

ST. JOHNS RIVER STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 16, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Rich Komando, Chairperson
Mr. Wendell Davis, Vice-Chair
Mr. Nick Primrose
Mr. Jud Sapp
Ms. Chereese Stewart
Mr. Cyrus Zomorodian

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe H. Pickens, J.D., Executive Secretary
Jeremiah Blocker, Board Attorney

Chairperson Komando called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Meeting Call to Order

The floor was open to Public Comments. Hearing none, the floor was closed to Public Comments.

Public Comment

Florida National Guard Captain Jared Truheart expressed appreciation for the use of the Thrasher-Horne Center and the College's support of the National Guard and military families.

Special Presentation

President Pickens introduced student Grace Williams and informed her that she would receive a Presidential Scholarship for the duration of earning a Bachelor's Degree at SJR State.

Special Presentation

There was no Old Business.

Old Business

Chairperson Komando requested approval of the Consent Agenda Items V.A-D:

Consent Agenda
Items

A.1 - Minutes of February 19, 2025, Board Meeting

B.1 - Chief Operating Officer/Senior Vice President – Dr. Melanie Brown: Personnel Matters

C.1-4 - Vice President for Finance/CFO – Randy Peterson: Facilities Usage Report for February and March 2025; Write-offs of Tangible Personal Property; Monthly Financial Report – March 2025; and Budget Amendments - Operating Fund 1, Restricted Fund 2, Auxiliary Fund 3, and Capital Outlay/Plant Fund 7.

D.1-3 - Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs –
Dr. Ed Jordan:

1. curriculum revisions effective Fall 2025 for Criminal Justice & Public Safety: New Courses - CJK 0301 Introduction to Corrections, CJK 0355 Legal for Correctional Officers, CJK 0306 Communication for Correctional Officers, CJK 0111 Interviewing and Report Writing in Corrections, CJK 0327 Shift Management and Safety, CJK 0321 Intake and Release, CJK 0324 Supervision in a Correctional Facility, CJK 0326 Supervising Correctional Populations, and CJK 0336 Incidents and Emergencies in Correctional Facilities; Courses to Delete - CJK 0300 Introduction to Corrections, CJK 0305 Communication, CJK 0310 Officer Safety, CJK 0315 Facility and Equipment, CJK 0320 Intake and Release, CJK 0325 Supervising in a Correctional Facility, CJK 0330 Supervising Special Populations, CJK 0335 Responding to Incidents and Emergencies; Revised Programs: - Basic Recruit Training Program for Florida Correctional Officers (0540), Crossover Training Program for Florida Law Enforcement Officer to Correctional Officer (0545), Crossover Training Program for Florida Correctional Probation Officer to Correctional Officer (0548), Correctional Probation Officer Crossover Training to Florida Law Enforcement Basic Recruit Training Program (0547).
2. curriculum revisions effective Fall 2025 for Engineering Technology: New Course - SWS 2000 – Introduction to Soil Science; Revised Program - Engineering Technology (4300) Supply Chain Automation Specialization.
3. 2025-2026 Academic Calendar

Mr. Davis moved approval of Consent Agenda Items IV.A-D. Mr. Primrose seconded the motion. Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Sapp, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved Consent
Agenda Items V.A-D

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Amendment to SJR Board Rule 7.21 (R1) Acceleration Programs. There being no comments, Chairperson Komando adjourned the public hearing.

Public Hearing

Dr. Melanie Brown reviewed and requested approval of Amendment to SJR Board Rule 7.21 (R1) Acceleration Programs.

Mr. Primrose moved, seconded by Mr. Zomorodian, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item VI.A.1.b as

Approved Chief
Operating Officer Item
VI.A.1.b

submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Chief Operating Officer). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Sapp, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Dr. Brown gave an update on the status of the proposal for two new Bachelor degrees – Bachelor of Applied Science in Digital Art and Media and Bachelor of Applied Science in Performance Design and Production. Both were approved by the State Board of Education and are now pending approval by the accreditor. In August, SJR State will offer ten (10) Bachelors degrees.

Ms. Thomas reviewed and requested approval to Award Modified Plans, Value Engineering Options, and Bid for the Remodel and Addition to the FloArts Building Project – Palatka Campus. Discussion followed.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item VI.A.2.a as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Chief Operating Officer). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Sapp, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved Chief
Operating Officer Item
VI.A.2.a

VP/CFO Randy Peterson reviewed and requested approval of Transfers from Board Designated Operating Reserves to Unexpended Plant Fund for the Palatka Campus Infrastructure Project and Flo Arts Deferred Maintenance and Renovation Project.

Mr. Primrose moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve VP/Chief Finance Officer Item VI.B.1.a-b as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of VP/Chief Finance Officer). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Sapp, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved VP/Chief
Finance Officer Item
VI.B.1.a-b

Mr. Peterson reviewed for information only Financial Audit for FY Ended June 30, 2024; Department of Veterans Affairs Compliance Survey; Federal Awards Audit for FY Ended June 30, 2024; and the Thrasher-Horne Center Emergency Exercise.

VP/Chief Finance
Officer Items VI.B.2-5

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Admission Criteria Change for the Associate in Science Degree in Nursing (ASN) Program. There being no comments, Chairperson Komando adjourned the public hearing.

Public Hearing

Dr. Ed Jordan welcomed Dr. Jay Paterson who reviewed and requested approval for Admission Criteria Change for the Associate in Science Degree in Nursing (ASN) Program.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Zomorodian, to approve Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs Item VI.C.2 as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Sapp, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs Item VI.C.2

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Admission Criteria Change for the Admission Criteria Change for the Associate in Science Degree in Nursing (LPN-to-RN Bridge) Program. There being no comments, Chairperson Komando adjourned the public hearing.

Public Hearing

Dr. Jay Paterson reviewed and requested approval for Admission Criteria Change for the Admission Criteria Change for the Associate in Science Degree in Nursing (LPN-to-RN Bridge) Program.

President Pickens informed the Board of a meeting with HCA Putnam Hospital CEO that resulted in funding for opportunities to expand the LPN to RN Bridge program.

Mr. Primrose moved, seconded by Mr. Zomorodian, to approve Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs Item VI.C.4 as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Sapp, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs Item VI.C.4

President Pickens informed the Board of a request from the Florida EOG DOGE Team for information focusing on certain segments of the College on grants, employee classification structure, and research/publications by college employees. The relative information will be submitted by the deadline on Friday.

President's Report

President Pickens reminded the Board that Graduation is on Friday, May 2.

President Pickens informed the Board that in the transition into the State Group Insurance Plan, our

College was recognized as the easiest college with which to work and our College submitted the most accurate information. He expressed appreciation to Chuck Romer and his team.

President Pickens informed the Board that the Rotary Club of Palatka is hosting the Gainesville Symphony Orchestra on Friday evening at the Florida School of the Arts. This is the last event in the current auditorium before the renovation begins.

President Pickens gave an update on the status of the softball and baseball seasons.

President Pickens reviewed and requested approval to change the date of the Board of Trustees Meeting from Wednesday, May 21, to Monday, May 19, 2025.

Approved President's
Report Item VII.A

Mr. moved, seconded by Ms., to approve President's Report Item VII.A as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of the President). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes; Primrose had stepped out to take an emergency phone call).

President Pickens deferred discussion of the PECO funding from the House and Senate.

President's Report
Item VII.B

President Pickens informed the Trustees that the trademark applications have been approved and Certificates of Registration issued for FloArts, the FloArts logo, and the St. Johns River State College logo. The name Florida School of the Arts has also been approved. The application for the name St. Johns River State College was initially refused as primarily geographically descriptive.

President's Report
Item VII.C

President Pickens stated that the proposed easement settlement agreement with the Florida Gas Transmission Co. is postponed while communication continues regarding the College's concerns.

President's Report -
continued

Chair Komando led the discussion on the results of the Board Self-Evaluation. He recommended approval.

Mr. Zomorodian moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the Results of the Board Self-Evaluation, as submitted. Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes; Primrose had stepped out to take an emergency phone call).

Approved District
Board of Trustees
Self-Evaluation

Chairperson Komando referred Trustees to the proposed 2025-2026 District Board of Trustees Meeting schedule.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to set the Date, Time, and Place for fiscal year 2025–2026 District Board of Trustees meetings as the third Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m., Palatka Campus, with the following exceptions:

- July 2025 and December 2025 - No Meeting
- March 11, 2026; and May 13, 2026 (second Wednesday)
- October 2025, February 2026, and June 2026, Thrasher-Horne Conference Center, Suites C & D, Orange Park Campus
- September 2025, January 2026, and April 2026, Viking Center, Room V-112, St. Augustine Campus

Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes; Primrose had stepped out to take an emergency phone call).

Trustee comments were made. Chair Komando congratulated Trustee Davis on being inducted into the University of Florida College of Health and Human Performance Hall of Fame on April 11.

Chair Komando noted some kind of a fence needs to be added to separate the St. Augustine Campus from the new multi-family development for safety purposes.

Chairperson Komando adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Approved Date, Time, and Place of Board Meetings for 2025-2026

Trustee Comments

Adjournment