



Southwestern Michigan College Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2025
Charles O. Zollar Building, Classroom 813 – Dowagiac Campus
5:00pm

Minutes

Welcome

The meeting was convened at 5:10pm by Board President Carole Schmidt.

Members Present: Carole Schmidt, Tom Ellspermann, Brent Brewer, Michelle Kite, Becky Moore, Patty Patano, Jan Barkell, Ron Gunn, Bruce Springsteen, Greg Lozeau, Bill White, Susan Dobrich, David Tate, Bruce Watson

Members Absent: Julie Dye, Tom Jerdon, George Wehrle, Dick Judd, Krin Jurgensen, Ada Springsteen, Terry Groth

Approval of Agenda

The October 2025 agenda required no changes. Becky Moore moved, seconded by Tom Ellspermann, to approve the October 2025 agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the July 2025 regular convened meeting required no changes. Bruce Watson moved, seconded by Patty Patano, to approve the July 2025 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

College Update: Brent Brewer, Interim College President

Brent Brewer gave many updates:

- Fall enrollment increase including housing and athletics
- Cross Country had a good season with being MCCA Champs, women are ranked 13th and men are ranked 14th nationally
- Volleyball season is still going strong and doing well
- Basketball season begins October 31
- Academic Speaker Series returns as well as Band and Choir Concerts and the Fall Play
- Construction projects are moving forward with wrestling staying on budget and the finalizing of floor plans for the Lyons building. The housing expansion is completed.

Foundation Board Update: Dr. Carole Schmidt, Foundation President

Executive Director Update: Emily Schrock, Manager of Development

51st Steve's Run Results –

The total of \$5,000 will go to the Mayo Clinic and the David and Steve Briegel (Father & Son) Memorial Scholarship. We had 329 participants.

Annual Giving Campaign –

This will begin early to mid-November with mailings, e-mails and social media.

Room to Grow Campaign –

Our Capital Campaign is still going strong. The goal is \$600,000. As of October 16, we have raised \$85,325. A sub-campaign will be held to acquire naming rights to the wrestling room itself. We also have applied for a grant for \$75,000 from the Upton Foundation.

Founders Day –

This will be on Friday, November 7 with a start time of 11:00am in MCC East. This will be directly followed by a special performance from the choir and band in the Lyons Theatre.

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 \$31,405. Becky Moore moved, seconded by Greg Lozeau, 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.
- Becky Moore moved, seconded by Susan Dobrich, to approve the Scholarship Allocation Recommendation. 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.
- Reigniting membership. Will start to reach out to new members in January.
- Will meet with current members one on one to see if the interest in being a member is still there.

New Business

Old Business

Adjournment

Bill White moved to adjourn at 6:17pm. Becky Moore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

Fall Choir Concert, October 24, 7pm
Founders Day, November 7, 11am
Fall Band Concert, November 7, 7pm
Fall Play, November 20-22, 7:30pm
and November 23, 2pm
Holiday Band & Choir Concert, December 6, 7pm
Theatre Club Showcase, December 8, 7pm
Financial/Investment Committee Meeting – January 23, 10am