

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board of Trustee Annual Meeting
Monday, May 19, 2025 at 5:00 PM**

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Michael Knapik, Chair & Trustee
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Vice Chair & Trustee
Dr. William Dávila, Secretary
Zoya Plunkett-Brown, '25 Student Trustee
Laurie Martin '90, Alumni Trustee
Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee
Samalid Hogan, Trustee (virtual)
Bill Johnson, Trustee
Anthony Moore, '15 Trustee
Jeffrey Sattler, Trustee

Unable to Attend: Norman Roldan, 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 Zoya Plunkett-Brown, Trustee Laurie Martin, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez (via zoom), Trustee Samalid Hogan (virtual), Trustee Bill Johnson, Trustee Anthony Moore and Trustee Jeff Sattler. Ten Trustees present at roll call constituting a quorum.

II. Welcome Remarks – Trustee & Chair, Michael Knapik

Board Chair Michael Knapik welcomed Board Members, Administrators and General Public. Taking the opportunity to remind Trustees to support students by attending the various Pinning Ceremonies, Honors Convocation and Commencement Ceremony.

III. Approval of Minutes

a) Board of Trustee Annual Meeting – Monday, April 28, 2025

Chair Knapik called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28th Board of Trustees Annual meeting minutes, approved by Trustee Dávila, and after no further discussion, seconded by Trustee Johnson, and unanimously approved via roll call.

b) For Approval with edits: Board of Trustees Meeting – Monday March 24, 2025

Per request from Trustee Butler Pérez, section VII New Business/Old Business was revised. With no further discussion Chair Knapik called for a motion to approve the minutes with suggested edits from the March 24th Board of Trustees meeting, approved by Trustees Plunkett-Brown and Martin, seconded by Trustee Oleksak-Sposito, and unanimously approved via roll call vote.

IV. Committee Reports

a) Committee on Ways and Means – May 12, 2025

i. Investment Sub-Committee held on May 1, 2025

Committee Chair, Trustee Laurie Martin reviewed highlights from the most recent Committee on Ways and Means and Investment Sub-Committee meetings.

Also discussed was the final FY 2026 Budget draft. Dr. Cook invited VP/CFO Andrea Nathanson to go over the final draft of FY26 Budget for the full Board. VP/CFO Nathanson presented a balanced draft as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration. The Board votes on student fee increases, FY26 College spending plan & the FY26 Trust Fund budget. Highlighted from the summary of major assumptions: FY26 budget utilizes the maximum allowable fee increase of 1.93% (capped) per legislation. Operational expense was increased by 4% factoring for inflation (+374K over FY25 projection). For Capital/Project added \$400k as tariff buffer for Facilities and IT combined budgets. Again, this year, there is no need for revenue from reserves. The slide on unrestricted net position (reserves) shows a healthy fiscal picture.

From Ways and Means:

[Motion 2025-08] FY 2026 Student Fee, moved by Trustee Bill Johnson,
That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees, pursuant to the provision of Chapter 15A, Section 22, authorize the President of the College and/or his designee(s) to increase the General Education Fee by \$4 per credit and increase the Information Technology Fee by \$2 per semester effective for the Fall 2025 Semester. All other College fees for FY 2026 will remain at the same level as Spring 2025.

Seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito and unanimously approved via roll call.

[Motion 2025-09] FY 2026 Budget, moved by Trustee Laurie Martin,
That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees, pursuant to the provision of Chapter 15A, Section 22, approves the FY 2026 College Spending Plan and the FY 2026 Trust Fund Budget, and further authorizes the President of the College and/or his designee(s) to take any and all prudent steps necessary to award contracts for capital projects.

Seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson and unanimously approved via roll call.

V. Pathways to Healthcare: A Student Experience - Zoya Plunkett-Brown '25, Student Trustee

Introduced by Dr. Cook, nearing the end of her second term, which is unusual for a Student Trustee, and a graduate of the Class of 2025, Zoya Plunkett-Brown shared her academic journey at STCC, which began in 2020 as a part-time student, working full time, and paying out-of-pocket since she was not eligible for financial aid due to her immigration status.

It took two years to complete pre-requisites for the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program. Part of her story is playing soccer as well at STCC, but making the decision to not play in order to further focus on academics. She also described a set-back in her Kinesiology course, a period of much reflection and prioritization, and the support of her twin sister who was also pursuing PTA at STCC. Having her sister as a study partner and support truly made a difference. Zoya was able to hold on to the role of Student Trustee, work two jobs, and serve in the STEM Center as a peer mentor. The last semester of the PTA program consists of a full time clinical. She is grateful for the experience gained and the support of so many, and with her graduation next week, she is excited about the next stage in her journey – passing the state exam and working as a licensed PTA.

Chair Knapik shared his appreciation to Trustee Zoya for sharing a great story of perseverance. Dr. Cook shared how this journey of five years is consistent for many STCC students, and he was thrilled that Zoya was willing to share her story with fellow Trustees. Also announced that Caleb Sierra is the incoming Student Trustee for 2025-2026. He has been invited to attend the June 23rd Trustee meeting for introductions.

VI. President's Perspective – Dr. John B. Cook, President

President expressed his appreciation to the Board for approval of the motions for the FY2026 Budget.

a) Federal Outlook & Massachusetts Community College Advocacy

Regarding Pell grants: the major change at issues is increasing full-time status to 15 credits (from 12), thus requiring a minimum of 7.5 credits to receive partial aid (currently 6 credits). If passed, this will certainly impact many, many STCC students, most of whom attend part-time.

VII. Chair's Report – Chair Knapik

a) 2024-2025 Presidential Evaluation Discussion

This year's Presidential evaluation process mirrors past practices, plus outreach for feedback to Direct Reports. Chair Knapik reiterated that next year is the 5-year comprehensive evaluation, which involves other constituents.

VIII. New Business / Old Business

- a) [Motion 2025-10] 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Meetings Calendar moved by Student Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown, That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees approve the 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Meetings Calendar.

Seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito and unanimously approved via roll call.

IX. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, June 23, 2025

X. Roll Call & Adjournment

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



Michael R. Knapik
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees



Dr. William Dávila
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees