

Minutes
District Board of Trustees
Tallahassee State College
Center for Innovation
350 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL. 32304
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Business Meeting & Workshop 2:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

On Tuesday, January 20, Chair Eugene Lamb called the Tallahassee State 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, Trustees Christian Caban, Sara Bayliss, Monesia Brown, Karen Moore, and Monte Stevens.

Absent: Trustee Jonathan Rees

Others Present: President Jim Murdaugh, Shelly L. Bell, Cerissa Fondo, Frank Mix, Kalynda Holton, Jonathan Kilpatrick, Richard Moore, Sean McGovern, Bart Gunter, Nicolette Costantino, Barbara Wills, Sheri Rowland, Nyla Davis, Nick Vick, Donmetrie Clark, Chris Dawson, Carlecia Collins, Kylee Anzueto, Angela Long, Dustin Frost, Bertie Culbreath, Brendie Hawkins, Steve Nettles, Hope Childree, Alison Fleischmann, Calandra Stringer, Monica Ross, Janet Hartman, Quincee Messersmith, Amanda Clements, Heather Mitchell, Wayne Almy, Camden Smit, Jason Fowler, Josh Willoughby, Bobby Jones, Tricia Rizza, Jennifer Peavy, and Riley Landy.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

I. Chair Remarks:
Chair Lamb shared that he enjoyed Florida A&M University's visit to campus.

II. Trustee Remarks:

- a. Trustee Sara Bayliss shared that she has lived in Tallahassee for the past 25 years and is a college counselor at a local high school. She expressed her excitement and honor at having the opportunity to serve as a trustee and thanked everyone for their warm welcome.
- b. Trustee Stevens welcomed Trustees Bayliss and Rees to the Board. He commended the men's basketball team, noting their 18-2 record and top-ten national ranking. He also congratulated the women's basketball team on their victory against second-ranked Northwest Florida State. He extended his appreciation to the coaches, noting that baseball and softball seasons are about to begin. Coach Henry and Coach Baca's teams are well prepared. He expressed pride in the student-athletes.
- c. Trustee Caban congratulated Trustees Bayliss and Rees on their appointments to the Board and acknowledged that a proclamation would be presented recognizing the service of outgoing trustees Frank Messersmith and Jonathan Kilpatrick.
- d. Trustee Moore welcomed Trustees Bayliss and Rees. She expressed gratitude to Vice President Sheri Rowland and her team for their work organizing the commencement. Trustee Moore shared that she and Trustee Brown attended the Holiday Luncheon and described it as a wonderful event celebrating the faculty and staff.
- e. Trustee Brown welcomed Trustees Bayliss and Rees, noting that she has known them both for some time and expressed confidence that the College will greatly benefit from their service. She also extended her gratitude to Frank Messersmith and Jonathan Kilpatrick for their kindness and the lessons they shared during their tenure. Trustee Brown shared that the December commencement was wonderful and encouraged the new trustees to attend College events.

III. President's Remarks:

President Murdaugh shared that commencement is his favorite time of year and formally acknowledged the passing of the torch as Trustees Messersmith and Kilpatrick concluded their service on the board. President Murdaugh read the resolutions honoring Trustees Messersmith and Kilpatrick and invited them to offer remarks.

Former Trustee Frank Messersmith expressed his appreciation for the kind words and wished the new trustees the very best. He reflected on his more than two decades of service and the significant evolution of the College during that time, highlighting the development of the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education and the establishment of the Wakulla Environmental Institute. He described his time on the board as deeply rewarding.

Former Trustee Jonathan Kilpatrick shared that when he joined the board, another trustee told him it would be the most enjoyable volunteer position he would ever have, and a sentiment he affirmed as true. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity and confidence in the College.

President Murdaugh gave each sitting trustee the opportunity to comment.

Trustee Stevens thanked Trustees Messersmith and Kilpatrick for their combined 37 years of service and emphasized that their enduring legacy includes the Board's sustained focus on making Wakulla County a priority.

Chair Lamb reflected on the enjoyable experiences shared during their tenure and wished them well.

Trustee Moore noted that both individuals demonstrated a deep commitment to student success, consistently attended meetings, asked thoughtful questions, and celebrated the College's achievements. She expressed appreciation for their years of service and stated that their legacy will remain with the College.

