

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Regular Meeting  
Monday, October 24, 2022, at 5:00 PM  
Zoom / Live Streamed via STCC YouTube Channel**

**Minutes of Meeting**

Present: Marikate Murren, Chair  
Jynai McDonald, Vice-Chair  
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Secretary  
Samalid Hogan, Trustee  
Bill Johnson, Trustee  
Norman Roldan, Trustee  
Jeff Sattler, Trustee  
MacArthur Starks, Jr., Trustee

Unable to attend: Glerisbed Garcia-Figueroa, Student Trustee  
Maurice Lindsay, Alumni Trustee  
Tonia Butler Perez, Trustee

Also Present: Dr. John B. Cook, President  
Javon Brame, CampusWorks Senior Project Lead  
Samantha Kessler, CampusWorks Institutional Research & Reporting  
Consultant  
Nanette Flores, Executive Assistant to the President & Board Clerk

**I. Call to Order**

Trustee Chair Marikate Murren called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

The following Trustees were present at roll call: Trustee Chair Marikate Murren, Trustee Vice Chair Jynai McDonald, Trustee Secretary Elizabeth Sposito, Trustee Samalid Hogan, Trustee Bill Johnson, Trustee Norman Roldan, Trustee Jeff Sattler, and Trustee MacArthur Starks. Eight Trustees present, constituting a quorum.

**III. Approval of Minutes –Trustees Annual Meeting/Retreat – Friday, September 23, 2022**

Trustee Elizabeth Sposito moved to approve the minutes from the Friday, September 23 Board of Trustees annual meeting/retreat, seconded by Trustee Norman Roldan After no further discussion, Trustee Bill Johnson abstained and remaining seven Trustees approved via roll call.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**a) Audit Committee, Thursday, October 13, 2022**

Audit Committee Chair Mac Starks referred to the Audit report to inform the full board on the October 13 Audit Committee. Required communications and STCC, Foundation, and STCCAC financial statements were presented and discussed. Partners of O'Connor and Drew P.C. presented an unmodified opinion on both STCC and STCCAC audits and noted that there were no overall alerting findings. A partner from CohnReznick presented the FY22 STCCAC financial statements and noted no alerting findings as well. Of note, GASB87, related to leases, was adopted in FT 2022. A motion was then moved and approved recommending approval from the Board of Trustees Committee on Ways and Means of the FY22 financial statements and Audit as presented.

**b) Committee on Ways & Means – Thursday, October 13, 2022**

Committee Chair Mac Starks referred to the October 13<sup>th</sup> Committee on Ways and Means report to inform the full Board on topics discussed. An update of the FY22 Audit was provided. A motion was then moved to approve the FY22 financial statement and audit as presented and recommended by the Audit Committee, and it was unanimously approved via roll call.

The Committee then moved on to discuss the regular topics on the agenda, which included updates on cash flow projection, FY 2023 Enrollment update, and FY 2023 revenue & spending report. Noted in updates: credits for the full year are projected approximately 3.5% ahead of approved budget.

Trustee Bill Johnson moved to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2022 Committee Ways & Means; seconded by Trustee Jeff Sattler. After no further discussion, unanimously approved.

**V. President's Perspective – Dr. John B. Cook**

**a) Enrollment / Budget Outlook**

President Cook highlighted the “FY23 Enrollment Update” slide included in the Ways and Means meeting, noting the fall enrollment is ahead of the Budget projection. Our enrollment is flat.

**b) STCC 55<sup>th</sup> Gala & Resilience Awards**

President Cook spoke about the most recent STCC 55<sup>th</sup> Gala & Resilience Awards event held at the recently renovated Marriot Hotel. It was a successful and very well received event. Also noted was the good will and support to STCC from the Springfield Community, raising over \$100k for the STCC Foundation.

**c) Chief Equity Officer Search**

In regards to personnel, the posting for the position of a Chief Equity Officer is in earnest. It is a Cabinet level position, which means that the person hired will report directly to the President. Please to announce that Trustee Jynai McDonald is willing to serve as a search committee member.

A question arose in regards to the positive report on enrollment, was it due to marketing efforts? President Cook noted that it is too soon to determine. There seems to be an increase of new students, yet we know the struggles of retention particularly during COVID. Noted that the stronger value is that we continue to study retention levels and on how we can do better retaining students. Currently students have the choice of in-person, hybrid, and on-line. Students are trending to select more online, yet it is important to continue studying the data.

Before moving forward with the agenda, Board Chair Marikate Murren and on behalf of the Board expressed her appreciation to Dr. Shai Butler, Vice President of Advancement and External Relations and in her role as the Executive Director to the STCC Foundation, for the successful Gala event. Dr. Cook noted that former Alumni Trustee Frank Quigley who still serves in the Foundation Board was the lead project manager of the Marriot Hotel renovation. Also as a proud STCC Alum, Frank was thrilled to host STCC at this event.

## VI. Strategic Planning / CampusWorks

### a) Mission / Vision Reaffirmation Workshop

Dr. Cook introduced Javon Brame and Samantha Kessler who will be engaging with Trustees on the Mission / Vision Reaffirmation Workshop. The goal for tonight is to get feedback from Trustees in regards to STCC's vision. Javon provided a general overview of CampusWorks' involvement and work with the Strategic Taskforce and leaders, staff, employees and students at STCC. Javon initiated the presentation by reiterating and sharing with Trustees the planning framework and steps taken to work towards a strategic goal. Samantha shared that today's objective is to focus on the "vision". Samantha noted the difference between the "mission" and the "vision". The mission is the "reason for being", whereas, the vision is aspirational: "what do you want to do?" The presentation includes samples of vision statements from several private companies, organizations, and educational institutions. Noting that although the entities are different in nature, the vision statements denote aspirational and visionary goals.

Javon presented STCC's current vision statement: *Springfield Technical Community College will be a dynamic, multi-cultural learning community where students grow in character, intellect, and self-confidence.* Then proceeded to prompt Trustees, What do you like about the current vision statement? Initial comments include: liking the term "dynamic", including the term "community", and a suggestion to use "diverse" instead of "multi-cultural".

Presenters prompted additional questions towards reviewing the vision. What is the most ambitious outcome the College can strive to achieve 15 years from now? Some of the responses: the technical part of the College should be in the forefront of the vision, such as being the premiere institution providing technical training based on local business needs. Being a contributor to the state economic growth and global competitiveness through workforce improvement. Including a diverse outlook towards student success. Trustee Johnson shared his own experience – moved by the thought of life changing opportunities. It's about creating opportunities regardless if it is through workforce development, certificate, or degree. Equal opportunities despite the economic challenges.

Samantha re-read the current vision statement and asked, what changes would you suggest to STCC's Vision Statement? As an example, noted, is the term "dynamic" big or strong enough for our future. Dr. Cook' input to the question as to "what is the most ambitious outcome for the

college? Imagine 15 years from now, that STCC has evolved to be the most comprehensive education Eco-System. Such as, we have head start on campus, we have hundreds of high school students taking our college credits and that we have pathways to career and transfer. How do we build this type of integration in our vision? To conclude, Javon and Samantha will take tonight's feedback to review, refine, and seek approval from Trustees.

## **VII. Chair's Report – Trustee Marikate Murren**

Board Chair Murren expressed her appreciation to the CampusWorks team on leading the work of Strategic Planning. As we approach the month of March, with the NECHE visit, Dr. Cook will keep Trustees updated on anything required from Trustees. Before turning it over to Trustee Jynai McDonald, Chair Murren expressed her appreciation to Trustee McDonald for leading the By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **a) Trustee By-Laws Review – Trustee Jynai McDonald**

Trustee McDonald informed that the By-Laws Ad Hoc committee members are Trustees Samalid Hogan, Tonia Butler Perez and herself. The committee has met three times and have two additional meeting scheduled before the end of the year. The Committee worked first on the by-laws prioritized in the NECHE concerns, presented by Dr. Pura at the Board of Trustees Retreat. Once we review the prioritized sections, we will revise the rest of the document. Trustee McDonald provided additional details about the areas revised. Trustee Hogan expressed that it has been a great opportunity to work on this project. The collaboration within our Committee members has been great. Trustee Sposito, who attended one of the meeting also commented on the arduous process. Trustee McDonald noted that this project has been opening up some light or clarity on how we have been doing things and on how we should continue to work moving forward. As a suggestion, we might need to provide training. For Trustee Hogan, as a newer Trustee, it has been a great experience, and further agrees that it is important for all Trustees to understand the intention of the By-Laws.

## **IX. New Business**

Although it's not new, Governor Baker extended the provision on remote meeting until March 2023. Would like to know the feeling of Trustees of starting to meet in person for some of the meetings. Suggested to start with the Committee on Internal and External Affairs meeting scheduled in February. Trustee McDonald noted that the By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee has been meeting in person.

## **X. Date of Next Board Meeting – Monday, November 28, 2022 in zoom**

**XI. Adjournment**

Meeting was called to adjourn at 5:59 p.m., seconded by Trustees Norman Roldan, Jynai McDonald, and unanimously approved via roll call.

  
Marikate Murren  
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees

  
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito  
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees