



**Date:** Monday, March 20, 2023, 5:00 pm  
Spartanburg Community College, Dr. Benjamin Snoddy Boardroom

**Subject:** Minutes from The Spartanburg County Commission for Technical and Community Education Meeting

**Attendees:** Chairman Anderson, Vice Chairman Keller, Commissioner Tate, Commissioner Fowler, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner O’Neill, Commissioner Bell, Commissioner King, Mr. Burroughs, Dr. Mikota, Dr. Obi, Dr. Satterfield, Ms. Hughes, Mr. Grace, Mrs. Walker

**Absent:** Secretary Hill, Commissioner Sarratt, Commissioner Smith, Mr. Burns

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

**II. COMMISSION MINUTES**

Chairman Anderson presented the February 20, 2023, meeting minutes, which previously had been shared with the Members and asked if any Member had edits or questions. Hearing no amendments or objections, Chairman Anderson asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Bell motioned to approve the February 20, 2023, meeting minutes, Commissioner O’Neill seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Anderson presented the Consent Agenda Items, which previously had been shared with the Members and asked if any Member had edits or questions. Hearing no amendments or objections, Chairman Anderson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Commissioner Fowler motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items, Commissioner Keller seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

**IV. NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

Chairman Anderson appointed a Nominating Committee comprised of three board members. Commissioner Bell will be Chair of this Committee. Commissioner King and Commissioner O’Neil volunteered to work with Commissioner Bell and will submit their recommendations to the Commission at the April 17th meeting and a vote will take place for the new officers who will be put into place in August.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT presented by Ms. Melissa Hughes, Director, Finance

Ms. Hughes presented information on Actuals for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter.

Ms. Hughes stated that the biggest source of revenue is the curriculum revenue which has been trending downward as a percent of the budget, showing 29% down, but from February to February there is an increase.

Continuing Education has been down this year. There is no expectation to meet the \$2.25M that is budget, but there should be round \$2M in revenues for the physical year.

The budgeted revenues from the System Office have been surpassed. The Cherokee allocation has been received in full. 70% of the County allocations have been received, \$5.9M from Spartanburg County, \$167,000 from Union, and \$520,000 from Cherokee. Other revenues are showing an increase of 36%.

As of February 28, 2023, SCC received 85% of our budgeted revenues, which is 15% less than this time last year as a percent of the budget. There are no major issues currently versus the budget or last year. Expenditures, as a percent of the budget were at 62%, which is 6% less than the previous year.

Chairman Anderson asked for a motion to approve the Financial Report. Commissioner Kennedy motioned to approve the Financial Report, Commissioner O'Neill seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT presented by Dr. Michael Mikota, President

Dr. Mikota spoke to a meeting a few weeks ago at the Spark Center with Leadership South Carolina where he had the opportunity to speak to the mottos of the State "While I Breathe, I Hope" and "Prepared in Mind and Resources" and of Spartanburg Community College where we believe in "Dream It, Chase It, Live It". At Spartanburg Community College the focus is on being prepared to meet the coming need as well as moving forward in a way that has never been done in the past.

Dr. Mikota went on to highlight that Spartanburg Community College has the largest growth, 52%, in the state over the last two years and the fastest in the past 20 years. Preliminary numbers were then shared with the Board that reflects the Return on Investment that Spartanburg Community College has experienced since the Free Tuition Initiative. These numbers are based on Year Over Year retention levels, Fall 2021-Fall 2022. Retention rate is 57.4% which is the highest retention rate in the state. Spartanburg Community College is also leading the way with Economic Advancement with an \$1.7B investment from BMW.

Previously this Board voted to cover the cost of the Free Tuition Initiative with discretionary funds until Spartanburg County Council gives a secure vote as to the usage of the allocated funds. Dr. Mikota thanked the Board for being flexible and decisive with the new "Live To Chase" initiative.

The following House Budget numbers presented are for all the 16 colleges:

Technical College System:

\$15,000,000 Recurring for Tuition Mitigation

\$129,650,000 in Non-Recurring for Capital and Maintenance Needs

Lottery Technical College System:

\$100,000,000 for SCWINS

\$20,000,000 for High Demand Job Skill Training Equipment

\$2,000,000 for ReadySC

\$51,100,000 for Lottery Tuition Assistance Program

\$3,500,000 for South Carolina Youth and Small Businesses Grant

\$80,000,000 for Need-Based Grants

\$10,000,000 for Nursing Initiative

Dr. Mikota then spoke to the data from Spartanburg Community College' nursing program. Where currently there are 118 students in the Associates Nursing Program and this January an LPN program was launched. Currently there are big concept ideas as to how to grow SCC's School of Nursing and grow it expediently in the next few years. A handout was provided to the Board showing allocations based in enrollment and obviously if SCC had a larger number of nursing students the amount of the budget allotted to SCC would be larger. Demand for nurses is high across the board and this demand is not going away. Per Dr. Mikota "Where Spartanburg Community College is now, is not where SCC will be in the future as there will be a lot of growth in the next few years.

The Education and Workforce Readiness Bill has been approved in the House, House #4060, is important as it will affect the College. Highlights are: Transitional Studies at the high school level. Transitional studies that SCC has supplied to help high school graduates be prepared for further education or the workforce will be pushed back to the senior year of high school. This transition may take a couple of years: All graduates will be required to complete a FASFA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) this is important as this help pull down resources into the State; Uniformed Dual Enrollment structure which will include a guaranteed transfer. Any student in public institutions of higher learning, the first two years will transfer; There will be a 1-year study on how the technical college system might be able to manage Adult Ed. There are a few other nuances in this Bill and Dr. Mikota will keep the Board abreast of any developments as this Bill moves through the Senate.

The budget also includes a statewide employee pay raise of \$2,500 for employees making \$83,000 or below and a 3% raise for anyone making more than \$83,000.

Meetings with BMW have been ongoing almost weekly for the last month and a half. There is work ongoing with big initiatives on production training, bringing on talent in different ways post high school and apprenticeships, growing the technical scholar's programs. Last Friday, Dr. Mikota met the Chief Engineer from Munich for EV's (electric

vehicles). There is work on a curriculum ongoing which should be in place by June 2023. This curriculum will be implemented in a way so that the curriculum can be linked to other parts of the state. EV's are going to be manufactured in Woodruff.

Last week Dr. Mikota met with the National Guard regarding Cyber Security. Representing the National Guard was Major General Les Eisner, former Adjunct General for the state of South Carolina and Major General Brad Owens, US Geospatial Intelligence Foundation. This partnership will help build out capacity to grow in the Cyber Security and New Age Defense programs.

Dr. Mikota also met with Oshkosh Defense who will be building the mail courier trucks. Oshkosh needs to employ approximately 1,500 people. Spartanburg Community College is currently helping through ReadySC but is prepared to help grow their workforce in many different ways.

Dr. Mikota then spoke to a handout given to the board entitled "Vanguard Team, Economic and Efficiency Successes. This list highlights some of the successes experienced through this team of employees from an operational standpoint.

- ❖ Implementation for ACH invoice payment to pay invoices electronically
- ❖ Reduction of non-essential college cell phones, realizing an annual cost savings of \$21,000
- ❖ Redirected an administrative position to create an "open-door" Police Department.
- ❖ Improved the accuracy of operational budgeting for each campus location through encumbering utility costs in applicable budgets.
- ❖ Changed the college delivery address from 107 to 131 Community College Drive to lessen confusion with deliveries.
- ❖ Improved efficiency of contract security officer program

This concluded Dr. Mikota's report. The floor was opened to questions, none were put forth.

Chairman Anderson asked for a motion to approve the President's Report. Commissioner Fowler motioned to approve President's Report, Commissioner King seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

VII. SC TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM UPDATE presented by Mr. Grant Burns, State Board Member

Mr. Burns was unable to attend the meeting.

VIII. ADJOURN

Chairman Anderson asked for a motion to Adjourn the meeting. Commissioner King motioned to Adjourn. Commissioner Keller seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the meeting Adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

*Tracey Hill*

Mrs. Tracey Hill, Secretary