MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SPOON RIVER COLLEGE

Wednesday, 6 p.m.
Spoon River College, Canton Campus
Canton, Illinois

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 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 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: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Melissa Miller, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Hannah Neuendorf, Director, Human Resources; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Mike Struaman, Chief Operations And Safety Officer; and Emily Wise, Board of Trustees/Recorder; Dean Clary, Director, Technology Services; Bridget Loftus, Chemistry Faculty; Amy Rutledge, Biology Faculty; Tim Ward; John Tribbey; Ashley Johnson; Elaine Boyd.

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 April 22, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

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 April 22, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

In light of the long agenda, I will keep my report brief. Earlier this month during the ICCTA/Community College Lobby Day in Springfield, President Oldfield and I had the opportunity to meet with all the district's legislators. It was a busy schedule but we were able to speak with Senators Anderson, Halpin, and Tracy as well as Representatives Hammond, Moore and Swanson. We had the opportunity to share with them the concerns of the Spoon River College District as well as leave materials for their review.

The General Assembly's Sunday, May 31, 2026 deadline for the adjournment has been the focus of our association. While there have been budget discussions the actual FY2027 Budget will probably not become public until late night before the Sunday deadline. This will be happening at the same time legislators are trying to get their individual sponsored legislation across the line before adjournment.

Executive Director Jim Reed and Legislative Council Jessica Nardulli have been keeping us advised on last minute pending legislation. The proposed budget includes $56.03 billion in general fund expenditures (a 1.6% increase over the revised FY2026 estimates with a $2.4 billion rainy day fund) It relies on roughly $1.1 billion in new or one-time revenue to sustain spending, as the state faces mounting long-term structural pressures. Again, it is a proposed budget and is far from the final form that will be adopted.

The Community College Baccalaureate Degrees legislation (HB5319) has been referred to House Rules Committee, the Senate version (SB 4034) has been sitting in Assignments Committee since February. Major stumbling blocks seem to have been resolved but it appears the legislation is being used as leverage for other non-related legislation. Anything can happen in the last days of the General Assembly,

In other action, during the May Board of Representatives meeting, the ICCTA FY2027 Budget was, adopted, we heard the report of the nomination committee for officers for the next year to be elected at the June meeting, received reports from ICCB and the Illinois Presidents Council. Of interest is a report at each meeting from a student leader, this meeting features Byron Mccullum, Student Trustee for Joliet Junior College who spoke about his journey as a student trustee.

The next meeting of ICCTA will be in conjunction with the Annual Community College Convention June 5-6, 2026 at the Westin Chicago Lombard. It will include a trustee educational seminar, meeting of the Board of Representatives, the regular meeting of the ICCB and the Presidents Council. This will be when we recognize students, faculty, alumni, business partners and trustees for their service and accomplishments.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Macon Kessler presented the following report:

- Congratulations to all of our Spring 2026 graduates. Nearly 170 graduates participated in this year's in-person commencement ceremony.
- Academic honor lists for Spring 2026 include:
  - President's list w/a grade point average of 3.6 or higher-161 fulltime students and 88 part-time students.
  - Dean's list w/a gpa of 3.0-3.59-95 fulltime students and 52 part-time students.

- Congratulations also to our student athletes who were named award winners for their academic accomplishments:
    - The Midwest Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference honors went to 40 athletes who completed at least 24 semester hours with a minimum of a 3.5 gpa.
    - Additionally, 33 athletes earned National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic All-American status with 14 athletes receiving First Team for a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Curt Oldfield presented the following report on Dusty Berg's behalf. During the May Foundation board meeting it was reported that the Foundation had $370,727.82 in contributions and $19,831.21 in disbursements. Acceptance letters are being returned from scholarship award winners and on-going review of new scholarship applications are being completed. Team and Sponsorship registration is being conducted in preparation of the Foundation Golf Outing that is being held August 7, 2026, at the Wee-Ma-Tuk Country Club.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

Dave Maguire stated that Commencement was wonderful. Shout out to staff for getting deployed husband to surprise graduating nursing student.

Kent Schleich stated that Valley mentioned dual credit students during their graduation. He said that it was great that they gave them a shout out.

There were no additional comments from the Board Members.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield stated that this would be his last Board of Trustees meeting. He thanked the Board and staff. He said that he owes a lot of the longevity of his presidential term to the board and staff. Could not have done it without their support.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

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

Item	Amount
Payroll	$1,004,426.81
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	$309,757.79
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	$16,711.41
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	$1,152.21
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	$225,895.56
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	$ -0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	$38,249.45
TOTAL:	**$1,596,193.23**

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 authorized the following payments for the month of May

Item	Amount
Payroll	$1,004,426.81
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	$309,757.79

Item	Amount
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	$16,711.41
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	$1,152.21
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	$225,895.56
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	$ -0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	$38,249.45
TOTAL:	**$1,596,193.23**

2.2.2 Approve the renewal of a 1-year cleaning contract with Corporate Clean, Bloomington, Illinois, effective July 1, 2026

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the renewal of a 1-year cleaning contract with Corporate Clean, Bloomington, Illinois, effective July 1, 2026

2.2.2 B Approve a letter of intent for a 25-year power purchase agreement for a solar array on the Canton campus with Stone River Strategies LLC.

Mike Stauman stated that this will cause a reduction in voltage but will still provide the college with enough energy. This is the middle ground decision to avoid over production. The smaller voltage size makes this the cheaper option. The addition of solar will give the college annual savings of $28,000 to $35,000. This switch is a low-risk choice

President Oldfield clarified that the college would not own the solar array. This decision will cut power usage in half. If natural disasters happened to the solar equipment, would fall on Stone River Strategies to repair. Approving this would mean the board is interested, then they would come back with next steps. It would be located by the arboretum.

Kevin Meade asked the question what if Ameren price drops? Mike Stauman answered, stating that he highly doubts we would see cheaper prices with Ameren. The College would be locked in after the decision is made with the contract. Kevin Meade followed up by asking if this decision would preclude another Villas building in the future. Mike Strauman responded that there would be enough space left for an additional Villa building. Mike reminded the Board that this action is only approving the letter of intent.

Linda Butler made the comment that she does not think that the solar business will last. She stated that we see businesses like this that go through multiple owners until they eventually fail. She said I am worried that we would get stuck with the solar field. We will need to have a good lawyer. Kent Schleich followed up by asking Mike if he had talked with lawyers or experts in this area. President Oldfield responded that he would have Robin Schwartz research for the college. President Oldfield also stated that this letter of intent is just the start of the process of investigation. It is not a contract. Macon Kessler added that he doesn't think students in the Villas would like a solar field right in their backyard where they spend time.

Following a motion by John Biernbaum, seconded by Linda Butler and a roll call vote of 7 in favor and 1 opposed, the motion passed.

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved a letter of intent for a 25-year power purchase agreement for a solar array on the Canton campus with Stone River Strategies LLC.

2.2.3 Approve the purchase of Sophos Firewall for Canton, Macomb campuses, and Havana center from CDW Government LLC, Chicago in the amount of $31,225.75. This includes five-year maintenance and security subscription. Funds for this purchase are available in the Tech bond.

Curt Oldfield stated that this action is for the purchase of hardware, maintenance, and security.

Dean Clary stated that his team looked at multiple comparative networks and all came out at a higher cost. He also stated that Sophos Firewall connects well with our current systems.

Dave Maguire asked if this software would replace our current software or be an addition. President Oldfield responded, stating that it will replace it and it is more compatible than our current software.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of Sophos Firewall for Canton, Macomb campuses, and Havana center from CDW Government LLC, Chicago in the amount of $31,225.75.

2.2.4 Approve a contract with D&S Private Detective for security services on the Canton and Macomb campuses.

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 a contract with D&S Private Detective for security services on the Canton and Macomb campuses.

2.2.5 Bargaining Unit Labor Contract between the Spoon River College Faculty Association and the Spoon River College Board of Trustees.

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 Bargaining Unit Labor Contract salary reopener between the Spoon River College Faculty Association and the Spoon River College Board of Trustees.

2.2.6 Bargaining Unit Labor Contract between the Spoon River College Classified Personnel Association and the Spoon River College Board of Trustees.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved Bargaining Unit Labor Contract salary reopener between the Spoon River College Classified Personnel Association and the Spoon River College Board of Trustees.

2.2.7 Salary increases for Professional Support Staff (2026-2027)

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 3% salary increases for Professional Support Staff (2026-2027)

2.2.8 Salary increases for Administrators (2026-2027)

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 3% salary increases for Administrators (2026-2027)

2.2.9 Approve the change of the previously published start time of the July 2026 Board of Trustees meeting

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the change of the previously published start time of the July 2026 Board of Trustees meeting to begin at the normal meeting time of 6pm.

2.3 Institutional Planning

2.3.1 Approve the resolution to approve request of Rushville Fitness and Community Center, INC to abate real estate taxes.

Tim Ward presented this item. He first spoke about members of his team and their personal connections with SRC. He then spoke about retailer occupation tax and how it has created issues for their organization and how it threatens their future. He then stated that the Rushville Fitness and Community Center are requesting work with other taxing bodies in Rushville to approve this plan. They would like another 3-year tax exemption. Their preference is to stay independent and locally owned. They want to fulfill commitment to the Rushville community. They have been very successful in building a positive relationship with the community so far. The business needs support while working through this legislative challenge. This will be resolved in the next 3 years.

John Biernbaum stated that he thought last time we went through this was the last time. Tim Ward replied that this is a big facility, it takes about 5 years average to get back on your feet with purchases like this. John Biernbaum replied he is voting reluctantly, all he is hearing is the same thing as last time. Tim Ward replied that politics got in the way, we did not want to have to do this again, but it is the reality. Linda- more of a state problem than an organizational problem. John Biernbaum replied that it is just frustrating because the money could go to SRC students directly.

Tim Ward stated that we will either get this resolved or the business will have to work with YMCA. It could be 50/50 odds of what will happen. Organization will not own if they move forward with YMCA. It will not have the sense of community and relationship like it does now. We have no choice but to figure this issue out within the next 3 years.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the resolution to approve request of Rushville Fitness and Community Center, INC to abate real estate taxes

2.3.2 Accept the retirement of Michael Maher—Full time faculty effective 06/30/2026

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the retirement of Michael Maher—Full time faculty effective 06/30/2026

2.3.3 Accept the retirement of Todd Thompson—Full time faculty effective 06/30/2026

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 retirement of Todd Thompson — Full time faculty effective 06/30/2026

2.3.4 Approve 2025-2026 Evaluation of the President

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the 2025-2026 Evaluation of the President

2.3.5 Approve the appointment of Interim President

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 appointment of Holly Norton as Interim President.

2.3.6 Resolution Honoring Curtis E. Oldfield, SRC President 2012-2026

Kevin Mead read the following resolution honoring Curtis E. Oldfield as our 2012-2026 SRC President:

WHERE AS, Curtis E. Oldfield, Ed.D. as of June of 2026 will be concluding his 14-year tenure as President of Spoon River College, Community College District 534; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Oldfield began his career in higher education as a student, graduating from Spoon River College, later becoming an instructor and then a dean before serving as college President for 14 years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Oldfield, during his tenure, has focused on improving graduation and retention rates of full time and part time students, increasing the number of relevant academic programs, creating expanded workforce development programs, strengthening internal communication, increasing external partnerships and community development, enhancing continuous improvement processes, and developing a sense of belonging for all students and employees and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Oldfield has been an ongoing supporter to the communities across the District with efforts including being a member of the board for the Macomb Area Economic Development Corporation, Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development, Canton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Canton Family YMCA Board, the Macomb Community Quality of Life Committee, President of the Canton Rotary Club, as well as board member for the Local Workforce Investment Agency; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Oldfield has brought recognition to Spoon River College through his service on numerous state and national committees and task forces, becoming a voice for advocacy for community colleges as well as being requested as a spokesman on community college issues at both the state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Oldfield's accomplishments have been noted by being awarded the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Advocacy Award,

named a Top 10 Finalist in the Aspen Institute's Community College Excellence Program, designation as an Aspen Presidents Fellow and serving as the former chair of the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Oldfield has guided Spoon River College through several capital projects, including construction of the Multi-Purpose Building, new baseball and softball fields and renovation of the VoTech Building on the Canton Campus and the development of the new Macomb Campus; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 534 that we publicly recognize and congratulate Curtis E. Oldfield, Ed.D. on his 14-year tenure as President, for his service to the District community and the lasting contributions he has made to Spoon River College; as we wish him continued success in his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Oldfield as an expression of our esteem and respect and a copy of this document be placed in the official files of the Board of Trustees as part of the permanent record of the College and the State of Illinois as a lasting tribute to his on-going accomplishments and contributions to Spoon River College.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of Community College District 534, Spoon River College on this 27th day of May 2026.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

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.

Kevin Meade said there is a call for Closed Session, and there will be action following.

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; (6) setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body seconded by Macon Kessler, 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, (6) setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body at 7:12 p.m.

The Spoon River College Board of Trustees returned to Open Session at 8:05 p.m.

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, May 27, 2026, adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Kevin Meade, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary