

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board of Trustee Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 24, 2025 at 5:00 PM**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Present:** Michael Knapik, Chair & Trustee  
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Vice Chair & Trustee  
Dr. William Dávila, Secretary  
Laurie Martin '90, Alumni Trustee (joined at 5:05, via zoom)  
Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee (via zoom)  
Samalid Hogan, Trustee (joined at 5:08)  
Bill Johnson, Trustee  
Anthony Moore, Trustee  
Norman Roldan, Trustee  
Jeffrey Sattler, Trustee

**Unable to Attend:** Zoya Plunkett-Brown, Student Trustee

**Also Present:** Dr. John B. Cook, President  
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 William Dávila, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez (via zoom), Trustee Bill Johnson, Trustee Anthony Moore, Trustee Norman Roldan, and Trustee Jeff Sattler. Eight Trustees present at roll call constituting a quorum.

After roll call, Trustee Laurie Martin joined the meeting via zoom at 5:05, and Trustee Samalid Hogan joined in person at 5:08.

**II. Welcome Remarks, Trustee Michael Knapik, Chair, STCC Board of Trustees**

Board Chair Knapik welcomed Trustees, Cabinet Members and General Public present at today's meeting.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**a) Board of Trustee Regular Meeting – Monday, February 24, 2025**

Trustee Norman Roldan moved to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson, and after no further discussion, approved via roll call: with seven "yes", and one abstention (Trustee Butler Pérez).

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

##### **a) Audit Committee & Committee on Ways and Means, held on February 20, 2025**

In the absence of Committee Chair Laurie Martin at the time of the reporting, President Cook referred to the February 20<sup>th</sup> Audit and Committee on Ways and Means report included with the meeting packet. Highlights: a “clean audit;” - FY2024 Single and MOSFA Audit, with the college in a financial position with good internal controls.

#### **V. President’s Report – Dr. John B. Cook, President**

##### **a) Finalized Detail: Fall Semester & Free Community College at STCC**

Comprehensive review of Fall '24 free community college at STCC (MassReconnect and MassEducate). Just about 48% of matriculated students benefited from free community college. Other data reviewed included enrollment by age, household income, gender, race/ethnicity, and residency. Data suggests this has helped drive adult enrollment, and nearly 40% of free community college students are in households earning under \$50,000; indicating the policy is benefiting mostly low and middle-income families. Also examined data for MassReconnect (adults 25+), with Fall 2023 to Fall 2024, showing +20 percentage point increases in retention for full-time and part-time students.

Other points of reference: marketing fundings, STCC web page hits, program growth, and the tie to “elevate the technical mission,” a strategic priority per the strategic plan. Across all 15 community colleges: an increase of ~10,000 students; also referenced recent presentation by President Cook and the HCC President to the Hampden County/MassHire Workforce Board.

##### **b) Communication & College News (Television, Radio, Print/Online Media, Elected Officials)**

Review of recent media engagement including print/MassLive, radio (public radio/WAMC), and television (Focus TV). Also discussed effort to meet individually with legislative delegation members in lieu of a breakfast event. On March 20, Dr. Cook spoke at the Springfield Mass Rotary Club.

##### **c) Federal Outlook and Funding**

Federal funding uncertainty continues; STCC is particularly keen to ensure Pell grants remain in place. Regarding internal/campus communication: a forum each semester for students (Pizza with the President), and employees (All-Campus Town Hall) with emails when information is available.

**d) Commencement Speaker & Distinguished Alum: Dr. Gail Carberry '77**

Pleased to announce this year's Commencement Speaker and Distinguished Alum, Dr. Gail Carberry. She worked at STCC for close to 30 years; went on to serve as president of Quinsigamond Community College (Worcester, MA).

**VI. Chair's Report – Michael Knapik, STCC Board Chair**

**a) 2024-2025 Presidential Evaluation Process.**

The Presidential Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee will convene in April, in accordance with Open Meeting Law, the evaluation of President Cook. Process outlined for Trustees, and the process will follow past practice for a non-comprehensive review. This includes individual Trustees conversations with a member of the Ad Hoc Committee. An addition: Vice Presidents, who report directly to the President, will be asked to provide feedback. The Chair welcomes any communication/perspective, and will be the conduit. Reminder that next year, 2026, would be when Dr. Cook would be up for a "5-year" comprehensive review according to guidelines provided by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE).

To conclude, Chair Knapik shared congratulations to Trustee Anthony Moore for recognition at the anniversary celebration held by the Urban League of Springfield. Congratulations also to STCC Student, Moira Reardon, crowned the 2025 Grand Colleen for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day parade.

**VII. New Business/Old Business**

*[Revised per request from Trustee Butler Pérez]*

Trustee Butler Pérez requested clarification of the January meeting minutes, and in particular sought much more of her comments to be included in the minutes. Was reminded that minutes are not a transcript, and any revision requests would occur at the subsequent meeting (February). Trustee Butler Pérez asks for more transparency. On the topic of shared governance, Trustee Butler Pérez stated that at the January 27, 2025 STCC Board meeting, Dr. Renae Gorman, MCCC Chapter President at STCC, gave a presentation in which she expressed concerns about the Shared Governance Committee lack of progress. Dr. Gorman requested guidance on how to move the shared governance process forward. Trustee Butler asked if Dr. Gorman's concerns brought at the January 27, 2025 board meeting had been addressed. President Cook requested that this item be discussed off-line. Trustee Butler also requested a copy of the STCC Board's 2022 shared governance motion. Trustee Butler Pérez also asked President Cook, "Given the grievance recently filed by MCCC "Is there peace and harmony in the workforce at STCC? Dr. Cook stated: "At any college or university today, peace and harmony can be elusive, but leadership at STCC has done a great job navigating very difficult circumstances."

**VIII. Campus/Program Tour**

*Upon conclusion of the meeting, Trustees are invited to an informal tour of Digital Media Production Technology/Building 17 (quorum likely remains; tour is open to the public) the Board will not reconvene to otherwise adjourn.*

**IX. Date of Next Meeting:** Monday, April 28, 2025 \*Annual Trustee Meeting\* (starting at 4:30 pm)

**X. Roll Call & Adjournment**

At 6:02 p.m., Chair Knapik called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez moved the motion, seconded by Trustee Jeff Sattler, and unanimously approved via Roll Call.



Michael R. Knapik  
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees



Dr. William Dávila  
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees