MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SPOON RIVER COLLEGE

Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 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, June 24, 2026, 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
Phil Murphy
Kent Schleich
Macon Kessler

Members Absent:

Present: Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services and Interim President; 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; Amy Rutledge, Faculty, Biology; Bridget Loftus, Faculty, Chemistry; Vickie Parry, Director, Marketing; Katey Davis, Director, Business Services; Kaley Barbknecht, Coordinator, Academic Services; 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 May 27, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved May 27, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Dave Maguire presented the following report:

ICCTA held its Annual Convention and awards recognition in Lombard early this month. The meeting included a trustee seminar on expanding degree pathways with data about job postings by region throughout the state.

During the Board of Representatives meeting we were update on the recent actions by the Illinois Legislature.

The General Assembly passed a $55.9 billion budget for FY2027.

- Includes 1% increase for unrestricted operating support.
- Maintains the Monetary Award Program at more than $721 million, the largest MAP appropriation in state history.
- $100 million for community colleges for renovations and deferred maintenance.
- Continues funding for dual credit, non-credit workforce community college programs and Early Childhood

House and Senate bills of interest to community colleges include:

- HB5319 - Community College Baccalaureate Degrees
- FY27 PATH Funding
- SB2715 – at modifies the FOIA
- HB5093 - changes determination of residency status for community college tuition
- SB20 - Cannabis Community College Vocational Pilot Program

There was also a reviewed of Federal Funding opportunities released by the Dept. of Education with a June 23, 2026 deadline. They included:

- Strengthening Institutions Program ($366mill)
- Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program ($10mill)
- Rural Postsecondary & Economic Development Grant ($45mill)
- Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success ($9mill)
- Open Textbook Pilot Program ($7mill)

Our meeting concluded with the election of the new ICCTA officers for 2026-2027:

- Shawn Boldt (Highland): President
- Bob Hammon (Kishwaukee College): Vice President
- Amanda Howland (College of Lake County); Secretary
- Laura Wedekemper (Kaskaskia College); Treasurer

Of final note, Jim Reed, ICCTA Executive Director mentioned that with as many changes in college leadership occurring, his office does provide a president transition which several colleges have taken advantage of. During the conference, ACCT President Jee Hang Lee noted that ACCT this year will be providing for member colleges to be included in a drawing for one of at least 20 colleges for a complimentary board retreat or workshop. The deadline to enter is August 2, 2026.

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

There were no items to present for the month of June

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

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

- Michelle Howe is serving as interim director of the SRC Foundation until September 1.
- Foundation deposits since May 19 totaled $33,185.22.
- The SRC Foundation Golf Outing scheduled for August 7 has 25 teams registered, and we've raised over $22,000 so far. Our goal is to reach $30,000 by the end of the event.
- Carl has been processing general scholarship acceptance letters and thank you letters to donors. Our new policy is to get thank you letters in the mail within 48 hours of receiving a donation.
- The Dual Credit scholarship application closes on July 1.
- The Rolling Scholarship application is now available for students. When we get applications, we will look at available scholarships and see if the student matches the criteria. This scholarship is an alternative for students who do not make the deadline for the typical scholarship timeline. The funds not used for other scholarship are what make the funds for the Rolling Scholarship.
- Brianna & Chase Strantz, SRC Alumni from 2018, set up a $1000 flow-through scholarship designed to help students studying business, math, education, and agriculture. Brianna is a math teacher at Illini Bluffs and Chase works in accounting for Caterpillar.
- We've been working with Give Campus, our online donation system, to upgrade our features. For our Founders' Day event on October 15, the online page will look more modern, will include a donation map, showcase donation challenges/matches, and much more.
- The Summer Appeal through Rescignos will be dropping in July or August. This appeal Features Colton Downs, the Canton High School Agriculture teacher and SRC alum.
- We are hosting another Arboretum Clean Up Day on June 25 to remove the remaining benches, clear out invasive species, and fix parts of the stage.
- Danielle Cheatam and Michelle are working on a Volleyball Alumni Game scheduled for August 15.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

John Biernbaum gave a shout out to the Chair, Kevin Meade, and the presidential search committee. He stated that a lot of moving parts went into the search and he thought it went very smooth. He thanked all who put the hours in.

Jerry Cremer also thanked the committee.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

Holly Norton shared that our mid-cycle report was due to our HLC review committee on June 15th. Over the next month, the committee will review the report, ask questions, and request additional information. Asking for examples and clarification. While the report involved all aspects of the college and involved many faculty and staff, I would like to thank Lucas Buchen, Chad Murphy, Missy Wilkinson, and Lisa Dennis for their contributions and collaboration in meeting the deadline and submitting a quality report.

Holly also stated that work on the J1 Implementation continues under Raj Sidda's leadership. This is a monumental task of building the system from the ground up and has also included many staff hours in attending training, planning meetings, and developing the system. The end of July is when we will be doing our first of three data evaluations.

Holly introduced two new staff changes. Grace Zeithammer is our new social media content creator and Sarah Bowton, who has moved from the Nursing Office Assistant to Healthcare Career Programs Coordinator.

Holly also stated that the FY27 Budget Proposal has been posted in SharePoint for your review. It is also on display in the Learning Resource Center as required. The Budget Hearing will take place next month, and acceptance of the budget is scheduled for the July Board meeting.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

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

Item	Amount
Payroll	$ 658,874.41
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	$1,014,897.48
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	$13,105.24
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	$617.85
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	$221,187.35
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	$-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	$38,158.35
TOTAL:	**$1,946,840.68**

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 June, 2026:

Item	Amount
Payroll	$ 658,874.41
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	$1,014,897.48
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	$13,105.24
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	$617.85
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Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	$38,158.35
TOTAL:	**$1,946,840.68**

2.2.2 Approve the Food Service Management Services Agreement between the College and Big Cat's Bowls. The agreement will be provided at no cost to the College and is expected to support the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of campus food service operations.

Holly Norton stated that an RFP went out and several vendors applied and Big Cat Bowls was the vendor chosen. There is one full-time cafeteria position that will be affected and decisions are still being made. This partnership with Big Cat Bowls will be a one-year contract.

Sarah Gray stated that this idea and decision was made by the Operation Excellence committee. The committee has been working hard on stretching the dollar. We want to always provide a food service. There is also a possibility they will cater games with a food truck

Phil Murphy asked what the menu will be. Sarah Gray stated the menu will most likely change to the vendor's preference, but they are willing to learn the espresso machine.

Jerry Cremer asked if the contract included our equipment. Sarah Gray replied that they will be using our equipment and the contract askes that they keep the equipment in good working order.

Linda Butler asked if they are allowed to bring their own equipment. Sarah Gray said yes they can provide any additional equipment.

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 approved the Food Service Management Services Agreement between the College and Big Cat's Bowls.

2.2.3 Approve a contract in the amount of $227,062.00 to Unland Insurance (Wright Specialty) for property, auto, general liability, cyber, school board legal liability, crime, excess crime, treasurer's bond, and professional student medical malpractice insurance effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Funds are available in the Tort Fund.

Holly Norton stated that there was an 8.7% increase and all plans and deductibles remain the same.

Dave Maguire asked if there was change in the Worker's Comp. Sarah Gray stated that there are several claims still open, resulting in the higher cost.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved a contract in the amount of $227,062.00 to Unland Insurance (Wright Specialty) for property, auto, general liability, cyber, school board legal liability, crime, excess crime, treasurer's bond, and professional student medical malpractice insurance effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

2.2.4 Approve a contract in the amount of $39,882 to Accident Fund for Worker's Compensation insurance effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Funds are available in the Tort Fund.

Holly Norton stated that there was a 19.2% increase.

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 a contract in the amount of $39,882 to Accident Fund for Worker's Compensation insurance effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

2.3 Institutional Planning

2.3.1 Approve appointment contract, Interim President

Linda Butler stated that she worked with legal counsel for the interim contract. The contract is in addition to Holly's regular title, pay, and benefits.

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 appointment contract, Interim President.

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 be possible action following.

Dave Maguire made a motion for the Board to go in to Closed Session for the following purposes: 1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; 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; Linda Butler seconded the motion, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, the Spoon River College Board of Trustees adjourned to Closed Session for the following purpose: 1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; 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, at 6:35 p.m.

The Spoon River College Board of Trustees returned to Open Session at 8:08 p.m. There was no action taken following the 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, June 24, 2026, adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Date

Kevin Meade, Chair

Linda Butler, Secretary