

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FOR THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
FEBRUARY 26, 2026**

The Southwest Wisconsin Technical College District Board gathered for its February 26, 2026, regular meeting in Room 430 on the District Campus at 1800 Bronson Boulevard in Fennimore, Grant County, Wisconsin. The meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

David Blume, Chuck Bolstad, Theresa Braudt, Kent Enright, Jeanne Jordie, Chris Prange, Steve Williamson, Jane Wonderling. Absent: Don Tuescher

Others present for all, or a portion of the meeting, included:

Caleb White, Interim President and Vice President for Administrative Services, and College Staff: Holly Clendenen, Dennis Cooley, Katie Glass, Dan Imhoff, Kelly Kelly (remotely over Zoom), Cynde Larsen, Lori Needham, CoraBeth Schmitz (remotely over Zoom), Krista Weber, Kris Wubben

Jordan Boehm, CPA, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (remotely over Zoom); Jeremy Pickard, PhD, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (remotely over Zoom)

Chairperson Prange called the meeting to order. Proof of notice was given as to the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. The following is the official agenda:



DISTRICT BOARD MEETING NOTICE/AGENDA

Thursday, February 26, 2026
1800 Bronson Boulevard, Fennimore, WI 53809
6:00 p.m., Conference Room 430

AGENDA

OPEN MEETING

The following statement will be read: "The Southwest Wisconsin Technical College District Board's February 26, 2026, regular meeting is called to order. This is open to the public and in compliance with State Statutes. Notice has been sent to the press, posted on the College's website at www.swtc.edu/about/board/meetings, and posted on campus, CESA 3, and the Fennimore City Office in an attempt to make the general public aware of the time, place, and agenda."

- A. Roll Call
- B. Reports/Forum/Public Input

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

- A. Consideration of adjourning to a closed session for the purpose of
 - 1. Discussing Personnel Issues {Wis.Stats.19.85(1)(c)*}

2. Discussion of Qualifications of Presidential Candidates and Individual Employment Contract
{Wis.Stats.19.85(1)(c)(e)*}

B. Approval of January 13-14, 2026; January 22, 2026; and February 11-13, 2026, Closed Session Minutes

*Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c) {Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.}

*Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(e) {Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.}

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

A. Action, if necessary, on Closed Session Items

1. Affirmation of Selection of SWTC President

2. Affirmation of the Presidential Contractual Agreement (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of January 13-14, 2026, Special Board Meeting Minutes

C. Approval of January 22, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

D. Approval of February 11-13, 2026, Special Board Meeting Minutes

E. Financial Reports

1. Purchases Greater than \$2,500

2. Treasurer's Cash Balance

3. Budget Control

F. Contract Revenue

G. Personnel Items

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

A. Approval of 2024-25 Single Audit Report

B. Approval of Bid: Metal Materials

BOARD MONITORING OF COLLEGE EFFECTIVENESS

A. Review of 2026-27 Budget Assumptions and Parameters

B. Staffing Update

C. SWTC Foundation FY26 2nd Quarter Report

D. SWTC Real Estate Foundation FY26 2nd Quarter Report

INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Enrollment & Application Reports and Student Success Scoreboard

1. FTE Comparison Report

2. 2026-27 Program Application Comparison Report

3. Student Success Scoreboard

B. Chairperson's Report

1. Possible Board Spring Retreat – Timing and Topics

2. Potential Board Assessment Process – Before the new President's Start

3. SWTC Ambassador Banquet & DBA Spring Meeting – April 16-17, 2026

4. DBA External Partnership Committee – SWTC Board Designation

C. Interim College President's Report

1. Review Board Governance Policy 1.3: Board Responsibility

2. Review Board Governance Policy 1.4: Board Policy Creation and Review

3. ACCT National Legislative Summit Summary

4. Dual Enrollment Update
 5. SWTC Board Appointment Meeting – March 4, 2026
 6. College Happenings
- D. Other Information Items

ESTABLISH BOARD AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (REGULAR MEETING)

- A. Agenda
1. Approval of Board Monitoring Report: Quality Teaching and Learning
- B. Date, Time, and Place: Thursday, March 26, 2026, 6:00 p.m., SWTC Room 430

ADJOURNMENT

{FACILITIES AT SOUTHWEST TECH ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE. FOR ALL ACCOMMODATIONS, CALL 608-822-2632 OR E-MAIL DISABILITYSERVICES@SWTC.EDU}

Under Reports/Forum/Public Input, Jeremy Pickard, PhD, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at Eastern Iowa Community Colleges, joined the meeting remotely to express gratitude and excitement for being selected as the next president of Southwest Tech.

Mr. Enright moved, seconded by Mr. Blume, to adjourn to a closed session to discuss personnel issues {Wis.Stats.19.85(1)(c)*} and the qualifications of presidential candidates and an individual employment contract {Wis.Stats.19.85(1)(c)(e)*}. *Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c): {Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.} *Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(e): {Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.} Upon roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative to move into the closed session: Mr. Blume, Mr. Bolstad, Ms. Braudt, Mr. Enright, Ms. Jordie, Mr. Williamson, Ms. Wonderling, and Mr. Prange. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned to a closed session at 6:06 p.m. The Board reconvened to an open session at 6:58 p.m.

Chairperson Prange called for a motion to affirm the selection of Dr. Jeremy Pickard, PhD, as the next President of Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, along with the contractual agreement, with addendum, effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029. Ms. Wonderling moved to affirm, seconded by Ms. Jordie. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Blume, Ms. Braudt, Mr. Enright, Ms. Jordie, Mr. Williamson, Ms. Wonderling, and Mr. Prange voted in the affirmative. Mr. Bolstad voted against. The motion to affirm the selection of Dr. Jeremy Pickard, PhD, as the next President of Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, along with the contractual agreement, with addendum, effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029, carried.

Items reviewed under the Consent Agenda, including the February 26, 2026, agenda; the January 13-14, January 22, and February 11-13, 2026, regular and special meeting minutes; financial reports; twelve contracts totaling \$39,271.07 in January 2026; employment recommendations of Heather Burkholder, Foundation and Business Support Assistant; Cash Myers, Software Development Instructor; Thomas Schlaugat, Custodian; Rylee Wagner, Human Resources Assistant; and the resignations of Esha

Gongula, Web Designer; Lisa Schaefer, Manufacturing Outreach Coordinator; Doug LaMantia, Cook; Austin Yager, Advanced Manufacturing Instructor; Annaka Stevenson, Child Care Aid. Ms. Jordie moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the February 26, 2026, Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion adopted.

Jordan Boehm, CPA, of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, presented the 2024-25 single audit report. Overall, the audit findings were favorable. A deficiency in compliance with enrollment status data within the Federal awards was noted and explained. Mr. Bolstad moved, seconded by Ms. Braudt, to approve the 2024-25 single audit report, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a bid for metal materials for use in the Welding program. The public opening of bids was held virtually on February 5, 2026, with one vendor submitting a proposal. Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Mr. Enright, to award the bid as presented: award a contract for metal materials for the bid amount of \$53,082.50 to Wisconsin Metals, LLC, Reedsburg, WI. Motion carried.

Mr. White reviewed the 2026–27 Budget Assumptions and Parameters. Some of the key budget-building assumptions include an estimated 1,300 FTEs; health and dental insurance rate increases of 1.9% and 2.1%, respectively; flat state aid; and a 2% increase in tuition rates. Grant funding remains uncertain at this time, as WTCS grant awards are expected to be announced in March. Preliminary budget figures will be presented to the Board at the April meeting.

Newly hired positions were reviewed under the College Staffing Report. Current postings include Advanced Manufacturing Instructor, Automation/Electro-Mechanical Technology Instructor, Business and Industry Services Coordinator, Child Care Aid, and Dining Services Kitchen Worker.

The Southwest Tech Foundation and Real Estate Foundation FY26 2nd quarter reports were summarized by Dennis Cooley, Executive Director of Advancement.

Katie Glass, Chief Communications Officer, reviewed the Enrollment/FTE Comparison and Applications Reports. FTE enrollment shows a slight decline compared to this time last year, while application numbers have increased slightly. New student registration begins on March 23, 2026.

Holly Clendenen, Chief Student Services Officer, highlighted the Student Success Scoreboard. Also shared were recent new and continuing student comparisons regarding grade point average, D/F/Withdraw, and retention rates. These early leading indicators show positive results of the new initiatives and projects implemented over the last three years to improve these items.

Items reviewed under the Chairperson’s Report:

- The Board’s spring retreat date will be held on April 23, instead of April 24-25, as originally scheduled. The afternoon will consist of a retreat, with a regular board meeting to follow.

- The Board will engage in assessment and development with School Perceptions.
- The SWTC Student Ambassador Banquet and District Boards Association (DBA) meeting will be in Wisconsin Dells, April 16-17, 2026.
- Kent Enright agreed to sit on the DBA External Partnership Committee.

Items reviewed under the Interim College President's Report and College Happenings:

- A review of *Board Governance Policy 1.3: Board Responsibility and Policy 1.4: Board Policy Creation and Review*. There were no suggestions for edits.
- A debrief of Katie Glass and Amy Seeboth-Wilson, Grants Director, attendance at this year's ACCT National Legislative Summit.
- Dual Enrollment Update: There is a new bill being proposed in Wisconsin that focuses on Start College Now. The bill proposes the addition of summer sessions and opening up to freshmen and sophomores.
- SWTC Board Appointment meeting will be on March 4, 2026. There are six applicants for the three open positions effective July 1, 2026.
- College Happening: A mini employee satisfaction survey is underway.

There was nothing reported under Other Information Items.

With no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Wonderling moved to adjourn the meeting, with Ms. Jordie seconding the motion. The motion was adopted and adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Kent Enright, Secretary