

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board of Trustee Meeting
Monday, March 30, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Ira H. Rubenzahl Student Learning Commons, B19/Forum**

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Michael Knapik, Chair & Trustee
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Vice Chair & Trustee
Dr. William Dávila, Secretary
Caleb Sierra, Student Trustee
Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee
Bill Johnson, Trustee
Norman Roldan, Trustee
Samalid Hogan, Trustee (joined at 5:04)

Unable to Attend: Laurie Martin '90, Alumni Trustee
Anthony Moore '15, Trustee
Jeff Sattler, Trustee

Also Present: Gina Yarbrough, Legal Counsel; Dr. Angela Provart, President of the Pauly Group & Presidential Search Consultant; Dr. John Cook, President; and Nanette Flores

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Board Chair Michael Knapik called the meeting to order at 5:01 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 Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee Bill Johnson, and Trustee Norman Roldan. Seven Trustees present at roll call constituting a quorum.

Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez announced that she is recording the meeting. In regards to recordings of an Open Meeting, Chair Knapik offered the following statement, "After notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any recordings."

II. Welcome

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. **Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, held on February 19, 2026**

Trustee Butler Pérez asked to amend the February 19 minutes to include “prior to receiving clarification of concluding remarks, the meeting was adjourned”.

Trustee Norm Roldan moved to approve the February 19 meeting minutes with amendment, seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson, and unanimously approved.

b. Board of Trustees Special Meeting, held on March 13, 2026

Trustee Norm Roldan moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustee Special meeting held on March 13, 2026, seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson, and unanimously approved.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Committee on Ways and Means, held on February 19, 2026

In the absence of Committee Chair Laurie Martin, President Cook referred to the Committee on Ways and Means report included in the meeting packet. The February 19th Committee report includes also the February 5th, Investment Sub Committee report.

A motion to approve the Committee on Ways and Means meeting report was moved by Trustee Norm Roldan, seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson and unanimously approved.

b. Audit Committee and Committee on Ways and Means, held on March 16, 2026

In the absence of Committee Chair Laurie Martin, President Cook referred to the March 16th Audit and Committee on Ways and Means reports included in the packet.

A motion to approve the March 16th Committee on Ways and Means meeting report was moved by Trustee Norm Roldan, seconded by Trustee Caleb Sierra and unanimously approved.

V. Open Meeting Law Complaints

The Chair again revisited the matter, and introduced the community college Chief Legal Counsel who attended. The office of Legal Council is notified of complaints by the Division of Division of Open Meeting Law, and supports institutional responses. The Board for example, would look at remediation of the issue if necessary, which may include Open Meeting Law training and a review of the Board’s bylaws. The two complaints were briefly recapped by General Counsel, and an immediate action in the form of a response to the complainant was discussed. Once that response from the college/Board is issued, the complainant decides whether to continue forward. Some questions and discussion then took place, including the potential for an annual refresher on the Open Meeting Law, and a process of regular revision/review of Board bylaws.

As an action step, a group of three faculty agreed to review a draft response developed by legal: Trustees Tonia Butler Pérez, Norman Roldan, and Samalid Hogan.

Trustee Hogan called for a motion: The Board will seek additional annual training (refresher) of Open Meeting Law; a sub-committee of the Board will review by Laws; Complaint responses are delegated to Legal Counsel and responses will be reviewed by the three members of the core group. Motion was seconded by Trustee Norman Roldan and approved by a majority via roll call (7 yes, and 1 no).

VI. Presidential Search Update

Presidential Search Committee Chair, Dr. William Dávila commended the work done by Members of the Presidential Search Committee. Last week the Committee selected a number of Presidential Final Candidates., names will be announced to Trustees, the Commissioner of Higher Educations and immediately after to Campus Community after required clearances are complete. Candidates' visit to campus are scheduled from April 14th thru the 24th. Trustees will meet on May 4th to deliberate and vote on a final candidate. The STCC Presidential Candidate will then be added to the May 19th agenda of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) meeting for approval.

Angela Provar and Gina Yarbrough went over the Finalists' interview process with Trustees, noting that all meetings are being held in Open Session. Each Candidate will have 90 minutes to respond to a set of 11-14 questions. Questions will be sent in advance to Trustees for feedback. Materials pertaining each Candidate will also be shared with Trustees via the PaulyGroup Portal.

VII. President's Report – Dr. John B. Cook, President

a. FY2027 Budget Development & Process

Shared in the meeting packet are the FY2027 Budget Draft slides presented at the most recent Committee on Ways and Means meeting. The budget draft provides clarity through a transparent set of assumptions and clear perspectives. Overall, the first draft is essentially reconciled. As next steps Trustees will be asked to approve student fees; continued analysis of revenue assumptions, salaries, staffing and operational expenses; and keep an eye on areas of potential risks.

b. Bellwether Award Finalist / Details

For context Dr. Cook referred to the 2015-2020 Student Success Plan in place at the beginning of his Presidency. One of the issues listed in the plan was the need for more Health-related programs accessible to all students wanting to explore careers in Health fields.

STCC's team competed on the program/topic of "Putting the Health in Health Science: A National Meta-Major Model for Healthcare Education.

c. Quantum RFP

MassTech issued \$1M to STCC as part of next step feasibility for the Quantum Supply Chain Accelerator (QSCA) project to be located in the Technology Park. STCC worked with MassTech on the RFP, with a submission deadline of April 10th. Earlier this month, we had walk-through at the Tech Park.

d. Tenure Recommendations

[Motion 2026-13] Tenure Recommendations

Trustee William Davila *moved That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees, pursuant to the provision of Section 22 (c), Chapter 15A, approves granting Tenure as listed on Appendix A.*

The motion was seconded by Trustee Norman Roldan and unanimously approved via roll call.

VIII. New Business

Reminders:

Saturday, March 28 – Community Dental Day @STCC

Thursday, April 9 – Giving Day with STCC Advancement

Also noted, the April 27th Board of Trustees meeting is being moved to May 4th.

IX. Concluding Remark – Chair Knapik

To conclude,

X. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, May 4, 2026

XI. Motion to Adjourn / Adjournment

At 6:45 p.m., Chair Knapik called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, moved by Trustee Norman Roldan, seconded by Trustee Caleb Sierra and unanimously approved via roll call.


Michael R. Knapik
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees


Dr. William Dávila
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees