Minutes
District Board of Trustees
Tallahassee State College
Wakulla Environmental Institute
170 Preservation Way
Crawfordville, FL 32327
Monday, September 15, 2025
Business Meeting, 2:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

On Monday, September 15, Chair Eugene Lamb called the Tallahassee College District Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Chair Lamb asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Chair Eugene Lamb, Vice Chair Frank Messersmith, Trustees Jonathan Kilpatrick, Karen Moore, and Monte Stevens.

Absent: Trustee Monesia Brown, Trustee Christian Caban.

Others Present: President Jim Murdaugh, Heather Mitchell, Don Herr, Cerissa Fondo, Christen Givens, Tricia Rizza, Nyla Davis, Barbara Wills, Dustin Frost, Bobby Jones, Angela Long, Shelly Bell, Steve Nettles, Jason Fowler, Bertie Culbreath, Brendie Hawkins, Amanda Clements, Calandra Stringer, Riley Landy, Camden Smit, and Tiffiany Echoles.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

I. Chair Remarks:
Chair Lamb thanked VP Barbara Wills and her team for their work on the audit, noting the positive outcome.

II. Trustee Remarks:
   a. Trustee Moore congratulated Trustee Kilpatrick on his promotion in the U.S. Air National Guard and asked him to share the details.
   b. Trustee Kilpatrick shared that he was named Commander of the Communication Squadron of the 125th Fighter Wing. A change of command ceremony took place over the weekend.

c. Vice Chair Messersmith reported attending the Florida Public Safety Institute Housing Authority Board meeting, noting discussion of financing plans for a new dormitory and that the loan for the first dormitory has been paid off. While in the area, he visited the Gadsden Center. When arriving at the Wakulla Environmental Institute for the DBOT meeting, he noticed the Vet Tech and Marine Mechanics classes in progress.

III. President's Remarks

President Murdaugh thanked Hope Childree, Associate Director of Wakulla Environmental Institute (WEI), and her team for hosting the meeting and noted recent upgrades to the WEI campus. He introduced Dr. Steve Nettles as the new Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and invited Christen Givens, Dean of Enrollment Services, to provide an enrollment update.

Dean Givens reported TSC's ninth consecutive semester of growth, with enrollment exceeding 13,000 students – the highest since fall of 2014. Continuing student enrollment increased 8%, dual enrollment grew by 16% (1,200 students in the tri-county area), 23% increase in state worker enrollment, and a 14% rise in adult learners. Efforts are underway to find ways to expand opportunities in the 32304 community. Dean Givens congratulated every department for making this progress possible.

Dr. Murdaugh asked VP Shelly Bell to share news on the Triumph Gulf Coast project. VP Bell announced a $10 million award from Triumph toward a $27 million project focused on healthcare, teacher training, and workforce programs, including a new two-story building. Additional funding is being pursued through an EDA grant. Programs in marine services, veterinary tech, and landscaping are underway with strong community engagement.

President Murdaugh announced a joint press conference with the Florida Dental Association to celebrate the 50th anniversary of TSC's dental programs on Tuesday, September 16, at 11 a.m. in the Dental Simulation Lab. He also recognized 41 student-athletes named to the 2024-25 FCSAA All-Academic Team and highlighted the 18th Annual Bloodhound Scent Tracking Seminar hosted at FPSI, which welcomed 27 Bloodhound teams representing six states.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 2025 August 18 Board Minutes

   Approve minutes as presented.

   MOTION: Trustee Stevens **SECOND:** Trustee Moore

   Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION AND NEWS ITEMS

Amanda Clements, Interim Vice President and Director of Communications, shared recent media coverage for the College.

Highlights included:

- Chair Eugene Lamb was featured locally and nationally on MSN for his election as board chair.
- Florida Politics and *Tallahassee Magazine* covered the new Fine Art Gallery exhibition.
- Broadcast clips featured TSC's leadership in AI, New Student Convocation, and the Student Government Association Town Hall meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Consent Agenda

The consent agenda format is an organization process for meetings that allows the governing board to focus their time and attention on action items that require more elaboration, information, and/or discussion. The intent of the consent agenda is to support the efficiency and effectiveness of the meeting.

If a trustee has a question or plans to cast a negative vote regarding a specific recommendation, then the trustee/trustees need to acknowledge their intention to the Chair. This action item will be considered in the regular order of business as an individual action item.

Those action items that the trustees plan to approve without further question or discussion will remain on the consent agenda. Upon the final determination of the consent agenda, a motion, second to the motion, and unanimous approval of the Board of Trustees is needed to approve the action items. Upon approval of the consent agenda, the Board of Trustees will proceed with the remainder of the agenda.

2. Human Resource Report

3. Attorney Invoices – Bryant Miller Olive (August 2025)

   Authorize payment of invoices as presented.

   Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

   MOTION: Vice Chair Messersmith **SECOND:** Trustee Stevens

TSC Foundation

4. TSC Foundation Update

   Presented as an information item only.

   VP Heather Mitchell shared upcoming events: a press conference at the Dental Lab on September 16; the President's Circle event at the Moore Veterans Success Center, celebrating a generous gift from Richard and Karen Moore; the TSC Alumni and Friends Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on October 1, with Trustee Jonathan Kilpatrick among the inductees; and the Cleaver and Cork chef announcement on October 16 at Hayward House.

Academic Affairs

5. 2025 FCS College Affordability Report

   Approve the 2025 FCS College Affordability Report.

   MOTION: Trustee Moore **SECOND:** Trustee Stevens

   Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Services

6. Fund Analysis - August

   For information only, no Board action required.

7. Direct Support Organization Audit Reports

For information only, no Board action required.

8. Certificate of Final Inspection – CFI 3rd Floor Renovations Project

Approve the attached Certificate of Final Inspection, Office of Educational Facilities (OEF) Form 209, authorizing final payment to contractor, Childers Construction Company, for the CFI 3rd Floor Renovations Project.

MOTION: Vice Chair Messersmith **SECOND:** Trustee Moore

Motion passed unanimously.

9. FY 2024-2025 Carry Forward Spending Plan

Approval of the FY 2024-2025 Carry Forward Spending Plan.

MOTION: Trustee Stevens **SECOND:** Trustee Moore

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Construction Status Report

Presented as an information item only.

11. Architect Invoices

Authorize payment of architectural invoice(s) as presented.

MOTION: Trustee Kilpatrick **SECOND:** Trustee Stevens

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

WORKSHOP

None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Murdaugh shared that the Great Colleges to Work For recognition will be officially announced on September 19. Nyla Davis, Director of Human Resources, shared that the award is based on a comprehensive employee survey conducted by ModernThink. The results highlighted TSC's strengths in employee sentiment, institutional pride, communication, and confidence in leadership. Davis recognized Dr. Angela Long for her contributions to a successful nomination.

The President recognized Cerissa Fondo, Director of Business and Workforce Development, for her success in securing grants that funded the outstanding work being done at WEI.

Chair Lamb opened a discussion on Board officer elections, following up on his request in August. Counsel Riley Landy shared that practices vary widely across state colleges, with few formal policies in place. After discussion, the trustees agreed that staff and counsel will prepare options addressing term lengths, rotation, voting thresholds, and implementation timelines, for consideration at the October meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

October 20, 2025 Location: **Main Campus**

ADJOURNMENT was called at 3:25 p.m. by Chair Lamb.