

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

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 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, January 28, 2026 at 6 p.m., at the Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B, 23235 N. Co. 22, 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
	Phil Murphy
	Kent Schleich
	Logan Booth

Members Absent:

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; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation; Raj Siddaraju, Chief Information Officer; Katey Davis, Director, Business Services; Sarah Dalpiaz, Math Faculty; Alison Roxburgh, Physics Faculty; Jamie Kotewa, Art Faculty; Eric Kotewa; and Kaley Barbknecht, Coordinator, Academic Services/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 December 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the December 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

ICCTA, since the first of the year, has been responding to numerous inquiries about new legislation that gone into effect. In addition, the association in conjunction with the Presidents Council, has been developing legislation to further the community college agenda. Staff is currently planning our participation at the Community College National Legislative Summit in less than two weeks that will take place in Washington, D.C. February 8-11.

I should mention that one of the new laws now in place will require elected community college trustees to take an oath before taking office. This will only affect newly elected or appointed trustees. During our meeting in Washington the association will be recognizing former ICCTA staff member and Macomb native Kim Villanova who recently became the new President of NOW.

Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel, reported that the Legislature recently had another uneventful week with just the House in town. The House Dems were in caucus for a lengthy amount of time. There are a lot of rumors as to what they could possibly be discussing, but best guess is to discuss the Governor's insurance bill that failed to get enough votes during veto session. HB 3799 sits on postponed consideration in the House on a motion to concur with the Senate. After this week, the House doesn't return until February 17 and the Senate has scheduled session beginning February 3rd

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 will be the Governor's Budget Address and State of the State address. There has been a lot of discussion due to a projected 2.2 billion deficit driven by economic volatility and federal funding uncertainty. ICCB has recommended a 3% increase in funding for community colleges. The Community College Lobby Day will be during the first week in May with adjournment deadline set for Sunday May 31, 2026.

As a reminder, the 2026 ICCTA Awards & Scholarship Nominations are now open and posted on the ICCTA Awards page. Nominations are due on February 27 & March 27, 2026.

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.

Our March ICCTA meetings and trustee education seminar will be held on March 21, 2026 at Moraine Valley Community College. The seminar will cover Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Logan Booth presented the following report:

Congratulations to the students who were named to the academic honor lists for Fall 2025:

President's list with a grade point average of 3.6 or higher-177 fulltime students and 63 part-time students.

Dean's list with a grade point average of 3.0-3.59-102 fulltime students and 44 part-time students.

We were excited to kick off the Spring 2026 semester last week. The hallways were filled with students, and to celebrate the start of the new term, grab 'n go snacks were available throughout the first week.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Burg presented the following report:

- Deposits since December 15th: \$68,126.91
- The tax letters for donors went out this week.
- Dual Credit Spring awards have been applied to student accounts.
- The main scholarship application is open until March 1st.
- A big thank you to JB for setting up a meeting between our department and Tim Halinan from WIU's Foundation. We came away from that meeting with some solid notes on how to level up our next big giving day. Since then, we met with Give Campus to let them know what we are thinking and expect some price quotes later this week.
- Saturday February 7th is the basketball game to honor alumni.
- We are currently in the process of sending out progress/thank you letters from scholarship recipients to the scholarship representatives.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

Dave Maguire presented an article that mentions Spoon River College. The article is about the ongoing collaboration between Spoon River College and the Macomb School District in creating a career and technical education center.

President Oldfield spoke more to this article stating the idea began as a way to keep career and technical talent in the region and provide a pathway for high school students. Curt has been in an ongoing conversation with Macomb School District 185 Superintendent Patrick Twomey. President Oldfield continued the discussion of the partnership stating there have been talks with the college's attorney, Robin Schwartz, and that we are looking into utilizing Spoon River College property for the facility.

There was continued discussion amongst the Board of Trustees.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield thanked Kaley Barbknecht for stepping in with minutes while Julie is out of office.

President Oldfield reported on the Spring 2026 enrollment stating that we are tracking slightly increase from last year. He stated that although male enrollment is up, female enrollment has decreased.

President Oldfield asked the Board to review a Memo provided by Sarah Gray in regards to FY27 tuition in SharePoint. Tuition options will be discussed at the February Board meeting.

Lastly, President Oldfield reported that the J1 migration process is on target and thanked Sarah Gray and Raj Siddaraju on their work heading this project.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of January 2026:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$622,305.25
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	\$422,580.52
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	\$13,577.85
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	\$1,578.12
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	\$463,217.62
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	--
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>9,676.85</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,532,936.21

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 January 2026:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$622,305.25
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	\$422,580.52
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	\$13,577.85
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	\$1,578.12
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	\$463,217.62
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	--
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>9,676.85</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,532,936.21

2.2.2 Accept the General Audit as prepared by Wipfli, LLP, for FY25

President Oldfield introduced, Senior Audit Manager, Sara McKenna to the Board. Sara oversees the financial statement audit.

Sarah McKenna presented the following Auditor's Report:

- Independent Auditor's Report on the Basic Financial Statements
 - Clean "unmodified" opinion on financial statements
- ICCB Opinions (2)
 - State Adult Education and Family Literacy Grants - Clean "unmodified" opinion and no compliance findings
 - Credit Hour Data - Clean "unmodified" opinion on compliance
- Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards
 - No findings on internal controls over financial reporting or non-federal compliance.
- Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Program and on Internal Control over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance.
 - Major Programs: Student Financial Aid (SFA) Cluster
 - Qualified aka "modified" opinion on direct and material compliance requirement "Special Tests and Provisions"

Sarah McKenna then reviewed the Financial Analysis:

- Total Assets increased \$8.4M
 - Capital assets increased \$72.4M
- Total liabilities increased \$3.9M

- Bonded debt, net of premiums increased \$3.3M due \$5.2M issue of new bonds and \$2.1M of principal payments
- Total deferred inflows of resources decreased \$7.1 M
 - Deferred inflows related to OPEB (College Insurance Plan) decreased \$7.1M due to changes in actuary assumptions.
- Net non-operating revenues decreased \$2.4M
 - Replacement taxes decreased \$672K
 - State grants decreased \$296K
 - Federal grants decreased \$725K due to the Economic Adjustment Assistance grant ending in FY25
 - Investment income decreased \$486K

Sara McKenna presented and reviewed the Revenue by Source for 2025 and highlighted the top 3: property taxes, student tuition and fees, and federal grants. She also presented and reviewed the Expenses by Function for 2025 and highlighted the top 3: instruction, institutional support, and depreciation expense. In addition, Sara presented and reviewed credit hours and property tax rates.

Sara McKenna presented the notes to financial statement highlights:

- Note 2- Cash and Investments (pg 31)
 - ALL deposits were collateralized
- Note 3-Capital Assets (pg 32)
 - Additions totaled \$14.3M mostly related to the CTE/Nursing Building Renovation
- Note 4-Debt (pg 34)
 - Issued \$5.2M of new bonds and \$1.2M of new software subscription liability
 - \$2.5M of principal paid on all long-term debts
- Note 5 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan (pg 40)
 - SURS net pension liabilities remain at the State level.
 - Defined benefit net pension liability attributable to the College is \$43.5M
- Note 7 - Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) (pg 47)
 - College Insurance Program (CIP)
 - Net OPEB liability is split 50/50 with the State
 - Net OPEB liability attributable to the College is \$4.2M with \$2.1M being reported on College's financial statements.
- Note 14-Accounting Changes and Error Corrections (pg 63)
 - New note restatement related to GASB Statement No 101, Compensated Absences

Sara McKenna ended her presentation reviewing the Federal Compliance Audit:

- Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (pg 776)
 - FY2025 - \$3.4M of federal expenditures
 - Increases
 - SFA Cluster increased \$207K
 - Decreases
 - \$17.307 Economic Adjustment Assistance decreased \$813K (NEW in FV24)
 - \$93.575 Early Childhood Grant decreased \$257K
 - FY2024 - \$4.3M of federal expenditures
- Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (pgs 778-779)
 - No questioned costs
 - Finding 2025-001 Special Tests and Provisions - NSLDS Reporting

- 11 instance (out of 25 students tested) in which the enrollment status change was not reported correctly to NSLDS.
- College's corrective action plan is included on pages 120-722

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

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 is a call for Closed Session, and there will not be action following.

5.0 Following a motion by Dave Maguire for the following purposes: 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; seconded by Lina Butler, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees adjourned to Closed Session for the following purposes: 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, at 6:53pm.

The Spoon River College Board of Trustees returned to Open Session at 7:24 p.m.

6.0 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, January 28, 2026, adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Jerry Cremer, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary