

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board of Trustee Annual Meeting  
Monday, April 28, 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  
Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee (virtual)  
Samalid Hogan, Trustee  
Bill Johnson, Trustee  
Anthony Moore, '15 Trustee  
Norman Roldan, Trustee  
Jeffrey Sattler, Trustee

**Unable to Attend:** Zoya Plunkett-Brown, '25 Student Trustee

**Also Present:** Dr. John B. Cook, President  
Jay Ash, CEO Massachusetts Cooperative Partnership  
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 5:02 p.m.

The following Trustees were present at roll call: Trustee Chair Michael Knapik, Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Trustee William Dávila, Trustee Laurie Martin, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez (via zoom), Trustee Samalid Hogan, Trustee Bill Johnson, Trustee Anthony Moore, Trustee Norman Roldan, and Trustee Jeff Sattler. Ten Trustees present at roll call constituting a quorum.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

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

After a discussion of requested edits (VII. New Business/Old Business) from Trustee Butler Pérez, Trustee Johnson called for a motion to table the March 24<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees minutes until the May meeting to allow time for establishing specific edits; motion was unanimously approved via roll call. Trustee Butler Pérez will forward edits/wording to Nanette.

### **III. Committee Reports**

#### **a) Committee on Internal and External Relations – April 7, 2025**

After a brief review of those faculty/staff under consideration for Tenure, Committee Chair Dávila moved that the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees, pursuant to the provision of Section 22(c), Chapter 15A, approve granting Tenure as listed on Appendix A. The motion was seconded by Trustee Norman Roldan and unanimously approved via roll call.

#### **b) Cancelled: Committee on Ways and Means – Monday, April 16, 2025**

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

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

### **V. Business & Economics: The Value of Community Colleges for the Massachusetts Workforce - by Guest Presenter Jay Ash, CEO Massachusetts Competitive Partnership**

President Cook introduced Jay Ash, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership, and former Secretary of Housing and Economic Development serving in the Baker/Polito Administration.

Mr. Ash reviewed and offered perspective on a number of matters related to the Massachusetts economy, Western Massachusetts opportunities and challenges, as well as the role of community colleges, including STCC, in economic vibrancy. Some of the detail included the view that Massachusetts has done well for a long time, but that we cannot rest on our laurels, because indicators are cause for concern. MA is declining in rankings such as "Top States for Business" ranking #15 in '23, down to #38 in '24, and how private sector job growth has not recovered from its losses during the COVID pandemic. Some of the biggest competitive weaknesses: ranking #48 in Five-Year Labor Force Change, #48 in income equality, and #48 in energy costs.

With a glance to this data, the state needs a new game plan to keep jobs, keep residents, and to keep tax revenue in the state. Listed as the top two reasons to be optimistic are we are smart, and we are good at many things including education and health care. Recognizing also a list of reasons to be pessimistic such as outmigration of people, income and businesses, including startups, and virtual work, with this, creating less job resilience. Specific to Western Mass, Mr. Ash pointed out the advantages of living in this how the region is well-positioned to compete and succeed in areas such as Education, Health, Technology, Energy and Manufacturing; his view is that research can stay in Boston with complimentary manufacturing in Western Mass.

Regarding STCC's role, Western MA needs STCC to enhance this area, to lead and support, to strengthen sectors we are strong at, promote best practice, and to embrace and advance planning and implementation. STCC is already ahead in creating collaborations within the community, of identifying and developing what we do best in areas such as health, technology, manufacturing, technology in manufacturing, cybersecurity, and the exploration of quantum.

**VI. Summary Remarks – Dr. John B. Cook, President**

Dr. Cook shared his appreciation for the comprehensive outlook provided by Jay Ash, and referred to an article provided to Trustees describing college collaboration with Clean Crop Technologies. Also spoke about the value of students learning about local career opportunities through connections with local businesses, and the role of faculty as well as staff to life together. Reaffirmed the engagement by STCC with employers that include Baystate, MGM, Smith & Wesson, and MassMutual.

**VII. Old Business**

Update: 2024-2025 Presidential Evaluation

The Ad Hoc/Presidential Evaluation Committee met in April to discuss this year's process for the annual Presidential Evaluation. One-on one Trustee discussions, part of the usual methodology, are currently ongoing. Additional update and discussions will continue at the May 19 Board Meeting.

**VIII. Concluding Remarks – Chair Knapik**

Reminder for upcoming events including Commencement; encouraged Trustees to attend at least one of the nine pinning ceremonies starting on May 14. For this year's Honors Convocation, Chair Knapik is confirmed for welcoming remarks and Trustee Sposito for remarks during the Nursing Pinning Ceremony.

**IX. Campus/Program Tour**

*Upon conclusion of the meeting, Trustees are invited to an informal tour of the SIMs Medical Center in/Building 20 (quorum likely remains; tour is open to the public) the Board will not reconvene to otherwise adjourn.*

**X. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, May 19, 2025**

**XI. Roll Call & Adjournment**

At 6:19 p.m., Chair Knapik called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Jeff Sattler moved the motion, seconded by Trustee Norman Roldan, and unanimously approved via Roll Call.



Michael R. Knapik  
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees



Dr. William Dávila  
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees