

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE REGULAR APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

**Foundation Hall Lobby
August 5, 2025, 5:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Trustees Larry Caddell, Chairman; Tim Carpenter, Vice Chairman; Joseph Clendenin, Secretary; Gene Horne; Irish Pickett; Billy Carter; BethAnn Pratte; Stephen Woodward; Dell Cook; David McLean; Mike Freidel, Bruce Hurst; Richard Maness; Nicholas Watts, SGA President

ABSENT: Tony Hunt

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; Dave Daniels; Tess Regan; Teresa Sheets, Jennifer Pearce, Dwight Threet

GUESTS: Matt Lamb, The Pilot Newspaper; Stephanie Sellers, Sandhills News; Helen Probst Mills; Stewart Mills; Gary Evans; Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. Bill Carl; Colonel Nick Christopher; Colonel Walt Havenstein; Tina Hlabse, Ramseur Maultsby

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. Hurst offered a moment of prayer.

Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sheets administered the Oath of Office to incoming Trustees Richard Maness and Michael Freidel for appointments to the Sandhills Community College Board of Trustees. Mr. Maness was appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate in July 2025. Mr. Freidel was appointed by the Moore County Commissioners in July 2025. Additionally, Chairman Larry Caddell and Trustee Bruce Hurst received the Oath for reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Caddell and Dr. Stewart presented commemorative bricks to outgoing Trustees Helen Probst Mills and Gary Evans. Ms. Probst Mills served two terms as a Trustee; Mr. Evans served a total of three terms. The bricks are inscribed with the recipient's names and years of service and will be positioned in a place of honor on the Graduate Walk located on the SCC campus.

Dave Daniels, Coordinator, Veterans Services, and Chad Williams, Vice President of Student Services recognized Lieutenant Colonel Bill Carl (Retired) and Mrs. Sandi Carl for their

outstanding dedication to veterans and military families through their leadership. Also recognized were Colonel Nick Christopher and Colonel Walt Havenstein. These individuals serve through the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), whose mission is to “Never Stop Serving.” Their long-standing support of Sandhills Community College has made a lasting impact on the military-affiliated students and the broader campus community.

Ms. Bauer introduced Ms. Marta Braun-Kane, Senior Director of Workforce Continuing Education, Health Care Training, and Nurse Aide Programming. Ms. Braun-Kane presented information regarding the School of Health, Wellness, and Public Safety, which offers more than twelve programs. Ms. Braun-Kane oversees programs which include Nurse Aid, Central Sterile Processing, Pharmacy Technician, and North Carolina Community Health Worker. Ms. Braun-Kane noted the importance of partnerships which are vital to the success of the Nurse Aide program. Students must have a total of 32 to 80 hours of clinical practice, which would not be possible without the help and coordination of FirstHealth leaders. Clinical sites for Nurse Aide are also held in nursing homes such as Penick Village, Quail Haven, and St. Joseph of the Pines.

Mr. Clendenin made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Watts presented the Student Government Association (SGA) report. SGA leaders recently completed training for service on the SGA Board. The team toured the campus, reviewed Roberts Rules of Order, and made group pictures. The new position of Public Information Office (PIO) will be added to the SGA Board. The PIO will be responsible for writing newsletters and publishing the SCC Student Life page. Mr. Watts will attend an upcoming state-wide meeting of the SGA to be held at Cape Fear Community College.

Governance Committee Report

Mr. Caddell called on Mr. Carpenter to review recommendations from the Governance Committee pertaining to the following policies and items:

- Review of Moore County Schools Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Moore Innovative High School MOU.
The Moore County Board of Education has approved the MOU. Governance Committee recommendation is to move forward with the approval of the MOU.

Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the MOU for the Moore County Schools and for the Moore Innovative High School. Mr. Carter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Clerical Updates and/or Errors Provision.
Governance Committee recommendation is to move forward with approval, giving staff the ability to make clerical changes without Board approval, making no changes to policy meaning as written. A record of those changes and/or corrections of errors will be

maintained and presented to the Board. Changes may include title, position, and name changes, typos, and grammatical errors.

Mr. Carpenter made a motion for approval to allow staff to make corrections and clerical updates without Board approval and to submit a record of corrections to the Board. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- New Procedure - Registered Sex Offenders.
Procedure under Policy 5.25 and 10.1.3 were introduced to formalize existing practices related to registered sex offenders. No Board action required.
- Policy 4.5 - Dress Code and Policy 4.11 – Academic Honesty
Requested at June BOT meeting to delete both policies as they are associated with procedure in the Academic Honesty piece as well as the Student Code of Conduct, therefore reducing redundancy.

Mr. Carter made a motion to rescind Policy 4.5 and Policy 4.11. Mr. McLean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Policies to be reviewed for approval at the October BOT meeting:

Policy 4.6 - Student Grievance - Removing specific titles and departments.

Policy 1.14 - Accreditation, which will be a new policy to be added, to ensure that the college is in compliance with State mandated accreditation requirements.

Policy 1.1 - Mission Statement which relates to the review of the website. Replaces the existing equity statement with an equal opportunity statement.

Policy 2.1 - Equal Opportunity & Non-Discrimination. Request to remove this policy to eliminate redundancy and align with the new Equal Opportunity statement.

Policy 2.17 - Commitment to Diversity - Request to remove this policy to avoid redundancy with the updated institutional statement.

Policy 4.14 & 5.17 - Discrimination and Harassment – Remove specific language to align with the updated institutional statement.

Mr. Carpenter made a motion, based on bylaws procedure, that policy reviews be moved to the October Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Buildings and Grounds Committee Report

Mr. Carpenter reported there are no items requiring Board approval.

Dr. Farmer presented the following updates:

- Moore Innovative High School (MIHS)
In negotiation process with State Construction. Submitted the original 3-1, and design fees are under negotiation.
- Caddell Center Classroom Building - Dr. Farmer said that the design team has been working diligently. Will meet with the Town of Carthage on Thursday, August 7, at 6:00 p.m. Will present to Moore County Commissioners on Monday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m. The project will then go to bid, and the bid will remain active for 30 days. Following a review, will hopefully select a contractor, and will present the chosen contractor to the Board in October for approval. Following approval, there is typically a 30-day window for permitting. Optimistically looking for a November 1, 2025, groundbreaking.
- Storm Impact and Pond Repairs - Water levels need to come down to enable repairs. Waiting on design plan for emergency spillway.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Horne reported for the Finance Committee calling on Dr. Farmer to review the Financial Report through June 30, 2025. Dr. Farmer said that this was a strong year financially. There was an increase in the State budget which enabled the college to offer additional support to students. The increase in budget was due to enrollment growth.

Dr. Farmer reviewed State and County Bond Funds through June 30, 2025. There were no State bonds. As of June 30, 2025, \$105,593.50 was spent from County Bond Funds directed towards the Caddell Center Training Center project.

Regarding the Moore County Innovative High School, Dr. Farmer presented information from the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM). Numbers to date are \$80,605.25 towards the advanced planning phase, with accrued interest in the amount of \$921,662.30 for the year.

Moore and Hoke Counties have approved budgets for 2025-2026 year. Moore County received an increase of \$519,415.00; Hoke County received a \$144,356.00 increase, for a total of \$663,771.00 in increased county funding for the two counties.

Dr. Farmer reported there are no increases in student tuition rates. In-state fees are \$76 per credit hour, and out-of-state fees are \$268 per credit hour. Students are charged \$25 for a Campus Access, Parking, and Security Fee (CAPS), an activity fee of \$35 per semester, and a technology fee of \$48 per semester.

Mr. Horne reviewed for approval the Travel Authorizations for the President and the Board of Trustees. Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the Travel Authorizations for the President and Board of Trustees. Mr. Clendenin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Committee

Personnel Action – Items Requiring Approval -

Full-Time Faculty Appointments for Board Approval:

- Dr. Quanpeng (Sam) Yang, Robert Curtain, James McAdoo, Ashley Collins, Caroline Brown, Janna Uherka, Tracy McAdoo

Mr. Horne made a motion to approve new Full-Time Faculty appointments. Ms. Pickett seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Updates: Personnel Information – No Board Action Required

Planning Committee

Dean Farmer presented information regarding the College Strategic Plan. (CSP) The CSP will be available to the Board for a vote in October. The normal September 16th Planning Committee meeting will be extended by a few hours. Approximately one week later, it will go to the full Board to allow ample time to review and vote at the October meeting.

Educational Programs and Student Affairs Committees

Mr. Carter reported that the Educational and Student Affairs Committee met on July 10, 2025. There were no actionable items.

Dr. Roush updated the committee on the progress of the Moore County Innovative High School (MIHS). A welcome day for parents and students was held on August 4th, and the first day of school for students will be Thursday, August 7, 2025. At present, there are 65 students registered for classes. A ceremonial ribbon cutting will take place on September 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Roush shared that the second annual combined graduation for Workforce Continuing Education students took place in June. The combined graduation will be an ongoing event twice per year, to be held in the months of June and December.

Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) has received approval from the State to offer dual enrollment to private and homeschool students.

Title II Adult Basic Education funding was renewed, which is important to the Career and College Readiness programs.

Workforce Innovation and Strategic Planning has joined the Educational Committee for reporting. Dean Farmer reported there are 17 active apprenticeships currently in place, including Childcare and Maintenance Engineering. Apprenticeships require instructional hours aligned with employment. Great connections are being formed with our students throughout the community.

Mr. Williams gave an update on enrollment for summer of 2025. Curriculum enrollment is up 9% and Full Time Equivalent (FTE) is up 15% from last summer. Career & College Readiness,

which includes High School Equivalency, Adult Basic Education, and English Language Acquisition, with 2 weeks remaining, FTE is up 10% compared to last summer. Occupational training FTE is up over 20%. Mr. Williams asked that everyone take note that the Navy Jr. ROTC drill meet will be held on campus in the parking lots behind the Dempsey Student Center on October 25, 2025, between 7:30 and 2 pm. This meeting brings together high school students from North and South Carolina and gives us an opportunity to showcase our campus. There will be 250 to 300 cadets in attendance. Dr. Stewart added that SCC is looking at the possibility of an ROTC program on our campus. Mr. Williams said that we are working with N.C. State to explore what types of partnerships we can forge.

Dr. Elkins presented the Foundation Report. The Foundation closed out the fiscal year at just over \$3.1MM in total gifts from 1,100 donors. The Mary Stephenson Estate was closed with a gift of over \$400,000. The Foundation endowed two new scholarships. Dr. Elkins said that from the Engagement Division under the Personal Enrichment Program, SCC has a relationship with Belle Meade. Classes are offered on the Belle Meade campus, and SCC is paid for that service. Classes are taught under the heading of the Life-Long Learning Institute. A similar agreement has recently been established with Penick Village.

The President's Report

Expanding upon the presentation given by Marta Braun-Kane, Dr. Stewart added that the Nurse Aide Program is a pathway into the Curriculum Associate Degree in Nursing Program. This pathway is an example of aligning continuing education and curriculum programs. This fall, the Nursing program will welcome 91 students, the largest nursing class in the history of the college. Surgical Technology and Radiography expect incoming classes to reach the maximum student headcount from an accreditation standpoint.

There are currently 31 potential students on a wait list for Welding I. The capacity that the college can accommodate does not meet the demand for skilled trades.

This week, the Small Business Center held an entrepreneur business class at the Hoke Center in Raeford. Over 50 individuals attended. Dr. Stewart expressed the great support the college received from the Hoke County Commissioners.

Dr. Stewart commented on the importance of the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program (BLET) in community colleges. Mr. Maness reflected that during the time of his service as a N.C. Highway Patrol Officer, there was a 24-week period to graduate new troopers and put them on N.C. highways. Because of the training and effectiveness of the current BLET program, an officer can now complete training and move on to become a N.C. Highway Patrol officer in 12 weeks. Ronald Turk is now the Department Head for the Department of Public Safety and will continue his role as Director of the BLET program as well.

Stephanie McDavid will serve as the Department Head for Creative and Liberal Arts. The department encompasses Social and Behavioral Sciences, Humanities/Religion, and Fine Arts.

Ms. McDavid joins us from St. Andrews University and brings a deep and diverse background in academic leadership and the arts.

Veterans Student Services has seen significant growth during the last year. In the academic year 23/24, the program saw 350 students with certified veterans' status. That number grew to 435 for the 24/25 academic year. Similarly, individual courses taken by these students grew from 2,116 one year ago to 2,694 in academic year 24/25. Veterans Services is very capably headed by veteran Dave Daniels, and includes Abby Miller, Veterans Services Associate and Success Coach, and Jami Dandridge, Director of Financial Aid and Veterans Services.

Dr. Stewart shared updates from the General Assembly, which recently concluded their long session in Raleigh. An "essentials" budget was passed by both chambers and awaits the Governor's signature. Community colleges had several priorities for the session; chief among them were enrollment growth funding, funding of the Propel NC model, and Apprenticeship NC programs. Of these, enrollment growth funding was passed in the "essentials" budget.

News from the System Office and State Board of Community Colleges includes the appointment of five new members appointed to the General Assembly. Additionally, Dr. Jeff Cox, System President, announced his intention to retire as of June 30, 2026. Dr. Cox has led the system since 2023 and will retire after a 30+ year career. Dr. Cox has served as a high school teacher, principle, school superintendent, and president of Wilkes Community College. The State Board will outline a formal transition process in the months ahead.

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

The Board went into closed session at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes

August 5,

2025

Sandhills Community College Board of

Trustees Closed Session

Foundation Hall Lobby

Immediately prior to the end of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustee (the

"Board") of Sandhills Community College ("SCC") at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, on proper motion and second, the Board voted at 6:55 p.m. to go into a closed session to receive a report from Tina Hlabse, attorney for the Board, regarding litigation.

There were no other matters discussed at the closed session.

No action was taken by the Board other than to vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John M. May", is written over a horizontal line.

John M. May, Attorney for SCC

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

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Caddell, Chairman of the Board

Joseph Clendenin, Secretary of the Board