Trustee Brown expressed her gratitude to Trustees Messersmith and Kilpatrick for their service.

President Murdaugh concluded by thanking them for their leadership, guidance, and friendship over many years.

President Murdaugh then introduced Carlicia Collins and Kylee Anzueto from GrayRobinson to provide an update on legislative priorities and projects.

Ms. Collins shared that the College has two main priorities. The first is an additional \$8 million for the Gadsden Center expansion, noting that \$2.8 million was secured last year. The second is a \$10 million ask for the Applied Learning Center for Health and Hospitality. She explained that a related bill focused on health science workforce development to address critical shortages will be considered in the Senate Education Postsecondary Committee the following day. Subject to available funding, the bill may include a dollar-for-dollar matching provision for participating institutions.

Ms. Collins announced that February 12 has been designated TSC Day at the Capitol. Invitations have been extended to all delegates to attend, and noted that since it falls on a Thursday, a day when many events are not held, it is expected to be a big draw. Trustees were encouraged to attend.

President Murdaugh noted that 2026 marks the second consecutive year the College has had a dedicated day at the Capitol, and that TSC was the only

college to do so last year. He shared that the Governor's proposed budget includes a record \$90 million in operating funds for the Florida College System, distributed across 28 colleges, and expressed support for the proposal. He clarified that the College's legislative project requests are separate and specific to Tallahassee State College.

President Murdaugh also shared that on December 1, leadership from TSC met with President Marva Johnson and leadership from Florida A & M University to discuss opportunities for collaboration and mutual growth. He described the meeting as productive and noted that it will serve as the foundation for a forthcoming memorandum of understanding between the two institutions.

President Murdaugh then introduced Vice President Calandra Stringer to highlight recent student achievements. VP Stringer introduced Professor Niki Costantino, director of *The Eyrie* art and literary magazine, and production team member, student Emily Kramer. Professor Costantino shared that our most recent magazine, published in the spring, received 10 awards across regional and state competitions. In the Community College Humanities Association Literary Magazine Competition, *The Eyrie* earned third place in the Best Overall Magazine category, second place for Best Artwork, and first place for Best Photography in the Southern Division. The publication also took home seven state-level awards.

VP Stringer reported that the Model UN team represented Switzerland at the National United Nations Conference in Washington, D.C., earning the Distinguished Delegation Award. She also noted that the Forensics team remains undefeated by any Florida college or university this season, achieving five tournament appearances, three first-place finishes, three first-place team finishes, multiple individual event sweepstakes victories, and a second-place finish in debate team sweepstakes.

President Murdaugh gave special recognition to Trustee Caban for his role in hosting the World Athletics Cross-Country Championship, which brought together more than 500 athletes from more than 50 countries to town. Trustee Caban shared that the most rewarding aspect of the event was the international exposure it brought to Leon County. He noted that more than 10,000 tickets were sold and expressed appreciation for the President's acknowledgment.

President Murdaugh informed Chair Lamb that, due to the vacancy created by former Trustee Messersmith's departure, the Vice Chair position was open and asked how the Chair wished to proceed. Chair Lamb then opened the floor for nominations.

Trustee Moore nominated Trustee Caban for the Vice Chair position.

MOTION: Trustee Moore
Floor closed for nominations.
Motion passed unanimously.

SECOND: Trustee Stevens

President Murdaugh advised Chair Lamb that the Board would need to vote on a potential location change for the April board meeting, which is currently scheduled to be held on the Main Campus. He shared that there is interest to move the meeting to the Wakulla Environmental Institute to highlight the Triumph Gulf Coast award of approximately \$ 10-11 million.

Chair Lamb agreed and requested a motion to move the April Board meeting from Main Campus to the Wakulla Environmental Institute.

MOTION: Trustee Caban
Motion passed unanimously.

SECOND: Trustee Stevens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 2025 November Minutes

Approve Minutes as presented.

MOTION: Vice Chair Caban
Motion passed unanimously.

SECOND: Trustee Stevens

INFORMATION AND NEWS ITEMS

Amanda Clements, Vice President for Communications, shared an overview of recent media coverage for the College.

Highlights included:

- The Commencement Ceremony, celebrating more than 2,000 graduates, with Commissioner of Education Anastasios Kamoutsas as the keynote speaker.
- A Tallahassee Democrat article about the College's audit, which gave President Murdaugh the opportunity to provide a statement about the audit findings.
- A feature in the December issue of *Florida Trend* focused on workforce development. Appreciation was extended to Vice Presidents Shelly Bell and Calandra Stringer for their contribution to the article.
- Positive media coverage announcing the appointment of the College's two new trustees, Sara Bayliss and Jonathan Rees.

- Coverage of Cleaver and Cork in *Taste of the South*, with congratulations extended to Vice President Heather Mitchell. It was noted that tickets remain available only for the Food and Wine Festival, as all other events are sold out.
- VP Mitchell is featured in the January issue of *Florida Trend*, highlighting foundation executives.
- Broadcast clips featured the first class of dental auxiliary students graduating in a new program between TSC and the Florida Dental Association; commencement; Sia, TSC's new live eagle mascot; the two-year apprenticeship program with Leon County Schools; the expansion of the Innovation Academy of Excellence; and renovation plans on the Eugene Lamb Jr. Community Center in Midway.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

PRESENTATIONS - VP Heather Mitchell introduced the following donors:

Monica Ross, Vice President of Human Resources for Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare (TMH), was recognized for a \$10,000 gift sponsorship for Cleaver & Cork. VP Mitchell noted that TMH has been a sponsor of Cleaver & Cork for 11 years. Ms. Ross shared that since January 2025, TMH has onboarded 552 TSC students through our clinical rotations alone.

Kevin Vaughn and Bart Gunter from Hub International were recognized for a \$10,000 sponsorship for Cleaver & Cork. Mr. Vaughn shared that Tallahassee State College plays an important role in creating pathways for students to earn income while developing life skills that support long-term personal and professional success.

Richard and Karen Moore were recognized for a \$50,000 gift supporting the renovation of the Richard W. and Karen B. Moore Veterans Success Center. VP Mitchell shared that the Veterans Center has been reconfigured to better serve veteran students. She noted that the lounge has been named after both of their fathers. Mr. Moore shared that he and Mrs. Moore are grateful for the opportunity to support the College and its veteran students, emphasizing the importance of providing a welcoming environment for veterans returning to education after an extended time away from academic settings.

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 (November 2025)
Authorize payment of invoices as presented.

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

MOTION: Trustee Moore
Motion passed unanimously.

SECOND: Trustee Stevens

TSC Foundation

4. TSC Foundation Update
Presented as an information item only.

Administrative Services

5. Fund Analysis - December
For information only, no Board action required.
6. Construction Status Report
Presented as an information item only.
7. Architect Renewal – Year 4 of 4

Approve renewal recommendation for final year four of four for architectural contracts.

MOTION: Trustee Stevens **SECOND:** Trustee Moore
Motion passed unanimously.

8. Property Exchange with the School Board of Leon County
Board approval of the property surplus and Exchange Agreement.

MOTION: Trustee Brown **SECOND:** Trustee Stevens
Motion passed unanimously.

9. Sponsored Programs – Provider
Authorize funding for the awards and contracts as presented.

MOTION: Trustee Moore **SECOND:** Trustee Stevens
Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT- No public comment.

WORKSHOP- Amanda Clements, Vice President for Communications.

Presented plans for the America 250 celebration.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Upcoming Events

- January 21: State Board of Education meeting in the Student Union. FPSI student Robert Hendricks will be recognized.
- January 26: African American History Calendar President's Luncheon; calendar invite sent.
- January 28 & 29: Classroom of the Future; calendar invite sent.
- January 28: Triumph Gulf Coast Inc. board meeting at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Environmental Institute.
- January 29: Heroes in Healthcare: The Golden Mirror Awards Program; calendar invite sent.
- February 12: TSC Day at the Capitol, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; calendar invite sent.

President Murdaugh asked trustees if the calendar invites are working for them, as it's a new process. He asked them to please accept or decline each invitation, so staff will know who is attending.

NEXT MEETING DATE

**Monday, February 16, 2026
Building**

Location: **Main Campus-Administration**

ADJOURNMENT—4:02 p.m.

**Eugene Lamb
Chair**

**Jim Murdaugh, Ph.D.
President**