

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

**Clement Dining Room  
March 3, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

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

**ABSENT:** Irish Pickett; Stephen Woodward; Tony Hunt

**STAFF:** Dr. Sandy Stewart, Dr. Julie Voigt, Dr. Rebecca Roush, Dr. D.J. Farmer, Dr. Germaine Elkins, Chad Williams, Lindsey Farmer, Mary Brideschge, Teresa Sheets, Steven Garner, Karen Walker, Jonathan Garrison

**GUESTS:** John May, Robbins May & Rich; Tina Hlabse

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. McLean asked that the agenda be amended to reflect the removal of two items under the Governance Committee report. Policy 3.4.1, Article IV, references a wording correction. This item does not need a second review as it was approved in the first reading during the December 2, 2026, meeting. Also, during the December meeting, a discussion occurred to consider adding the Consent Agenda to the bylaws. A motion was made and seconded and was unanimously approved during December 2, 2026, that the Consent Agenda should not be included in the bylaws. Mr. McLean asked that the agenda be amended to reflect the aforementioned items. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Farmer requested one modification for Buildings and Grounds for an approval of emergency repair to a chiller for Van Dusen Hall. Mr. Carpenter made a motion to proceed to amend the agenda for this item. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. McLean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## Program Presentation

Mr. Carpenter made a motion to recess for a Student Life tour presentation. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chad Williams, Vice President of Student Services, lead a tour of the former bookstore, recently renovated and currently serving as the Student Life Center. Board members were given an opportunity to explore the activities currently offered to students, which included gaming activities and study areas where students can socialize, relax, and recharge. Mr. McLean made a motion to readjournal. Mr. Freidel seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## Consent Agenda

The following items were included in the March 3, 2026, Consent Agenda:

Second Floor Dempsey Renovation  
NCWORKS Update  
Scottish Heritage Center  
State and County Bond Funds  
OSBM Report  
Employee New Hires, Changes, & Separations

Mr. McLean made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Freidel seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## Student Government Association Report

Mr. Watts presented the Student Government Association (SGA) Report. SGA recently held two student events, the Club and Resource Fair and Popcorn Day. Mr. Watts has received lots of great comments regarding the new Student Life Center. Students especially appreciate the ample space made available for students to gather and socialize. SGA partnered with the counseling center to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. The event brought lots of student participation. SGA leaders attended a spring division meeting where they learned and practiced motion-making processes. The group also opened SGA Ambassadors conversations. An ambassador acts as a liaison between the student body, administration, and prospective students to boost engagement and promote campus life. Ambassadors also attend events to act as a voice for the student body.

## Governance Committee Report

Mr. McLean reported that there are two items of old business to review. For the first item of business, Dr. Voigt presented the second reading of two policies to be added and one revision of a third as related to the Americans with Disabilities policy. Mr. McLean made a motion to approve the two new policies and the revision of Policy 4.3. Mr. Freidel seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Farmer presented the second reading as related to fees and changes in lettering within SCC Bylaws. Referencing Article II, Section 6, Finance, Personnel, and Planning language to be added as presented. Mr. McLean made a motion to update the SCC Bylaws as presented. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## Buildings and Grounds Committee

Workforce Trades Building – Dr. Farmer said that there have been regular meetings with LS3P Architects since January. They have requested specific needs for space and equipment. LS3P has been composing drawings and options including the building layout and roof level. LS3P will make a presentation in April.

Caddell Center Building Update – Dr. Farmer presented images of the former facility in Carthage that SCC has been utilized for 16 years. The structure has now been removed, and the land cleared. Mr. Garner explained work done as shown in additional photos to include the foundation process and framework of the new structure.

SCC Horticultural Gardens Update – Dr. Elkins reported that a new sensory garden will be built close to the upper pond. This will be a 2,000 square foot space with a roof and patio. This will be a nice event space and will be available for rent. A second item of note is a landscaping enclosure for the Horticultural Gardens. SCC has been awarded a \$75,000 grant, and using matching funds from the Gardens, an enclosure will be placed around the Gardens, to be completed this summer.

Dr. Farmer reported that VanDusen Hall has a chiller that has passed its life expectancy. To replace the chiller in a timely fashion, SCIF (State Capital Infrastructure Fund) funds are available and should be used. The formal process is to put forward a 3-1 request, asking for \$250,000 to be allocated for this project. The quote for the chiller is \$166,000. Any remaining funds will go back into the SCIF fund as undesignated. The unit needed for purchase is in stock

and available. Mr. Horne made a motion to purchase the equipment to replace the chiller using SCIF funding. Mr. Carter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## Finance, Personnel & Planning Committee Report

Mr. Horne reported that the Finance, Personnel & Planning Committee met in January. There were no items seeking approval. Dr. Farmer reviewed financial reports, and state and county bond funds, through December 31, 2025.

The Finance, Personnel & Planning Committee recently reviewed student fees be approved. Mr. Horne asked for approval of the recently reviewed fees. Mr. Freidel made a motion to approve recently reviewed student fees. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Educational Programs & Student Affairs Committee Report**

Mr. Carter had no business for discussion.

## Foundation Report

Dr. Elkins presented the SCC Foundation Report. Last fiscal year 2025 giving of 1,127 gifts resulted in \$3,191,777. The fiscal year-to-date giving of 1,146 gifts resulted in \$2,500,912. The Foundation migration to a new data-management software, Bloomerang, is complete, A New Director Orientation was conducted on February 10, 2026, for Adam Kiker and Gary Evans. Plans are ongoing for the annual Guarantors Recognition Dinner. A spring Foundation Board meeting is planned for April 27, 2026.

Gardens: Hosting SCC Alumni Peter Hatch, March 19, for a special lecture on “Thomas Jefferson’s Revolutionary Garden at Monticello.” Peter Hatch has been the Director of Garden and Grounds at Monticello for over 35 years. The event kicks off a series of “America 250” events in the gardens.

### **President’s Report**

Dr. Stewart highlighted information from the President’s Report and encouraged Board members to review the report which was included in the Board packet.

Student Success and Workforce Completions  
Workforce and Economic Development Initiatives  
Legislative and System Office Updates  
NC Community college Compliance Review Audit  
Active Threat Exercise Scenario  
Athletics Update

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held April 7, 2026, at the Hoke Center.

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6), Mr. McLean made a motion to go into closed session. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 6:05 p.m.

## **Sandhills Community College Board of Trustees Closed Session Meeting Minutes**

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:05 p.m. on March 3, 2026, during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees ("the Board") of Sandhills Community College ("SCC"), held in the Clement Dining Room on the SCC campus, the Board voted to enter Closed Session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

**MOTION:** Trustee McLean moved to enter Closed Session at 6:05 p.m. pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss legal and personnel matters and to (a) consult with attorneys representing SCC in one of those matters, (b) receive a summary of a recent incident involving a student, and (c) receive a preliminary summary of results of the annual evaluation of Dr. Stewart's performance as President of the College. Trustee Freidel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Caddell asked for a motion to return to Open Session. Trustee McLean made the motion, seconded by Trustee Carpenter, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:55 p.m. No action was taken during Closed Session.

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John M. May

Attorney for Sandhills Community College

**Date:** March 3, 2026

With no further business, the Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Caddell, Chairman of the Board

David McLean, Secretary of the Board

Approved