

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

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 6 p.m.
Spoon River College, Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B
Canton Campus, Canton, Illinois

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 6 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 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present:

John Biernbaum
Linda Butler
Jerry Cremer
Dave Maguire
Kevin Meade
Phillip Murphy
Kent Schleich
Logan Booth

Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Melissa Miller, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Hannah Neuendorf, Director, Human Resources; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Raj Siddaraju, Chief Information Officer; Sarah Dalpiaz, Math Faculty; Sarah Etter, Nursing Faculty; Kim Gillespie, Biology Faculty; Tonja Huff, Nursing Faculty; Amy Rutledge, Biology Faculty; Jim Sheff, Math Faculty; Evyn Way, Welding Faculty; Becca Werland, English Faculty; and Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/Recorder.

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 August 24, 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 August 24, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Dave Maguire provided the following report:

Our last meeting of ICCTA was held in Springfield on September 12 and 13. The Friday morning Trustee Roundtable focused on three topics: students impacted by federal deportation policies, presidential contacts, and should we advance legislation to allow discussion in closed session certain budget risk threats. The first topic does not seem to be a factor for our college, the second during the discussion showed we are ahead of most colleges in our presidential contracts, and the third topic concerning closed session changes could end up having potential fall out if we open a discussion with certain legislators concerning the Open Meeting Act.

Friday afternoon we had presentations by Michelle Weber from the firm of Robbins Schwartz and Dr. Brian Durham, Executive Director of ICCB. Ms. Weber spoke to “Ongoing Impact of Executive Orders and Federal Action on Higher Ed Institutions.” Dr. Durham presented on “The Federal Landscape in Motion: What Trustees and Presidents Need to Know.” There was considerable information given during the sessions with several questions from trustees and presidents. I have a couple of extra copies of the handout materials available for our college.

During our legislative committee update we discussed the Association’s 2025 State Legislative Initiatives. The initiatives include:

- Pursuing community college workforce degrees, enhance student transfer and articulation policies, and prepare Illinois’ future workers.
- Core Legislative Values, remaining responsive to the community college district, receive equitable funding for college operations, and champion equity in higher education.
- Reflecting community college baccalaureate degree work done to date.
- Include workforce ecosystem language that mirrors and supports the Presidents’ priorities.

We also heard an update regarding the current political season landscape and how there will be a lot of turnover in the General Assembly due to legislators either seeking higher office or retiring. There was a review of some of the legislation that could be addressed during the Illinois General Assembly’s 2025 Veto Session on October 14-16 and October 28-30. The Association is planning to create an advocacy toolkit to support our members’ lobbying efforts.

During the Board of Representative meeting, we reviewed the updates to ICCTA’s 2025-2027 Strategic Plan that were suggested during the August ICCTA Executive Committee Retreat. The meeting included numerous updates from committees and associated councils and agencies. Of special interest were remarks from student trustee Avery Henderson (Southeastern), who shared that his relationship with the college began long before he became a student then a student trustee.

ICCTA will be hosting an ACCT Governance Leadership Institute (GLI) in conjunction with ICCTA and ICCCP regular November meetings in Naperville. The institute portion is open to trustees and presidents from the region for a fee. The institute and our meetings will be November 13-15, 2025 at the Chicago Marriott Naperville.

Next month I will be attending the ACCT Annual Leadership Congress. The Congress includes multiple trustee sessions, opportunities for networking, sharing of ideas as well as organization

governance. I serve on several ACCT committees that meet during the congress representing Illinois colleges trustees.

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

Dave also reported that ICCTA's former Director of Communications, Kim Villaneuva, had an interview through Tri States Radio regarding her new position as President of the National Organization of Women in Washington, DC.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Logan Booth provided the following report:

Student Activities for September included:

- Free Pizza with President Oldfield, which was very well attended and very well received!
- Time management and study tips
- Trivia Tuesday and Wellness Wednesday

TRIO workshops this month were about study habits, wellness, and notetaking. TRIO students went to Crafty Coop in Macomb for a small business presentation and pottery painting and also did a service project at Helping Hands in Canton.

The Speech and Debate team is presently engaged in both the recruitment of prospective members and the rigorous rehearsal of competitive oratorical performances on behalf of its current participants.

Student Government Association is hosting the fall blood drive in Canton on October 22 from 10:30-1:30 in the Lower Level of Centers. The drive is open to the public, not just students. Donors can contact Michelle Howe for more information.

Athletics Updates:

- Volleyball has 3 region wins so far this season. The team is playing at home tonight against Heartland.
- Cross Country is off to a great start with the team finishing 1st overall at the Carl Sandburg race. Two runners have broken school records-earliest records date back to 2013.
- Bowling finished 4th overall at their first tournament.
- Softball and baseball are both off to strong starts for fall ball.
- Basketball teams will begin official practice October 1st.

All athletic team schedules are on our website. Go, Snappers!

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Berg was not present at the Board Meeting, so Linda Butler provided the following report in his absence:

- Deposits since August 25th: \$389,246.95. This includes a McPheeters payment and the gift from Graham Health System.
- We hosted some representatives from Graham Health System to the Macomb Campus on August 25th for a check presentation.
- The Macomb open house on September 3rd was a success.
- Dusty attended the Macomb Block Party on September 12th.
- Dusty will be reaching out to you in the first couple weeks of October to ask for your involvement in Giving SPOONday.

- As part of the logo rollout we are going through and creating brochures and flyers to be used in donor acquisition and informing students of the resources we offer.
- We handed out materials on scholarship opportunities at both Snapperpaloozas, August 26th and 27th.
- Hardship Grants – We awarded two hardship grants. One grant was for a student who was facing eviction; one for a student whose parent was also in school.
- Operation Generosity – We have awarded 4 operation generosity scholarships so far this semester. This is a program in Macomb and is sponsored by the First Christian Church.
- Fellheimer fall deadline is October 24th. Applications are coming in at a steady pace.
- The main scholarship and spring dual credit applications will open October 1st.
- Michelle is working on assembling an Alumni Council. She and Dusty met with them to discuss alumni award nominations.
- Michelle and Dusty also met with Danielle Cheatham to discuss how the foundation/alumni association and athletics can work together.
- We hosted a Canton Chamber After Hours Event on September 18th from 5-7 p.m. at The Bistro in Canton.
- SRC representatives participated in Rushville's Smiles Day Celebrations on September 19th.
- Dusty attended the Zaborac golf outing on September 20th at Wee-Ma-Tuk.

Phillip Murphy asked about the Gorsuch family gift. President Oldfield said the Gorsuch family has started a scholarship and is working with the Foundation.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

Jerry Cremer said it is very enjoyable to drive by the new Macomb Campus and see the parking lot full of cars. Phillip Murphy asked about any talk in the community. John Biernbaum said people are taking notice.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield thanked all of the Trustees for attending the ribbon cutting in Macomb on September 3. It was a great event, and there was a lot of support to help us showcase the investment. President Oldfield also shared that we also hosted the 1975 Ag alumni here in Canton earlier this month for their 50th anniversary. They provided their own lunch, and we provided tours of the campus. They shared stories and reviewed yearbooks. Michelle Howe is working to build more groups like that for reunions and get togethers for building connections. It was nice to have the Ag graduates here and hear their stories and build those connections.

President Oldfield reported that this afternoon he spoke to the Macomb PEO group. It is a strong organization, and it was a nice opportunity to share what is happening at SRC now and for the future.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

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

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$572,699.24
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	494,702.90
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	2,370.13
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	32.90
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	212,237.55
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>12,362.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,294,404.72

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 September, 2025:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$572,699.24
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	494,702.90
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	2,370.13
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	32.90
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Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>12,362.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,294,404.72

2.2.2 Acceptance of the SRC Risk Management Plan

President Oldfield presented this item and thanked Sarah Gray for her work on this updated plan that is recommended for acceptance this evening. We continue to try to look at areas where we are reducing risk opportunities while also being proactive. Sarah works with insurance agents as well to meet requirements.

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 acceptance of the SRC Risk Management Plan.

2.3 Institutional Planning

- Fall Enrollment Update – Missy Wilkinson provided the following report:

Increases:

Credit Hours
Headcount
Full-time Students
Males
Sophomores
High School Dual Credit
Course Delivery – Online and Hybrid

Missy said it is definitely a team effort, and it takes all of us to achieve the positive results.

Fall 10th Day Credit Hours – 10,491 for 2025 – 5% increase over 2024 and 5% increase over 2023.

Fall 10th Day Total Headcount – 1,146 for 2025 – about a 1% increase over 2024 and 5% increase over 2023.

Fall 10th Day Headcounts –

Full-time – 487 – up 7% compared to last year and 8% compared to 2023

Part-time – 659

Gender Breakdown:

Male 438 – up 19% compared to 2024

Female 707

Missy reported that our allied health program numbers are very strong, so the ACE team will be reviewing areas of decline in the female enrollment. The increases in male enrollments are across the board from transfer to CTE. Phillip Murphy said for next year he would be interested in seeing Macomb separately just to see the impact of the new campus. Missy said we have those numbers for fall, and we are about even with last year. We expect to see the number increase.

Missy also provided information on the Age Breakdown for 2025. 18-21 continues to be the largest group. 26-30 had the largest increase.

John Biernbaum asked if the increase is what Sarah Gray budgeted for. Sarah said not quite. We budgeted 12 and came in at 4.

Missy said we are pleased with what we have and will work on retention. President Oldfield said we did see a slight bump from 10th day numbers, and we get weekly updates, and we are up at 5% now. President Oldfield said as Missy said, the retention number is very important for us to maintain this growth for the spring semester. Missy said all numbers she reports are on the credit side. Missy talked with Chad on the Adult Ed side, and Chad said they have seen an increase. Missy said our increases are the result of a team effort. Jerry Cremer asked if we have a way to get Macomb high school students in to the Macomb Campus. Missy said we have 10th Day Career Day as well as a CTE Open House. We will also be reaching out to the schools. We will be hosting the annual counselors breakfast at the Macomb Campus.

2.3.1 Tenure recommendation – Kimberly Gillespie, Biology Faculty, effective January 20, 2026.

President Oldfield presented this item and shared comments from Holly Norton and the peer assistance committee regarding Kim's teaching. It is his honor to recommend tenure effective January 20, 2026.

Kim thanked the Board, and she said she is very happy to be here.

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 tenure recommendation - Kimberly Gillespie, Biology Faculty, effective January 20, 2026.

2.3.2 Tenure recommendation – Tonja Huff, Nursing Faculty, effective January 20, 2026.

President Oldfield presented this item and shared comments from Melissa Miller, Dean of Career and Workforce Education. President Oldfield said it is his honor to recommend tenure effective January 20, 2026.

Tonja said she is a 2008 SRC grad, and it is an honor to be here today.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the tenure recommendation - Tonja Huff, Nursing Faculty, effective January 20, 2026.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

President Oldfield shared the following new hires:

Conner Hughes – Recruitment Communications Advisor, started 8/25/25, replaced Mariah Huston’s position.

Denise Phillips – District Wide Counselor, started 9/18/25, new grant funded position (current grant is finished in December).

Michelle Conrad – Food Services Attendant, started 9/24/25, replaced Avri Hindahl.

- 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.

4.0 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, September 24, 2025, adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Kevin Meade, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary