

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

Wednesday, April 22, 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, April 22 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
	Macon Kessler

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; Hannah Neuendorf, Director, Human Resources; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation; Emily Wise, HR Generalist; and Kaley Barbknecht, Board of Trustees/Recorder; Alison Roxburgh, Physics Instructor; Bridget Loftus, Chemistry Instructor; Jo Branson Assistant Dean, Student Services; Chad Murphy, Director, Adult Ed Programs; Mrs. Kessler.

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 March 25, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

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 March 25, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.6.2 March 26, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the March 26, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

ICCTA's major focus this month has been the current legislative session. The Senate is currently not in session until next Tuesday April 28. The House is continuing to meet with budget discussions and appropriation bills working their way through committee. Our Wednesday May 6 annual lobby day is well timed as many of the items community college have as their concerns concern will be up for consideration while we are in Springfield.

Key dates for the legislative calendar:

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

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

May 31, 2026: Adjournment

On April 8 ACCT hosted a video Regional trustee meeting for the colleges in the Central Region. Several items were discussed during the meeting including an update on current federal actions and legislation. Several of the college on the conference meeting spoke about pending presidential searches including College of Lake County, State Fair Community College in Missouri and several in Minnesota. I commented that we have been very pleased with the ACCT search process and as a result of the video meeting Keith Miller has been contacted on our behalf with potential candidates.

This past week ICCTA was one of the sponsors for the All-Illinois Recognition Phi Theta Kappa Honorary Recognition in Springfield. Spoon River had four students being recognized with one of our students being a Coca-Cola Academic Team scholarship recipient.

ICCTA has also been active in promoting the information from the recent Community Colleges of Illinois Economic Impact Study. The study shows that statewide 27.2 billion annually is generated as an outcome of the community colleges. An article that appears on the SRC website site speaks to 799.6 million in economic impact and support 10,464 jobs across west central Illinois community college region. As was noted in the study that community colleges support one out of every 47 jobs in the West Central Illinois Community College Region.

I would remind everyone that our Community College Lobby Day will be Wednesday, May 6, in Springfield. We will be meeting with our legislators as this is a prime time for action major legislation prior to the May 21 scheduled adjournment. The ICCTA Board of Representatives will be meeting the following morning.

The first of June will be the ICCTA Annual Convention at the Westin Chicago Lombard. This meeting will include a meeting of the Board of Representative, a trustee educational seminar, a regular meeting of the ICCB and an evening event to recognize the accomplishments of community college students, faculty, alumni, community partners and college boards.

In addition to my report I have included a list of future community college related dates and meetings.

1.8 Resolution Honoring Logan Booth, 2025-2026 Student Trustee

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 the resolution Honoring Logan Booth, 2025-2026 Student Trustee.

Kevin Mead read the following resolution honoring Logan Booth as our 2025-2026 Student Trustee:

WHEREAS, Logan Booth has had the distinction of serving as Student Trustee on the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, representing the voice, interests, and aspirations of the students at Spoon River College; and

WHEREAS, Logan Booth has faithfully fulfilled the responsibilities of the Student Trustee position with dedication, integrity, and a sincere commitment to the educational mission of Spoon River College and the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, Logan Booth has contributed meaningfully to Board deliberations, bringing the unique and essential perspective of the student body to the governance of this institution, and ensuring that student needs remained central to the Board's decisions; and

WHEREAS, Logan Booth has served as an ambassador of Spoon River College, demonstrating the qualities of leadership, scholarship, and community engagement that this institution strives to cultivate in all of our students; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College desires to formally recognize the service, dedication, and contributions of Logan Booth upon the conclusion of his term as Student Trustee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College, that the Board does hereby express its sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to Logan Booth for his outstanding service as Student Trustee, and extends its warmest congratulations and best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

1.9 Seating of New Student Trustee Macon Kessler, 2026-2027 Student Trustee

Kevin Meade swore in Macon Kessler as the new Student Trustee for the 2026-2027 academic year. Macon performed his pledge as a Student Trustee.

1.10 Report – Student Government Representative Macon Kessler presented the following report:

Student activities and retention staff had a great turn out for the annual Mega Volleyball and Ice with the Vice event.

Students for Environmental Action hosted a campus cleanup event in observance of Earth Day today at the Canton Campus.

In addition, SEA members will collaborate with the SRC Foundation on trail clearing and Arboretum maintenance efforts on May 1st.

Canton SGA hosted their spring blood drive on April 7. We had 11 donors give blood that day.

Students in the diesel and power systems technology program are hosting a Tractor Show and Car Cruise In on the Canton Campus Saturday, April 25th from 9-2 rain or shine.

The Student Nurses Association along with the Healthcare Enthusiasts and Leaders Association went to the JUMP Trading Simulation and Education Center in Peoria on April 7th. The

students participated in several simulations and activities within the JUMP anatomy lab, engineering skills lab, and STEAM classroom.

TRIO Activities for the month of April include:

- Mental health individual workshops titled, March Forward: Prioritizing Your Mental Health.
- A transfer trip to WIU followed by kayaking at Spring Lake.
- And Michelle Howe from the SRC Foundation Office , hosted a workshop on career tips and transfer steps.

Miah Zarello, TRIO advisor, launched a Career Closet in the Macomb TRIO lab, offering students access to professional clothing and shoes for interviews, job fairs, and other career events. This exclusive resource is available to TRIO students through May 1, after which it will open to all SRC students.

Athletics Update:

- Softball continues to build strong momentum with an impressive winning streak, highlighted by multiple standout performances and record-setting achievements.
- Baseball is competing hard and showing steady progress, with a record of 21-25. Garrett Woodward set a new single-season home run record after hitting two on Sunday.
- Volleyball has been active in spring scrimmages.
- Track and Field close out their season April 23 at Monmouth.
- Alex Jackson has made program history as our first bowler to sign with a four-year college and will continue competing at Judson University next year. Congratulations, Alex!

1.11 Report – Spoon River College Foundation Dusty Berg presented the following report:

- Deposits since March 17th: \$44,139.81
- The main scholarship award letters have been sent out. We are receiving those back and getting everything set up for award nights.
- The Fellheimer Scholarship Application closed March 20th. Award letters were sent and we are receiving replies.
- The Dual Credit Scholarship Application for Fall '26 is open.
- I'm hoping to have the rolling scholarship ready to go on the website and be promoted next week.
- We issued 2 hardship grants since we last met.
- Michelle and I are still in the midst of a professional development series hosted by the Tracy Foundation. Our most recent session was about cultivating legacy giving.
- We have begun planning a Founders' Day Fundraiser for October 15th. We are currently working with marketing to develop the logo and materials.
- All materials are over to Rescigno's for our spring appeal. That should be going out this week.

Kevin Meade asked Dusty if all high school were covered for scholarship presentations. Dusty stated that he still needs coverage for VIT in the first week of May.

1.12 Report – Board Member Comments

John Biernbaum thanked all who helped with the Macomb Chamber after hours. He stated that it was well done and very fun.

Kevin Meade updated the Board and guests on the presidential search. The Presidential Search Applications deadline is April 28th. Kevin stated that there has been a healthy number of people

interested. He is pleased with everything so far. The search advisor said to Kevin that he is often on the phone with candidates answering questions. Kevin said the process is going as it should.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield reported the new hires for the month of April. Mark Cenicola was hired as the new Women's Basketball Head Coach. Mark comes to us from Texas and has already started recruiting for next season. Angelica Gable was also hired this month as our new CTE Tutor. Her tutoring will focus on the nursing department.

President Oldfield reported that he recently returned from the AACC conference in Seattle. President Oldfield went over several of the major topics from the event such as AI and how to utilize it to support faculty, engage students, and how to use it ethically with policy. Fiscal pressure was another major topic. He stated that more and more private schools are feeling that pressure. The idea to think leaner and provide education in a more affordable way.

President Oldfield also reported on the environmental impact study that was performed by Lightcast. The study focused on SRC, Heartland Community College, ICC, and Carl Sanburg. These four schools were combined to gain media attention. The Peoria media picked up the study and published several stories on the study. The study and media attention helps people see how community colleges impact communities. Dave Magure's ICCTA report mentions this study. The SRC website also has a nice story about the study.

President Oldfield also let the Board know that the college annual magazine, The Bridge, should be showing up in mailboxes soon. Every mailbox in our district will receive the magazine. Marketing has worked hard on this issue, and all printing was done in house. President Oldfield thanked the Foundation and marketing for all their hard work. The issue will have a lot of great stories of students, alumni, and CTE programs.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of April:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$675,743.28
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	\$503,652.53
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	\$35,139.82
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	\$1,642.11
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	\$236,535.24
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>\$57,025.32</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,509,738.30

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 April

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$675,743.28
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	\$503,652.53

Item	Amount
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	\$35,139.82
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	\$1,642.11
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TOTAL:

\$1,509,738.30

- 2.2.2 Approve a three-year contract with Wipfli, LLP of Sterling, Illinois to complete the financial audit of the College and Spoon River College Foundation. College contract amount for 2026 is \$67,310 for 2027 is \$69,324, and for 2028 is \$71,444. Funds for this contract are available in the Audit Fund. Spoon River College Foundation contract amount 2026 is \$19,080, for 2027 is \$19,716 and for 2028 is \$20,246. Funds for this contract are available in the Foundation budget.

President Oldfield presented this item. We received 3 bids for the college and foundation's audit, and Wipfli was the best option. Phil Murphy asked if this is the company we used last year. Sarah Gray replied that this is the company we have used in the last several years. She also stated that this audit process through Wipfli is mostly electronic and is a very streamlined process. President Oldfield reported that in addition to the audit needing to be available on our college website, we now also need to turn it into ICCB for them to make it available. Dave Maguire asked if this audit includes compliance for grants. Sarah Gray replied that the audit includes everything, federal and grants compliance.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the resolution Honoring Logan Booth, 2025-2026 Student Trustee.

2.3 Institutional Planning

- Canton Outreach Update – Melissa Miller and Andrea Barbknecht

Summer 2025

- Used ICCB Workforce grant to
 - Provided Excel training for 30 MidAmerica National Bank employees at all locations. Initial class was virtual so they could attend together, then online content specifically designed for MidAmerica. Level 1 in July, Level 2 in August, Level 3 in September with GREAT feedback!
 - Offered Intro to Excel and Intro to Word classes in-person in Canton and Macomb,
- Music of the 1970's taught by Kevin Stephenson, 7 attendees
- Went back to College for Kids format of a one-week camp meeting every morning, had 19 attendees, 14 different instructions, and 9 student helpers
- Coordinated Historic Bus Tours with the Canton Area Heritage Center as part of Canton's Bicentennial Celebration – 6 tours with a total of 148 registrations
- Offered a History of SRC class/campus tour as part of Canton's Bicentennial Celebration, led by Dr. Curt Oldfield, 13 attendees
- Held a Creative Floral Wrapping class with Christine Wright with 11 attendees
- Banned Book class in conjunction with Parlin Ingersoll Library, 7 students
- Intro to Canva class with 7 attendees
- Canton facility rentals last summer included CHS Graduation, Spoon River CEO (several events and meetings), VIT Alumni Banquet, Bayer Business Meeting, and many SRC internal events.

Fall 2025

- Community Leadership Academy – 10 Graduates, 3 coordinators, 19 different tours/presentations
- Used ICCB Grant funds to offer
 - Technology classes at a discount (Basics, Word, Excel at all 4 locations) serving 25 students
 - Job Searching Skills Workshop with 3 attendees
- Fall Lifelong Learning Conference with 83 attendees
- NEW: Bring It and Bling It book bling class, 11 attendees
- Historic Bus Tours (revamped from the Bicentennial) – 3 tours, 43 attendees
- NEW: Cupcake Decorating for Beginners, 16 students
- It Played in Canton music class with Kevin Stephenson, 19 students
- Intro to Wine Tasting and Sensory Analysis in conjunction with Spoon River Junction Winery – maxed out at 16 students
- Canton facility rentals in the fall included Spoon River CEO (multiple events and meetings), the SRC Class of 1975 Reunion, Bayer Business Meeting, Fulton County Battery and Solar, and many SRC internal events.

Spring 2026

- Used ICCB Workforce Grant to provide:
 - Discounted online technology trainings in Computer Basics, Intro to Word, all 3 levels of Excel (online) at all 4 locations. Total of 31 served o Coordinating computer training with Fulton County employees o Coordinating Microsoft training for Mason District Hospital
- NEW: Knitting 101 4-part series, 12 students
- The Ultimate Major League Baseball Stadium tour – 5 attendees
- Generative AI for Small Businesses Virtual class in conjunction with the Canton Chamber of Commerce, 7 attendees
- Vanished in Plain Sight Fay Rawley class by Rick Klinedinst with 90 attendees
- Lifelong Learning Institute April 17th with 79 attendees
- Job Fair May 8th with 22 employers registered so far
- Canton facility rentals this spring included Spoon River CEO (several events and meetings), IL Dept. of Corrections Hiring Event, FFA Speech Contest, Kiwanis All-Star Basketball Game, Buckheart Solar, Hektoen Institute of Medicine 3-day conference, National Turkey Wildlife Banquet, Republican Dinner, United Way Power of the Purse event, Fulton-Mason Crisis Service Dinner, and many internal SRC events and classes.

Plans for Summer 2026

- College for Kids June 1-4, currently planning
- Summer Medical Assistant Program in partnership with Graham Hospital
- Currently working on the summer schedule! We welcome your class suggestions and thank you for your support!
- High School Data Report – Missy Wilkinson and Jo Branson
 - Target Market
 - Our 2025-2026 total high school population is smaller by 68 students and 48 fewer seniors compared to 2024-2025
 - 2025 HS Grads attending SRC
 - We experienced a slight increase in the number of All graduates attending SRC from 135 to 140, just over 4%
 - College Bound Seniors – increased by 6%, or 23 students from the prior year
 - HS Capture/Goal Comparison
 - The goal line on the chart is the goal set by the ACE Committee
 - We exceeded our goals at several schools: Canton goal of 33% and we captured 37%, Cuba goal of 30% and we captured 35%, Spoon River Valley we exceeded our 25% goal with 29%, VIT we captured 79% of the graduates. In 22/23 we met or exceeded our goal for 2 high

schools. In 23/24, we met or exceeded our goal at 4 high schools and almost met our goal at two other schools. In 24/25, we met or exceeded our enrollment goals at 4 high schools and were close at 5 other schools. We continue to show a lot of improvement in this area!

- Retention of Dual Credit Seniors from SP25 to enrolled at SRC FA25/SP26 is 40.87%. Some of our higher retention schools were Rushville/Industry with 52%, Canton with 50%, VIT with 43.75%, and Havana with 75%.

- Enrollment Themes

- Opportunity-focus on open doors, career paths, transfer options, and the chance to start strong without being locked into one direction.
- Affordability-focus on cost, financial aid options, value w/students and their families. Strong return on investment.
- Transfer Power-highlight strong pathways to four-year schools.
- Career-Ready-direction connection between programs and real jobs.
- Real experience and exploration-internships, clinicals, and hands-on learning that actually matter. Try different paths before committing to a major.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Linda Butler welcomed new Student Trustee Macon. She said that it was nice to have another Schuyler County resident.

Kevin Meade asked Linda if she would like to share Presidential Evaluation information. Linda stated that the Board is contractually obligated to perform the presidential evaluation. She stated that it can be done in a new method but needs to comply with contract and policy. She stated that to complete the evaluation they will perform an exit interview for President Oldfield. This will be on next month's agenda. The Board will adjourn into a closed session to perform interview and then return to open session to perform an action.

- 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 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, April 22, 2026, adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Kevin Meade, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary