

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

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 6 p.m.
Spoon River College, Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B
23235 N. Co. 22, Canton, Illinois

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 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
	Kent Schleich

Members Absent: Phil Murphy, 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; Hannah Neuendorf, Director, Human Resources; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation; Evyn Way, Welding instructor; Aaron Mayall, Diesel instructor; Becky Leverett, Psychology instructor; Jeff Utsinger, Canton High School Assistant Superintendent; and Kaley Barbknecht, Coordinator, Academic Services, and 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 January 28, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the January 28, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

ICCTA is reporting that the following take away from Governor’s Budget and State of the State Address last Wednesday. The Fiscal Year 2027 budget will be a challenge. He noted that Education remains a top funding priority as it represents the largest area of discretionary funding. It includes ongoing early childhood education expansion, only a 1% additional support for higher education operations and maintains MAP and AIM High grant funding at \$770M. The administration tied these investments directly to workforce development and long-term economic competitiveness. The Governor proposed to create a Vocational Training Grant Program to support higher paying career paths for high school students to meet workforce needs. The budget address is the just the starting point for budget negotiations with the Legislature and ICCTA will be working to be sure our input is heard during the process.

The ICCTA focus continues to be the three core values established by the Board of Representatives.

- Remain Responsive to the Community College District
- Receive Equitable Funding for College Operations
- Champion Equity in Higher Education

During our last ICCTA meeting we reviewed our Legislative Initiatives and discussed the “One Click, College Admit” marketing campaign that will launch in April in conjunction with Community College Month. Matt Berry, ICCB Chief of Staff, talked about the upcoming release of the Economic Impact Study reports produced by ICCB.

During the NLS the association worked with the college boards of trustees, staff and students to facilitation legislative meetings during the National Legislative Summit. We were able to host a group in person meeting with U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth. A major theme of the meeting was Pell Grants, boosting community colleges as economic engines, bolstering our role in Workforce Development, and strengthening accountability and transparency.

In additional I was able to meet with Congressman Eric Sorenson and the staff of Congresswomen Mary Miller. From what I heard, I am not sure anyone got to meet in person with the Congresswomen. I was able to leave material and discuss our college needs with Congressional staff. A surprise was running into a young Macomb person who is doing an internship in Senator Durbin’s office.

During one of the keynotes, we just learned of a new community college competitive grant opportunity. Dr. Henry Mack, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Labor revealed the U.S. Department of Labor intends to announce a grant competition for the Strengthen Community College raining Grant. The funds would be used for short term seed money to help for employers and support students in obtaining good jobs in in-demand industries. I shared the information with President Oldfield.

There were numerous other sessions with materials such as the workforce PELL grant program discussed by the Under Secretary of Education Nicholas Kent or current legal trends by ACCT Legal counsel Ira Sheppard. Many of the materials are now available online to ACCT members. The contacts and the sessions were well worth the time.

ICCTA would like to remind Trustees that the 2026 ACCT Leadership Congress will be held in Chicago, IL. As the host state, members are encouraged to submit session proposals and award nominations.

As a reminder, the Community College Lobby Day will be Wednesday, May 6, in Springfield. There will also be a Student Lobby Day scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2026 the same day as the All-Illinois PTK Student Recognition Banquet.

The deadline for the first round of nominations for the 2026 ICCTA Awards & Scholarship recognition is this Friday, February 27. The second round of nominations will be due on Friday, March 27, 2026.

ICCTA's next meeting will be March 19-21, 2026 at Moraine Valley Community College. In addition to our regular meetings there will be a Friday afternoon educational seminar covering Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

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

Five agriculture students attended the Illinois State PAS conference at Heartland Community College on February 12th. Students competed in conservation and natural resources and soils. The students also completed on the college bowl team.

Student Life and the Healthcare Enthusiasts and Leaders hosted Love and Self Care Fairs in Canton and Macomb. Students were able to talk with community and SRC representatives for information on wellness both physical and mental. Students especially enjoyed meeting Lola, the therapy dog!

Student Trustee voting will be held online March 3rd and 4th. We have three candidates and their bios are available on the website. (Holly will pull up the website.)

The SRC Theatre will present Waiting for Godot March 6-8. Get your tickets now!

The Student Government Association is planning a spring blood drive at the Canton Campus on March 25. The Macomb blood drive will be in April with a date yet to be finalized.

SGA has also begun planning the Student Advocacy Day trip to the Capitol, scheduled for April 16.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Berg presented the following report:

Deposits since January 21st: \$51,020.39

The main scholarship application is open until March 1st. After that, we will begin our awarding process. These are the scholarships that we have some to present at high school award nights. We may be asking for some help presenting.

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.

We have issued one Hardship Grant since our last meeting. A student needed a rental car after they were hit by another diver.

Carl and I met with the new Director of Financial Aid, Kylee Bump. We focused on bringing her up to speed and working out a set of processes to ensure our two departments work smoothly together.

In the same category of ironing out processes, any of the tax letters that went out last month that were addressed to individuals were misformatted so the salutation read “Dear Last Name, First Name.” We had a couple donors who were upset. Dr. Oldfield requested we send out an apology letter. Those will go out this week. This allowed Carl and I to implement some best practices to guard from something like that happening again.

I attended the Graham Health Evening in Red in Galesburg to support their foundation on February 6th.

Michelle hosted alumni at the basketball game on February 7th.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

Dave Maguire made an additional comment on his Washington DC visit stating that he had the opportunity to have dinner with Champaign Illinois’s workforce development group. Dave then reported that he received an email shortly after from Two Rivers Economic Group who asked for a meeting. Dave asked President Oldfield how he should proceed.

President Oldfield stated that Two Rivers is one of two Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act administrators that cover our SRC district. The second is Career Link. President Oldfield stated that he would like to involve Chad Murphy, Director of Adult Education, and Melissa Miller, Dean of Career and Workforce Education, in the discussion with Two Rivers and other workforce development groups.

2.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield reported that the US Department of Labor released the Strengthening Community College Training Grants (SCCTG). We are collaborating with many colleges across Illinois for a statewide application. The grant is to have an impact on workforce issues. The statewide collaboration will limit our allocated funds but will reach a wider population of students across the state. President Oldfield stated he will keep the Board up to date on any more information regarding this grant. There is already a model in place to create a statewide welding curriculum standard, so that training needs are met across the discipline.

President Oldfield reported that Phi Theta Kappa will have their induction ceremony next week, March 6th, at 6pm at the Macomb Outreach building.

President Oldfield reminded the Board that the Men and Women’s second to last home game is taking place tonight.

President Oldfield reported that Michelle Conrad had moved from the Cafeteria Attendant to the Cafeteria Assistant.

Lastly, President Oldfield informed the Board that on March 18th the Canton Chamber of Commerce is hosting an annual dinner with guest speaker Curly Boo Johnson. Curly is a retired Harlem Globetrotter and holds a Guinness World Record for dribbling. He is also a Spoon River College alumni. Curly has always spoken highly of his time at SRC and President Oldfield encouraged the Board to attend the dinner.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of February:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$563,574.16
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	\$465,328.82
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	\$6,151.78
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	-0-
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	\$190,680.58
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>\$2,946.04</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,228,681.38

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the following payments for the month of February, 2026:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$563,574.16
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	\$465,328.82
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	\$6,151.78
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	-0-
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	\$190,680.58
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>\$2,946.04</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,228,681.38

2.2.2 In-district tuition and fees effective Fall 2026 semester.

Sarah Gray walked through summaries of tuition options and provided a spreadsheet that allowed Trustees to adjust numbers to see the total. Sarah explained to the Board that our state and federal funding continues to decrease. Sarah reported on some of our neighboring schools' tuition trends and a 4% increase seems to be the average increase. John Biernbaum asked what President Oldfield and Sarah Gray's recommendation was and they expressed that a \$7 increase is what they are recommending. This put the increase in tuition at more than \$5, but less than \$10. It was discussed that enrollment needs to grow and expenses trimmed, but it was stated that SRC has a revenue problem, not a spending problem, and increasing tuition is one way to bring in more revenue.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized a \$7 increase to in- district tuition and fees effective Fall 2026 semester.

2.2.3 Out of district tuition and fees effective Fall 2026 semester.

President Oldfield informed the board that out of district tuition is typically double the in-district tuition. So, it was proposed that out of district increase by \$14.

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 authorized a \$14 increase to out of district tuition and fees effective Fall 2026 semester.

2.2.4 Out of state tuition and fees effective Fall 2026 semester.

President Oldfield informed the board that out of state tuition is typically four times the in-district tuition. So, it was proposed that out of district increase by \$28.

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 a \$28 increase to out of state tuition and fees effective Fall 2026 semester.

2.2.5 Online tuition and fees effective Fall 2026 semester.

President Oldfield stated that because the online tuition is now at the same rate as in-district tuition he proposes that the online tuition continue at the same rate as in-district tuition.

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 a \$7 increase to online tuition and fees effective Fall 2026 semester.

2.2.6 Commercial Driving Training Program tuition and fees effective Fall 2026 semester.

President Oldfield stated that there was not a need to change the tuition of the Commercial Driving Training Program.

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 authorized a \$0 increase to Commercial Driving Training Program tuition and fees effective Fall 2026 semester.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

3.1 Approve a contract with Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) for the purpose of leading the Executive Search for the next President of Spoon River College.

Kevin Meade first thanked Linda Butler for reviewing the ACCT contract. Kevin Meade reported to the Board has chosen ACCT to coordinate the search for our next president. Our lead consultant will be Dr. Keith Miller. Dr. Keith Miller was the SRC president from 1995 to 2000. Kevin reported that he will bring a unique perspective to the search as a previous president to SRC. Kevin stated that the timeline will move quickly. In April the college and committee will begin accepting application for the position. In May the applications will be reviewed. The Board is hoping to offer the position in June and have the new president begin in August. The cost of ACCT will be \$42,500. This does not include any additional expenses. The executive search committee will offer three candidates. If the college feels they need to add an additional candidate, it will cost additional funds.

Dave Maguire commented that he found most colleges pay much more for a contract like this. He also stated that it was unusual for our consultants to be a previous president and that it will offer an advantage. It was also stated that President Oldfields 14 years of service at SRC will speak to how stable the position can be.

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 authorized a contract with Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) for the purpose of leading the Executive Search for the next President of Spoon River College.

- 3.2 Approve the transfer of funds from the Education Fund Reserve account to the Education Fund in the amount of \$75,000 to cover the estimated costs of the Presidential search.

Kevin Meade stated that this transfer was set at a higher amount to cover any additional expenses that may be incurred. The goal is to keep it under this amount.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the transfer of funds from the Education Fund Reserve account to the Education Fund in the amount of \$75,000 to cover the estimated costs of the Presidential search.

- 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, February 25, 2026, adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Kevin Meade, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary