

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

**Wednesday, November 19, 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, November 19, 2025 at 6 p.m., at the 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
	Phillip Murphy
	Kent Schleich

Members Absent:	Logan Booth
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Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; 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; Jamie Kotewa, Art Faculty; Shelli Stuart, Mathematics 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 October 22, 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 October 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

In the past month ICCTA has been involved with three major meetings: the Annual ACCT Leadership Congress in New Orleans, the ACCT Governance Leadership Institute in Naperville and our regular ICCTA meeting also in Naperville.

The Annual ACCT Leadership Congress involved over 1,800 community college leaders and trustees with over 150 educational sessions, with opportunities to network with other trustees, with engaging keynote speeches as well as meetings of the national committees and the association governance process. There is a multitude of materials from the sessions much of which is now available online or were electronically distributed. The day of the paper handouts during sessions has pretty much gone to the wayside.

Illinois had a very large presence during the conference and is involved with the association's committees and governance structure providing leadership in the development of programs and the direction of the association. One outcome from the Member Communication and Education Committee, that I served on, has been the new ACCT Excel Program. It is a program to strengthen trustee governance knowledge, provide additional trustee education and establish a recognition program for college trustees. Materials from the conference are available for sharing and I would be happy to pass them along. Next year the Annual ACCT Congress will be held in Chicago, October 21-24, 2026, the week before our regular October board meeting.

Last week ACCT and ICCTA hosted the Governance Leadership Institute (GLI). The program included interactive workshops and facilitated discussions by experts in the field of community college governance. The sessions were attended by Illinois trustees, presidents and board staff. While I was not officially registered for GLI, I had the opportunity to participate at no cost to our college.

The GLI was followed by our regular November ICCTA meetings. The trustee roundtable discussed various aspects of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how Illinois community colleges can become a leader in this area. During the session, those of us who attended the 2025 ACCT Leadership Congress had the opportunity to share new ideas and information that was learned at this year's event.

The Government Relations and Public Policy Committee shared the 2026 Legislative Initiatives, which were discussed, and unanimously adopted by the ICCTA Board. The ICCTA's initiatives closely align with the President's Council's 2026 Legislative Initiatives.

During the committee session, the October Veto session was recapped. Updates were shared on the following:

HB1312: Omnibus Package on Immigration Enforcement  
SB25: Energy Package  
SB2111: Mass Transit Package  
SB1911: Supplemental Revenue  
SB1950: Medical Aid in Dying

The 2026 State Lobby Day dates are tentatively scheduled for the first week of May in Springfield, IL.

During the Saturday morning Board of Representatives session, we welcomed ICCTA's new Communications Specialist Veronica Brown. We were informed that the Economic Impact Reports are being compiled by the Illinois Community College Board and should be available by January 2026. These reports can be an important tool when speaking to your legislators about the value of Community Colleges. A highlight of the sessions was remarks from Student Trustee Jarrell David, Triton College, who spoke about what it means to him to be a Student Trustee and how we all need to keep fighting for a better future of all students of community colleges.

It was announced that the 2026 ICCTA Awards & Scholarship Nominations are now open and posted on the ICCTA Awards page. Nominations are due on February 27 and March 27, 2026.

The next ICCTA trustee education seminar will be held on March 21, 2026 at Moraine Valley Community College and will cover AI and Cybersecurity. The next meeting of the Board of Representative will be in conjunction with the Annual National Legislative Summit February 8-11, 2026 in Washington D.C.

#### 1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Logan Booth was not in attendance, so President Oldfield read the following report:

Student Government Association is continuing the Feed the Need Food Drive in collaboration with Phi Theta Kappa. This food drive is a competition between participating community colleges in Illinois. Anyone is welcome to make a monetary donation or bring in canned goods for the drive until December 1.

Canton SGA Advisor, Michelle Howe, and SGA Member Annalies Dowell, presented to the Canton Rotary Club about SGA.

The Speech and Debate Team has quickly found its rhythm. Students will complete in the final fall semester tournament in early December.

TRIO visited Monmouth College where students participated in an admissions presentation and campus tour, followed by lunch at the dining hall. The group also visited the local Jamieson Center for information on community resources and participated in a group service project.

TRIO also celebrated National First-Generation Student Day with events in Canton and Macomb. Students, faculty, and staff enjoyed cupcakes and punch, while first-generation participants were recognized with a photo opportunity, stickers, and buttons.

Student Activities include:

- First Generation Bowling at Linn Lanes
- Donuts with the Deans
- Thanksgiving Dinner and Canned Food Drive this week

Athletics Updates:

- Volleyball season came to an end with post season loss to #1 Parkland. The team will be back in February for the spring season.
- Cross Country wrapped up their season at Nationals. The team will now prepare for the track season in the spring with new head coach Erik Kotewa.
- Bowling continues to improve on the season and has two more tournaments before winter break.
- Men's and women's basketball seasons are underway and schedules are available on our website.

Finally, fall break starts next week, giving students a chance to recharge before they come back in December to complete the semester.

#### 1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Berg presented the following report:

- Deposits since September 17<sup>th</sup>: \$73,685.72
- Hardship Grants – We approved one hardship grant since last meeting.
- Fellheimer fall deadline was October 24<sup>th</sup>. Award letters are going out this week. The deadline to accept the award is December 12<sup>th</sup>. We will get the list of those accepting to Financial Aid before Christmas break.
- The main scholarship and spring dual credit applications opened October 1<sup>st</sup>. Dual Credit closes on November 21<sup>st</sup> and the main one closes March 1<sup>st</sup>. Dual credit award letters will go out before Christmas break with a return deadline of January 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Alumni Awards Dinner was November 8<sup>th</sup>. We had a little over 90 attendees.
- Last Thursday, I did an interview with Canton Radio to promote Giving Spoon Day.
- I visited a Community Chorus practice to say thank you and plug Giving Spoon Day.

Dusty reported that today he visited Canton Rotary to talk about Giving Spoon Day. He also said Logan Booth made a wonderful Giving Spoon Day Video, and Dusty thanked Logan.

#### 1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

John Biernbaum thanked everyone for having pizza for the Board dinner this evening. It was a nice treat.

### 2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### 2.1 Communications

President Oldfield reported that Michelle Johnson new CDT Director replacing Bob Walter. She started with us last week and is doing a fantastic job for us. Candace Hadsall in our Outreach department is now our Student Success Coach effective this coming Monday. Her outreach position is now posted. Grey Thompson was selected for the TRIO tutor in the Science area. Grey will replace Carmen Pratt. Eric Kotewa is the new head cross country coach. The new Head volleyball coach is Cain Kamano will be starting the first of the year.

President Oldfield shared that we are excited about the Aspen Top 200, and we are very excited about that selection. We are one of 21 community colleges from the State for this as well, and this is a very high honor. We will finish the application before winter break.

President Oldfield shared the science faculty hosted a poster session today, and he gave Mike Strauman and the Print Shop staff kudos for the quality of the poster printing that we were able to handle with the large format printer in the Print Shop. The formats were standardized, and it was all printed in house, and we had 110 students participate. A Spoon River Valley dual credit student received Best In Show. It was certainly a great showing by all of the students. President Oldfield said he was one of the judges, and it was a difficult job. The posters were all very well prepared and presented.

The community college presidents have set their legislative agenda for the State. The goals are centered around workforce, transfer, supporting trustees, and maintaining local control. They also recognize that funding will be tight.

President Oldfield thanked Dusty, Michelle, and Carl for their work on the Alumni Dinner. It was a very nice event with a great show. All who were recognized were very appreciative of the opportunity. Kudos to the three of them.

## 2.2 Business and Finance Report

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

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$928,225.55
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	613,874.24
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	61,870.00
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	579.24
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	216,584.69
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>89,681.04</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,910,814.76</b>

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

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

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$928,225.55
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	613,874.24
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	61,870.00
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	579.24
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Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>89,681.04</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,910,814.76</b>

- 2.2.2 Adopt the PHS (Protection, Health, Safety) Project Resolution in the amount of \$225,000 for the tuckpointing of exterior walls of buildings at the Canton Campus. Funds will be available in 2026 from the upcoming PHS tax levy and Operations budget.

President Oldfield presented this item and said each year the Board selects a project to use the PHS levy. This project was recommended by BLDD this past fall for tuckpointing. Operations funds will cover the costs after the \$225,000. This will work in for the final recommendation of the levy in December. Dave Maguire asked about the timing. President Oldfield said we would like for it to be in this budget year and is best a summer project.

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 adopted the PHS (Protection, Health, Safety) Project Resolution in the amount of \$225,000 for the tuckpointing of exterior walls of buildings at the Canton Campus. Funds will be available in 2026 from the upcoming PHS tax levy and Operations budget.

- 2.2.3 Approve a job order contract with CORE Construction, Peoria, Illinois in the amount of \$425,975 to complete the construction of the Macomb HVAC Lab. DCEO grant funds will be used for this contract.

President Oldfield presented this item and said CORE's work is already preapproved by the State. This work would complete the construction for the Macomb HVAC lab. We have 3 rounds of DCEO funds from the power plant closures and anticipate using the remainder of Year 2 funds for this project. That work would be completed prior to enrollments next fall.

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 a job order contract with CORE Construction, Peoria, Illinois in the amount of \$425,975 to complete the construction of the Macomb HVAC Lab. DCEO grant funds will be used for this contract.

- 2.2.4 Approve the purchase of welding equipment for the Macomb Campus Welding Lab (welders, welding booths, fume extractor, and equipment materials) from Airgas, Galesburg, Illinois in the amount of \$39,540.82. Funds for this purchase are available in the CEJA grant.

President Oldfield presented this item and explained that in order for us to expand the Macomb welding program, we need to purchase these additional items and then have equal lab space in Macomb and Canton. Airgas has a contract through the Higher Ed Cooperative, so we did not have to go for bid.

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 purchase of welding equipment for the Macomb Campus Welding Lab (welders, welding booths, fume extractor, and equipment materials) from Airgas, Galesburg, Illinois in the amount of \$39,540.82. Funds for this purchase are available in the CEJA grant.

## 2.3 Institutional Planning

- Assessment Report – Shelli Stuart presented the Assessment report.

Following the report, President Oldfield said he thinks it is important for the Trustees to know the co-curricular assessment is very important and the involvement of club advisors and coaches to work that in as well. There are skills to work with students on co-competencies. Shelli said recognizing the opportunities that are provided to students are important. Analyzing the activity is important as well. John Biernbaum said part of this is recognizing growth. President Oldfield said with coaches it is important to do pre and post season reviews. Our men's basketball team members mentor local junior high school students, and the coach has talked about the growth of our students that resulted from working with young students. Phillip Murphy asked if HLC provides guidance. Shelli said they do not. It looks different at every institution. Shelli said as long as you can explain and provide examples, it's good. President Oldfield said no two assessment plans are every alike.

The Board thanked Shelli for her leadership.

## 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 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, November 19, 2025, adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

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Kevin Meade, Chair

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Date

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Linda Butler, Secretary