

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Southwestern Community College

January 27, 2026 - Jackson Campus

Attending:

Trustees

Howard Allman	Mark Jones
Toby Allman	Mark Letson
Jeff Cloer	Cory McCall
Joyce Cooper	Patrick McGuire
J.K. Coward (virtual)	Gerald McKinney
Jack Debnam	Cynthia Womble
Jenny Holland	Brooklyn Frizzell (Student Rep)

College Staff

Dr. Don Tomas
Scott Baker
Tyler Goode
Kathy Posey
Barb Putman
Tina Wilson
Mark Haskett

Guests

Kimberly Buff
Shaughn Harrington
Dagney Williams

Absent:

Ken Henke	Brett Rogers	Betty Waldroop
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The Board of Trustees of Southwestern Community College (SCC) met for their bi-monthly meeting on January 27, 2026, in the Slagle Board Room of the Conrad G. Burrell Building on the Jackson campus.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mark Jones called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement. A quorum was present for the meeting. There were technical issues trying to connect audio for Mr. Coward.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Mark Jones proposed an addendum to the agenda to move into Closed Session (Item X. on the agenda) to discuss Real Property (G.S. 143-318.11(s) (5). Mr. Jerry McKinney made a motion to move into Closed Session which was seconded by Mr. Jeff Cloer and approved unanimously. Mr. Howard Allman and Mr. Jack Debnam expressed a conflict of interest and left the room. The Board entered Closed Session at 5:15pm.

After discussion, and with no other matters to discuss, Mr. Jeff Cloer made a motion to return to Open Session. Mr. Jerry McKinney seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board entered into Open Session at 5:20pm at which time interested board members left to view the proposed property.

Upon return from viewing the property, Mr. Jerry McKinney made a motion to return to Closed Session. Mr. Jeff Cloer seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Howard Allman and Mr. Jack Debnam recused themselves and left the room. The Board entered into Closed Session at 5:40pm. After discussion and with no further matters to discuss, Mr. Jerry McKinney moved to exit the Closed Session and return to Open Session. Mr. Mark Letson seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board entered Open Session at 6:05pm. After a brief

discussion, Mr. Cory McCall made a motion to return to Closed Session which was seconded by Ms. Cynthia Womble and passed unanimously. The Board entered into Closed Session at 6:10pm. With no further business, Mr. Jerry McKinney made a motion to exit the Closed Session and return to Open Session. Mr. Mark Letson seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board entered into Open Session at 6:20pm.

Mr. Jeff Cloer made a motion to proceed with the purchase of 26.96 acres. Ms. Jenny Holland seconded the motion. Mr. Howard Allman, Mr. Jack Debnam and Mr. J.K. Coward recused themselves from voting due to a conflict of interest. The motion passed with ten ayes and zero nays.

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Kathy Posey administered the Oath of Office to new Student Representative Brooklyn Frizzell.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Jack Debnam made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Howard Allman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of November 18, 2025. Mr. Howard Allman made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Toby Allman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Tomas provided a President's Report noting several upcoming events, including the Presidents winter conference at Brunswick Community College from January 28-30, the Presidents/Superintendents meeting in Greensboro from Feb. 25-26, and the AACC national conference in Seattle from April 10-14. The Law and Legislative Seminar is scheduled for April 22-24 in Raleigh which hopefully Mr. Mark Letson and Dr. Patrick McGuire can attend. Dr. Tomas also shared the sad news that a young student cadet from Class 93BL, passed away during training. Ms. Posey will share the funeral arrangements with board members.

CURRICULUM AND STUDENT SERVICES

Chairman Mark Jones asked Dr. Barb Putman to report. Dr. Putman introduced Ms. Dagney Williams who shared her story of returning to school for a second degree. Ms. Williams received the Bob Scott Leadership award. Dr. Putman shared statements from students Kimberly Buff who received the Dallas Herring Achievement Award and Mr. Shaughn Harrington who received the Academic Excellence Award.

Dr. Putman provided an update on the in-depth program review, which included 11 programs, with no recommendation for program closures this year.

Dr. Putman reported on the institutional reaffirmation process with SACSCOC, noting that the compliance certification writing will conclude next month, with submission scheduled for before the March 1 deadline.

FINANCE AND CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT

Finance and Campus Improvement Committee Chair Cory McCall asked Ms. Tina Wilson, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, to give a report on Local Revenue Analysis and State Budget Expenditures.

Under action items, Ms. Wilson presented the Budget Allocations and Transfers. Following review and discussion, Ms. Jenny Holland made a motion to approve the Budget Allocations and Transfers as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Mark Letson and passed unanimously.

Ms. Wilson presented revisions to Policy 3.02.06 Facility Use and Policy 7.03.05 Purchasing. After review and discussion, Mr. Jack Debnam made a motion to approve revisions to both policies as presented. Mr. Toby Allman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Dr. Tomas provided an update on several other ongoing capital projects. The Learning Commons renovation and the Indoor Firearms Training Facility projects are moving into the construction design development phase, with potential bids expected late summer or early fall, while the fire rescue training facility completion is delayed until September or October. The Dental Assisting/Dental Hygiene project is almost complete.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Jones reminded the board that every member needs to complete an SEI by January 31. A board retreat has been scheduled for Friday, May 1 and the draft agenda was reviewed. Dr. Tomas explained that the retreat will cover by-laws and the results from the board self-evaluations, focusing on areas with the lowest marks. Please let Ms. Posey know if you would like to add an item to the board retreat agenda.

Ms. Posey will be sending out the Presidents' evaluation which needs to be completed by February 28.

OTHER BUSINESS - None

With no other business before the Board, Ms. Jenny Holland made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Howard Allman and passed unanimously. Chairman Jones adjourned the meeting at 7:10p.m.

Mark Jones, Chair
Board of Trustees

Don Tomas, Secretary
Board of Trustees