

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board of Trustee Regular  
Monday, January 29, 2024 at 5:00 PM  
Ira H. Rubenzahl Learning Commons, Building 19/Forum**

**Minutes of Meeting**

Present: Jynai McDonald, Chair Pro Tempore  
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Secretary  
Zoya Plunkett-Brown, Student Trustee  
Laurie Martin, Alumni Trustee  
Tonia Butler-Pérez, Trustee  
Bill Johnson, Trustee  
Norman Roldan, Trustee  
MacArthur Starks, Trustee  
Samalid Hogan, Trustee (joined at 5:18p.m., after roll-call)

Unable to Attend: Jeff Sattler, Trustee

Also Present: Dr. John B. Cook, President  
Nanette Flores, Executive Assistant to the President & Board Clerk

**I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Acting Chair Jynai McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

The following Trustees were present at roll call: Acting Chair Jynai McDonald, Trustee Secretary Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Student Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown, Alumni Trustee Laurie Martin, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee Bill Johnson, Trustee Norman Roldan, and Trustee MacArthur Starks. Eight Trustees present, constituting a quorum. Trustee Samalid Hogan joined at 5:18 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**a) Board of Trustee Meeting – Monday, November 27, 2023**

Trustee Norman Roldan moved to approve the minutes from the November 27th Board of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson. After no further discussion, unanimously approved.

**III. Committee Reports**

**a) Committee on Facilities and Capital Improvements, originally scheduled on January 8, 2024 – To be rescheduled.**

#### **IV. President's Perspective – Dr. John B. Cook, President**

Dr. Cook provided brief notes on recent events, including the January 18<sup>th</sup> Professional Day, highlighting STCC's momentum with a particular focus on student retention. The president also congratulated Trustee Samalid Hogan, recent recipient of the Paul Harris Award from the Springfield Rotary Club. Also shared news: retirement announcement by the Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools. Dr. Cook has been a member of the strategic planning group ("Portrait of a Graduate"), and STCC will be sure to engage the next superintendent.

**a) Invitation: MassTECH/Quantum Advisory Council**

Dr. Cook shared that he was invited to serve as a member of the Advisory Council for the Pioneer Valley Quantum Innovation Hub Initiative.

**b) Economic Development Administration (EDA): Regional "Recompete" Finalist**

Shared with the Board the announcement made by Congressman Neal that by way of the MassHire Hampden County Workforce, the region is as a finalist for the EDA's distressed area Recompete pilot program. STCC is part of the regional consortium.

**c) UMASS: New Community College Scholarship (CCSA)**

UMASS will be offering annual \$5,000 scholarships to the top 10% of each MA Community College's class. As described, this scholarship is designed to encourage timely associate degree completion, and expand access to a four-year college degree for historically underrepresented students.

Also shared: STCC students and interning at MassMutual; enrollment is rebounding in a helpful way (up about 18% from last Spring). Great news although we have not yet reached pre-COVID enrollment numbers. The college continues to look closely into modality choices (online and evening).

Also discussed with Trustees the state Economic Development Plan as well as implications from the recent "9c" cuts. Reviewed MassReconnect report, which described a number of scenarios for universal free community college. Some key data points: a number of students choosing no college instead of attending community college, noting that those (~7%) students previously choosing CC are now opting to not attend any college. Together with base community college funding and the middle option, this represents over half a billion dollars of annual investment from Massachusetts.

NECHE Notice of Concern removed: after two years of diligence to address the notice, the Commission removed the notice given the demonstrated progress including clarity in roles/responsibilities, and examples of outcomes that include the new strategic plan.

**V. Chair’s Report – Trustee Jynai McDonald, Chair Pro Tempore**

**a) Review Committee Assignments**

The list of Trustee Committee members was shared with Trustees. Looking ahead to FY 2025, per Chair assignments described in the bylaws, Committee membership will be established prior to September, and it is likely that Committees will be smaller (need minimums of three Trustees).

**VI. Old Business / New Business**

Reminder of upcoming events:


- i. Resumption of program/campus tours: Spring (TBD/April)
- ii. STCC Commencement, Thursday Evening, May 30th

Added to old business, a reminder from Trustee Tonia Butler of Trustee giving via the STCC Foundation.

**VII. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, February 26, 2024**

**VIII. Adjournment**

At 5:53 p.m., Acting Chair Jynai McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustees Norman Roldan and Tonia Butler Pérez and unanimously approved.

  
Jynai McDonald  
Chair Pro Tempore, STCC Board of Trustees

  
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito  
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees