

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

Wednesday, July 22, 2026, 6 p.m.

Spoon River College, Macomb Outreach Center, Rooms A and B
2500 East Jackson, Macomb, Illinois

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 6 p.m., at the Macomb Outreach Center, 2500 East Jackson, Macomb, 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
Dave Maguire
Kevin Meade
Phil Murphy
Kent Schleich
Macon Kessler

Members Absent:

Jerry Cremer

Present: Holly Norton, Interim President and Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Melissa Miller, Dean, Career and Technical Education; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Hannah Neuendorf, Director, Human Resources; Mike Strauman, Chief Operations and Safety Officer; Raj Siddaraju, Chief Information Officer; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Michelle Howe, Interim Director, Foundation; Katey Davis, Director, Business Services.

Also Present: Dr. Shelley Barkley

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 June 24, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved June 24, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Dave Maguire presented the following report:

During the summer there is not much on the ICCTA agenda. Like the community colleges, ICCTA starts its new year on July 1st. Trustee Shawn Boldt from Highland Community College is now serving as President of ICCTA. He has asked me to serve on the ICCTA Executive Committee for another year. He will be hosting the annual planning session August 6-8 in lovely Freeport, Illinois. The meeting is to set the direction for ICCTA for the coming year. I understand that as part of their Highland Community College tour they are including a brief visit to "Little Cubs Field," Freeport's miniature version of Wrigley Field.

ICCTA is distributing information about the upcoming election cycle. Trustee elections will be held on Tuesday April 6, 2027 as part of the spring Illinois Consolidated Elections.

ICCTA has posted a 2026 End-Of-Session Recap from the spring session. The Governor is in the process of acting on legislation that was passed during the session, spending most of the summer using various venues for signing opportunities.

The General Assembly is scheduled to return November 17-19 and December 1-3, 2026, with a strong probability of a Lame Duck session before the January 13, 2027, inauguration of the 105th General Assembly. Given the number of major issues left unresolved during the regular session, the remaining days of the 104th General Assembly could very well rival a regular session in scope and significance.

The next meeting of the Board of Representative will be September 18-19, 2026 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Student Trustee, Macon Kessler, presented the following report:

Next week marks the conclusion of the Summer 2026 semester, as students complete their coursework and final exams.

Preparations for the Fall 2026 semester are well underway. Nursing students will begin orientation on August 17th, followed by New Student Orientation on August 18th in Macomb and August 19th in Canton.

The volleyball team begins practice August 3rd with official competition starting August 20th.

Fall cross country practice begins on August 17th. Their first meet is September 4th at University of Illinois-Springfield.

The Athletic Department will host a cookout and orientation for student-athletes and their families on August 22nd.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Michelle Howe, Interim Director, Foundation, presented the following report:

- Foundation Deposits since June 17 totaled \$48,508.99
- The Foundation gave out four hardship grants this month so far – A total of \$1850.
- We've received two applications for Innovative Mini Grants this month – those applications are awaiting approval or denial by the board.
- Bob Reading's plaque in honor of instructor Daisy Coty is fixed and is on display on the bench next to the Multipurpose Building.
- Michelle and Melissa Miller met with Compeer Financial along with other SRC staff/faculty on Thursday, July 9. Compeer has hired a new Senior Corporate Giving Relationship Specialist, so they are making trips around Illinois and Wisconsin to the colleges they support. Each year, we receive a grant of \$2,500 from Compeer for two agriculture student scholarships. They are interested in partnering with nursing/health careers programs in the future to support rural health.
- This week we learned that the Fellheimer Trust out of Wesley United Methodist Church has granted us \$20,000 to use for the Fellheimer Scholarship for this next academic year.
- Dual Credit applications were due July 1 to the Foundation. We were able to give out 63 dual credit scholarships for \$75 each. This fall we had 84 applications for assistance, but we had to prioritize financial need and our dual credit budget. Therefore, we weren't able to award to everyone who applied.
- The rolling scholarship application has been a success for students who late applied to SRC, including athletes being recruited to our school.
- We continue to make final plans for the 33rd Annual SRC Foundation Golf Outing on August 7. We have 30 teams registered and have raised \$26,250.
- Save the date for the Alumni Volleyball Scrimmage on August 15 at 1:00 p.m. This is a partnership between athletics and the alumni association to bring together former SRC volleyball players to scrimmage with the current team.
- If you have nominations for SRC Alumni Awards, please fill out the nomination form on our SRC Alumni website. So far, we have a nomination for an Alumni Achievement Award and one nomination for a Outstanding Leadership and Service award.
- The Foundation hosted another Arboretum Clean Up Day on June 25. The group was able to remove the remaining benches in the arboretum around the stage. Lindsay Larson is now leading this project for us.
- The Foundation is making plans for our first ever Founders' Day fundraiser on October 15. Earlier today, Michelle met with Give Campus to start designing our Founders' Day landing page.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

Holly Norton reported that the college is finishing up their summer session this Thursday and all grades are due August 3rd.

She also reported that the fall 2026 semester will begin August 24th. The college has been busy preparing for that, such as orientation faculty assembly, and part time faculty kick off.

Holly reported that CORE Construction has designated August 17th as their start date for the construction of the new Macomb Flexible Learning Center.

In addition, the final comment review for the 50% Civil Design on the unfinished portion of the Macomb parking lot was just received. Mike hopes this will be completed next spring.

Holly reported on new employees and changes. With Michael Maher's retirement, a new chair was appointed. Becky Leverette will be the new chair for Social and Behavioral Science

departments. The college hired a new men assistant basketball coach, Matthew Gallagher. He has worked with the current head coach, Patrick Montague, previously. Mathew is from Chicago and will be moving to the area.

Lastly, Holly reported that the college has noticed quite an influx of Hardship Grant applicants. Holly wanted to give a shout-out to the staff members who worked diligently with a student who was about to be evicted with young children and was literally walking to the campus to attend classes.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of July, 2026:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$ 632,813.93
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	\$493,365.02
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	\$13,251.49
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	\$633.66
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	\$219,144.28
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	\$-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	\$98,801.69
TOTAL:	\$1,458,010.07

Following a motion by Linda Butler, 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 July, 2026:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$632,813.93
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	\$493,365.02
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	\$13,251.49
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	\$633.66
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	\$219,144.28
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	\$-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	\$98,801.69
TOTAL:	\$1,458,010.07

2.2.2 OPENING OF THE 2026-2027 BUDGET HEARING

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the OPENING OF THE 2026-2027 BUDGET HEARING.

2.2.3 CLOSING OF THE 2026-2027 BUDGET HEARING

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved CLOSING OF THE 2026-2027 BUDGET HEARING.

2.2.4 Approve the Resolution for the Approval of the 2026-2027 Budget

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Resolution for the Approval of the 2026-2027 Budget.

2.2.5 Appointment of Employment Law Consultant: engage the firm of Robbins Schwartz, Chicago, Illinois, through June 30, 2027 to provide services and advice concerning matters pertaining to employment law.

There was clarification that Law Consultant Robbins Schwartz covers all areas of the college, not just employment law

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Employment Law Consultant: engage the firm of Robbins Schwartz, Chicago, Illinois, through June 30, 2027 to provide services and advice concerning matters pertaining to employment law.

2.3 Institutional Planning

2.3.1 Approve Presidential Employment Contract

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Presidential Employment Contract.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

It was brought to the Board's attention that there is a property owner who is interested in turning the Heritage into college housing in Canton. The Board discussed this topic observing that the college cannot own housing property, but that we are in need of it. The property in question is being remodeled with the hope that it will be used for SRC student housing. It was also discussed that the foundation could have some involvement.

The Board also discussed the demolition of the E Jackson St house in Macomb. The college is still in the bidding process

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 Linda Butler, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, July 22, adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Date

Jerry Cremer, Chair

Linda Butler, Secretary