

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting  
Washington State Community College District 17  
Regular Meeting  
February 17, 2026  
8:30am  
Spokane Community College  
In Person and Zoom Option**

**Present:** Trustee Todd Woodard, Trustee Kelly Fukai, Trustee Glenn Johnson, Trustee Steve Yoshihara. Also present: Chancellor Kevin Brockbank, SCC President Jenni Martin, SFCC Interim President Patrick McEachern, Chief of Staff and Strategy Lori Hunt, Interim Chief Information Officer Dan Duffy, Chief General Services Officer Nichole Hanna, Chief Financial Officer Linda McDermott, Chief Institutional Advancement & External Affairs Officer Melanie Rose, SFCC Vice President of Learning Bonnie Glantz, SCC Vice President of Instruction Jaclyn Jacot, SFCC Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Jim Mohr, SCC Vice President of Student Services Patrick Tanner, Director Workforce Training & Continuing Education Kathy Albin, Director of Tribal Relations Naomi Bender, Director of Student Success, Equity and Diversity Priya Mhlophe, Director of Strengthening Community Colleges Grants Erik Puthoff, Commerce Specialist Sarah Chalich, Indigenous Outreach & Support Manager Mark Ramos, AHE Representative Jason Eggerman, WFSE Representative Ward Kaplan, SCC Faculty Logan Amstadter, SCC Faculty Katie Satake, SFCC Faculty Michelle Pearson, SFCC Classified Staff Gaby Arroyo, SCC Classified Staff Tessa Greene, Attorney General Carrie Culver, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees Breanne Riley (Recording Secretary).

**Guest:** Alexa Eddy, Monica Tonasket

**Excused:** Trustee Anna Franklin, Chief Human Resource Officer Fred Davis, Director of Head Start Bobbi Woodral, WSFE President Ward Kaplan

**Call to Order**

The Board of Trustees of Washington State Community College District 17 held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Todd Woodard called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

**Executive Session**

The Board will convene in executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1) for the purpose of:

to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

The executive session will begin at 8:30am and will last for approximately 1 hour.

### **Action**

No action was taken.

Todd Woodard reconvened the meeting at 9:30am.

### **SCC Celebrating Student Success**

Julie Parks introduced Alexa Eddy, Sarah Chalic, Kathy Albin, and Erik Puthoff to the Board of Trustees. Alexa Eddy gave a brief background of Jubilant HollisterStier and their role in the community. Alexa Eddy explained the reason for the creation of the biomanufacturing program as well as starting the program. Sarah Chalich reviewed the program's challenges and changes. Erik Puthoff reviewed the advanced manufacturing coalition grant. Kathy Albin reviewed the next steps – which included expanding partnerships and ensuring continuous improvement processes to meet industry needs. Trustee Yoshihara asked what the average wage was for a technician. Trustee Yoshihara then asked for the amount of the total grant awarded per student. Trustee Fukai asked how many students were in the cohort. Trustee Johson asked how many credit hours could be earned for the quarter. Trustee Woodard asked if graduating students received a certificate and if there was a pathway upon graduation. Trustee Woodard then asked about the work between the college and Jubilant HollisterStier to fill specific position needs. It was explained that the students go on a tour of Jubilant HollisterStier and have a chance to ask questions about employment at the facility. Trustee Woodard thanked the parties for their partnership.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and followed by the roll call. It was announced that the meeting was open to the public. Individuals interested in addressing the Board were encouraged to speak up during the public comment section. The Native Land Acknowledgement was given by Trustee Kelly Fukai.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **Consent Agenda**

Being no objections, the consent agenda was entered into the record. Topics included the following:

- a. Board Minutes  
Minutes of the January 20, 2026, Work Session
- b. Capital Projects Status & Approvals – Clint Brown
- c. Budget and Expenditures – Linda McDermott
- d. Head Start Updates – Bobbi Woodral

The motion to approve the consent agenda was so moved by Trustee Fukai, seconded by Trustee Johnson, and approved unanimously by the Board.

## **Strategic Plan Update**

**Lori Hunt** shared the current work being done on the strategic actions and that the teams are currently working on aligning the actions with the goals. The next step will be to continue to work on KPI measurements to present a final draft to the Board of Trustees. Lori Hunt proposed to have the full team present the final strategic plan at the April Board meeting as opposed to the March Board meeting. Trustee Woodard was in agreement with the final presentation to be at the April Board meeting.

## **Review of Board Policy 1.30.01 – Seal & 1.30.03 – Meetings**

**Kevin Brockbank** reviewed the policies of the seal and meetings. Kevin Brockbank reviewed the edits and asked if the Board of Trustees had any questions. Trustee Johnson asked when the seal was last used for official business. Carrie Culver confirmed that she had reviewed the policies.

## **Ŧn ayx™t I Am Healthy**

**Naomi Bender** introduced Monica Tonasket to the Board of Trustees. Naomi Bender explained the health needs assessment project led by the Spokane Tribe of Indians and the partnership with Spokane Colleges and Genetech. Naomi Bender then reviewed the timeline of the partnership between Genetech, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and Spokane Colleges. It was explained that there are uranium sites on the reservations and this is affecting the health of many Native community members. The next steps were then reviewed as well as how Spokane Colleges fits into this work. Monica Tonasket introduced herself and her role with the Spokane Tribe. The Spokane Tribe has a high amount of cancer rates that are affecting tribal members. This partnership is an incredible opportunity to collect data for the tribes on many different levels. The tribes have struggled with not having enough funding and being short staffed, so they have taken over their clinics in an effort to improve healthcare on the reservation. Monica Tonasket shared that the Spokane Tribe is excited to work with Spokane Colleges and Genetech to collect data and help to move the tribe forward. Trustee Fukai asked how long the data will be

accumulated for and if there will be any additional funding after this grant. Trustee Woodard asked if there was an opportunity for the Spokane Regional Health District to participate in this in terms of the data or to help shape it in any way. Todd Woodard then asked if an update can be given once the work is finished. Mark Ramos introduced himself and his role with the project. Holly Olmstead introduced herself and her role with the project. \*\*\* introduced himself and his role with the project. Naomi Bender reviewed the next steps for the project. Trustee Woodard stated that this is phenomenal work.

### **Beloved Community in Action**

**Priya Mhlophe** introduced herself to the Board of Trustees. Priya Mhlophe reviewed what is called the belonging crisis and the human fundamental need for belonging in order to be successful. Priya Mhlophe then reviewed the feedback from students during listening sessions, and the result was that students shared that they do not feel that they belong at SCC. Priya Mhlophe's team recently was confronted with the issue of belonging when there was a conflict between the Pride Club and the Turning Point USA Club on campus. There was a restorative conversation between the two clubs that resulted in the students choosing to cross the bridge of divide and to learn more about their shared commonalities. It was shared that when students get the support that they need they have increased persistence. Priya Mhlophe reviewed CID scholars and their role at SCC. Trustee Fukai asked what lessons were learned in the process thus far that can be scaled to the broader population. Trustee Woodard asked how the CID was able to organize the Pride Club and Turning Point USA to have a conversation together. Trustee Fukai commended the CID for the work and commitment to SCC.

### **Student Government Report**

**Navaeh Person, SCC ASG President**, shared that the SCC ASG recently cohosted the Women in STEM Day event, where there were over 150 students who attended and it was a success. The game room is being remodeled and there was a survey that was sent to students for their feedback on what they would like in the game room. The ASG bought items from the bookstore at a discount, and they will be giving supplies and items to students that are in need. SCC ASG is working to create a collaboration with Gonzaga's ASG in order to learn from their program in an effort to strengthen student connections.

### **BREAK**

Todd Woodard reconvened the meeting at 11:06am.

### **Chancellor's Report**

**Kevin Brockbank** shared that the Sasquatch Soiree will take place April 17<sup>th</sup> at the SFCC Fine Arts Building. There was an event last week at Flatstick to celebrate the

partnership with Spokane Colleges and The Great PNW and it was a fun and successful event. The interviews for the finalist of the CIO position will take place in the first week of March. The SFCC president position will be opened for a permanent position and an executive search will take place. The budget issues in Olympia are having an effect on Spokane Colleges and there are likely to be larger cuts. The next biennium will be harder than this biennium and Spokane Colleges will face challenges. Pell legislation has been the focus in Washington DC and Spokane Colleges was able to meet with legislators privately in Washington DC during a recent visit. Kevin Brockbank is working with superintendent Adam Swinyard to have the Board of Trustees for the school district and the Board of Trustees from Spokane Colleges meet and collaborate together.

### **President's Report**

**Jaelyn Jacot** shared the president's report on behalf of Jenni Martin. The Trades High School Initiative was approved and there has been a lot of work in preparation of the opening of the school that is going very well. It is anticipated that the program will enroll high school students in the Fall of 2027. The initial goal is to be 300 students in the trades high school with the long term goal being approximately 900 students in the program. SCC has been continuing to work and advocate with SBCTC to articulate concerns with how the system is counting FTEs. Enrollments in both International and Running Start have increased but SCC is slightly down in FTE enrollment.

**Patrick McEachern** reported that the priorities for SFCC are meeting enrollment targets, budget strategy, and transparency. Enrollment at SFCC is over target for both International and Running Start but state FTE has been more challenging. There was an all-college meeting that specifically addressed the budget and the allocation model. SFCC is conducting a food drive and they are competing with SCC to raise food for students. SFCC will be hosting an employee appreciation night at the upcoming basketball game to celebrate employees and all that they do.

### **AHE Report**

**Jason Eggerman, AHE President**, shared that with everything going on nationally related to the devaluing of higher education and the erosion of free speech, faculty wanted to express their appreciation for having a Board of Trustees who encourage an open dialog and discussion at their meetings. AHE and the Board of Trustees have a decades-long positive working relationship where even tough questions are welcomed, not silenced. AHE faculty members appreciate knowing that all 375 of them don't have to show up to each Board meeting to ask questions because their AHE President can freely ask questions on their behalf. That being said, faculty are growing increasingly concerned about shared governance. They want to be included in conversations before decisions are made, instead of only being given the chance to share input after decisions

are made. To that end, the Faculty Senate has asked Jason Eggerman to deliver a letter to the Board of Trustees related to the lack of input on the mission, vision, and values during the Strategic Plan process. Jason Eggerman provided copies for each member of the Board and stated that he is happy to discuss further if requested. Trustee Fukai asked where the faculty touch points were in the creation of the mission statement and the rebranding project.

**Logan Amstadter**, SCC introduced herself and thanked the Board of Trustees for having her at the meeting and having faculty represented.

**Katie Satake**, SCC reported that Jeannie Isner will be presenting at the American Association of Colleges and Universities Conference where she will highlight learning and student success. The SCC cosmetology students recently participated in the Homeless Connect event at the Spokane Convention Center – this is an annual event where multiple services are provided to homeless members of the community. There was recently an article in the Spokesman Review and The Inlander that was very comprehensive about the SCC Cosmetology program. David Stasney shared that SCC now has a new Environmental Sciences club. The club will be hosting a brown bag lunch series once a month with 20–30 minute talks followed by discussions on a variety of environmental science related topics.

**Michelle Pearson**, SFCC reported that Jared Anthony had his English students participate in various community service projects, which they then wrote about. The students shared their experience working at food banks, churches, schools, shelters, and other nonprofits. Cozette Phillips has work that is on exhibit right in the SFCC Fine Arts Building as well as an exhibit coming up from February through April at Radius Gallery in Missoula, Montana. SFCC held blood drives that were sponsored by the French Club and advised by Eddy Cuisinier and New Visions of Addiction. At the blood drives the students obtained 64 donations and received a \$2250 grant that will be used to help STEM students with acquiring textbooks for their STEM related classes. There was an SFCC graduate who discovered and published a new species of an insectivorous plant on an island off of Angola. He found his own funding sources and initially started pursuing this work on his own while still enrolled at SFCC.

### **Student Government Report**

**Jayla Knights**, SFCC ASG President, reported that the ASG Senate voted the previous two vice presidents out, which resulted in vacancies that the ASG is currently working to fill. The SFCC ASG hosted multiple events over the month which included free ice skating at The Ribbon and skiing at Mount Spokane. In January the ASG hosted one of the more popular events, which is the Farmers Market, where Second Harvest supplied fresh produce and food that was distributed to faculty, staff, and students. ASG has been preparing for their new advisor Dr. Andrew Pereira to start

his role, and the Senate is very excited to work with him.

### **WFSE/Classified Staff Report**

**Tessa Greene, SCC** reported that Kerrin Langford and Jennifer Miller from Colville wanted to highlight that they recently remodeled their staff lounge. It used to be that staff would not use the space so they worked together to create a space that is welcoming, comfortable, and supportive of staff wellness and work-life balance. They believe that this has helped to boost staff morale and increase the use of the staff lounge. Venessa Luke has been working with DSHS to set up their mobile office events. There were two events in January and she wanted to thank the CRM team for helping get the word out about these events. Tessa Greene also highlighted all of the classified staff that are serving on committees, task forces, and user groups around both SCC's campus and district wide. It was acknowledged that the SCC Wellness Task Force has worked to create a positive work environment for staff at SCC and has been very successful.

**Gaby Arroyo, SFCC** shared that the Digital Media and Digital Filmmaking departments wanted to thank the Board of Trustees for the wonderful building that their department reside in. The department has been focusing on different projects such as an industry speaker series and an effort to be more visible online. Kasey Correll from the SFCC Library wanted to share that the catalogers have been working hard to ensure that the students have better access to Ebooks and databases for their research. Bex Gudino from admissions shared that she recently spoke with a past student who graduated from the nursing program in 1988. The student is now 74 years old and still works as a nurse. The alumni said that she owes her success to the community college and is so grateful because she worked at her degree one class at a time while she was raising her 4 kids.

### **Airport Property**

Kevin Brockbank shared the transfer agreement and quit claim deed for the airport property that was before the Board of Trustees today. The motion to approve was so moved by

### **Board Report**

Trustee Johnson thanked Nichole Hanna for her report on the Climate Commitment Act and informing the Board how much has been spent currently by Spokane Colleges.

### **Adjournment**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:02pm.