult education class was not offered this year due to some funding issues and I am keeping track of how many students inquire about this class so that hopefully in the future it will be offered again here. Last year we had 3 completers.

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. Again, this year, I was 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 very successful, and I plan to continue making myself available at the high school during various times of the semester. The RIHS classes for the next few years are averaging 63-70 students per class, and we have 32 dual credit students enrolled this fall.

Stephanie Norton is my new campus assistant. She started the beginning of August and is quickly learning all about SRC and is very eager to help students and others who come in the door.

Summer Youth was a lot of fun this summer. Fortunately, we once again received the United Way funding, which was very much appreciated. We had 10 students from 1st-6th grade for two mornings the second week of June. We learned about Illinois Mammals, as well as Illinois Native Plants. We also did some fun art activities, including going back to the high school shop class to make candy dispensers, and then followed up back at the center to make no bake cookies.

Stephanie and I are trying to plan some new student activities and plan to use the money machine the first week of school and serve popcorn.

My student worker who will be helping me for the second year is Brynna Swan. She is an early childhood education major.

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. 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. 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 reporting this evening.

- 2.3.1 Approve the appointment of Dr. Shelby Henning to the position of Agriculture Faculty, effective August 21, 2025, at an annual salary of \$60,648.00. This is a full-time, tenure track position, and a biographical résumé is included in attachment 2.3.1.

President Oldfield presented this item for the Board's consideration.

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 approved the appointment of Dr. Shelby Henning to the position of Agriculture Faculty, effective August 21, 2025, at an annual salary of \$60,648.00. This is a full-time, tenure track position.

- 2.3.2 Approve the appointment of Dr. Alison Roxburgh to the position of Physics Faculty, effective August 21, 2025, at an annual salary of \$60,648.00. This is a full-time, tenure track position, and a biographical résumé is included in attachment 2.3.2.

President Oldfield presented this item for the Board's consideration. He noted that Alison was educated in England and completed her PHD in Applied Physics in Colorado this past spring.

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 approved the appointment of Dr. Alison Roxburgh to the position of Physics Faculty, effective August 21, 2025, at an annual salary of \$60,648.00. This is a full-time, tenure track position.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Dave Maguire commented that he has been talking with President Oldfield that several of his friends at different colleges have been celebrating openings of building at colleges, and he knows this is discussion we have started having in our district but thinks it is very important for SRC to be the leader in putting things together. President Oldfield said there was a good meeting with the local superintendent about the vision of a career and tech center. Now it is a question of what is involved and getting more partners to the table. President Oldfield said he will be reaching out to the trades unions to further pursue discussions. His vision would be for us to offer this type of instruction on the Finn property and have a Career and Tech Center that would be open to dual credit students during the day and trades during the evening. President Oldfield said he has been very clear that we cannot build that ourselves and is very transparent and that has helped start conversations about funding needs and to establish a subscription-based model. Jerry Cremer said he feels it is very important to bring in schools outside of Macomb. President Oldfield said West Prairie and Bushnell were there and appreciated a subscription-type model.

- 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 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, August 27, 2025, adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Kevin Meade, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary