

**MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 27, 2026**

Members Present: Mr. John Eason, Vice Chair
Mr. Derren Bryan
Mr. Bo Conerly
Mr. Justin Fussell
Ms. Denise Grimsley
Mr. Fred Hawkins, President/Secretary
Mr. Scott Cole, College Attorney

Excused: Mr. Terry Atchley Mr. Devon Donaldson Ms. Alison Hancock

Staff Present: Mrs. Ashley Bennett Dr. Mark Bukowski Dr. Kathleen Cappel
Mr. Peter Elliott Ms. Cindy Garren Dr. James Hawker
Dr. Michele Heston Mrs. Mary Hutzelman Mr. Don Kesterson
Dr. Melissa Kuehnle Mr. Harry Havery Mrs. Amie Kelly
Mrs. Emily Dabolt Mrs. June Weyrauch Dr. Asena Mott
Mr. Keith Loweke Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser Mr. Zachary Mourer
Mrs. Micaela Ford Mrs. Melissa Prusinski Ms. Brenda Daniels
Ms. Carleigh Okwali Mrs. Kim Cloud Mr. John Rivers

The regular meeting of the District Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on the Highlands Campus of South Florida State College by Board Vice Chair, Mr. John Eason.

Mr. Eason welcomed everyone to the board meeting.

1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Grimsley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fussell, to adopt the agenda of the regular meeting as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bryan, Mr. Conerly, Mr. Eason, Mr. Fussell, and Ms. Grimsley.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

1.2 Approval of Minutes

1.2.1 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Grimsley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fussell, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 22, 2026 as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bryan, Mr. Conerly, Mr. Eason, Mr. Fussell, and Ms. Grimsley.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

1.3 Review of Master Calendar & SFSC Events Calendar

The Master Calendar and SFSC Events Calendar were reviewed. No recommendations were made.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS

2.1 New Employee Introduction

The following new employees were introduced:

Employee	Position	Supervisor	Hired
Zachary Mourer	Instructor, Electrical Line Service Repair	Micaela Ford	1/20/26

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4.0 PRESENTATION

None

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Personnel Actions

Approved a list of full-time career staff; full-time career staff (transfers); full-time faculty staff (transfers/classifications); and adjunct faculty for the 2025-26, academic year as needed as presented.

[\(EXHIBIT "A"\)](#)

5.2 Agreements and Contracts

5.2.1 Contracts for Private Attorney Services 2026-2027 and Appointment of College Attorney

Approved the contracts for private attorney services 2026-2027 and appointment of college attorney as presented.

[\(EXHIBIT "B"\)](#)

5.2.2 Articulation Agreement – School Board of DeSoto County and School Board of Hardee County

Approved the agreement between the School Board of DeSoto County, the School Board of Hardee County, and South Florida State College as presented.

[\(EXHIBIT "C"\)](#)

5.2.3 Leadership Commitment Letter – Rural Health Transformation Program

Affirmed the District Board of Trustees letter of commitment for the Rural Care Connect: Creating Sustainable Healthcare Pathways in Rural Florida initiative as presented.

[\(EXHIBIT "D"\)](#)

5.2.4 Lease Agreement – Hotel Jacaranda

Approved the renewal of the lease agreement between the SFSC Foundation, Inc. and South Florida State College for the Hotel Jacaranda as presented.

[\(EXHIBIT "E"\)](#)

5.3 Operational Actions

5.3.1 Monthly Accounts Payable/Payroll Check Register

Approved the monthly accounts payable/monthly payroll check registers and summary for all funds through April 2026.

[\(EXHIBIT "F"\)](#)

5.3.2 Bad Debt Listing

Approved the write off of uncollectible debt in the amount of \$26,877.55 as presented.

[\(EXHIBIT "G"\)](#)

5.3.3 Property Disposals – May 2026

Approved the deletion of college property from inventory records as presented.

[\(EXHIBIT "H"\)](#)

Ms. Grimsley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fussell, to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 5.1 through 5.3.3 as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bryan, Mr. Conerly, Mr. Eason, Mr. Fussell, and Ms. Grimsley. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

6.0 PLANNING AND POLICY ISSUES

None

7.0 ACADEMIC AND STUDENT MATTERS

7.1 Curriculum Proposals

Dr. Heston presented the curriculum revisions and deletions to the Board.

[\(EXHIBIT "I"\)](#)

Mr. Fussell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Conerly, to approve the curriculum proposals as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bryan, Mr. Conerly, Mr. Eason, Mr. Fussell, and Ms. Grimsley. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Dr. Heston gave brief HLC update since the last DBOT meeting in April. She reported that she along with President Hawkins and Vice President Bukowski will be traveling to Chicago for the IAC on July 28. Dr. Heston gave a brief overview of the process. Mr. Eason congratulated and thanked Dr. Heston and team for their hard work during the accreditation process.

8.0 PURCHASING AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Special Needs Shelter Agreements with DeSoto and Hardee Counties

Mr. Elliott presented a request approving a Special Needs Shelter Agreement between South Florida State College and DeSoto County Board of Commissioners Division of Emergency Management for two years allowing them to use Rooms 100, 102, 103, 104,

110, 118, 119, 206, 217 and 218 of our DeSoto Campus in advance of a potential disaster or immediately after a disaster event. In addition, he presented a request approving a Special Needs Shelter Agreement between South Florida State College and Hardee County Board of County Commissioners Emergency Management Department for two years allowing them to use Building A Rooms 100, 102, 103, 104, 110, 111, 118, 119, 206, 217 and 218, and Building B Rooms 101 and 104 of our Hardee Campus in advance of a potential disaster or immediately after a disaster event.

[\(EXHIBIT "J"\)](#)

Mr. Fussell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Grimsley, to approve the Special Needs Shelter Agreements between South Florida State College and the DeSoto and Hardee Emergency Managements as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bryan, Mr. Conerly, Mr. Eason, Mr. Fussell, and Ms. Grimsley. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

8.2 Annual Facilities Inspection Summary Report

Mr. Elliott presented a request to approve the Annual Comprehensive Safety Inspection Reports from Fire Prevention Specialists, a firm retained through the Florida College System Risk Management Consortium. He gave a brief overview of the fire safety, sanitation, and casualty inspection reports for the 2025-26 year.

[\(EXHIBIT "K"\)](#)

Mr. Bryan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fussell, to accept the fire safety, sanitation, and casualty inspection reports for the 2025-26 year as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bryan, Mr. Conerly, Mr. Eason, Mr. Fussell, and Ms. Grimsley. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

9.0 REPORTS

9.1 Financial Report

Mr. Elliott reported on updated summary views and reports of revenue and expenditure summary compared to budgeted funds within the Operating Budget through April 2026.

[\(EXHIBIT "L"\)](#)

9.2 Resource Development Report

Mrs. Emily Dabolt reported that the South Florida State College Foundation, Inc. received donations and pledges in the amount of **\$25,715.42** from April 1 through April 30, 2026.

Mrs. Dabolt reported on the following items:

1. Grant Update: Mrs. Dabolt reported on the following grant awards:

- Bridging the Gap: Helping Adult Learners Cross the Finish Line \$ 10,000
- Advancing the Social and Emotional Well-Being of Youth, Families, and Individuals in Rural Florida through the Performing Arts \$ 18,000
- Sustaining Industry Engagement at Career Events \$ 1,000

9.3 President's Report

President Hawkins reported on the following items:

1. Recapped Spring Commencement that was held on May 12.
2. Stated the Articulation agreement that was approved in the Consent Agenda, Item 5.2.2, possibly will have to come back for Board approval in June due to the "lawfully present" bill.
3. Tallahassee Update: President Hawkins thanked our lobby team and delegates.
4. Guardian Program Update: President Hawkins gave a brief overview and the interest in the program from college employees. He stated that we will not make the June 1 deadline for the Highlands County Sheriff's Office training and he has reached out to Polk County Sheriff's Office.

9.5 Board Attorney's Report

Mr. Cole stated no report.

9.6 Board Members' Reports

Mr. Conerly stated no report.

Mr. Fussell stated no report.

Ms. Grimsley stated no report.

9.7 Board Chair Report

Mr. Eason commended everyone involved with commencement planning and the work that goes into the ceremony. He stated he appreciates their efforts to make it a success for the students and families.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.