

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 6 p.m.
Spoon River College, Havana Center, Room 100
324 East Randolph, Havana, Illinois

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 6 p.m., at the Havana Campus, Havana 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
Jerry Cremer
Dave Maguire
Kevin Meade
Kent Schleich

Absent: Linda Butler, Phil Murphy, and Logan Booth

Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Melissa Miller, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation; and Kaley Barbknecht, 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 February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

ICCTA's meetings this past weekend were hosted by Moraine Valley Community College. Moraine Valley is in Palos Hills located on the southwest side of Cook County on a 300-acre campus with about 19,000 students. It is always good to see how the other half live.

In addition to our regular meetings and trustee roundtable, educational seminar sessions were held on Friday afternoon covering Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity. Based upon what we heard in the sessions Artificial Intelligence is going to have a direct effect on what we provide in education, how that will be provided and how the future of work as we know it is going to change. Colleges will need to be adapting to this new changing environment.

During our meeting we had an update on several items of pending legislation in the current session. Budget continues to be the major concern at this point. There was some discussion about House Bill 5135 as it proposes to remove the maximum reimbursement rate per credit hour for community colleges allegedly allowing for more tuition assistance to flow to in-state adult learners pursuing their education. It is currently still under consideration in the House. There was also an update on progress being made on the Community College Bachelorette Degree legislation.

We were told that Governor Pritzker by Executive Order has established a Postsecondary Attainment Working Group. The Working Group is to recommend a statewide goal for postsecondary degrees and workforce credentials. The effort is aimed at aligning higher education and training programs with Illinois' future workforce needs. The Group includes representatives from several state agencies, including the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB), as well as advisory members from other agencies. Findings and recommendations are due to the governor by December 1, 2026.

We were advised about key dates from each legislative chamber's calendar:

Mar. 27, 2026: House - HB Substantive Committee Deadline

Apr. 17, 2026: House/Senate - First Chamber - Third Reading Deadline

May 8, 2026: House/Senate - Second Chamber - Substantive Committee Deadline

May 22, 2026: House/Senate - Second Chamber - Third Reading Deadline

May 31, 2026: Adjournment

Our Community College Lobby Day will be Wednesday, May 6, in Springfield, which will be prime time for action on pending legislation. ICCTA will also hold its regular meetings following the Lobby Day activities.

Student Lobby Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2026 the same day as the All-Illinois PTK Student Recognition Banquet. It is another opportunity for community colleges to influence action on pending legislation that affects our colleges and our students.

Round Two of the 2026 ICCTA Awards & Scholarships are due THIS FRIDAY, March 27, 2026! It is our annual opportunity to celebrate the outstanding individuals and programs that make a meaningful impact on Illinois community college education

Additionally, ACCT will be having the Central Region Meeting by Zoom platform on Wednesday April 8, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting is open to all member colleges from Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Minnesota, Michigan Ohio and Wisconsin.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

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

Macon Kessler has been elected to serve as the 2026-27 SRC student trustee. Macon is from Rushville and a 2025 graduate of Rushville-Industry High School. Macon is majoring in Ag Business at SRC.

After a season with a lot of roster changes, the Speech and Debate Team wrapped up competition in late February at its largest tournament of the year. The event included 64 teams and 483 entries, making it a very competitive field and a tough path to the elimination rounds. While we did not advance this time, the team is already building momentum for next season. Preparation is underway, including early event development for two students—a returning Snapper softball player and a new team member who previously served as captain of her high school speech team.

Coach Kirk is looking forward to continued growth and a strong showing next season.

The Kaleidoscope student editors have been hard at work promoting our lit journal for submissions, voting on creative works for the new issue, and working with PIP Publishers (Peoria) to design and create the forthcoming spring issue. They are planning for a release party on the Canton campus (Coffee Spoon) on Tuesday, April 21st from 2-3:30pm. All are invited!

Athletic Updates:

Bowling concluded their season and finished 10th at Nationals as a team.

Esports hosted a high school tournament on the Canton Campus More than 60 esports team members competed in games which included Mario Cart, Super Smash Bros, Madden, and Rocket League.

Baseball and softball are in full swing! Congratulations to softball pitcher Jessica Ketola for being named NJCAA Region 24 Player of the Week and NJCAA D1 Pitcher of the Week. She also set a new school record with 17 strikeouts in a single game!

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Berg presented the following report:

- Deposits since February 19th: \$22,810.99
- The main scholarship application closed March 1st. Our awarding committee meeting is tomorrow. Thank you to those who volunteered to attend the high school award nights.
- The Fellheimer Scholarship Application is open for Spring '26. That closes on March 20th.
- The Dual Credit Scholarship Application for Fall '26 will open on March 1st and run until April 30th.
- In cooperation with the president's cabinet, I have been working on a rolling scholarship application. The purpose being to allow students who register late or take classes that don't fit within the normal semester schedule like CNA, EMT, or CDL training. This also allows us to give scholarships that weren't awarded in the normal schedule a second chance to be matched with a student.

- Michelle and I have begun a professional development training focused on One Day Giving Fundraisers hosted by the Tracy Foundation. We have attended two sessions so far, and I think we have a few ideas that we can apply.
- We have begun planning a Founders' Day Fundraiser for October 15th. This will be in lieu of GivingSpoonDay. We will have that day be a reference point for our year end appeal, but feel that Founders' Day will make it so we are competing with every other nonprofit. We are currently reaching out to bigger donors to get their input and give them advanced notice.
- All materials are over to Rescigno's for our spring appeal. That should be going out around April 15th.
- We have also gotten all information for our impact report over to Vickie in marketing to be included in The Bridge. That goes to all homes in the district. She also has a list of donors who live outside the district that will be receiving it.

John Biernbaum made the comment that he likes the idea of Founder's Day.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

Kevin Meade made the comment that the presidential forums held today went well. He announced the Presidential Search Profile will be approved by the Board through a Special Meeting tomorrow.

Kevin Meade commented on the college's Facebook posts. He said that they look spruced up and he is impressed with them.

There were no additional comments from the Board Members.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield reported on the college's new hire Samantha Sensor, our new part time LRC office assistant on the Macomb campus. She is currently working on attaining her Bachelorette and she is an SRC alum. She is replacing Lilian Powel who moved to our adult education department.

President Oldfield shared that the college hosted Pizza with the Prez today and yesterday. He wanted to thank Trio and HR staff for helping serve.

President Oldfield reminded the Board of the PTK banquet being held in April. RSVPs are due today. He also reminded the Board of the President's Reception being held on April 30th to recognize our donors. Lastly, he reminded the Board to keep an eye out for the Bridge. The Bridge is the college's yearly magazine. The college hopes to have this published by the middle of April. It is a great publication that highlights the great work happening at the college.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of March:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$665,131.25
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	\$558,904.66
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	\$9,620.86
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	\$-0-
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	\$-0-
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	\$-0-

Item	Amount
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>\$645,753.37</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,879,410.14

- 2.2.2 Approve a bid from Bradfield’s Inc, Peoria IL, of \$27,645 to update the Multipurpose Building sound system.

The funding for this project will be covered by the SRC Tech Bond and the Foundation.

This system was originally in the MPB specification but was trimmed. This new system will improve the sound system. The project is projected to be completed before graduation.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved a bid from Bradfield’s Inc, Peoria IL, of \$27,645 to update the Multipurpose Building sound system.

2.3 Institutional Planning

- Havana Center Update – Stephanie Howerter, Havana Center Director, presented the following report:

Note: 11 years as Havana Director, currently in my 12th year; 26th year with the college

Volunteer Opportunities to Promote SRC & the Havana Center

- Currently serving on the Havana Chamber of Commerce Board; serving as Co-Treasurer
- Serve on the Early Childhood Council
- Attend the quarterly Havana Business Group meetings.
- Attend the quarterly Mason County Coordinating Council meetings. Meetings are held at SRC Havana Center; currently serving as Co-Treasurer of the Council
- Volunteer with the Mason District Hospital Auxiliary and deliver Meals on Wheels
- Scorekeeper for school sports (HS, sometimes JH), attend HS games

Promotion of SRC within the Community & Business Community *Community*

- * Downtown Trick or Treat (over 450 bags given out with info about SRC/ GED registration)
- * Served on the planning committee for the Mason County Rural Big Table Event held in November; represented SRC during the event
- * Early Childhood Council events (Fall & Spring)
 - Event held March 19 and upcoming event April 23
- * Health Fairs (Spring)
 - Community Fair was held March 17 (22 attendees)
 - Information on registration for transfer/CTE, adult ed, and community education courses are shared
 - Scheduled for April 10 at HJHS (100 attendees)
 - Information registration for transfer/CTE, adult ed, and communication education courses were shared
- * Kindergarten Orientation
 - Information on registration for transfer/CTE and adult ed courses are shared

Business Community

- * Upcoming registration information, college events and community education programs/courses shared at quarterly Havana Business Group meeting and Mason County Coordinating Council group meetings
- * Havana Chamber shares program/course information via email and their Facebook page
- * Attend and represent SRC at BAH events
- * Attended the City of Havana Standing Committee meeting on March 2; member of the Economic Development/ TIF District Standing Committee

Business Training

- * CNDUIT may utilize the Havana Center to hold interviews to staff their facility
RENTALS for In-House Business Trainings
- * Fresh Start Academy/ Menta (staff training; 90 staff; included employees from Havana & Beardstown locations) August 2025; looking at more rentals in month of April
- * IL River Biological Station (field crew training; 30-40 staff; includes staff from IRBS, EIU, SIU, IL Dept. of Natural Resources and Fish & Wildlife Services) scheduled for April 24
- * Rental for October 2026 was booked in February

Havana High School

- Represented SRC, along with Beth Wilson, at the Portrait of a Graduate meeting; *explain what POG is*
- Attended the follow-up meeting for the Portrait of a Graduate in a dual capacity, SRC & parent of HHS student; helped select the four pillars they will utilize for program
- Joined Beth Wilson for Dual Credit meeting on March 11
- Volunteered to present at the school on March 20 during their *Futures Day* event
- April 9 – register graduating seniors and dual credit students
- Represent the SRC Foundation at the HHS Senior Awards; May 8 Senior Awards Day

GED Successes

- FY 25: 8 completers (graduates) and 43 sections passed
- FY 26: **AUG – NOW:** 11 completers (graduates) and 55 sections passed (through 3/24/2026)

Current & Upcoming Events

- Represent SRC during the Conservation and Natural Resources Pathways discussion being held April 2 at SRC Havana; those attending include IRBS, FWS, IDNR, Emiquon, Dickson Mounds, UIS/UofI, Dickson Mounds and HHS
- Partnering with UofI Extension (UC) and All in Wellness Counseling based in Havana to provide Adult Mental Health First Aid for the Ag Community on Friday, April 24
- Serving on the planning committee for the Foundation event, Mrs. Roper's Romp, in Havana scheduled for May 9
- Partnering with HHS to offer life-skills classes (cooking) at the school; offer first class in August (Freezer meals)

Looking ahead

- NA 110 back in Havana for Summer 2026 & Fall 2026 in partnership with MDH & SRC; collaboration with HHS as well
- Summer Youth Programming dates are set (June 16 & June 17) classes are being developed
- Develop retention/student activities for 2026-2027 at the Havana Center Scheduled to teach in Fall 2026 (RDG099 & ENG090)

Goals 2026-2027

- To continue working with Havana District 126

- To continue assisting businesses with training and promoting course/ program opportunities to them
- To continue to promote SRC to those inquiring about or renting space at the Center

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- President's Annual Self-Evaluation Letter

President Oldfield informed the Board that they could view his Annual Self-Evaluation Letter on SharePoint

President Oldfield recommended to the Board that they consider not finishing the Evaluation. He asked them to take into consideration that Julie Hampton is still out on leave and the position is being filled by another employee with duties of their own.

3.1 Approval of Board of Trustees 2026-2027 Budget

The Board reviewed a snapshot of the current budget, excluding the presidential search line. It was discussed what each line is used for. The travel line is used for any Board member travel including Dave and student trustee travel. The Supplies line is for Board meeting meals and other meeting expenses. The Dues line is mainly for ICCTA. ICCTA will be held in Chicago next year.

The Board will keep the FY 2027 budget the same as the budget used in 2025-2026.

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 Board of Trustees 2026-2027 Budget.

- 4.0 CLOSED SESSION. In accordance with the Illinois Meetings Act, Section 2 (c), the Board of trustees will adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of 1). The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; or 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.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by John Biernbaum, seconded by Jerry Cremer, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, (date), adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Kevin Meade, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary