



Southwestern Michigan College Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2026

Dale A. Lyons Building, Foundation Room 906 – Dowagiac Campus

12:00pm

Minutes

Welcome

The meeting was convened at 12:00pm by Board President Dr. Carole Schmidt.

Members Present: Carole Schmidt, Tom Ellspermann, Michelle Kite, Krin Jurgensen, Greg Lozeau, Dick Judd, David Tate, Patty Patano, Terry Groth, Klint Pleasant, Tom Jerdon, Bruce Watson, Emily Schrock, Bill White

Members Absent: Susan Dobrich, Julie Dye, George Wehrle, Jan Barkell, Becky Moore, Ron Gunn

Approval of Agenda

The July 2026 agenda required no changes. Bruce Watson moved, seconded by Dick Judd, to approve the July 2026 agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 2026 regular convened meeting required a correction of the Q3 Donation Summary and the removal of Ada Springsteen from 'Members Absent' as she is an honorary member not a voting member of the Foundation. Patty Patano moved, seconded by Terry Groth, to approve the corrections to the April 2026 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

College Update: Dr. Klint Pleasant, President

Dr. Pleasant gave department updates:

Academics –

- Arts and Science has been hired, the Nursing and Advanced Tech Dean are in the process of interviewing.

Enrollment/Student Life –

- Highest summer enrollment in twelve years.
- Trending high for fall enrollment.
- SAC roof is completed.
- Lyons project is moving along with the Choir room being completed next month.

Marketing/Athletics –

- 12,000 copies of the Southwester were mailed.
- Ramping up for the Fall of 2027.
- Coaches are finishing rosters for this athletic season.
- Volleyball will begin soon.
- Over all GPA for student athletes tracked higher than non-student athletes.

IT –

- A new LMS, Bright Space is being implemented.
- A new fundraising system, Raisers Edge, is being implemented.

Dr. Pleasant also gave an update on his first few months at SMC and the next three year Strategic Plan will be finalized soon.

Foundation Board Update: Dr. Carole Schmidt, Foundation President

Executive Director Update: Emily Schrock, Manager of Development

Updates:

- A new employee will be hired to join Emily in the Development office.
- Emily has introduced Dr. Pleasant to many in the community along with donors.

52nd Steve's Run:

- This year was canceled due to air quality.
- Unable to reschedule because of coordination with vendors and construction in the City of Dowagiac.
- 295 participants will receive a \$20 refund, but some have asked for us to keep as a donation.
- We will be able to donate approximately \$2,000 to the Briegel Endowment and Mayo Clinic.
- Steve's Run will be re-evaluated once the new employee begins.
- If you have any ideas, please let Emily know.

Financial Report/Quarterly Donations: Michelle Kite, SMC Foundation Treasurer

Members reviewed the financial report and quarterly donations. Total donations were received, for the quarter, in the amount of \$96,076. Dick Judd moved, seconded by Patty Patano, to accept the quarterly donations. Motion passed unanimously.

Foundation Committee Updates

Investment Committee Update: Michelle Kite

- Review of the quarterly investment report from 1st Source Bank.
- Edward Guse Farm Appraisal was reviewed.

Recruitment and Membership Committee Update: Tom Ellspermann

- Please bring any names you have of people that would be interested in joining the Foundation.
- Continuing work on top priorities.
- Term Renewals in 2027

New Business

-Officer Elections for 2026-2027:

Patty Patano moved, seconded by Dick Judd to elect the following officers for 2026-2027: President - Tom Ellspermann, Vice President - Greg Lozeau, Secretary - Diana Bosch, Treasurer - Michelle Kite. Motion passed unanimously.

-Meeting Dates for 2026-2027:

October 15, 2026

April 20, 2027

July 20, 2027

Greg Lozeau moved, Bruce Watson seconded to approve the above meeting dates for 2026-2027. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Adjournment

Terry Groth moved to adjourn at 1:11pm. Bill White seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

Financial/Investment Committee Meeting, October 15, 10:00am

Regular Board Meeting, October 15, 5:00pm

Proposed - to be approved October 15, 2026