Southwestern Michigan College Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2026
Dale A. Lyons Building, Foundation Room 906 – Dowagiac Campus
12:00pm

Minutes

Welcome

The meeting was convened at 12:00pm by Board Vice President Tom Ellspermann.

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

Members Absent: Susan Dobrich, Julie Dye, George Wehrle, Carole Schmidt, Jan Barkell

Approval of Agenda

The April 2026 agenda required a change of Board Vice President Tom Ellspermann to run the meeting with the absence of Board President Carole Schmidt. Patty Patano moved, seconded by Terry Groth, to approve the April 2026 agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the October 2025 regular convened meeting required no changes. Bruce Watson moved, seconded by Greg Lozeau, to approve the October 2025 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

College Update: Dr. Klint Pleasant, President

Introduced himself as the new President of SMC. Gave his background and how his first days at SMC are going.

Foundation Board Update: Tom Ellspermann, Foundation Vice President

Please email your top three biggest priorities of the board. We will then vote on the top five.

Executive Director Update: Emily Schrock, Manager of Development

Room to Grow Campaign –
-$183,190.94 has been raised.
-There is a sub-campaign for the naming rights of the wrestling facility.
-$56,590.94 has been raised on the wrestling portion of the campaign.
-$126,500 has been raised on the VAPA portion of the campaign.
-Naming opportunities still available for the Band Room and Ensemble and Practice Rooms.

SMC Day –
-This day was held on April 15.
-Only $980 was raised this year.
-The goal is mainly for alumni to donate to this day.
-Changing the date of SMC Day.
-Please send ideas to make this day better via email.

52nd Steve's Run –
-Hosting on July 17 at 6pm.
-Honor Credit Honor is our presenting sponsor this year.
-Imperial Furniture, Cairn Stone, and Travel & Fun are also sponsors.
-More sponsorships are welcome.
-Family Fare will be asked for a food donation, but any other ideas are welcomed.
-Please spread the word.
-Registration is open.

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 $44,528. Becky Moore 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.
-Review of Fiscal Year 2025 Foundation Audit. Patty Patano moved, seconded by Bruce Watson, to accept the Fiscal Year 2025 Foundation Audit. Motion passed unanimously.

Recruitment and Membership Committee Update: Tom Ellspermann
-Please bring any names you have of people that would be interested in joining the Foundation.
-Encouraged to make ongoing donations through the year.

New Business

Old Business

Adjournment

Terry Groth moved to adjourn at 1:25pm. Patty Patano seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

Outstanding Graduate Reception, April 28, 6:30pm
Spring Collage Concert, May 1 7:00pm
Commencement, May 9, 10:00am and 1:00pm
Financial/Investment Committee Meeting – July 16, 10:00am
52nd Steve's Run – July 17, 6:00pm
Annual Foundation Board Meeting, July 21, 12:00pm