

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

Present: Trustee Anna Franklin, 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, Vice President of Workforce Development Julie Parks, Foundation Director Heather Beebe-Stevens, Director of MESA Jacquelyn Belock, Director of Tribal Relations Naomi Bender, Head Start Director of Accounting and Budgets Lee Ann VanLengen, AHE Representative Jason Eggerman, WFSE Representative Ward Kaplan, Dean Sarah Martin, SCC Faculty Logan Amstadter, SCC Faculty Katie Satake, SFCC Faculty Michelle Pearson, SCC Classified Staff Tessa Greene, SFCC Classified Staff Gaby Arroyo, Attorney General Carrie Culver, Executive Assistant to the President of SFCC Megan Gibson (Recording Secretary).

Guest: Nathaniel Prior

Excused: Trustee Todd Woodard

Call to Order

The Board of Trustees of Washington State Community College District 17 held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. Anna Franklin 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: Reviewing the performance of an employee.

The executive session will begin at 8:35 am and will last for approximately 25 minutes.

Action

No action was taken.

Introducing new Tenure Track Faculty

Bonnie Glantz introduced two faculty members from SFCC: **Rebecca Hardenbrook**, Math Faculty and **Ryan Kelley**, Engineering Faculty.

SFCC Celebrating Student Success

Sarah Martin introduced the MESA program and **Jacque Belock** to present on the Math Engineering Science Achievement program. **Jacque Belock** explained the purpose of the MESA program and how they support the MESA Scholars and introduced two students involved with the MESA Scholars Program. **Trustee Franklin** asked about 3D printers and if we have connections with Microsoft, as well as discussed, a 4-week paid internship. Trustee Franklin also asked if there is an opportunity to broaden the connection and opportunities with Microsoft? Science and engineering faculty have backgrounds with Microsoft. MESA is state funded and used that funding to purchase a 3D printer. **Trustee Yoshihara** asked what the starting salary is for the MESA Scholars who graduate. It depends on the degree students earn; \$60k plus for engineers, followed by computer science and cybersecurity. **Trustee Yoshihara** asked if the students know what the potential earnings. One of the goals of MESA is to share the practical career information including earnings with students. The Guided Pathway information on SFCC website can also help inform the students. **Trustee Johnson** asked if the MESA program supports students earning financial aid and scholarships and shares cost saving information when students transfer to local private universities to continue their education. MESA organizes Transfer Days with Gonzaga, EWU and sometimes WSU. **Trustee Yoshihara** asked about local job opportunities for our students to keep them in the area following graduation. Sarah Martin shared that they work with local industry to connect MESA scholars with local paid internship opportunities between their sophomore and junior year.

Trustee Anna Franklin reconvened the meeting at 10:00 am.

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 Glenn Johnson**.

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 February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting
- b. Capital Projects Status & Approvals – Clint Brown
- c. Budget and Expenditures – Linda McDermott
- d. Head Start Updates – Bobbi Woodral

It was stated that the March 17 meeting minutes need to be adjusted to reflect the attendance of WFSE Representative Ward Kaplan as well as include who made the motion for approval of the airport property sale. **Trustee Glenn Johnson** requested an update on Head Start funding from **Bobbi Woodral**. **Bobbi Woodral** gave an update for the Legislative session and impacts on Working Connections funding received for Head Start. This funding provides six-hour childcare model to support families who work or are attending school. **Lee Ann VanLengen** shared the result final bill that passed during the legislative session, an attendance based funding model. **Chancellor Brockbank** included comments on the value of having a Head Start program and the connection that it makes with families that are under resourced and need the services of Head Start to level the playing field, and supports efforts for parents to enroll and attend college courses. **Bobbi Woodral** extended gratitude to **Chancellor Brockbank** for his support and legislative efforts in support of Head Start.

Trustee Franklin requests to approve the consent agenda. Motion by **Trustee Johnson**, **Trustee Fukai** seconds, motion carries.

Tenure Alert

Fred Davis presents probationary faculty members to receive tenure. **Trustee Franklin** read the names and requested a motion.

Motion to approve by **Trustee Johnson**, second by **Trustee Yoshihara**, unanimous approval. Motion carries. One faculty member presented to extend the probationary tenure period. Motion to approve by **Trustee Johnson**, second by **Trustee Fukai**, unanimous approval. Motion carries.

Head Start Fiscal Training

Lee Ann VanLengen provided Head Start Fiscal Training.

Trustee Yoshiara asked if Head Start receives 80% funding from the federal government, and if it is 73% now? Lee Ann clarified that 73% is what the program budgets for from the federal government and after all sources are accounted for it ends up being 80%.

Spokane Colleges Foundation Impact Report

Nathanial Prior gave updates on the work of Spokane Colleges Foundation and announced the Foundation Soiree is scheduled for April 17 at SFCC.

Trustee Franklin discusses the positive impact of Spokane Colleges Foundation for our students. **Chancellor Brockbank** adds that both the Foundation, Head Start as well as our external partners who provide unmatched support for our students and support enrollment at our colleges.

Strategic Plan Update

Lori Hunt gave an update on the Strategic Plan, requested to propose review of the strategic plan by the board in May rather than April. Thoughtful feedback from faculty regarding the mission, vision and value statements and want to ensure we take time to respond with our commitment to shared understanding and transparency. Additional time will ensure the plan reflects the broader college community.

Trustee Fukai asked Kelly Fukai: With regard to the mission, vision, values, is there a plan to go externally again? Yes, there will be a community engagement component.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 Tuition Schedule and Waiver Proposal

Linda McDermott presented the first reading of the FY2026-27 Tuition Schedule and waiver proposal.

Trustee Yoshihara asked if NIL affects our students. It does not.

Break 10:52-11:00

Budget Update

Linda McDermott gave budget update based on legislative session: 1.5% cut across the board, 1.3 FTE Running Start (up from 1.2 FTE), COLAs will be partially funded by the state (79%). **Linda** also shared budget planning has been effective. We need to turn our focus to the next biennium; provisos have been put in the next session that one college in Washington State to be cut from the system by November 2026. Concern addressed for the continued financial coverage for Guided Pathways.

Trustee Yoshihara asked about higher ed enrollment, both at Spokane Colleges and at State Universities. **Trustee Fukai** asked what the offensive position? How do we move from reacting and defensive position to being proactive. **Chancellor Brockbank** answered we will be starting an advocacy plan in a couple weeks. **Trustee Fukai** clarified her question to include how the state legislative decisions could impact our system, and if we are moving quickly enough to remain proactive rather than reactive.

Trustee Johnson added that **Chancellor Brockbank** is often ahead of the discussions and sharing examples of how these budgetary decisions impact the economy of the state.

Student Government Report

Navaeh Person, SCC ASG President

SCC student bookstore giveaway is going well and has been a great way to engage with students. Directors are working on a new furniture design for the ASG office to be more welcoming for students. Soccer event coming up in spring quarter.

Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Kevin Brockbank

National search for the CIO was successful, Christine Van Winkle will be joining Spokane Colleges in April. Two events coming up Intertribal Natural Resources Summit on April 14 in Coeur d'Alene to include six higher ed institutions and organizations coming together to help with workforce and natural resources for local tribes. Full Tribal Advisory Council on April 30, Trustees will have an opportunity for introductions if they are available. Dr. Brockbank will present district opportunities for consolidation, discussion and feedback.

President's Report

Dr. Jenni Martin first recognizes the work Dr. Bender has done. As a result of the first Tribal Summit and the work that was done we have an articulation agreement with the University of Idaho for the natural resources programs, something that has been in the works for eight years. Dr. Martin continued to present the president's report for SCC.

Patrick McEachern

Presents the SFCC president's report. Looking at enrollment numbers, we will be slightly low in state FTE. Concern for future quarters and how the state allocation model and Guided Pathways funding will affect the budget in the coming years.

Trustee Yoshihara commented that he would encourage emphasis on making sure Guided Pathways funding isn't cut.

AHE Report

Jason Eggerman, AHE President, Spring break is on the horizon, and this is an exciting time of year, as some faculty are starting their work on screening committees. It's hours of work, but very few things are as meaningful and as impactful as helping to find new faculty who you then get to watch go on to do great things and change students' lives for decades to come. Today is also one of my favorite days of the year as the AHE President. That is because today we have faculty who were granted tenure by the Board. For those folks, that is the culmination of a supportive journey, and the Board knows from reading the seven quarters of tenure packets what great folks we have. AHE leaders just returned from a National Leadership Summit in Chicago. When we hear stories nationwide of what is happening in other states, we are grateful for the commitment our Board, Chancellor, and college leadership show for supporting tenured positions and the tenure process. We look forward to seeing everyone on May 27th at the tenure reception at SFCC.

Logan Amstadter, SCC Non-credit Faculty

Successful collaboration between the library and Adult Education Center supporting ESL students and creating a new check out center for opportunities for people learning English to have exposure to vocabulary with access for a variety of texts. Welding competition was a success and included judges from the local industries, as well as competitors from regional high schools.

Katie Satake, SCC Credit Faculty

Report includes information from David Edwards, Architectural Faculty member is working with students to collaborate with the Museum of Black History and a local author of African American Stories came together to brainstorm early ideas for a future museum. The program is also collaborating with the Salish School of Spokane and developing a master plan and vision for the Salish School's new campus and will include a culture and recreational community space, between three and seventy-two residential units. From Erin Rutter, an SCC Water Resources faculty member, shared on March 18th, which is tomorrow, the Environmental Sciences Department students and Marilyn Nielsen's geographic Information Systems Application Course will be presenting capstone projects, so if anyone is on campus tomorrow, you can check that out. This year, the community partners include Dishman Hills Conservancy, the City of Post Falls, Evergreen East Mountain Biking, Spokane County, the Spokane Riverkeeper Mission Aviation Fellowship. Amy Anderson, she's the faculty head for Speak Out, and they are hosting an event this quarter called Fuel Up and Finish Strong, so they'll be providing pizza and encouraging notes to the students during finals week to help boost their confidence.

Michelle Pearson, SFCC

I am going to brag about a couple of people here today, from, Irv Broughton has recently published a book called *The Cape We Were*, a Cape Cod Memoir, and its personal stories from his childhood and growing up in Cape Cod. There was a statement about it, saying that "he recounts with great tenderness his earliest recollections highlighted by venue and loving parents". Then we have a faculty member, out of drama Rebecca Cook has a role in a film called *Tell No One*, which is a thriller, it looks like maybe a medical drama out of the Spokane International Film Festival. We had a whole bunch of faculty from STEM get together to do one of the STEM drop-in advising days, where they helped 15 students in a 90-minute period to get advised and registered for next quarter, and this is something that they're doing on a quarterly basis. They invite every faculty from STEM, and whoever can come shows up, this one was held by Joel Sweeney, Ashley McQueen, Kira Burton, Ed Hogan, and Michelle Moore, and Asa Bradley. Those of us who can't attend, often do advising in our classrooms, so that's another way that STEM faculty are doing advising. We call it the intrusive advising model, which is where we take a quick poll of our students to find out who's registered for next quarter, and those who are not, we invite to stay after, because have time between this lab and the next lab. Let's get you registered now. So we do a lot of that over in STEM. There was a really neat article in the *Spokesman Review*, about a former student, Tamar Powers, who, got through a struggle with addiction to open her own bakery, and she was a former tutor at SFCC, and Jordan Applebaum wanted to make sure that everybody knew that she was one of SFCC success stories. The final piece, comes about our assessment work at SFCC, which is probably the least glamorous work that we do, but our faculty, collaborated through polls and surveys and all faculty meetings that were held several years ago to come up with a model that would work for our faculty to actually do assessment reporting, because that was one of the things that we got dinged on for accreditation during our accreditation visit six years ago. So about 4 years ago, we came up with a model for

doing assessment reporting that actually collected data, but that did so in a way that encouraged faculty to do more reflective practices, in their assessment work, and actually show that assessment work. And 131 of our faculty reported on assessment during fall quarter alone.

Jayla Knights, SFCC ASG President

This month, ASG had a lot of successful events. Our most successful, and in my opinion, and always in my opinion, are the farmer's markets, everybody comes out with sometimes their own bags, sometimes their own boxes, and, like, they collect a lot of the fresh produce that, Second Harvest gives us. It's like, the farmer's market is really for a lot of student engagement, and I like being able to talk to everybody as they go through. We hosted an international snack stand where we served food with snacks from different cultures in collaboration with various different clubs that we have on campus, which I wasn't here for, but I heard that it was very, very successful. We continued working with our new advisor, Dr. Andrew Pereira. We've been working with him very closely to get things more organized and get us back on track. We also filled the vacancies that I mentioned in the last board meeting. So now we're focusing on finals that are next week and finishing out this quarter strong so that we can start the next quarter very, very strong, and finish it out all the way to graduation.

WFSE/Classified Staff Report

Ward Kaplan, WFSE

The transition from going from lobbying to bargaining is happening, and we had a record number of people go to Olympia this year, which is always good to help all our employees.

And, of course, we heard the bad news about the closing of a community college early, and I actually was over there and that hit us pretty hard that day, because we figure our coalition might lose a member. We'll be starting bargaining next month.

Tessa Greene, SCC

The Center for Inclusion and Diversity recently posted a breakfast, to help promote inclusion and belonging. The space made them feel included and respected, and the students also shared that the CID helps them learn about cultures and experiences different from their own and positively impacts their overall college experience. So, there's more about that in that report, of course.

At Workforce Transitions, the specialists over there have been working on a document to show how much their students mean to them, and they've also included quite a few quotes from the students that they have served. I included the whole document in the packet, so you are welcome to read the whole thing, but I pulled out a couple of quotes that I felt were, really powerful. So a nursing student who, was granted VFET and WRT grants said, "I'm writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the scholarship you awarded me. Your support has been such a blessing on my nursing school journey, and I'm so happy to share that I'm graduating. This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the generosity and encouragement of people like you. Thank you for believing in me and helping me reach this milestone. I'll carry that kindness with me

into my nursing career.” A welding student who received the OG grant, “thank you, I appreciate your time and support on my behalf along the way. A cosmetology student who received the Workforce Grant. “Thank you so much. I enjoyed meeting you and feel a lot better about my first day.”

Gaby Arroyo, SFCC

Classified staff works to keep themselves inclusive, and help each other also do things for the students. One of the things that I'm going to share from today, from today is Anna Gonzalez. She's one of our office managers. She's amazing. She's our to go for everything. You may have heard her name. She created a folder in Teams, for the office managers and administrative assistants, so we can use as a guideline for everything, for budget, how to use the codes, how reconciliation works, how you can organize classes, gain contracts, faculty contracts, you know, office administrator assistants and office managers have to do a lot of contracts and work with a lot of forms and things like that. So she pretty much is the subject matter expert for classes and contracts. So if you have questions, we know where to go. Also classified staff from SCC, are integrated to use this team file folder for, uses and guidance and resources.

Board Report

We had an Aviation Advisory Committee meeting that Dr. Purden's area had last week, and they don't have maintenance currently for that aircraft, so our aviation repair students are going to get an opportunity to do some work-based learning at Felts Field with the airline that will be offering direct flights to Seattle.

Adjournment

Trustee Johnson motions to adjourn, **Trustee Yoshihara** moves to adjourn. **Trustee Fukai** seconds.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:44 am.