

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Kelly Tutoring Center
115 Logan Hall
June 3, 2025, 5:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Trustees Larry Caddell, Chairman; Tim Carpenter, Vice Chairman; Joseph Clendenin, Secretary; Gene Horne; Gary Evans; Irish Pickett; Helen Probst Mills; Billy Carter; BethAnn Pratte; Stephen Woodward; Dell Cook; David McLean; Haden Barnett, 2024-2025 SGA President; Nick Watts, 2025-2026, SGA President

ABSENT: Tony Hunt, Bruce Hurst

BOARD ATTORNEY: John May, Robbins, May & Rich

STAFF: Dr. Sandy Stewart; Mary Bridschge; Dr. Rebecca Roush; Dr. Julie Voigt; Dr. D.J. Farmer; Dr. Germaine Elkins; Michelle Bauer; Steven Garner; Lindsey Farmer; Chad Williams; Karen Walker; Tess Regan; Teresa Sheets, Jennifer Pearce, Dana Cuellar, Alex Patti, Taylor Murphy, Kayla Miller, Whitney Cherekos, Dwight Threet

GUESTS: Matt Lamb, The Pilot Newspaper

PUBLIC: David Hensley

Mr. Caddell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He read the statute regarding conflicts of interest to the Trustees and asked the Board if there were any potential conflicts with the agenda items to be discussed. Hearing none, Mr. Caddell proceeded to the next item of business.

Mr. Cook offered a moment of prayer.

Mr. Woodward made a motion to request that, given the importance of the other business item entitled "Report of Website Audit," the item be moved further up on the agenda, following the Governance Committee Report. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter asked that under the Buildings and Grounds Report, the agenda reflect that the update relating to selection of LS3P as the design consultant for the Moore Innovative High School be moved to an item requiring approval. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Following the implementation of the modifications requested, Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Woodward stated that the April 8, 2025, Board of Trustees minutes do not reflect that he requested a website audit. Mr. Evans made a motion that the April 8, 2025, Board of Trustee minutes reflect that Mr. Woodward requested an audit of the SCC website. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McLean made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caddell asked if there were any corrections to the Special Called Meeting held on April 30, 2025. Hearing none, Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the April 30, 2025, Special Called Meeting. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Stewart reviewed the proposed Board meeting schedule for 2025-2026. Regular meetings are held six times per year. The Board retreat will be held on October 7, 2025, moving the retreat from spring to fall, presenting enhanced opportunity for Board member training. A February retreat is optional. Mr. Horne noted that financial statements would be available in October for Board review. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the proposed Board meeting dates. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Whitney Cherekos, Coordinator for the Kelly Tutoring Center, presented an overview of the Center's activities. Her goal for the Center has been to create a welcoming environment with an open door for all who enter. The Center was recently renovated to include colorful furniture, quiet spaces for individual study, tables designated for study groups, soft-surface chairs, and booths arranged for privacy in small groups. Ms. Cherekos shared success stories of students who have received assistance from the Center, and who have gone on to complete graduation and find gainful employment in their desired field. Drop-in labs are also available throughout the campus. A greater online presence is being planned for the Center.

Mr. Barnett presented the Student Government Association (SGA) report. Mr. Barnett thanked the Board for allowing him to serve and to learn throughout his term as SGA President. Chairman Caddell congratulated Mr. Barnett for his commencement address. Mr. Barnett introduced incoming SGA President, Nick Watts, who was delayed as the meeting began, but joined the meeting later. Mr. Watts is pursuing an Associate in Arts degree in Teacher Preparation and aspires to become an educator. Mr. Watts has served as a volunteer coach and is also a volunteer firefighter. Mr. Watts has been selected to serve as the Assistant for the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association.

Mr. Caddell called on Dr. Voigt to present the Governance Committee Report. Dr. Voigt reviewed current policies and procedures for Board review and future approval. Dr. Voigt expressed that it is important to know that some of the requested changes would entail combining information. Policies for Board review are: **SCC Policy 4.4 – Code of Conduct,**

SCC Procedure: 4.4.1 – Code of Conduct, SCC Policy 4.5 – Dress Code, and SCC Policy 4.11 – Academic Honesty.

Ms. Pratte asked what procedure is followed if a student violates a policy, what action is taken, and who determines if there will be suspension or expulsion. Mr. Williams, VP of Student Services, said that an appointed Student Conduct Officer becomes involved and leads an investigation. In the case of a minor, the investigation would involve parents. Outcomes could include a verbal or written notification or could result in suspension or expulsion. Students could appeal a decision. Dr. Voigt added that the Code of Conduct information is in the College catalog.

Mr. Evans made a motion to move forward with the review of policies and procedures to be considered for approval at the August 2025 BOT meeting. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Voigt asked for approval of the policies that were brought forward from April 2025, Board of Trustees meeting to include **Policy 3.4.10 Pregnant and Parenting Employees, Policy 5.3.4 Discrimination and Harassment, Policy 7.2 Internet and Acceptable Use, Policy 7.9 Pornography Prohibited on College Networks and Devices.** A Policy Comparison Chart was provided with the policy information at the April meeting. Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve the 2025-06-03 Action Item Policies as listed on the Comparison Chart. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Stewart reported that, based on the Board's instructions in the April 2025, Board of Trustees meeting, it was requested that an audit be conducted of the SCC website for statements and terms related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. To bring this forward to the Board, many things followed from policy in terms of statements in the policy that appear in the College catalog and various places on the website. Dr. Stewart then reviewed policies included in the Board packet to include **Policy 1.1 Mission Statement, Policy 2.1 Equal Opportunity & Non-Discrimination, Policy 2.17 Commitment to Diversity, Policy 4.14 & 5.17 Discrimination and Harassment, Policy 5.16 Employee Pay, Policy 5.22 Civility, and Policy 10.4 Campus Crime.**

Dr. Stewart commented that the policies reviewed are Board policies, and proposed changes could be directed to the Governance Committee for review and consideration. The SCC Website and Catalog have been reviewed to ensure that correct terminology is present.

Mr. Caddell asked for full Board participation concerning policy review. Board revisions and recommendations will be submitted to the Governance Committee for review. Following their review, the Governance Committee will present the recommended changes to the Board during the August 2025 Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Carpenter made a motion that the Board review the policies for changes and recommendations, and submit the information to the Governance Committee, who will report their findings to the Board during the August 2025 Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. McLean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter reported for Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Items Requiring Approval:

- Preservation of 43-acre Tract Property -
The Buildings and Grounds Committee voted to move forward with a draft recommendation to the full Board that the parcel shall remain under the stewardship of Sandhills Community College for future preservation. Mr. Carpenter read the draft to the Board, summarizing that the land remains as it is, and to develop a long-term plan for the property. Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve the draft as presented. Mr. McLean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Moore Innovative High School (MIHS) -
LS3P Architects has completed the advanced planning phase of MIHS. The report is under review by the State Construction Office. The Buildings and Grounds Committee would like to move forward and allow LS3P to provide a draft agreement with the full scope of information. Mr. McLean made a motion to approve that the Buildings and Grounds Committee move forward with LS3P to submit the draft agreement. Ms. Probst Mills seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve LS3P's preferred alternate location for MIHS, which will result in a cost savings of approximately \$1.3M. Mr. McLean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Updates:

- Caddell Center Classroom Building -
Continue to wait for approval from Town of Carthage. Dr. Farmer, Steven Garner, and Mr. Carpenter will attend a meeting on June 5, 2025, with the Town of Carthage. Hobbs Associates will present on behalf of the College.
- Hot Water Loop Project -
Contracted with Mechanical Maintenance to construct hot water loop, which provides heat to four buildings on campus. Timeline completion prior to fall classes.
- Bookstore Renovation -
Currently working with Sandhills Building Systems to submit a visual concept of the student-centered offices and costs to renovate. The space would include all Student Life activities and academic offices in one location. All current activity will remain in the Dempsey Student Center. The current budget for the project is \$300,000.

Ms. Sheets administered the Oath of Office to incoming SGA President, Nick Watts. Mr. Watts expressed his gratitude to the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to serve. Mr. Watts shared personal and educational history, and his goals for the year as SGA President.

Mr. Horne reported for the Finance Committee calling on Dr. Farmer to present financial information.

Dr. Farmer reviewed the State, Moore County, and Hoke County budgets with no Board action required. Regarding the Moore Innovative High School budget, as of April 30, 2025, spending is at \$73,277.50, paid to LS3P Architects for the advanced planning stage. There are currently no state bonds. County bonds report an expense for the Caddell Training Center in the amount of \$100,582.35 for Hobbs Architects.

Mr. Horne reviewed information regarding the letter sent by the State Auditor's Office dated April 28, 2025, concerning the year ending June 30, 2024. Mr. Horne stated that within the findings, no cash was missing, all debts were paid, and no fraud was involved. It was the desire of the Board to review each finding individually by line item. Dr. Farmer and Ms. Walker reviewed and clarified all findings. Dr. Farmer and Dr. Stewart responded to the auditors in a letter dated May 12, 2025, agreeing with the findings and recommendations made to correct reporting moving forward. Dr. Stewart also sent an email to all trustees dated May 23, 2025, concerning the auditor's findings. Ms. Kayla Miller, previously employed by the State Auditor's Office, has joined the SCC financial team. Extensive training will occur in the future to eliminate any occurrence of errors. Mr. Horne made a motion to acknowledge and to accept the audit management findings letter and response letter. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- SCC Foundation Budget Request for FY 2025-2026 -
The College annually requests a budget for the Foundation. The amount of \$345,000, which is the same amount as last year, was requested and approved by the Foundation Board in their recent meeting.
Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the SCC Foundation budget request of \$345,000 for 2025-2026. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Proposed FY 2025-2026 County Budget Increase of \$519,415.00 towards the Moore County operating budget.
Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the Moore County budget increase. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Farmer reviewed information regarding the Hoke County budget. The primary need for a budget increase is related to funding of salaries. Asking for an increase of \$266,577.03.
Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the requested increase for the Hoke County budget. Mr. McLean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Evans reported for the Personnel and Planning Committees

Personnel Committee:

Items Requiring Approval:

- Mehera Adringer – Early Childhood Instructor
Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the hiring of Mehera Adringer. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Updates:

- Personnel Information

Planning Committee:

Items Requiring Approval: No items for approval.

Updates:

- Campus-wide Committees - Ms. Farmer reviewed information regarding the redesign of campus-wide committees. The number of campus committees has been reduced from 26 to 20 committees, due to the removal of those committees which have become stagnant or are no longer purposeful.
- College Strategic Plan of Operations (CSP) - There will be an updated CSP for the Board to review and approve in October.
- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Training Program - This is a relatively new program at the state level. The program has been on campus since summer 2024. SCC is one of 15 out of 58 community colleges to have this program, which began as a grant program and now is fully funded through the General Assembly. The program is designed for individuals with IDD seeking employment.
- A meeting to highlight the IDD Program will take place on June 13, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., in the Clement Dining Room on the SCC Campus.

Mr. Carter reported for the Educational Programs and Student Affairs Committees, calling on Dr. Roush to provide updates.

Items Requiring Approval: No items for approval.

Updates:

- **Cooperative and Innovative High School** - The official name will be Moore Innovative High School. The official mascot will be the Red Wolves. 70 students have committed Fall 2025. A highly successful welcome event took place in Van Dusen Hall on May 31, 2025. Staff will begin work on July 1, 2025. Directional signage will be installed on campus.
- **Memorandum of Understanding + Addendum for Moore Innovative High School** - Board members were provided copies of a Draft Memorandum of Understanding

between Moore County Board of Education and Sandhills Community College Board of Trustees concerning the Career and College Promise as well as the Addendum for Moore Innovative High School.

- Ms. Pratte suggested that a spreadsheet be prepared listing all expenditures and revenue concerning Moore County and the Moore Innovative High School.

Mr. Woodward called attention to Section 7.0 Background Checks as it appears in the Memorandum of Understanding. Dr. Stewart said that it is always good practice to perform a background check, but there is no policy which specifically addresses this issue. Dr. Stewart also stated that the absence of a policy does not indicate a lack of duty or responsibility.

- The Ophthalmic Medical Assisting Program will transition to Workforce Continuing Education (WCE). Recruitment is underway with Carolina Eye Associates. This transition reflects the “One College” approach with the integrated curriculum and WCE structure.

Mr. Williams thanked those who attended various pinning ceremonies and graduations that took place during the previous weeks. A Workforce Continuing Education ceremony will take place at 2 pm on Friday, June 20, 2025, on the SCC Campus.

From an enrollment perspective, Mr. Williams shared that Spring 2025 enrollment was up 7% in headcount and 6% in Full Time Equivalent (FTE). SCC is slightly above the national community college growth in terms of enrollment. As of May 1, 2025, SCC headcount was up 9% and FTE just over 10%. Fall 2025 registration began on April 1, 2025, with enrollment numbers showing an increase of 16% in headcount and 10% in FTE. Mr. Williams attributes this success to a college-wide effort on the part of staff and faculty. Mr. Williams also congratulated Mr. Barnett for representing the SGA as President and welcomed Mr. Watts in his new role as incoming SGA President for the 2025 - 2026 term.

Dr. Elkins presented the Foundation Report.

The Foundation Board met and toured the Caddell Public Training Facility on April 28, 2025. Ms. Elkins reviewed the fundraising update included in the agenda. Total giving is \$2,890,103 included in the 987 gifts since July 2024. Total long-term assets are over \$54M.

In the months of May, June, and July, Convergent Nonprofit Solutions is engaged for the Foundation to conduct a Return on Investment (ROI) study for the College’s trades programs to add more information to our Case for Support development. Completion should be within the next two months.

A Foundation Board Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled in late July or early August to review information from the LS3P study and direction decided by the Board of Trustees as well as the results of the Convergent Nonprofit ROI study. The Foundation Board Executive Committee will then make decisions about how to proceed with a future campaign feasibility study this fall.

The President's Report.

Dr. Stewart noted there were over 500 graduates at the May 17, 2025, SCC Commencement ceremony. This year's guest speaker was Zane Vogel, who is an alumnus of Sandhills Community College. Two graduates received the Goodnight Scholarship, which supports students with networking, leadership development, advising, travel, and enrichment funding. In addition, graduate Allison Pratte, who graduated from SandHoke Early College High School, received over \$2M in scholarships. Dr. Stewart attended the SandHoke Early College graduate dinner, where among the 73 graduates, over \$6M was awarded in scholarships.

In partnership with Moore County Schools and UNC Pembroke, the "Grow Moore Teachers" scholarship was awarded to Union Pines graduate, Alyssa Mabe. Ms. Mabe was the first student to receive this award, which creates a pathway at no cost for a Moore County student to receive their education degree and teach in Moore County for four years upon graduation.

Pennsylvania Transformer Technology, a substation transformer company, will expand their operations and will be located in the Hoke County Industrial Park. SCC hosted a tour of the Hoke and Pinehurst campuses which included discussions regarding training programs and job qualifications with the Human Resources and Training directors.

In legislative updates, both chambers are in session this week. From a community college perspective, budgets differ as expected but are similar in a very important respect in that both budgets for enrollment growth for community colleges.

The SCC Men's Golf Team is in round one of the National Championships. The team is vying for their 5th National Championship.

Ms. Probst Mills said it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as a Sandhills Community College Trustee for the past eight years. She thanked former Governor Cooper for her appointment. In Ms. Probst Mill's words, "The primary mission of Sandhills Community College is to ensure student success. Our role as trustees is to support that mission through the hiring of best the president that we can find, a process that was thorough and diligent, and I believe it was a great success. I think that we need to hold tight to the fact that this institution changes people's lives, and we are guarded with ensuring this to be true for this community. I am so thankful to have been able to play a very small part."

Mr. Clendenin made a motion pursuant to G.S. 143-3148.12(b) to go into closed session. Ms. Probst Mills seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes
June 3, 2025
8:10 p.m.

Sandhills Community College Board of Trustees
Closed Meeting

A regularly schedule meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Sandhills Community College (“SCC”) was convened at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, in the Kelly Tutoring Center on the campus at which a quorum was present and acting throughout. Once the meeting was convened, at 8:10 pm the Board voted to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

John M. May, Attorney for SCC
June 3, 2025

With no further business, the Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Caddell, Chairman of the Board

Joseph Clendenin, Secretary of the Board