

ST. JOHNS RIVER STATE COLLEGE  
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 21, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

There was no Old Business.

Old Business

Chairperson Komando requested approval of the Consent Agenda Items IV.a-c:

Consent Agenda Items

a.1-2 – Approval of Revisions to Minutes of September 17 and October 15, 2025, Board Meetings; Minutes of December 3, 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: Monthly Financial Report – December 2025; Budget Amendments (Operating Fund 1, Restricted Fund 2, Auxiliary Fund 3, Capital Outlay / Plant Fund 7); Facilities Usage Report – December 2025; and Write-offs of Tangible Personal Property.

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

Approved Consent Agenda Items IV.a-c

Dr. Melanie Brown reviewed and requested approval of the 2024-25 St. Johns River State College Student Housing DSO Audit, Student Housing Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Audit Review Checklist, and the

Memorandum of Understanding between St. Johns River State College and the St. Johns River State College Student Housing DSO. She noted the 2024-25 Student Housing DSO Internal Revenue Service Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax Form 990N (Taxable Year Ended March 31, 2025) document was not available yet, so this item is deferred.

Mr. Primrose moved approval of items a, c, and d. and Mr. Sapp seconded the motion, to approve Chief Operating Officer Items V.A.1.a, c, and d (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 Items V.A.1.a, c, and d

Dr. Brown reviewed for information only a Letter from the Internal Revenue Service, Recognition of Student Housing DSO Tax Exempt Status resulting from Filing Application Form 1023-EZ.

Chief Operating Officer Item V.A.1.e

Dr. Brown reviewed for information only the SJR State President's Gala, which will be held on March 5, 2026, beginning at 6:00 pm, at the Thrasher Horne Center. She noted the 2026 goals are to establish the President's Gala as an annual event held at the Thrasher Horne Center each spring and to raise \$60,000 to support SJR State students through scholarships and student success initiatives. She overviewed the sponsorship opportunities and stated that tickets are on sale now.

Chief Operating Officer Item V.A.1.f

AVP Terry Thomas reviewed for information only Change Order #001, Scherer Construction, Remodel & Additions to the FloArts Building Project, Palatka Campus.

Chief Operating Officer Item V.A.2.a

AVP Thomas reviewed and requested approval to Award RFQ-SJR-06-2025 for New Prequalified Contractor Status.

Mr. Primrose moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item V.A.2.b (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 V.A.2.b

AVP Thomas reviewed and requested approval to Award RFQ-SJR-07-2025 for Renewal of Prequalified Contractor Status.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item V.A.2.c (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  
V.A.2.c

AVP Thomas reviewed and requested approval to Award BID-SJR-08-2025 for the Exterior Painting Gymnasium Project, Palatka Campus.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Primrose, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item V.A.2.d (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  
V.A.2.d

AVP Thomas reviewed and requested approval to Award BID-SJR-09-2025 for the Renovation of Offices and Addition, Gymnasium Project, Palatka Campus.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Zomorodian, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item V.A.2.e (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  
V.A.2.e

AVP Thomas reviewed and requested approval to Waive Solicitation Requirements for Beach Volleyball Courts Project, Palatka Campus, per *Florida Administrative Code 6A-14.0734(3)* (*The college president or designee, may waive solicitation requirements in emergencies when there is an imminent threat to students, employees, or public safety or in cases when necessary to prevent damage to the facilities caused by an unexpected circumstance in accordance with rules established by the local board of trustees.*) She explained the justification that in addition to the cost savings and lack of expert knowledge, there are safety and security concerns for the student female athletes which is the main reason for this request. The team has been practicing and having games on the courts at Triangle Park in Palatka, which is a public park. The cleanliness of the area is a concern as there is often broken glass laying around. There is a homeless group of people who frequent the area and use the restroom facilities. In the past, homeless males have made the athletes

uncomfortable. While the County is aware of the issue and officers patrol the area, they are not able to provide coverage all the time.

Mr. Zomorodian moved, seconded by Mr. Primrose, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item V.A.2.f (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  
V.A.2.f

VP/CFO Randy Peterson reviewed for information only the Financial Audit for Fiscal Year Ended June 20, 2025.

VP/Chief Finance  
Officer Item V.B.1

Mr. Peterson presented a PowerPoint on the Economic Impact Analysis of St. Johns River State College conducted by Lighthouse Professional Services. The presentation included a summary of the article “Florida State Colleges: Delivering Florida’s Workforce Solutions” published in *Florida Trend Magazine*.

VP/Chief  
Finance Officer Item  
V.B.2

President Pickens discussed the revitalization of the Florida College System Council of Trustees. He noted Chair Komando has participated in the three (3) meetings held to date. The group is comprised of the Trustee Chairs of the twenty-eight (28) Florida College System colleges. Bylaws have been passed and the organizational structure has been formed. The group will present a unified front with the State Legislature.

President’s Report

President Pickens informed the Trustees that the Office of Policy & Budget (OPB) has invited/summoned all of the colleges to meet with them to give a presentation on PECO projects.

President Pickens noted this is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Legislature’s first term-limit class of which he was a member. He will be in Tallahassee on February 2-3 for the Legislative Reunion. He will meet with the OPB staff then. He noted it will be a lean budget year; he will be advocating for the FCS system ask.

President Pickens discussed spring sports. The baseball team is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> pre-season and the softball team is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>.

President Pickens noted that Trustee Primrose has been reappointed to the board through May 31, 2029.

President Pickens informed the Trustees that on February 1<sup>st</sup>, the College is retiring the jerseys of Nathaniel Lowe and Myles Straw.

Trustee comments were made.

Trustee Comments

Chairperson Komando adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment