

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

The Southwest Wisconsin Technical College District Board held its regular meeting on March 26, 2026, in the Lenz Center at the District Campus, 1800 Bronson Boulevard, Fennimore, Grant County, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

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

Caleb White, Interim President and Vice President for Administrative Services, and College Staff: Heath Ahnen, Dennis Cooley, Katie Glass, Mandy Henkel, Dan Imhoff, Cynde Larsen, Kim Maier, Lori Needham, Krista Weber, Kris Wubben

Matt Pennekamp, public member and incoming Board Member, effective July 1, 2026, and Jeremy Pickard, PhD, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges, and incoming President of SWTC, effective July 1, 2026.

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, March 26, 2026

1800 Bronson Boulevard, Fennimore, WI 53809

6:00 p.m., Lenz Center

AGENDA

OPEN MEETING

The following statement will be read: "The Southwest Wisconsin Technical College District Board's March 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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of February 20, 2026, Special Board Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval of February 26, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

- D. Financial Reports
 - 1. Purchases Greater than \$2,500
 - 2. Treasurer’s Cash Balance
 - 3. Budget Control
- E. Contract Revenue
- F. Personnel Items
- G. Forward Service Corporation Sublease

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

- A. Request for Proposals – Approve Awarding Contract: CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP for External Auditing Services, fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, through 2030
- B. Approval of Program Concept Review: Dental Hygienist (Program 10-508-1)
- C. Approval of Board Monitoring Report – Quality Teaching and Learning

BOARD MONITORING OF COLLEGE EFFECTIVENESS

- A. Staffing Update

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. President Transition Team Timeline Update
 - 2. Reminder – Board Assessment
- C. Interim College President’s Report
 - 1. Review Board Governance Policy 1.5: Board Member’s Role
 - 2. Review Board Governance Policy 1.6: Board Officers
 - 3. Review Board Governance Policy 1.7: Chairperson’s Role
 - 4. Review Board Governance Policy 1.8: Vice Chairperson’s Role
 - 5. Review Board Governance Policy 1.9: Secretary’s Role
 - 6. Review Board Governance Policy 1.10: Treasurer’s Role
 - 7. Review 2026-2027 Board Meeting and Monitoring Calendar (Draft)
 - 8. College Happenings
- D. Other Information Items

ESTABLISH BOARD AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (MINI RETREAT AND REGULAR MEETING)

- A. Agenda

Retreat Topics: Strategic Enrollment Management; Facilities Master Planning, College Planning/Ends, Goals; Board Assessment; Compensation Philosophy; Aspen – Why, Lookback, and Look Forward
- B. Date, Time, and Place: Thursday, April 23, 2026, Southwest Tech, Rooms 430, 440

12:30 p.m.	Optional lunch (using cafeteria)
1:00 – 4:45 p.m.	Retreat
4:45 – 5:00 p.m.	Break
5:00 p.m.	Closed session with a light working dinner
6:00 p.m.	Open session regular meeting begins

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

- A. Consideration of adjourning to a closed session for the purpose of
 - 1. Discussing preliminary notices of non-renewal under Wis. Stats. Sec 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.}

B. Approval of February 20 and 26, 2026, Closed Session Minutes

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

A. Action, if necessary, on Closed Session Items

ADJOURNMENT

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

Under the Report/Forum/Public Input:

- Chairperson Prange introduced and extended a welcome to Matt Pennekamp, a member of the public. Mr. Pennekamp will be joining the Board as a new trustee in July, replacing outgoing trustee David Blume.
- Ms. Wonderling, District Administrator of Fennimore Community Schools, highlighted a positive experience with SWTC staff during a recent new student registration and offered special kudos to Stephanie Brown, Student Success and Resident Life Manager.

Items reviewed under the Consent Agenda, including the March 26, 2026, agenda; the February 20 and 26, 2026, special and regular meeting minutes; financial reports; six contracts totaling \$48,800 in February 2026; employment recommendations for Lisa Edge, Medical Assistant Instructor; Zach Stark, Web Designer; resignation of Greg Wubben, Auto Collision Repair and Refinish Technician Instructor; and a 12-month lease (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027) for Forward Service Corporation to lease 100 square feet of space from the College at the Richland Center Outreach Site located at 373 West 6th Street, Richland Center, WI, for \$358.44 per month. Mr. Blume moved, seconded by Ms. Braudt, to approve the March 26, 2026, Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion adopted.

Caleb White, Interim President and Vice President for Administrative Services, summarized a request for proposals (RFP) for external audit services. The public opening of the RFP was on January 7, 2026, with three vendors submitting proposals. All three were interviewed, and CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, scored the highest. Mr. Enright moved, seconded by Ms. Jordie, to approve a contract award to CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, for External Auditing Services, fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, through 2030, in the amount of \$294,400. Motion carried.

A Concept Review for an Associate Degree of Applied Science Dental Hygienist (Program 10-508-1) was presented by Cynde Larsen, Chief Academic Officer and Executive Dean. It was noted that by offering this program, the College would be directly responding to a significant and near-term hygiene workforce shortage. Mr. Tiescher moved, seconded by Mr. Bolstad, to approve a Concept Review for an Associate Degree in Applied Science, Dental Hygienist (Program 10-508-1). The next step in the process will be review and approval by the Wisconsin Technical College System's District Board.

The March 2026 Board Monitoring Report – Quality Teaching and Learning was summarized by Dr. Larsen. The Board engaged in a short discussion about risks and

opportunities. Ms. Jordie moved, seconded by Mr. Blume, to approve the March 2026 Board Monitoring Report – Quality Teaching and Learning. The motion was adopted.

Newly hired positions were reviewed under the College Staffing Report by Krista Weber, Chief Human Resources Officer. A Workforce Development & Employer Engagement Coordinator position (formerly known as a Business and Industry Coordinator) and an Automation/Electro-Mechanical Technology Instructor position are currently posted.

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 began on March 23, 2026.

Ms. Glass highlighted the Student Success Scoreboard, noting this month's data shows that 91% of program students have a student success plan. 54% of program students have a complete plan. A student's average financial cap is currently \$7330.

Items reviewed under the Chairperson's Report:

- A team will be working to transition Dr. Pickard into the presidential position. Members include the following Board trustees: Chairperson Prange, Ms. Wonderling, Mr. Enright, and Mr. Tuescher. Staff members include Caleb White, Katie Glass, Dennis Cooley, and Lori Needham. They will meet and present more information about a plan during the April 23 Board retreat/meeting.
- A reminder to complete the Board Assessment by April 8. A portion of the April 23 retreat will be dedicated to reviewing the results.

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

- A review of *Board Governance Policy 1.5: Board Member's Role; Policy 1.6: Board Officers; Policy 1.7: Chairperson's Role; Policy 1.8: Vice Chairperson's Role; Policy 1.9: Secretary's Role; and Policy 1.10: Treasurer's Role*. There were no suggestions for edits.
- A review of the draft of the 2026-27 board monitoring meeting and monitoring calendar without any suggestions for edits. The calendar will be brought to the Board again next month for another look.
- The following attended the Higher Learning Commission Conference earlier this month:
 - Cynde Larsen, Mandy Henkel (presented on Work-Based Learning Model)
 - Cora Beth Schmitz, Holly Clendenen, and Katie Glass (presented on Student Success Plans)
- Statewide WTCS Ag Day was at SWTC on March 24. The event was very well attended with guests including WTCS President Layla Merrifield, Secretary of Agriculture Randy Romanski, and Governor Tony Evers.
- Spring Job Fair was on campus yesterday, March 25, with approximately 79 employers in attendance.

- A small team of SWTC faculty and staff traveled to Madison to meet with Senator Howard Marklein on March 25 to discuss the EMS Grant funding.
- An Employee Satisfaction Survey was open from the end of February to the beginning of March. The survey had a 73% response rate. Overall, 96% of respondents are 'Satisfied' or 'Strongly Satisfied' with their employment at Southwest Tech. Results will be summarized and communicated to all employees during the in-service next week. The Board will receive a summary at the April 23 Board meeting.

Other Information Items:

- Discussion of the call for District Boards Association (DBA) positions with confirmation that no SWTC District Board members will seek an officer or at-large position. As a result, no nominations or action were taken.

Mr. Blume moved, seconded by Mr. Enright, to adjourn to a closed session to discuss a preliminary notice of non-renewal per 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.} Upon roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative to move into the closed session: Mr. Blume, Mr. Bolstad, Ms. Braudt, Mr. Enright, Ms. Jordie, Mr. Tuescher, Mr. Williamson, Ms. Wonderling, and Mr. Prange. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned to a closed session at 7:20 p.m. The Board reconvened into open session at 7:25 p.m.

Without any further business, Ms. Wonderling moved to adjourn the meeting, with Mr. Enright seconding the motion. The motion was adopted, and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Kent Enright, Secretary