

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING FOR THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
AUGUST 27, 2026**

The Board of Southwest Wisconsin Technical College met in an open session of a regular meeting commencing at 6:01 p.m. on August 27, 2026, in Conference Room 430 on the District Campus located at 1800 Bronson Boulevard in the City of Fennimore, Grant County, Wisconsin.

The following members were present:

Charles Bolstad, Theresa Braudt, Kent Enright (virtual), Jeanne Jordie, Frank King, Chris Prange, Don Tuescher, Steve Williamson, and Jane Wonderling. Absent: n/a

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

Dr. Jeremy Pickard, President, and College Staff: Heath Ahnen, Holly Clendenen, Dennis Cooley, Katie Glass, Mandy Henkel, Dan Imhoff, Kim Maier, Lori Needham, Carrie Sutter, Krista Weber, Caleb White, Kris Wubben.

Chairperson Wonderling 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, August 27, 2026

Southwest Tech, 1800 Bronson Boulevard, Fennimore, WI 53809

5:30 p.m.: Working Dinner, Higher Learning Commission Comprehensive
Visit Preparation: Criterion 2 - Integrity

6:00 p.m.: Regular Meeting

COLLEGE MISSION

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College provides education and training opportunities responsive to students, employers, and communities.

AGENDA

OPEN MEETING

The following statement will be read: "The Southwest Wisconsin Technical College District Board's August 27, 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 at the Fennimore City Office to make the public aware of the time, place, and agenda."

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

OPEN MEETING

- A. Oath of Office – Recently Appointed Board Member Frank King

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Minutes of July 13, 2026, Annual Board Meeting
- C. Financial Reports
 - 1. Purchases Greater than \$2,500
 - 2. Treasurer's Cash Balance
 - 3. Budget Control
- D. Contract Revenue
- E. Personnel Items
- F. Staffing Update
- G. Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (SWWDB) Sublease, Richland Center Outreach

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

- A. Approval of RFP: Redundant Internet (2627-07)
- B. Approval of Board Monitoring Report: College Culture

BOARD MONITORING OF COLLEGE EFFECTIVENESS

- A. Review of College Health Indicators
- B. Review of Strategic Goals Aligned with Strategic Directions
- C. SWTC Foundation FY26 4th Quarter Report
- D. SWTC Real Estate Foundation FY26 4th Quarter Report

INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Enrollment/FTE Comparison and Student Success Scoreboard
 - 1. Enrollment/FTE Comparison Report
 - 2. Student Success Scoreboard
- B. Chairperson's Report
 - 1. Resolution – Recognition of Caleb White, Interim Presidency
- C. College President's Report
 - 1. Review Board Governance Policy 2.5: Employee Complaint and Appeal Policy for Disciplinary Demotion, Suspension Without Pay, Disciplinary Termination, and Workplace Safety Issues – Pursuant to Wis Stats. Sec. 66.0509
 - 2. Review Board Governance Policy 3.1: General Executive Constraint
 - 3. College Happenings
- D. Other Information Items

ESTABLISH BOARD AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (REGULAR MEETING)

- A. Agenda
 - 1. Approval of Board Monitoring Report: Compliance
 - 2. Review of Annual WTCS Outcome-Based Funding Report
- B. Time and Place
 - Thursday, September 24, 2026, Southwest Tech, Room 430
 - 5:30 p.m.: Working Dinner - HLC Preparation
 - 6:00 p.m.: Regular Meeting

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

- A. Consideration of adjourning to a closed session for the purpose of
 - 1. Discussing property acquisition per Wis. Statutes 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.}

B. Approval of June 18, 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.}

Newly elected Board member Frank King was welcomed to the Board, and introductions were made.

There were no Reports/Forums/Public Input.

Mr. King read and signed the Oath of Office. He will serve a three-year term concluding on June 30, 2029.

After a review of the Consent Agenda, including the August 27, 2026, agenda; July 13, 2026, Board meeting minutes; financial reports; fourteen contracts representing \$43,199.27 in 2025-26 revenue; fifteen contracts representing \$86,415.07 in 2026-27 revenue; employment recommendations Melissa Uppena, Nursing Instructor, Ashley Stammen, Dental Hygiene Program Director/Instructor, Holly Anderson, Communication Instructor, Genene Bunders, Administrative Assistant-Facilities; the resignation of Stephanie Bernhardt, Student Financial Assistance Lead/Accounting Bursar; staffing report; and a 12-month sub-lease (10/1/2026-9/30/2027) for the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board to lease 136 square feet of office space from the College at the Richland Center Outreach Site with a rental payment of \$369. Ms. Braudt moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion adopted.

Heath Ahnen, Executive Director of IT Services overviewed the purpose and scope of the request for proposal for Redundant Internet (2627-07). The investment will provide redundancy for infrastructure that supports nearly every major digital service used by our students and employees. Mr. Tuescher moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve awarding a contract for redundant internet services to WIN, LLC of Eau Claire, WI, for a five-year agreement of \$72,240. Motion carried.

Krista Weber, Chief Human Resources Officer, summarized the August 2026 Board Monitoring Report: College Culture. 2025-2026 employee feedback will guide the 2026-2027 priorities. 2026-2027 focus will include employee engagement, compensation analysis, leadership & succession, and responsible AI. Mr. Prange moved, seconded by Ms. Braudt, to approve, as presented, the August 2026 Board Monitoring Report-College Culture. Motion carried.

Dr. Jeremy Pickard, College President, and Mandy Henkel, Executive Director of College Effectiveness/Accreditation, presented the 2026 College Health Indicators (CHI) and goals. They described how the CHIs are directly connected to the College's Strategic Directions and serve as the primary measures of institutional effectiveness. Strategic

Direction 1.0 (Access) is supported by indicators that monitor equity in student learning and graduation outcomes. Strategic Direction 2.0 (Completion) is measured through student course completion rates. Strategic Direction 3.0 (Post-College Success) is assessed through graduate wage growth metrics that demonstrate the long-term workforce impact of a Southwest Tech education. The indicators guide the work of councils, work groups, project teams, and annual planning processes, creating alignment between strategic planning, resource allocation, improvement initiatives, and accountability for results. They create a consistent connection between strategic directions and day-to-day activity.

This year's measurable strategic goals, which align with the College's Strategic Directions 1.0 Access, 2.0 Completion, and 3.0 Post-College Success, were presented and described by Holly Clendenen, Chief Student Services Officer. The project teams leading the work towards those goals were also introduced.

Dennis Cooley, Executive Director of Advancement, presented the Foundation's fiscal year 2026 fourth-quarter report, which highlighted recent activities, results of fundraising efforts, and other initiatives.

An overview of the Real Estate Foundation's fiscal year 2026 fourth-quarter report was provided by Mr. Cooley.

Katie Glass, Chief Communications Officer, presented the Enrollment/FTE Comparison Report, which indicated a 4% increase in student headcount and a 0.2% increase in FTE compared to the same time last year.

Ms. Clendenen provided an update on the monthly Student Success Scoreboard. 94% of active program students have a complete plan. Comparison of the financial gaps from February to August indicates a nearly 12% reduction.

Under the Chairperson's Report:

- The Board considered a resolution recognizing and appreciating Mr. Caleb White's leadership, service, and contributions to the College as Interim President this past year. Mr. Prange moved, seconded by Mr. Tuescher, to approve the resolution as read. Motion adopted.

College President's Report:

- The Board reviewed:
 - Board Governance Policy 2.5: Employee Complaint and Appeal Policy for Disciplinary Demotion, Suspension Without Pay, Disciplinary Termination, and Workplace Safety Issues – Pursuant to Wis Stats. Sec. 66.0509. Dr. Pickard presented a first-read draft reflecting recommended revisions, including gender-neutral language and the President's role within the complaint and appeal process. Per voice consent, the Board approved the first reading of Policy 2.5. The policy will be brought forward to the September meeting for a second reading/approval.

- Board Governance Policy 3.1: General Executive Constraint. Dr. Pickard summarized two versions of recommended first-read policy updates. Both recommendations include additional ethical concepts under Wis Stats. Chapter 19, Subchapter III. Per voice consent, the Board approved the first reading of the more descriptive draft of Policy 3.1 (draft one). The policy will be brought forward to the September meeting for a second reading/approval.

College Happenings:

- Fall in-service was on August 17, with the theme “Standard by Design, Together Chargers Rise”.
- Employee Highlights: Mandy Henkel and Angela Starkey, Nursing Instructor, have been selected as peer evaluators for the Higher Learning Commission and Accreditation in Education in Nursing, respectively.

Under Other Information Items:

- A joint meeting will be on September 30 between the three College Boards: District, Foundation, and Real Estate Foundation. The Foundation’s Donor Appreciation dinner will follow.
- Chairperson Wonderling asked the Board to strongly consider participation in the Charger Day of Giving, which is on Wednesday, September 23.

Ms. Jordie moved, seconded by Mr. Prange, to adjourn to closed session to discuss a property acquisition per Wis. Statutes 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 members voted in the affirmative: Mr. Bolstad, Ms. Braudt, Mr. Enright, Ms. Jordie, Mr. King, Mr. Prange, Mr. Tuescher, Mr. Williamson, and Ms. Wonderling. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned to a closed session at 7:54 p.m. No action was taken during the closed session. The Board reconvened into open session at 8:23 p.m.

With no further business coming before the Board, Ms. Jordie moved to adjourn the meeting, with Ms. Braudt seconding the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Kent Enright, Secretary