

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board of Trustee Meeting  
Monday, November 17, 2025 at 5:00 PM**

**Minutes of Meeting**

Present: Michael Knapik, Chair & Trustee  
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Vice Chair & Trustee  
Dr. William Dávila, Secretary  
Caleb Sierra, Student Trustee  
Laurie Martin '90, Alumni Trustee  
Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee  
Bill Johnson, Trustee  
Norman Roldan, Trustee

Unable to Attend: Samalid Hogan, Trustee  
Anthony Moore, '15 Trustee  
Jeffrey Sattler, Trustee

Also Present: Dr. John B. Cook, President  
Dr. Chris Thuot, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Gina Yarbrough, Legal Counsel  
Nanette Flores, Executive Assistant to the President & Board Clerk

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

Board Chair Michael Knapik called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The following Trustees were present at roll call: Trustee Chair Michael Knapik, Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Trustee Dr. William Dávila, Trustee Caleb Sierra, Trustee Laurie Martin, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee Bill Johnson, and Trustee Norman Roldan. Eight Trustees present at roll call constituting a quorum.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Board Chair Michael Knapik welcomed Board Members, Administrator, Guests, and members of the Public. Then proceeded to seek approval of meeting minutes.

**a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, held on June 23, 2025**

Chair Knapik called for a motion to bring back the June 23<sup>rd</sup> tabled meeting minutes, for approval. Motion was approved by Trustee Norm Roldan, seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson, and unanimously approved. Trustee Dávila moved a motion to approve the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Norm Roldan.

After a discussion specific to the Presidential annual evaluation process, Trustee Tonia Butler moved a motion to approve the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes with requested changes. The motion for approval with edits was seconded by Trustee Norm Roldan, and unanimously approved.

**b** Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, held on September 22, 2025

Trustee Bill Johnson moved a motion to approved the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Board of Trustees meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Betty Oleksak-Sposito and, after no further discussion, unanimously approved.

**c** Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, held on October 20, 2025

Trustee Norm Roldan moved to approve the October 20th meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Will Davila. Upon discussions about not ending the October 20th meeting with a roll call, Chair Knapik explained that a motion to adjourn was moved and seconded, and with all Trustees present in person. The Chair acknowledged he did not ask for unanimous consent or a roll call to officially adjourn the meeting. Per the rules, any member could have objected at this time to the adjournment declaration. For all future meetings, a roll call will be requested and vote taken.

The topic of recording Trustee meetings was brought up - discussed compliance including how Boards are required to maintain accurate minutes of decisions made and actions taken. Recordings or a transcript is not required. Trustee Norm Roldan moved to approve the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as discussed. Motion was seconded by Trustee Will Dávila and unanimously approved.

**III. Committee Reports**

**a** Committee on Internal and External Relations, held on October 6, 2025

Committee Chair Dr. Dávila referred to the October 6<sup>th</sup> Committee on Internal and External Relations meeting report included in the packet to inform Trustees on topics related to enrollment, Federal outlook and upcoming news.

Committee Chair, Dr. Dávila moved to approve the October 6<sup>th</sup> Committee on Internal and External meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson and unanimously approved.

[MOTION 2026-02] Appointment of Michael Vedovelli to the STCC Assistance Corporation Board of Directors

Committee Chair, Dr. Dávila moved: that the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 273, Section 125 Acts of 1994 approve the appointment of Michael Vedovelli to the Springfield Technical Community College Assistance Corporation Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Trustee Norm Roldan, and unanimously approved.

**b** Committee on Ways and Means & Audit Sub-Committee meetings, held on October 23, 2025

Committee Chair Laurie Martin referred to the Committee on Ways and Means & Audit-Sub-Committee reports included in the packet to inform Trustees of the FY2025 Audit, sharing from Auditors an unmodified opinion with no findings and no issues. Also reviewed is the September 18<sup>th</sup> Investment Sub-Committee report included in the meeting packet.

Trustee Martin called for a motion to approve the Committee on Ways and Means & Audit Sub-Committee reports. The motion was seconded by Trustee Norm Roldan and unanimously approved.

**c** Committee on Internal and External Relations, held on November 3, 2025

Committee Chair, Dr. Dávila referred to the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee on Internal and External Relations report to inform Trustees of topics discussed: IT Policy compliance; Workforce Development “pipeline to degree programs”; Marketing / hits on housing agreement news; and Chief Rivera’s brief overview of the annual security report “Clery Act”.

Committee Chair, Dr. Dávila called for a motion to approve the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Committee on Internal and External Relations meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Norm Roldan.

Discussion was held regarding the circumstances under which the Board of Trustees would be notified of cybersecurity incidents or breaches. President Cook stated that such matters would be communicated if warranted, noting the sensitivity of information discussed in Open Session. It was further noted that any prior incidents involved personnel matters, which fall within the President’s delegated authority and that he consults with the Board Chair and legal counsel as appropriate.

Following discussion, the minutes of the November 3 Committee on Internal and External Relations meeting were unanimously approved.

**IV. Welcome and Presidential Search Update – Chair Knapik, and Trustee Dávila**

Chair Knapik and Presidential Search Committee Chair, Dr. Dávila shared updates on the Presidential Search process. Executive Committee members are currently working on selecting four Search firm finalist for presentations, to make a decision on which firm will be hired. Presentations will be held in Executive session. Concurrently working with IT on the Presidential Search website. The following step is selecting Search Committee Members – discussion also included use of BHE guidelines in the event of a presidential vacancy.

**V. Curricular Integration/Program Suspension (Civil Engineering Technology)  
Dr. Chris Thuot, VP of Academic Affairs**

VP Thuot shared information about the Civil Engineering Technology, and the need to suspend admission into the program starting Spring Semester 2026. No action is needed at this time from the Board. As context, Civil Engineering Technology (Civil) and Architecture and Building

Technology (ABT) were once a single program area, then split apart in 2012. In spite of all marketing efforts and revitalization plan, enrollment in (Civil) is consistently low (about 25 students). ABT on the other hand is approximately 150 students. Spring 2026 will include consideration of a reintegration, but if Civil is recommended for program closure and discontinuation, that action will be brought to Trustees for final authorization.

## **VI. President's Report**

### **a MA Public Higher Education / Fall Enrollment**

President Cook shared enrollment outlook, including the continued rebound for Community Colleges after the implementation of free Community College; Community Colleges now represent 50% of all public higher education enrollment in Massachusetts.

### **b Elms College / STCC Housing Agreement (social media response)**

Continued positive reaction to the recent announcement

### **c Recent Grant Awards (Approximately \$1.8 million)**

### **d STCC selected as Bellwether Award Finalist (Instructional Programs/Services)**

A significant national achievement, STCC is a Finalist specific to our innovative Health Science degree.

### **e Quantum TechHub Designation & \$1million from MassTech for STCC/Tech Park Accelerator.**

Dr. Cook spoke about an announcement event at WPI, the significant announcement of \$1 million through the Mass Leads Act to STCC/Assistance Corporation for Quantum Supply Chain Accelerator feasibility at the Technology Park.

## **VII. New Business / Old Business**

Trustee Butler Pérez referenced correspondence from Dr. Renae Gorman, MCCC Chapter President; the Board Chair noted the matter would be addressed outside the meeting.

## **VIII. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, January 26, 2026**

## **IX. Motion to Adjourn / Adjournment**

At 6:05 p.m., Chair Knapik called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Moved by Trustee Sierra, seconded by Trustee Butler Pérez

  
Michael R. Knapik  
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees

  
Dr. William Dávila  
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees